

# 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,

This is one of my favorite times of year. Spirits rise as we anticipate being able to spend more time with family and friends.

Many of us are, or will be, doing those "extra-special" things like hunting, baking, cooking, shopping, watching football, time off from school, snow and many seasonal activities like sledding or skating, driving through light displays, or any number of Christmas classic movies like "It's a Wonderful Life." It's all just right around the corner folks!

At the same time, when we reflect on the challenges of the day, we can feel burdened in oh so many ways. So, what better time to pause and focus on the real beauty of Thanksgiving? Of setting time aside to really "count our blessings." And then, as any self help guide will advise - don't let it end there, continue to do that every day. A great new habit well before the New Year kicks in!

Others of us need more than to be lifted up by our past and current blessings. We need to be able to look forward and gain a sense of hope, peace, joy and love rather than the dismal current political environment, health and relational issues etc. Yet here we are friends, standing at the threshold of a new Advent Season when we can embrace the true spirit of the season that begins with the birth of a very special Baby in Bethlehem.

As we move from Thanksgiving, a time of recognizing and being thankful for our past and current blessing, to try and lessen the anxiety and pressure of the difficult times we live in...to Hope in what God has in store for us through our faith; to the comfort and Peace we feel in

*cont. on p.g 2*

knowing that our God cares about each of us; to the Joy of knowing that God is our strength and will never abandon us; to the Love shown in the birth of the baby Jesus and now to the outpouring of God's Love reflected into the world through you and me...now my friends - I encourage you to join me and celebrate with heartfelt gusto!

May we all be thankful for our faith (and for the loving faiths of all humankind). Let us look forward in Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we await the coming of the Christ Child and celebrate all that His arrival has meant to us.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gary

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Join the 3rd Year Confirmation Students, Mentors and your church family at the movies!

**MOVIE NIGHT AT SALEM**  
**Monday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 pm**

Featuring:  
**A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

This is a complimentary, interactive movie with good humor and good music, suitable for all ages and guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit.

Popcorn and beverage served

## **An invitation to bring hope to others during Advent**

Advent is a time for expressing hope in public, for working to restore others' hopes and for strengthening the dreams that carry us through the year.

You can bring hope to others in need by participating in Salem's "Tree of Hope" drive. During the four Sundays of Advent we will collect various items during the Sundays of Advent. Organizations that will benefit from your generosity will include Bridgeway, Fairview school, Plymouth HS Panther Student Sharing Closet, Sheboygan County Warming Center, Plymouth Food Pantry and others. Although specific items are listed for each Sunday, you may bring any item on any Sunday; we'll also gratefully receive cash donations if you would rather not shop.



### **First Sunday of Advent - Nov. 30**

Personal care products: shampoo, conditioner, laundry soap, toothpaste, hand lotion, feminine hygiene products, lip balm, body wash, deodorant, small hair combs, new underwear for men, women and children.

### **Second Sunday of Advent - Dec. 7**

Boxes and individual packets of Kleenex, Clorox wipes and Hand Sanitizer

### **Third Sunday - Dec. 14**

Non-perishable food items (especially fruit cups, granola bars, saltines, individually-packed snacks)

### **Fourth Sunday - Dec. 21**

Diapers (newborn and 5-6 size), baby wipes, toddler-size socks

## SING JOY CONCERT -- DEC. 14

Mark your holiday calendars for Sunday, Dec. 14 for the wonderful Christmas tradition of the "Sing Joy" united church 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. There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be received. This concert is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit--don't miss it!



### **Christmas services**

Christmas Eve worship at Salem will be at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. Holy Communion will be served at this candlelight service.

Christmas Day worship will be at 10 a.m.

*Thank you to all who ordered Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary.*

*The plants may be taken home after the Christmas morning service or picked up at church on Friday morning, 9 am to noon or Sunday, Dec. 28.*



**CEREAL**  
**is being requested by the**  
**Plymouth Food Pantry for**  
**the month of December.**

### **Mark Wed., Dec. 17 for the Church School Christmas program**

The church school children and confirmation students will present their Christmas program on Wed., Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. This year's program is titled: "The Symbols of Christmas." All members and extended family are welcome to attend!

### **ONGOING - Adult Journey in Faith class**

Join us on Sundays, Dec. 7 and 21 for our adult Journey in Faith class. We are watching and discussing the same videos that our year three confirmation students watch as part of their curriculum. These videos present topics that cause us to reflect and discuss our shared journey in discovering God's will and being faithful Christians. The discussions after the video aren't intended to challenge your knowledge of the Bible or ask you to remember what you learned when you were confirmed, so everyone is welcome to come and participate. We meet at 8:30 a.m. in one of the classrooms. BYO morning beverage and join us!

### **Save the Date: Night to Shine will be Fri., Feb. 13, 2026**



Salem will again be hosting a portion of the 2026 Sheboygan County Night to Shine event, along with Christian Life Church, on Fri., Feb. 13. 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.

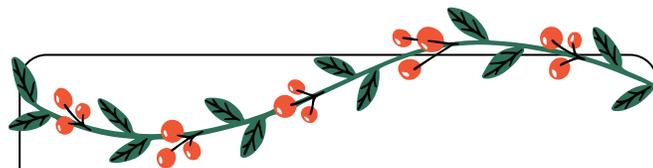
## BIRTHDAYS

12/4	Scott Bunyea	12/14	Jerry Miller
12/6	Leon Wilterdink	12/15	Maureen Greuel
12/9	Charles Machut	12/16	Delaney Fischer
12/10	Jeremy Pratt	12/21	Kimberly Laack
12/11	Annette Bunyea	12/22	Zoey Meinnert
12/11	Ramsey Fontany	12/24	Gail Matzdorf
12/13	William Laack	12/30	Trenton Krueger
12/14	Cora Meyer	12/30	Ronald Bloemers
12/14	Eric Raeder		

# 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



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**

Use Scrip cards  
for holiday  
shopping



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.

**Special offering envelopes for the Christmas Fund are in the narthex. This is one of our "5 for 5" OCWM offerings and will be received during December.**

THE CHRISTMAS FUND



**"...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY..."**

**MATTHEW 2:10**

**Be the Light**

For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families.

Please consider donating today to ensure the loving support of the Church can continue to be shared with those in their moment of deepest need. **The Christmas Fund is here for them.**

Your gift is more than just a testament to your belief in the values of the United Church of Christ, it is a critical lifeline for those who depend on our grant programs for care and support. Thank you again for your generosity and I offer a closing prayer for your continued safety and peace.

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00am Men's Coffee 6:30pm Movie Night at Salem	2 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	3 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	4	5 <i>Items due for Council Mtg.</i>	6 6pm Kettle Squares
7 8:30am Journey in Faith Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	8 9:00am Men's Coffee 9:00am Salem Cares & Women's Coffee 5:30pm Willing Workers 4-H Club	9 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	10 6:15pm Confirmation 7:00pm Chancel Choir	11 6:30pm Council meeting	12	13
14 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship with Holy Communion 1:00pm Sing Joy Concert at St. Peter's UCC 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	15 9:00am Men's Coffee	16 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	17 6:30pm Church School Christmas Program	18	19	20 6pm Kettle Squares
21 8:30am Journey in Faith Class 9:00am Church School 10:00am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	22 <i>Items due for Chapel Chimes Newsletter</i> 9:00am Men's Coffee	23 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion	25 10:00am Christmas Day Worship	26	27 6pm Kettle Squares
28 10:00am Worship 7pm Alcoholics Anon.	29 9:00am Men's Coffee	30 <i>Items due for Bulletin</i> 10:00am Staff	31			

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](mailto:churchoffice@salemuccplywi.org)  
Website: [www.salemuccplywi.org](http://www.salemuccplywi.org)

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

**DECEMBER 2025**  
VOLUME 75 No. 12