

Chapel Chimes

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN



First Notes

by Pastor Gary Wilner

Greetings Members and Friends of Salem UCC,

Each day I receive a devotional from the UCC. Some I find especially meaningful to our current time. I like to pass them on, especially if they carry a message I believe we all need to hear. This is one of them:

Refuge, Not Retreat by Rev. Kenneth Samuel

In the Lord I take refuge. How then can you say to me: "Flee like a bird to your mountain. When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" - Psalm 11:1, 3 (NIV)

Almost daily now, our sensitivities and sensibilities are being assaulted with cascading reports of gun violence and human massacre, at home and abroad.

The barrage of violence functions systemically, not only to inflict bodily harm but psychological intimidation as well. It is designed to cause us to shrink in the face of fear and to retreat into enclaves of tribalism ("Us against them"), isolationism ("I've got mine, you get yours") and nationalism ("Let's build a wall").

When the foundations are being destroyed, God offers us a refuge, not a retreat. It's a refuge that shelters us from despair and protects us with the faith that no matter how awful the human toll, God's truth still marches on.

How else can we explain the Civil Rights workers of the 1960s marching into the jaws of vicious racism in the South singing "We Shall Overcome"?

First Notes, cont.

How else can we explain why, after the massacre at Pulse nightclub, thousands have continued to gather around the country every summer to celebrate Pride?

How else can we explain why, in Dallas in 2016, protesters who marched against police violence mourned alongside police after five officers were killed by sniper fire during a Black Lives Matter demonstration?

This is not the time to retreat into the confines of class and clan. This is the time to reach across every barrier that separates us and find refuge in the quest for justice that makes us all one.

Prayer

God, in these troubling times, we thank you for being the refuge that keeps moving us beyond retreat.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gary



2025 ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day will be observed Sun., Nov. 2 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.

In Remembrance

Dec. 7, 2024	Carole Jean Hummell
Dec. 29, 2024	Steven J. Rortvedt
Jan. 6, 2025	Gladys Debbink
Jan. 25, 2025	Robert Metze
Apr. 12, 2025	Robert Plahmer
Apr. 29, 2025	Elaine J. Kuck
May 18, 2025	Joanne Lammers
Aug. 18, 2025	Harmon Gundersen
Oct. 16, 2025	Evelyn E. Meinnert

With Gratitude for Gifts Offered in Memory of:

Florence Blanke
Gladys Debbink
Carol Hummell
Elaine Kuck
Bill and Joanne Lammers
Steven Rortvedt
Harmon Gundersen
Evelyn Meinnert



**Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 2.
Remember to set your clocks back one hour on
Saturday evening!**



Plan to attend last Visioning Workshop

Watch your mail for the next packet of materials for the third and final Visioning Workshop on November 16. Even if you've not been able to attend the prior sessions, you are invited and encouraged to attend this final session where we'll be discussing the future of Salem. There are printed summaries of the first two sessions to help you learn what has been discussed.

These sessions have been designed to help us discern what God is calling Salem UCC to be. This is a community of faith and as a community we need everyone, leaning on God for guidance, to participate in charting a course forward.

A simple lunch will be provided at the workshop. If childcare or transportation is needed in order to be able to attend, please let the church office know a week in advance and we will help with those arrangements.

Upcoming Events

Adult Journey in Faith Class

Join us on Sun., Nov. 2 for our first Journey in Faith class. This will be an opportunity for us to discuss what topics we want to study and how best to study them, e.g. with books, videos and/or discussions led by a participant. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. in one of the classrooms. BYO morning beverage and come with a topic or two to put on the list. We'll also meet Nov. 16 and 30.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

First Congregational UCC will host the annual combined Thanksgiving Eve service on **Wed., Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m.** Our combined choirs will be featured as part of worship.

Also, in addition to the regular offering (please bring your Salem envelope and/or mark your check and your offering will be returned to Salem), there will be a collection of new socks and underwear for men, women and children. These items will be given to City Vintage in Sheboygan for distribution during their monthly "Community Free Clothing Day" for those in need.

Pie and coffee will be served following worship; please stay and enjoy fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ across town.

SING JOY CONCERT -- DEC. 14

Mark your holiday calendars for Sunday, Dec. 14 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. The concert will be held at St. Peter's UCC in Kiel this year. This concert is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit--don't miss it!



A note for your holiday calendar
Christmas Eve worship at Salem will be at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. Holy Communion will be served at this candlelight service.
There will be no Christmas Day worship.

Please note that the order form for Christmas poinsettias can be found in this newsletter.

November

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

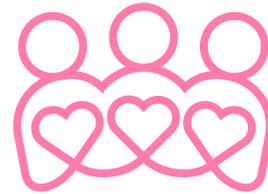
- 11/4 Jeff & Mary Bender
- 11/4 Bret & Jennifer Schoenefeld
- 11/5 Carl & Lori Holzer
- 11/6 Scott & Rhonda Raeder
- 11/6 Edward & Lynn York
- 11/6 Richard and Judy Rortvedt
- 11/11 Adam & Lindsey Zorn



Peanut Butter
is being requested by the
Plymouth Food Pantry for
the month of November.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 11/3 | Josiah Gundersen | 11/22 | Carl Holzer |
| 11/3 | Kelly Wolfert | 11/23 | Linda Krueger |
| 11/4 | Sean Mullen | 11/23 | Judy Paulson |
| 11/6 | Rachel Risse | 11/24 | Janice Matheson |
| 11/7 | Tabitha Munz | 11/24 | Wanda Meyer |
| 11/10 | Jill Pilling | 11/26 | Lauren Bunyea |
| 11/13 | Tom Daigle | 11/26 | Karen LeMahieu |
| 11/14 | Sharon Odekirk | 11/28 | Vyra Thiel |
| 11/18 | Linda Johnson | 11/29 | Robert Scheible |
| 11/20 | Marsha Meyer | 11/30 | Todd Fischer |
| 11/21 | Angela Bender | 11/30 | Ashley Krueger |
| 11/21 | Jeffrey Bender | | |



Keeping you in our prayers

**Rollie Bruggink, Eugene Boll,
Georgine Littlefield, Marian Lisowe,
Tim Miller, Margaret Johnston,
Corrine Vorpapel, Mariann Picard,
Gladys Palm, Gloria Eldredge,
Ron Bloemers and Dolores Bohrmueller**



If you or a loved one are hospitalized and would like a visit from Pastor Gary, please call the church office or Pastor

Gary direct (920-216-3973). The hospital may not always contact the church, especially in emergency situations.

Did you know that Texas Roadhouse offers a Sunday bulletin program to support local churches? On Sundays between 11 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., guests that come into the Sheboygan Texas Roadhouse location can have 10% of their total food purchases

given back to the church! Take along your current copy of the church bulletin and give it to your server.

When going out for lunch or dinner on Sundays, consider patronizing Texas Roadhouse.



Endowment Grants Awarded in October

A total of \$18,109 was distributed for 10 grant requests made to the Endowment Fund in October. The following requests received support:

- Zoar Salem Cemetery for maintenance
- a new computer and software for the livestreaming ministry
- a reduction in the line of credit
- assistance for expenses associated with EFT offerings
- assistance in meeting our 5 for 5 OCWM benevolences
- books for Lenten study and large print Bibles
- assistance with expense of hot water heater installation
- a small business grant for a Kenyan family to purchase a sewing machine for their start-up business
- educational and enrichment items for Fairview students
- visual enhancements for the sanctuary during special services

Salem participated in Feed My Starving Children event

Salem sent a group of confirmation students and adults to help with the Feed My Starving Children pack event at St. Paul's in Sheboygan Falls. During the 3-day event, a total of 684 boxes were packed, fulfilling the goal of assembling 147,744 meals that will feed 404 children for an entire year.



Watch for the Advent Mission Projects

Salem's Advent mission project will be a little different this year. Rather than doing the Angel Tree with tags for specific items, we will receive a special collection of items to benefit different organizations in the community. There will be display in the narthex with more details about these collections.



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.



2025 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

All poinsettias are in 6.5" pots and have one plant with 4-6 blooms.
They will be wrapped in green foil with a white bow.

_____ Red Poinsettia @ \$11.50 each

_____ White Poinsettia @ \$11.50 each

(Red will be ordered if no color is selected.)

Total \$ _____ (Make checks payable to Salem UCC*)

****indicate Poinsettia in the memo line of checks***

Ordered by:

Please print name(s) clearly as this is how it will appear in the bulletin listing

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

***Please return order form and payment to the church office
NO LATER than Sunday, November 30.***

Poinsettias may be taken home following the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service. Beyond that, contact the church office for a time to pick up your plant(s).

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30-3 Craft Fair 6pm Kettle Squares
2 8:30am Journey in Faith Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	3 9:00am Men's Coffee	4 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	5 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	6	7 <i>Items due for Council Mtg.</i>	8 6pm Kettle Squares
9 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	10 9:00am Men's Coffee 9:00am Salem Cares 5:30pm Willing Workers 4-H Club	11 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff 6:30pm Council meeting	12 5:30pm Mentor Meal 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	13	14	15 9am Radio Exams 6pm Kettle Squares
16 8:30am Journey in Faith Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Final Vision Session 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	17 9:00am Men's Coffee	18 <i>Items due for Bulletin and Chapel Chimes</i> 10:00am Staff 12:30pm Salem Green BOD meeting	19	20	21	22 6pm Kettle Squares
23 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	24 9:00am Men's Coffee	25 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	26 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	27	28	29 6pm Kettle Squares
30 8:30am Journey in Faith Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	Dec. 1 Watch for more details about a movie night being planned for tonight!		6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship at First Cong.			6pm Kettle Squares

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PASTOR: Pastor Gary Wilner
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Anne Hernandez / CHOIR DIRECTOR: Eileen Brooks
COUNCIL 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*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 9-4
PASTOR WILNER OFFICE HOURS: TUES - THURS 9-3 appointment preferred please
Phone: (920) 892-7456 OR Email: churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org
Website: www.salemuccplywi.org

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

NOVEMBER 2025
VOLUME 75 No. 11