

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

The calendar that most of the world uses for reckoning its time can be traced back to Julius Caesar, who attempted to reform the Roman calendar into a solar calendar (a "year" being based on the time it took the earth to make one full orbit around the sun) with twelve months. Even over 2000 years ago, Julius Caesar realized that a year is not an even 365 days a year, but about 365.25 days a year, so an extra day was appointed one year in four to keep things on track. That calendar system worked, until Pope Gregory XIII realized that the old Julian calendar needed some tweaking: not every "century year" (e.g. 1700, 1800, 1900, and 2000) would get a "leap day," on the century years divisible by four (as was the case in 2000, but not 1900). It seems to work for us

However, the Gregorian calendar is not the way to get the job done in marking time. Other ancient societies marked time with a lunar calendar, not a solar calendar. The Chinese and Jewish calendars are a case in point. While measuring a month by the phases on the moon is relatively easy, it's tough to keep a series of years without having seasons slip backwards, so the Jewish calendar, for example, would add an extra month seven times in 19 years to keep the agricultural dates more in line.

The calendar we use is a solar calendar that has a number of fixed holidays (i.e. they fall on the same day each year), but movable Judeo-Christian holidays due to the lunar calendar. The date of Easter, for example, is based on a lunar reckoning, which impacts the date of Ash Wednesday and Pentecost.

Long story short, our calendars are an arbitrary way to mark our time as human beings. The year—thanks to Julius Caesar—starts on January 1st, but the Jewish and Chinese years begin in other places. Human beings mark and observe time, but only God establishes time and stands beyond it, being eternal. As we face the start of another year as we reckon it, may we have the wisdom to understand that time is a gift for us and that God is the one who holds time. May we make the best use of the time that is gifted to us.

Here is hoping that 2025 marks a time that is fruitful and blessed.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



In case of inclement weather please tune to 1420AM (Cow Country) or 1330AM (WHBL) for any weather-related cancellations. You can also view cancellations on WTMJ 4, FOX 6 and WISN 12. If Confirmation classes are cancelled on Wednesday evenings, students will be contacted.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 23

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23 immediately after the 10 a.m. worship service.

Although the meeting date is later than in the past, reports from various organizations of the church are requested to be in the Church Office by Friday, January 10. This allows the staff time to organize, proofread, print and distribute annual report books in advance of the annual meeting. We appreciate your responsiveness to this deadline!

Tom Daigle is the person to contact if you have interest in or have a candidate in mind to fill the coming terms for the Church Council. The Council meets monthly and would welcome to have all seats filled as we go about planning the work of the church for 2025 and beyond.

Welcome New Member: Steve Davenport

My name is Steve Davenport and I was raised Baptist but have not had affiliation with any specific church until now. I was baptized as an adult in 1994. Betty and I have 5 adult kids and 7 grandkids. I am retired from the cheese industry in production management. I am an avid golfer and overall a big sports fan (Packers, Brewers and FDL Dock Spiders!). I love music and enjoy singing although I am not very good at it. Betty and I love road trips and are particular fans of the National Parks and of the mountains. Snow skiing used to be one of my favorite activities but since I started raising kids and then getting older, not so much now. I am very much a people person and I love to help out where and when I can. I have been known to talk a lot but I do listen as well. I am in good physical condition and God willing, plan to live way past 90 years old. So, you are stuck with me now as I do not plan on going anywhere soon! Don't be afraid to ask me anything about myself or my family as I love to share. God bless you all.




REMINDER OF LISTENING SESSIONS

The survey from the church profile committee has been circulating for a few weeks now. Two listening sessions remain. Please plan to attend one on either January 5th or the 12th after worship. We appreciate your time and input as we move forward together.

Church Giving - Options

It is especially common at the end and beginning of a calendar year that the church office / financial officers get questions about tax benefits of giving to charitable organizations - to your church specifically. While we are by no means a financial consulting service, we can give you a few options of easier or more convenient ways of providing your contribution of financial support.

- 1) **Traditional Offering Envelope.** Some feel that the act of writing out a check or putting money in an envelope is an important element of sacrificial giving. We continue to provide offering envelopes for everyone who wishes to use them. A good number of envelopes remain in the narthex to be picked up.
- 2) **Electronic Fund Transfer.** This equates to an automatic payment that is made for a set amount on a given schedule from your bank account to the church's bank account. There is no tax benefit to this; however, it is convenient for you and allows the church a reliable income stream for the church. You choose donation frequency e.g. semi-monthly or monthly, indicating the amount of your contribution. Complete the form and return it to the church office.
- 3) **Qualified Charitable Distribution.** The best of both worlds can be achieved through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This is a tax-efficient way for those 70½ 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. 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... 

Sharing with you a few of the special notes that come to the church office through the holidays - it just touches our hearts to feel the warmth and care amid the hustle and bustle to pass along these kind words -

From Anna Hoppert who writes "Dear Salem Family, May the holidays be filled with much Joy, Peace, and Love for all. My the New Year bring many new strengths and happiness for one and all in the coming days. Blessings both large and small be the greatest joys for all."

From Vi Thiel who sent a beautiful card inscribed "Dear Salem Family, Grow in His Love (Ephesians 3:17)."

From Rev. Franz Rigert and the WI Conference offices who sends this message of care "Merry Christmas to you from all of us on the Conference staff. We send our warmest greetings and gratitude and wish you a healthy and happy new year. May the peace of Christmas be with you."

From several members and friends who view services online via Facebook:

Marcus Johnson, "Good morning Happy Holidays to you and your family everyone."

Molly Fontany referring to the Children's Program, "Wonderful performance by the kids! Merry Christmas!"

Carol Thelen referring to the "Sing Joy" Concert, "Beautiful! Thank you for broadcasting live!"



For the month of January

Salem will be gathering



Cereal

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

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

22nd Larry and Sharon Zwerg



JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



01st Cindy Conrad	18th Jan Koepsell
02nd Dale Knuth	18th Corrine Vorpapel
05th Betty Davenport	19th Susan Clarke
08th Denise Buss	21st Quinn Wilson
08th Ed York	22nd Gladys Debbink
10th Laurie Born	22nd Richard Jarosch
11th Kevin Bunyea	25th Carter Pratt
16th Jim LeMahieu	26th John Meerstein
18th John Hoppert	30th Deanna Lindow

Wishing You a Blessed New Year filled with the perfect blend of harmony in your heart and at home.

Bob Metze
Joanne Lammers
Margaret Johnston
Corrine Vorpapel
Evie Meinnert
Elaine Kuck
Anna Hoppert

Rollie Bruggink
Georgine Littlefield
Marian Lisowe
Eugene Boll
Mariann Picard
Gladys Palm
Tim Miller



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

Let's show our love as we transform Salem with an "Enchanted Forest" theme for our February 7, 2025 event. Join Sheboygan County Night to Shine by serving as a volunteer, inviting guests to be honored kings or queens, or providing financial or other support.

I am excited to share a little bit about Sheboygan County Night to Shine your opportunity for become involvement in this wonderful event providing a memorable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older.

Volunteers like you make this happen. In Plymouth, Salem UCC will be partnering with Christian Life Church in hosting Night to Shine 2025 on Friday, February 7. St. Paul Lutheran Church will be hosting an event at the same time, in Sheboygan Falls. Working together - our churches form Sheboygan County Night to Shine.

Guests of Night to Shine receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, corsages and boutonnieres. They walk a red carpet; and every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned a king or queen of the prom, complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi! Honored guests enjoy prom favors and, of course, dancing. Photographs, refreshments and a Respite Room for parents and caretakers are also part of the evening.

Volunteers serve in many different way: Activity Stations, Decorating, Flowers, Food Service, Guest Buddy, Guest and Volunteer Check-In, Paparazzi, Parking & Transportation, Red Carpet Respite Room, Sensory Room, Here to Cheer, Set-Up, Tear Down, and more. Opportunities to provide monetary and other donations are also possible.

There are ways that each of us can play a part. Some things need to happen before the event, some during and others after. I know many at Salem have been part of Night to Shine in years past, just as I have.

I encourage those who have participated to share your stories. If anyone would like to hear some of my stories and/or learn more about this spectacular event, please let me know. I hope you will consider how you can contribute to making February 7th an evening to remember!

**Blessings,
Mary Bender**

January 2025 (CORRECTED)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1 Happy New Year!</i> Office closed	2 6:30p Night to Shine mtg. in Fellowship Hall	3	4 6p Kettle Squares
5 9am Church School 10am Worship w/Choir 11am Coffee Hosts: Salem Cares 11am Listening Session	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 9am Men's Group 9am Salem Cares	7 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:30am Staff	8 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Reh.	9 6pm Worship Team	10 <i>Consistory agenda items due</i> <i>Annual Reports due for Congregational Meeting</i>	11 Carole Hummell funeral here
12 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am Church School 10am Worship 11am Listening Session 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	13 9am Men's Group 9am Women's Coffee	14 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:30am Staff 6:30pm Council Meeting	15 5:30p Mentor Meal Year 3 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Reh.	16	17	18 8:30a Radio Exam 6p Kettle Squares
19 9am Church School 10am Worship /Choir 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	20 9am Men's Group	21 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> <i>Articles Due for Newsletter</i> 10:30am Staff	22 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Reh.	23	24	25 6p Kettle Squares
26 9am Church School 10am Worship w/Choir 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	27 9am Men's Group 9am Salem Cares	28 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:30am Staff 6:30P Plymouth Collaboration meeting	29 6:15 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Reh.	30	31	

December Reflections



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



BAPTISM OF REIGEN JO



"SING JOY" CONCERT HOSTED AT SALEM THIS YEAR



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING



SANCTUARY DECOR



KIDS NIGHT OUT



CRECHE DISPLAY



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



"WHAT IS IN THE BOX?"

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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*

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SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"Sharing faith, lifting up, reaching out and growing together."

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