

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2022



Photo by Anna-Louise (Pexels)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY:

Week of July 3:

*2 Kings 5:1-14 & Psalm 30
Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20*

Week of July 10:

*Amos 7:7-17 & Psalm 82
Deuteronomy 30:9-1
& Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37*

Week of July 17:

*Amos 8:1-12 & Psalm 52
Genesis 18:1-10a & Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42*

Week of July 24:

*Hosea 1:2-10 & Psalm 85
Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13*

Week of July 31:

*Hos 11:1-11 & Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
& Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21*

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

What IS a “Blessed Church”?

I suppose that most of the time when we ask that question, the answers tend to be quantitative: such as growing in size, programs, budget, people, and so on ...

Or at least that is what I have heard from church leaders over many years.

Yet, there DOES seem to be a new awareness, that Blessing can (and should) be something more qualitative, as in the quality of our relationship with God, God’s purposes, and God’s People. Then the rest can follow from that.

At an event sponsored by the regional church organization I once served, we had a keynote speaker, Rev. N. Graham Standish, who was in great demand as a speaker because of a book that had been recently published. There was a LOT of resonance with it among churches seeking to be more, for God. It was simply entitled Becoming a Blessed Church, and the central theme was not about generating more “stuff”, increasing “the metrics”, or any other lingo of the day. It was about doing things that enabled the Church to discern **God’s Purpose**, to celebrate and experience **God’s Presence**, and to open ourselves to the impact of **God’s Power**.

Purpose, Presence, Power. Graham noted that these weren’t things that normally were taught in the seminaries to Pastors in Preparation; perhaps they did not sound ‘theological’ enough. But the wonderful (and relevant point) is that they are each thoroughly Biblical. Jesus-Stuff. Spiritual Life. Ministry. And, however we go about getting in touch with God’s Purpose, Presence and Power – this is what makes for Becoming Blessed.

As Salem UCC continues through the Search Process for the next settled Pastor, this is where Graham encourages us to focus – how to become Blessed as a congregation, preparing for the future God wills for Salem Church and for each individual life of faith. So ... think and pray about:

For what Purposes does God place Salem Church right here, right now ... in the Verona area and within a deeply yearning world?

continued on next page...



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Monica Bachmann
- 5: Ann Nelson, Frank Westphal
- 6: Paul Wieland
- 7: Robert Zurbuchen
- 8: Chris Wilbricht
- 9: Oliver Tennyson
- 11: Jon Pundt, Theresa Bass
- 14: Zoey Shaw
- 17: Kylie Hageman
- 18: Sabrina Jacobus
- 26: Craig Rhiner
- 27: Dale Yurs

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

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In what ways, big and grand (or subtle and humble) does God's Presence become known here?

How does God's Power make a difference because Salem Church is here – and how can that Power be known even more beyond Salem Church's own programs, walls, and parking lot?

I truly believe God has blessed and will continue to bless this Community of Faithfulness, as these questions are kept alive. What a time to be Salem Church!!!

Peace,
Rev Tom
Interim Pastor

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A Celebration of Life "Tom Bass Style" will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at Salem United Church of Christ, Verona from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

\$47,500

This is the amount currently left on our building loan. The Salem Church Council is challenging the congregation to bring this number down to ZERO by the end of this year. We will provide a monthly update to track our progress.

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.



SYMPATHIES AND JOYS

Our Sympathies to the family of Joyce Fredrickson who died at age 99 on May 24th.

Our Sympathies to the South African and American families of Annari Griesel and Tom Robinson. Their brother, Johan Griesel in South Africa, died on June 17th after a long illness.

Welcome to Clayton Lee Weinbrenner, son of Cameron and Kimber Weinbrenner, who was baptized on June 19th.

Welcome to Clarice Rae Dassow, daughter of Thomas and Ginger (Anderson) Dassow, who was baptized on June 26th.

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*

Special VBS Guest

Local author and Salem UCC member, Nancy Dearborn, will join our VBS program again this year to share her children's book, "I Found a Wallet". The messages in this book provide a practical real-world application of our VBS Bible stories. It is a treat to experience a book with the author and every child will receive an autographed copy of Nancy's book. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Nancy for the time and effort she has put into preparing her special time with our children.

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 2 volunteers to help with the Bible stories. All volunteers need to have current Safe Church Training and background check on file (training provided to interested volunteers). Please contact Sarah Pundt.

Church Nursery Update!

We have been unable to provide a staffed church nursery since the beginning of the pandemic. We plan to reopen this nursery ministry for our youngest church members starting in September. If you would like to volunteer to help in the nursery during the Sunday school hour or during weekly worship, please contact Sarah Pundt.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (BOCE) WE NEED YOU!

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.

SALEM UCC LIBRARY RESOURCES

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.

Summer Reading

If you are looking for some new summer reading material, don't forget to peruse our Salem UCC library. We have an interesting collection of fiction and non-fiction for adults and children. The adult section is located on the first floor in the library area. The children's resource is located in the lower-level Sunday school area.

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia and Parent's Promise will not be meeting in July. Please join us at VBS!

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

July 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!

VBS and Youth

Our VBS program is for all ages and our youth are encouraged to participate in a way that is meaningful to them. Older youth can join the adult discussion group. Younger youth may participate in the VBS program itself. And many youths choose to volunteer. Please contact Sarah Pundt to create your personalized VBS experience.

YOUTH MISSION

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.

S.A.L.T. (Serving and Learning Together) Trip

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

By the time this newsletter is printed, our S.A.L.T adventure to Blue Mound State Park will be a memory. The youth chose Matthew 5:16 as their guiding verse throughout our trip, and they no doubt shined a bright light for all to see. Look for our youth throughout the summer in their bright yellow T-shirts as they come and share moments for mission with the Salem congregation. Please also watch for a special offering opportunity to benefit Barneveld Community Café later in July.



Youth Garden

Salem Youth are once again working in the community garden at church. A small group gathered to plant tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, peppers, zucchini, dill, cilantro, and pumpkins. The youth will share their harvest with members of the Salem congregation and with BPNN. Watch for their produce table in fellowship hall later this summer.



JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9AM - Worship	4	5	6	7 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	8	9
10 9AM - Worship 6-7:30PM - VBS	11 6-7:30PM - VBS	12 6-7:30PM - VBS	13	14 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	15	16
17 9AM - Worship	18	19	20	21 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	22	23 1-4PM - Celebration of Life for Tom Bass
24 9AM - Worship AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25	26 7PM -BoCE	27	28 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	29	30
31 9AM - Worship						

JULY NEWSLETTER 2022

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

July 10-12, 6-7:30PM

\$47,500

Look inside the newsletter to discover
what this number means.

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Living Out God's Love
**SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

