

# Chapel Chimes

"SHARING FAITH, LIFTING UP, REACHING OUT AND GROWING TOGETHER."

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN



## First Notes

by Rev. Jim Hoppert

Recently, I had a conversation with a colleague who had learned of my future plans. Early in the conversation he made the comment, "So, you're going through a series of 'lasts,' aren't you?" "I guess so," I replied, "and it's been that way since the beginning of August, actually."

One of the "lasts" that is coming up is the pastoring of this congregation during a national election—the tenth such election since I've been here. That may seem like an event to take note of, especially since I have never once advocated for a political candidate or a referendum issue in all of my time here. I figure that's not my role as pastor and teacher in this congregation. I certainly encourage all of you to make informed, prayerful decisions when you enter the voting booth, but I'd never presume to tell you how I think you should vote.

However, I do think that there is some pastoral work that is connected with the backdrop of a national election, but most of it takes place after the election. The big question is this: how do we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, make our peace with the results and live together as citizens of one nation? A key to that answer lies in being able to understand why people who differ from us take the positions that they do. I have found that, while I may not agree with how some people think and vote, I can understand why they take the positions they do—and it's not because they're evil or stupid. If you can get a handle on the "why" it's easier to humanize the people we disagree with politically instead of demonizing them.

The second key to living together as citizens of one nation is to realize that the nation is sharply divided along certain lines, sometimes 50/50 in some cases. An election is not to change that fact. Even if their causes lose, the persons advocating those causes are not going

to disappear and go away. They are not going to be conquered or vanquished. Those factions are a part of the nation, and we must learn to live with our differences. Civil war is not an option.

The last key—and one that I've stressed often, I realize—is that the ultimate redemption of humanity is not going to be achieved through political means. Good governance can be a tremendous benefit for humankind, but like most tools available for our use, it can be horribly misused. Jesus warned his disciples of that sort of thing, saying that the persons in power among the Gentiles seek to lord power over one another, but that among his followers it should not be so (Matthew 20:25). The acquisition of power for power's sake is the pitfall of relying on politics as the main source of human redemption. Psalm 146:3 cautions, “Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.” God, alone, is the sovereign ruler of this world. We must never forget that fact.

In any event, it is my hope that we can gather together in worship with our brothers and sisters from First Congregational UCC and give thanks to God on November 27th at 7:00 p.m. for all of the blessings we have received as God's people. Remember, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to be thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and there is much to for which to give thanks.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert

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### **All Saints Day will be observed Sun., Nov. 3**

**Join us in worship today as we remember those members who have gone on to the Church Triumphant in the past year.**

**Holy Communion will be served during worship.**

**Salem Cares members will host coffee time after worship.**

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Beginning Saturday, Nov. 2, a local square dancing group will be using Fellowship Hall on Saturday evenings from 6 - 10 p.m. Allowing these folks and others to use our facilities for appropriate activities, like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, 4-H club and other meetings and radio exams, is one way we can “be the church” to others in the community.





## 2024 ALL SAINTS DAY

With Gratitude for Gifts Offered in Memory of:

Jean Halida  
Ron Holzmann  
Kenneth J. Schaap  
William Klemme  
Marilyn Rooker  
Robert Lorenz  
Norman Raeder  
Carol Bournoville



## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Salem will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve service on Wed., Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. We'll be joined by our friends in Christ from First Congregational UCC in Plymouth and our combined choirs will be featured as part of worship. Pie and coffee will be served following worship; please stay and enjoy fellowship with one another.

## In Remembrance ....

November 4, 2023	Kenneth J. Schaap
November 17, 2023	Florence Blanke
November 28, 2023	William Klemme
December 26, 2023	Norman Raeder
December 27, 2023	Marilyn Rooker
January 1, 2024	Arline DeMunck
January 27, 2024	Bruce Rohde
February 3, 2024	Daniel Klotz
February 26, 2024	Andrea Kapellen
June 4, 2024	Robert Lorenz
June 11, 2024	Jared Lehmann
July 22, 2024	David Lehrke
August 2, 2024	Carol M. Bournoville
September 27, 2024	William D. Lammers

## SING JOY CONCERT -- DEC. 8

Mark your holiday calendars for Sunday, Dec. 8 for the wonderful Christmas tradition of the "Sing Joy" choir concert. This concert, featuring the combined choirs of Salem, First Congregational, St. Peter's and Bethlehem, begins at 1 p.m. and is free. A special addition this year will be a new song written by Rev. Hoppert. This concert is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit--don't miss it!



*Watch for the Angel Tree*

Salem will again support our community by purchasing Christmas gifts from the Angel Tree. Please check the tree and select a tag (or several) so that others may look forward to gifts under their trees. The tags for specific items needed by local families will be available on the tree in the narthex on Nov. 8. Wrapped gifts will be due back to church by Dec. 4.





## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

11/3 Josiah Gundersen	11/13 Thomas Daigle	11/23 Linda Krueger
11/3 Kelly Wolfert	11/14 Ali Pilling	11/24 Wanda Meyer
11/4 Sean Mullen	11/14 Sharon Odekirk	11/26 Karen LeMahieu
11/5 Levi Flunker	11/14 Susie Katsma	11/26 Lauren Bunyea
11/6 Rachel Risse	11/18 Linda Johnson	11/26 Wes Huibregtse
11/7 Tabitha (Huenink) Munz	11/20 Marsha Meyer	11/28 Vyra Thiel
11/10 Breeley Gutschow	11/21 Angela Bender	11/29 Fritz Scheible
11/10 Guinevere Mauk	11/21 Jeffrey Bender	11/30 Ashley Krueger
11/10 Jill (Oestreich) Pilling	11/22 Carl Holzer	11/30 Judith Meerstein
11/12 Ian Schoenefeld	11/23 Judy Paulson	11/30 Todd Fischer

## **NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

11/4 Jeff & Mary Bender	11/6 Edward & Lynn York
11/4 Bret & Jennifer Schoenefeld	11/6 Richard and Judy Rortvedt
11/5 Carl & Lori Holzer	11/11 Adam & Lindsey Zorn
11/6 Scott & Rhonda Raeder	

## **Sharing a smile as we think of YOU!**

**Marian Lisowe**  
**Eugene Boll**  
**Mariann Picard**  
**Gladys Palm**  
**Tim Miller**  
**Bob Metze**  
**Joanne Lammers**



**Rollie Bruggink**  
**Georgine Littlefield**  
**Margaret Johnston**  
**Carole Hummell**  
**Corrine Vorpapel**  
**Evie Meinnert**  
**Elaine Kuck**

## For the month of November

Salem will be gathering

### **CEREAL**

to benefit the Plymouth Food Pantry. A collection bin is just outside the church office door. *Observing the amount of items our members donate monthly has been absolutely heartwarming!*

### **Scrip cards make shopping for hard-to-buy folks easy**

**Plan ahead for Christmas purchases and gifts---buy Scrip cards! The church office has a wide supply of cards for area stores and restaurants. And your purchase of Scrip benefits the church. Purchases can be made on Sunday mornings or during office hours.**

### **A tax-savvy way to benefit Salem**

Want to reduce your taxable income AND help support Salem UCC? A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-efficient way for those 70 ½ or older to donate from their IRA, while also counting towards your annual Required Minimum Distribution.

QCDs do not qualify for a charitable deduction but do avoid your taxable income. Always consult your personal tax advisor to learn how a QCD can benefit both you and Salem.

To direct a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, contact your IRA custodian and direct them to make a gift from your IRA to Salem UCC. Request that your name be included with the transfer information so we can thank you for your gift! They can mail it direct to the church.

## **November Lectionary**



### **Sunday, November 3**

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Hebrew Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18  
Psalm: Psalm 146  
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14  
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

### **Sunday, November 10**

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Hebrew Scripture: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17  
Psalm: Psalm 127  
Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28  
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

### **Sunday, November 17**

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25  
Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

### **Sunday, November 24**

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-7  
Psalm: Psalm 132:1-12  
Epistle: Revelations 1:4b-8  
Gospel: John 18:33-37

### **Thanksgiving Day, November 28**

Hebrew Scripture: Joel 2:21-27  
Psalm: Psalm 126  
Epistle: Timothy 2:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 6:25-33



## Message from Financial Secretary

Dear Friends in Christ,

As many of you are aware, Salem held a special congregational meeting on October 13. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and discuss possible approaches to improving our church's financial wellbeing.

Here is where we stand with our General Fund during the first 44 weeks of 2024:

- **General Fund Contributions** totaled \$134,568 (**\$3,058 average weekly giving**).
- **General Fund Expenses** totaled \$175,430 (**\$3,987 average weekly expenses**).
- **We should consider \$4,000 our weekly giving goal for General Fund.** Regular updates on weekly giving will be provided in upcoming bulletin announcements.

We are very generous! Unfortunately, Salem's General Fund income has not been sufficient to meet those expenses. **The average weekly shortfall of \$929** has been supplemented with money from other funds, including a line of credit. We have also benefited from band concert concession proceeds and church picnic donations. Additional support came from SCRIP rebates, Zoar Cemetery Fund, Special Gifts and others.

Salem's Council and Finance / Generosity Teams have been hard at work trying to find ways to lower expenses and increase income. We are grateful to many who have increased their financial giving to help meet the needs. We have also recently been granted funds from Endowment to help lower our line of credit debt.

Please note the status of **Contributions for our 5 for 5 Benevolences**, so far this year:

- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) - \$7,417 received (Goal is \$10,000)
- Christmas Fund - \$0 received (Goal is \$700)
- Neighbors in Need - \$408 received (Goal is \$800)
- One Great Hour of Sharing - \$635 received (Goal is \$750)
- Strengthen the Church - \$635 received (Goal is \$400)

I am pleased to report that Salem will continue to support Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization (SCIO) in 2024. Our contribution will be funded through a generous grant of \$1,000 from the Endowment Fund.

If you are still reading, you may be wondering what this means for each of us. My response to you is that is entirely up to each one as we are moved by the Holy Spirit. We are called to be generous, even extravagantly so! As individuals, families, and as a congregation, we need to take a closer look at our stewardship. Are we utilizing all of our resources of time, talent and treasure as fully as we can?

I do not have all of the answers, and I do not have the power to foresee the future. However, I faithfully continue to assist as I am able during the time ahead and challenge you to do likewise. If you want to discuss how to contribute electronically or through qualified charitable distributions or other means, please let me know. I also invite you to consider participating with any of our ministry teams or join in other opportunities that are being offered. We do have a church that is alive and active. Please prayerfully consider how you may help Salem UCC continue to thrive and grow. Thank you!

May we all be blessed AND be blessings to others!

Mary Bender

# November 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					12pm Craft Fair set-up	8:30am—3pm Craft Fair 6-10pm Square Dancing
3 <b>All Saints</b> 9am Church School 10am Worship w/ Chancel Choir and Holy Communion 11am <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> <b>Salem Cares</b> 7pm AA	4 9am Men's Coffee  6pm Musical rehearsal	5 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	6  6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	7 <i>Council agenda items Due</i>  10:30am PPR Team Meeting 6 pm Worship Team	8	9
10 9am Church School 10am Worship 11am <b>Coffee Hosts:</b> <b>Tom Daigle &amp; Susan Clarke</b> 7pm AA	11 9am Men's Coffee 9am Women's Coffee 6pm Musical rehearsal	12 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting 6pm Musical rehearsal 6:30 pm Council	13  6pm Musical rehearsal 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	14	15	16
						8:30am Radio Exams 6-10pm Square Dancing
17 9am Church School 10am Worship 7pm AA	18 <i>Newsletter Items Due 9am</i> 9am Men's Coffee 6pm Musical rehearsal	19 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Salem Green BOD 6pm Musical rehearsal	20  6pm Musical rehearsal 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24 9am Church School 10am Worship 7pm AA	25 9am Men's Coffee 9am Salem Cares	26 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	27  7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	28	29	30

Salem United Church of Christ  
217 Salem Drive  
Plymouth, WI 53073

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

PASTOR: Rev. James M. Hoppert  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Anne Hernandez / CHOIR DIRECTOR: Eileen Brooks  
CONSISTORY PRESIDENT: Paul Clarke  
TREASURER: Joshua Bender  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Mary Bender  
CUSTODIAN: Shannon Mendenhall  
CHURCH SECRETARY: Linda Bosman/Sandy Rabe  
ORGANIST: Scott Weir

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