

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2022



Photo by Cara Bahr (Gov. Dodge State Park)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE:

Week of June 5:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Week of June 12:

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Week of June 19:

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Psalms 42 and 43

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

Week of June 26:

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalms 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" ... well, Christmas as I experienced it in South Africa, perhaps! Yes, I know that it is the beginning of the Summer Season here, but I was just thinking about when we once spent the Christmas Season with our family in South Africa. December there is the beginning of Summer! And instead of a "Sleigh Ride", a Safari Ride in a Land Rover is more in order. Rather than "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire", we had their version of brats sizzling over a huge grill, while we wore shorts and sandals. And a holly-jolly Santa Claus in a bright-red fur-lined snow suit? In 90+ degrees? No, "Kersfees Vader" (Father Christmas) is much better acclimated than that!

All of this came to mind as I was pondering a comment and suggestion from our Confirmands recently, that we would do well to put more time and focus on encountering other Faiths, and other Traditions of Christianity, and different ways of being faithful, and so on. And I totally agree with their assessment.

We can get so wrapped up in what is familiar, what we do and how we do it, and the rhythms, sounds, and textures of religion ... that we can miss something important.

In the Madison/Dane County region, there are so many people from all over the world, with greatly diverse beliefs and experiences, that just meeting them, and listening to them, we would have our own faith expanded, learning, growing. We might even ask some deep questions about why we believe what we do, and ... whether we really do what we say we believe!

Yes, the Confirmands are right - we need to interact with the world, its beliefs, its hopes and dreams and prayers and cries, and what better place for that ... than the very place we already live?

Have a happy Summer!

Peace and Joy,
Rev Tom

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Summer worship hours begin on Sunday, June 5 with worship at 9am.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on June 16th at 6:30PM. Location TBD.

JOY

Congratulations to Cameron and Kimber Weinbrenner and big sister Madelyn who welcomed Clayton to the family on January 16 of this year.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Dennis Bieri
- 5: Cindy Remus, Eric Hauser
- 6: Harvey Zingg, Dick Steele, Benjamin Shubak
- 7: Jodi Moll, Kash Hageman
- 10: Michael Cashman
- 11: Hannah Worley
- 15: Karen Williams, Mark Shubak, Kailey Hodel, Kaytlin Dahlk, Peter Gauthier
- 17: Dave Triplett
- 18: Charles Hustad, Blaise Westphal
- 22: Anna Putney
- 25: Doug Smith
- 26: Joanne Gauthier
- 27: Sue Thiede, Shirley Zurbuchen, Nadia Graese
- 29. Ben Hauser, Chase Runnheim

*Let the church office know if we missed your birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS



Blake Adams, Owen Luginbuhl and Brianna Runnheim were confirmed during worship on May 22. They each completed a service project as a part of their confirmation class. Be sure to check out their poster displays in fellowship hall.

THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The Salem Women's Guild Salad Luncheon was a success! The weather was cooperative, workers were aplenty, and the donation of salads and desserts were plentiful! Including a few generous donations, we took in \$660 for which we are exceedingly grateful. Attendees expressed their joy in the opportunity to attend this event once again, and many compliments were given on the tastiness of the food.

Of course, we couldn't do this without the help of Salem's members, who always come through when requests are made. We give a GREAT BIG THANK-YOU to all the people who donated salads and desserts! We also extend a HEARTFELT THANK-YOU to those who gave of their time to help set up for the event, to those who worked in the kitchen and dining room, and those who helped with the clean-up until the last plate and cup was washed and put back into the cupboard! Along the way, we had good laughs and fellowship, which makes it all the more enjoyable. A final thought is that MANY NEEDY PEOPLE will benefit from all of our efforts because that is the mission of the Women's Guild.

Thank you to everyone, once again, for helping to make the Salad Luncheon a successful event!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church Offering (STC), one of the national special offerings received by the United Church of Christ, furthers the work of our conference and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults.

Special envelopes for this offering have not been provided, but checks should be made out to Salem UCC and labeled for Strengthen the Church.

May 24, 2022

Hello Salem Family,

Starting this month, Salem's Leadership Team will be providing updates on our efforts in leading the church and are calling this part of the newsletter **Council's Corner**. We are looking at 2022 as a year of transition and optimism. We want to share our focus areas and the roadmap (page 2) we have been working on to help navigate through this year.

- 1. Support the Search Committee in recruiting a Settled Pastor**
- 2. Develop and implement a pandemic building closing policy (page 2)**
- 3. Eliminate building loan balance- as of May 2022 amount owed is \$51,106**
- 4. Improve communication and transparency**
- 5. Technology upgrades**
- 6. Stewardship refresh and capital campaign**
- 7. Update structure, roles, and responsibilities for staff and congregational members**
- 8. Outreach and marketing**

We apologize for not sharing this information sooner and appreciate your understanding. If you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to reach out to us, and we look forward to providing you with another update next month!

We want to wish you a Happy Memorial Day weekend and thank you.

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2022 Strategic Items Roadmap

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Items			
Develop and implement Pandemic Closing/Masking Guidelines			
Ensure Pastor Search Committee Created			
Develop Clutter Clean-up Plan	Implement Clutter Clean-up Plan		
Develop Leadership Communication Plan	Implement Leadership Communication Plan		
Develop Building Use Form/Process	Implement Building Use Form/Process		
Revise Job Descriptions	Implement Revised Descriptions		
Research and obtain pricing for live streaming	Purchase and implement live streaming		
	Develop Employee 360 and Performance Review	Implement Employee 360 and Performance Review	
	Create Choir Director Search Committee and post the position	Complete interviews and have accepted offer for the Choir Director Position	
	Recruit and implement Stewardship Committee	Implement and complete Stewardship Campaign	Create and finalize 2023 Budget from Stewardship Campaign dollars raised
	Begin 2023 Strategic Planning	Continue 2023 Strategic Planning	Finalize and share 2023 Strategic Plan

Green Box- Complete
Yellow Box- In Progress

We are an open and affirming congregation, and our mission is to witness to the word and work of Jesus so all people may know the welcome of God, worship with joy, grow as disciples, live as servants, and enjoy the strength of Christian fellowship

As of 5/20/2022

Salem UCC Pandemic Closing Guidelines



Effective February 2022

The criteria below is selected to help guide the Church Council Leadership in the event of the consideration of closing the building due to a pandemic. The first category would call the council together to discuss the closing of the building in the event that any one of the three governing bodies below recommend a closing. Further consideration for closing will be guided by information from data provided by the Dane County Public Health Department Pandemic (COVID-19) dashboard, and in particular the links below.

Criteria Category 1 – Governing Entities

1. CDC Guideline
2. Dane County Guideline
3. UCC Guideline

Criteria Category 2 – Evaluation of Data

1. [Dane County Inpatient Hospitalization Trend \(Slide 7 of 9\)](#)
2. [Dane County ICU Inpatient Trend \(Slide 7 of 9\)](#)
3. [Hospital Capacity in Dane County](#)



Stock the Shelves for the Summer!

Food drive begins June 5

In 2020, Badger Prairie Needs Network provided meals for 10,100 children throughout Dane County. Once school is out for the summer many of these children go hungry as they no longer receive breakfast and/or lunch at school. Hunger and food insecurity increases during the summer break from school. BPNN becomes busier in the summer due to the increased needs of local families. You can help to insure that our school-aged neighbors in need have enough to eat this summer.

Bring something along every Sunday!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday June 5 | Peanut butter, fruit or pudding cups, cooking oil |
| Sunday June 12 | Pasta, pasta sauce, canned tuna or chicken, granola bars |
| Sunday June 19 | Cold cereal, flour, rice, bottled juice |
| Sunday June 26 | Juice boxes or pouches, individual serving sized packages of cookies or crackers |
| Sunday July 3 | Toothpaste, bar soap, detergent |

Monetary donations for bulk purchases and perishable items are always welcome.



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Sunday school classes for all ages have ended for the program year. Our VBS ministry has programming for all ages (including adults), so please join us for an opportunity to connect mid-summer (details below). Our Sunday school kickoff for next year will be on 9/18/22 and our first Sunday school class will be 9/25/22.



Vacation Bible School *Passport to Peace*

July 10-12 @ 6-7:30pm
Salem UCC, 502 Mark Dr

*Intergenerational Community Meal
Music, Bible Stories, Games, & Crafts for Kids
Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group*

VBS Registration and Volunteer Information

Registration materials can be found on the church website and in fellowship hall.

- Children and Youth (under age 18): Please complete and return a VBS registration form.
- Children, Youth, and Adults: Please complete a dinner reservation form. This information allows us to plan appropriately for meals.
- Volunteers: We still need volunteers to help in the kitchen, with the Bible stories, and at the craft/project table. Please complete the volunteer interest form or contact Sarah Pundt. All volunteers need to have current Safe Church Training and background check on file. New trainings offered in June.

Safe Church Training

All volunteers at Salem UCC who work children and youth under the age of 18, need to complete Safe Church Training every 3 years. If your training has expired, please register for one of the following trainings in June. Please contact Sarah Pundt **by June 6** to register for a session. All trainings will be about 45 min. -1 hour and will take place in the first-floor conference room at Salem.

Tuesday, June 7 @ 7pm

Thursday, June 9 @ 7pm

Monday, June 20 @ 7pm

Wednesday, June 22 @ 7pm

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (BOCE)

The BoCE oversees all aspects of the Christian Education offerings at Salem: Sunday School for all ages, Palm Sunday Pilgrimage, Vacation Bible School (all ages), Christmas program, and some of Salem's small groups. In consultation with the Director of Christian Education, this advisory committee provides guidance for the content and structure of Sunday school and other programming. This important church committee is mandated in the Salem church constitution. We currently need 3 more individuals from the church congregation to join us.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

United Church Camps Outdoor Ministry

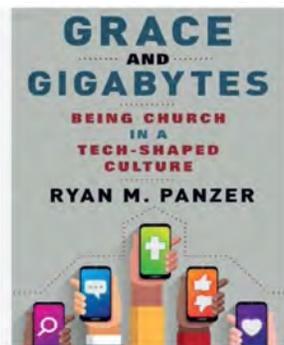
<https://ucc.org/outdoor-ministry-association-ucc/>

Traditional camp opportunities are available for children, youth, and adults. Specialized programs are offered for adults only, men only, women only, and families. Three camp properties host these fun summer activities to restore your spirit and faith.

Damascus Project

<https://the-damascus-project.org/>

The Damascus Project is a shared educational ministry of the Wisconsin and Minnesota Conferences of the UCC. A variety of classes, programs, and online discussion groups are hosted throughout the year. Join them this summer for:



“Grace and Gigabytes”

The Damascus Project is super excited to host this online book group discussion of “Grace and Gigabytes”. This book invites us to explore the opportunities and possibilities for the church in a culture being shaped by technologies like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram. The discussion group will be hosted by the Damascus Project and features weekly Zoom discussions and a conversation with the author, Ryan M. Panzer.

Listen Up! Bible Study

The Salem UCC Library has a collection of Bible Study resources available. These studies can be done individually, but also are ideal for a small group setting. Start your own Bible study or contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in joining a group. Choose and check out your selected study in Fellowship Hall.

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia *June 16 @ 7pm*

All women of Salem are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets in Fellowship Hall, the third Thursday of each month at 7pm.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Sarah Pundt, Interim Director of Youth Ministry
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

June 2022

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Youth Opportunities at Salem

Grades 6-12

All Are Welcome!

Youth and parents are encouraged to join our Salem UCC Youth Ministry Mighty Network. This is an online platform that allows us to have all our youth information, events, rsvp options, pictures, prayer requests, and discussions in a single place on a private network. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Youth Group

Youth grades 6-12 gather twice per month for fellowship, faith, and fun. Gatherings take place at Salem UCC unless otherwise noted. Friends are always welcome!

We are planning for one gathering in July and one gathering in August. Watch the mighty network or contact Sarah Pundt for details!

Youth Mission Work

S.A.L.T. Trip June 24-26

Camping @ Blue Mounds State Park

S.A.L.T. = Serving and Learning Together! Our adventure at Blue Mound State Park will include an interpretive hike with the park naturalist, a service project with the park ranger, and a visit to Barneveld Community Café (a mission addressing rural food insecurity). Hiking, swimming, campfires, and games will top off our fun experience. 6 youth and 6 adults are ready to go!

Congratulations to our 3 Confirmands: Blake Adams, Owen Luginbuhl, and Brianna Runnheim. Each of these three youth attend weekly classes with Rev. Tom, planned and implemented an individual service project, and wrote a personal Statement of Faith. Be sure to visit the poster display in Fellowship Hall to learn about their projects.

At Your Service

Do you need assistance with lawn mowing, yardwork, painting, or dog walking? The youth of Salem would like to serve you by helping with these chores and other odd jobs. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information or to schedule a service.



JUNE 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	3	4
5 9AM - Worship	6 Eve - Boy Scouts	7 7PM - Safe Church Training	8	9 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Safe Church Training	10	11
12 9AM - Worship	13	14 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	15	16 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship) 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	17	18
19 Father's Day 9AM - Worship	20 7PM - Safe Church Training	21	22 7PM - Safe Church Training	23 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	24 Youth S.A.L.T. Trip 24-26 JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25
26 9AM - Worship	27	28	29	30 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98		

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2022

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning on Sunday, June 5 at 9am

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

These Days, Our Daily Bread and *The Upper Room* devotional booklets are provided by the Women's Guild and available on the wall inside the main entrance to the church and in the information box near the outdoor labyrinth. Please help yourself.



MONETARY DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE

The Wisconsin Conference is collecting donations for the aid of Ukraine. All that they receive will go directly to providing food, shelter, and care to refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Give online at www.wucc.org/Ukraine

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
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Office Administrator:

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Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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**SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

