

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

Persons who aren't familiar with the flow and rhythm of the church year will sometimes wonder why a group like the Worship Team would occupy its attention to the seasons of Advent and Christmas in the waning weeks of summer. The quick answer to that question is that once the program year starts in September, things go into hyper speed quickly, and it's easy enough to fall behind schedule—and once you fall behind it's difficult to catch back up. So, much of the preparation for this time of the year was laid out in advance and now it's a matter of executing the design.

Advent and Christmas 2024 will feature two-word themes that call us to action each week: December 1st-- "Be Alert;" December 8-- "Make Ready;" December 15 – "Look Forward;" December 22-- "Sing Joy;" December 24 – "Welcome Jesus." These calls to action are designed to help us prepare our hearts and the world around us for the growth of God's kingdom in our midst. Each of the five services will also feature a "What's in the Box?" segment to build on the theme of the week.

Not every Christian tradition celebrates Advent, but I'm glad that I belong to one that does. With each passing year, I have come to gain a greater appreciation for the season. We live in a world that constantly reminds us of the gap between the reality of what is and the vision of what God's full governance in this world could be like. In certain years and in certain seasons, it seems like that gap is so hopelessly wide. Yet, despite the human inability to close that gap, the season of Advent reminds us that God will bring peace and wholeness to completion in God's own time. In the meantime, we work and pray for the coming of that day. The hymns and prayers of the Advent season help us in that journey.

As we look ahead to December, I want to lift up two special events at Salem. The first is the “Sing Joy” concert of the United Christmas Choir (featuring the choirs of St. Peter's UCC, Kiel, Bethlehem UCC, Kiel, First Congregational UCC, Plymouth, and Salem) on Sun., December 8 at 1:00 p.m. The four choirs always do a fine job together, and you'll not want to miss this concert. (The Packers do not play that Sunday, so there are no excuses. Plus—in a shameless plug, which I don't do very often—the concert will feature one of the compositions I wrote this past June.)

The second event is our Church School Christmas Program, which will be held on Wed., December 18, at 6:30 p.m. Our young people and their teachers have been working hard on this telling of the familiar story, so I encourage you to attend and experience the freshness and enthusiasm that they bring to the Christmas good news.

In the meantime, may your Advent pilgrimage be a fruitful one.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



SING JOY CONCERT -- DEC. 8 AT 1PM AT SALEM UCC

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. A special addition this year will be a new song written by Rev. Hoppert with accompaniment provided by a brass quartet. This concert is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit--don’t miss it! There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be received.

Save the Date: Night to Shine Fri., Feb. 7, 2025

Salem will again be hosting a portion of the Sheboygan County Night to Shine event next year, along with Christian Life Church, on Fri., Feb. 7. Please consider joining us as a volunteer or providing financial or other support to help make this another wonderful event for the honored kings and queens. There will be more details shared in the coming weeks about how you may be part of this program.

ADVENT CALENDAR

2024



"Be Alert!"



"Make Ready"



"Look Forward"



Children's Program
(6:30PM)



"Sing Joy"



"Welcome"
(4:30PM)

December 25th
Merry Christmas
Service (10:00AM)



Salem United Church of Christ
217 Salem Drive
Plymouth



Advent Study ---all are welcome

Rev. Hoppert will lead an Advent study on Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 15 and 22. These will be held at church beginning at 11 a.m. We will be reading the Lectionary passages for the coming Sunday and discussing their relevance leading up to Christmas. Join us as you are able!

Church School Christmas Program Scheduled

The church school children will have their Christmas program on Wed., Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. The Chancel Choir will also be performing. All members and extended family are welcome to attend!



December Lectionary

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25: 1-10

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke: 3:1-6

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18



PSALM 27:1

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms 80:1-7

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:1-7, 8-20

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Sunday, December 29

First Sunday after Christmas

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

12/4 Scott Bunyea
12/9 Charles Machut
12/10 Jeremy Pratt
12/11 Annette Bunyea
12/11 Ramsey Fontany
12/13 William Laack
12/14 Cora Meyer
12/14 Eric Raeder
12/14 Jerome Miller
12/15 Maureen Greuel
12/16 Delaney Fischer
12/21 Kimberly Laack
12/22 Zoey Meinnert
12/24 Gail Matzdorf
12/27 Harmon Gundersen
12/30 Trenton Krueger



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/2 Edward & Darla Ardell
12/3 Clint & Erica Irrthum
12/18 Dale & Susie Katsma
12/20 Robert & Kay Scheible
12/31 Roger & Gloria Eldredge



May the Christmas season bring
you love, joy and peace.

**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
Anna Hoppert**

For the month of December

Salem will be gathering

JAM & JELLY



to benefit the Plymouth Food Pantry. A collection bin is just outside the church office door.

Remember Scrip cards for stocking stuffers and last minute gifts

The church office has a wide supply of cards for area stores and restaurants if you're looking for last minute gifts. 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.

Thank you!

The Finance team at Salem would like to thank everyone for their generosity these last couple of months. Thanks to your support, our financial situation is on a much better trajectory than earlier this year. Your continued support during the last month of the year (and into the new year) is very much appreciated!

A special offer

Rollie Bruggink has offered two pairs of brand new, never worn SAS brand women's shoes, size 9W, for sale. Please contact the church office if you are interested in purchasing these shoes at a much reduced price.



ZOAR-SALEM CEMETERY

Zoar-Salem Cemetery is looking for a candidate to serve a 3-year term on its board of directors. Terry Risse's term ends in January and we thank him for his service on the board. Any Salem member or cemetery lot owner is eligible to serve on the board. Please contact the church office or Terry Risse no later than December 31 if you would consider serving in this capacity.

December 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Church School 10am Worship w/ Chancel Choir 11am Coffee Hosts: Salem Cares 7pm AA	2 9am Men's Coffee 11am Advent Study 6pm Musical rehearsal	3 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting 6pm Musical rehearsal	4 10:30am PPR Meeting 2pm Communion at Salem Green 6pm Musical rehearsal 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Joint Choir Rehearsal	5 <i>Council agenda items Due</i>	6 5-8pm Kids' Night Out	7 6-10pm Kettle Squares
8 9am Church School 10am Worship w/Holy Communion 1pm Sing Joy Concert 7pm AA	9 9am Men's Coffee 9am Women's Coffee 11am Advent Study	10 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	11 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30 pm Council	13 6-10pm Kettle Squares	14
15 9am Church School 10am Worship w/ Chancel Choir 7pm AA	16 9am Men's Coffee 11am Advent Study	17 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 10:30am Staff Meeting	18 6:30pm Church School Christmas Program	19	20	21
22 9am Church School 10am Worship 7pm AA	23 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 9am-4pm Office Open 9am Men's Coffee 9am Salem Cares 11am Advent Study 10:30am Staff Meeting	24 Office Closed 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion	25 Office Closed 10am Christmas Day Worship	26 9am-4pm Office Open	27	28 6-10pm Kettle Squares
29 10am Worship 7pm AA	30 9am Men's Coffee	31 <i>Bulletin Items Due 9am</i> 9am-4pm Office Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	1 Office Closed	2 9am-4pm Office Open		

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

*CHAPEL CHIMES IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE
INTEREST OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF SALEM UCC*

OFFICE HOURS: OPEN TUES 9-4; WED 9-4
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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Sharing faith, lifting up, reaching out and growing together."

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