

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2023

photo by Tara Winstead

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY:

Week of February 5:

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalms 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

Week of February 12:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or
Sirach 15:15-20
Psalms 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Week of February 19:

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday (Feb 22):

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalms 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Week of February 26:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalms 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

THE COUNCIL CORNER

Congratulations, fellow members of Salem!

Following a busy weekend of greeting and meeting Pastor Phil, his wife, Mary, and daughter, Mira, a special congregational vote was held on Sunday, January 29, and an offer was extended to and accepted by Pastor Phil to enter into a call agreement with our church to become Salem's new settled pastor.

As we patiently wait for Pastor Phil and his family to make their way to Verona and begin his service in June, let's take a moment to reflect on the months leading up to his arrival.

After the departure of Salem's longtime pastor, Rev Dr Mark Yurs, a Search Committee of trusted and respected members of Salem - Brad Bergen, Kathy Hauser, Krista Nechvatal, Jon Pundt (chair), Angela Quade, Karen Williams, Brian Winterle - was formed. Under the guidance of the United Church of Christ WI Conference, working with Interim Pastor Tom Robinson, and with thoughtful input from the congregation, the Committee compiled a church profile, sought applicants and started reviewing candidates.

While the search process was unfolding, both the congregation and Salem's staff have shown amazing resilience and faithfulness. The church staff has shouldered extra responsibility assisting our interim pastor. Sunday services and classes are ongoing, Youth activities are being supported, new projects are being undertaken. After a COVID hiatus, the Guild's annual bazaar has returned. The congregation has steadfastly and generously supported the church financially. We have retired our building loan debt ahead of schedule and funded multiple yearly stewardship campaigns.

Your Church Council has been hard at work attending to the business of Salem. Much time has been devoted to revising staff job descriptions, performance review policy, and building use forms; developing a leadership communications plan; decluttering the church; supporting the Search Committee in its work; and implementing live streaming of Sunday services.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Matthew Flood
- 2: Kyle Smith
- 9: Owen Butzlaff
- 10: Kelly Bass, Audra Smith
- 11: Terrie Smith, Bryce Corning
- 13: Debbie Hoffman
- 16: Molly Hill
- 17: Mary Cutler, Tyler Denu
- 19: Kyle Sundby
- 21: Charity Durnen, Isaac Burgenske
- 22: Amy Luginbuhl, Henry Butzlaff
- 23: Kelly Borelli, Kira Tlusty
- 24: Carla Hageman, Terri Fiez, Wyatt Denu
- 25: Rhoda Gust, Joyce Gust

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

UPDATE FROM THE PULPIT COMMITTEE

Leading in worship for the month of February we will have our own Lisa Hart preaching and sharing communion on the second Sunday February 12. For the first, third and fourth Sundays Rev. Larry Balleine will be joining us again. Larry has filled in at Salem before at the request of Rev. Mark Yurs. He brings 40 years of experience to the pulpit, the last 18 years as pastor of Zwingli United Church of Christ in Monticello. Larry is also a published author of a series of Christian novellas and plays. We look forward to welcoming Rev. Balleine and enjoying his preaching.

February 5	Larry Balleine
February 12	Lisa Hart
February 19	Larry Balleine
February 26	Larry Balleine

We have a few months before welcoming Pastor Phil. During this time as we continue to enjoy the fellowship of our Salem family, we will be hearing different voices from the pulpit. The Council's Pulpit Supply committee will post a monthly and weekly notice of the schedule of those filling that position.

Trusting that the Lord will lead Salem and Pastor Phil to a successful partnership that will bring honor to His name and a bright future to our church,

Your Church Council

REVEREND DR. PHILIP D. HOBSON

Here is some background information about Phil for anyone who may have missed the opportunity to meet him during his weekend here at the end of January.

The Reverend Dr. Philip D. Hobson (Phil) is a native of Oak Ridge Tennessee, growing up with the history of the town built by the Manhattan Project. He graduated from Earlham College with a major in Japanese studies.



"Pastor Phil" was ordained in 2000 and is currently the pastor at Mt. Sinai UCC in Mt. Sinai on Long Island in New York.

He served a church in Illinois while earning his Masters in Divinity degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary, and was ordained in Dallas, where he served the St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed UCC church. Leaving Dallas, he moved to a long-term pastoral position at First Congregational Church in Charlotte, Michigan. During this time, he followed the call to complete a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching, also from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

His wife Mary and daughter Mira joined us the last weekend of January; their son and Mira's brother Patrick passed away in 2014 after 11-months fighting a congenital heart defect. They have experienced life and God's love in all ways.

Phil is a fun-loving, thoughtful, caring, and amazingly smart listener who can preach and connect to listeners that enjoy both academic and approachable sermons. He enjoys Children's Time during Worship and welcomes the opportunity to build relationships with all of our youth. In Michigan, he even served as the chaplain to the local Fire Dept for 10 years- rolling with the trucks to provide pastoral care to those affected by emergencies.

Phil's references had nothing but glowing praise for his work and for him personally- including a Rabbi in Mt. Sinai, a member of the committee that called Phil to Mt. Sinai UCC, and even Franz Rigert, our Conference minister, who shared that Phil is "the best local pastor you could ever get.!"

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

George Adams (president)
JoAnn Aebly
John Cashman
Hugh Hauser
Chad Malueg
Kathy Shubak
Dave Triplett
Kris Wilbricht
Guy Williams

SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies to the family of **Ronald Pauley** who died on January 13, 2023. His memorial service was held at Salem on January 20.

Our sympathies to Terri Fiez and her sister Beth's family. Beth, a resident of Belleville, passed away on January 17 following a 3 year battle with ovarian cancer.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ will meet at the home of Kevin Booth on Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 PM. Join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

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.



WOMEN'S GUILD SPECIAL MEETING

Salem Women's Guild is calling a special meeting on Thursday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m. to choose and vote on the dispersement of funds for the year 2023. We had a successful Bazaar and Raffle and are grateful that we can continue our mission of helping others.

The next regular meeting of the Guild will be held on Thursday, April 6 to discuss plans for a Salad Luncheon or whether we might want to do something different. All members of Salem are welcome to attend these meetings!

RECYCLE THE WARMTH

Each year families in Dane County turn to St Vincent de Paul for bedding and blankets to keep their children warm and to sleep comfortably. Last year the community donated over 3000 blankets. You can help our neighbors in need by donating new or gently used blankets and bedding to the bin in the fellowship hall.

Purchasing new blankets at the St Vincent de Paul thrift store on Verona Ave or purchase blankets online at svdpmadison.org/event/rtw/

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Salem is pleased to make available scholarships for current church members for expenses during the first year of college, trade school, or technical college. To receive one of these scholarships, interested persons must complete an application form by April 1, 2023. Contact the church office to receive an application form should you wish one.

Please note this is not limited to high school seniors. Older adults who are planning to attend college, trade school, or technical college are likewise encouraged to apply.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICES

After a long time spent figuring out what we needed to do, what we needed to do it, how to do it, and who to do it, we are finally streaming our weekly services live on YouTube.

We hope you will excuse our hiccups as we continue to learn the fine points of live streaming. We also hope that we do not get so good that you feel inclined to stay home in your pajamas on Sunday morning instead of coming to attend services in person.

Please let any of us on the AV crew know how we are doing and what changes we might make. We appreciate your patience and feedback.

John Bass, John Cashman, Doug Smith, Brandon Grotelueschen, Kaden Nechvatal, Kevin Booth

Visit our website: www.salemchurchverona.org/online-worship

Visit our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@salemucc_verona



NOTHING TO HIDE

Mental Illness in the Family
Photo and Text Exhibit from Family Diversity Projects



Reduce stigma and raise awareness for mental health challenges in our families and communities.

OPENING NIGHT! FEBRUARY 19

5pm Photo Exhibit Opening,
Information Fair, and Reception
6:30pm Speaker from NAMI Dane Co
Topic: *General Mental Health Information*

OTHER EVENTS

March 10 @ 5:30pm
Family Pizza & Movie Night *Inside Out*
March 18@6:30pm Movie Night
As Good As It Gets (PG-13)

Photo Exhibit Open Hours:

Wednesdays 6pm-8pm
Fridays 11am-1pm
Or by appointment.

Contact Sarah Pundt

spundt@saalemchurchverona.org

(608)845-7315

PHOTO & TEXT EXHIBIT Nothing to Hide Mental Illness in the Family From Family Diversity Projects

This photo-text exhibit presents photographs taken by Gigi Kaeser and interviews conducted by Jean Beard and Peggy Gillespie, with families whose lives are affected by schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, major depression, anxiety disorders, and other brain disorders. The photos and text in this exhibit dispel harmful stereotypes, misconceptions, and myths about mental illness.

These compelling accounts demonstrate strength, courage, integrity, and accomplishment in the face of adversity and stigma — giving people living with mental illness and their families an opportunity to come out of the shadows and into the public eye.

All events take place at Salem UCC, 502 Mark Drive, Verona.
Free and open to the public.
Donations accepted to benefit *Family Diversity Projects*.



Participating Organizations: ADRC, Common Threads, Family Diversity Projects, Journey Mental Health, DAIS, Green Bandana Project, NAMI Dane County, Resilient Wisconsin, Safe Communities, Verona Senior Center, Women in Recovery, Individual Testimonials, and more!



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Sunday School

Sunday school is provided for all ages every Sunday morning 9-10am from September 18, 2022-May 21, 2023. Nursery care is provided during the Sunday school hour for children ages 6 mos-2 years and during worship for children ages 6 months-5 years. ****Transportation and childcare are available for all other events upon request. Contact Sarah Pundt for more information.****

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nursery (Under age 3)	Lower Level
Pre-K (age 3)-grade 5	Lower Level
Middle/High School	2nd Floor Classroom
Adults	1st Floor Conference Rm

Help Wanted: Church Nursery Childcare

Please consider volunteering in the church nursery for one or more Sundays so we can provide this important ministry for our youngest church members and their families. We are also seeking applicants for paid childcare givers in the nursery. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more details.

Adult Sunday School

All are welcome! Please join us in the first-floor conference room as we discuss a variety of topics related to Bible study, Christian living, social justice, and the church. Hybrid class options are available for this who wish to join remotely (contact Sarah Pundt).

A Singing Faith **Feb. 5, 12, & 19**

We will explore the power and purpose of song in our faith tradition. Why do we sing? What do we sing? How have people used hymns, spirituals, and other music to express their faith? Join us as we look at the close relationship between music and worship.

Lenten Study: *Jesus is the Question* **March 5-26**

Using Copenhaver's book with this title, we will examine some of the many questions Jesus asked throughout his ministry. Deepen your faith through the Lenten season as we challenge ourselves to answer Jesus. No need to purchase the book.

Women of the Bible **April 16-May 21**

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMING

The following Christian Education offerings are group events for everyone in the congregation. Regular Sunday school classes will not be held on these dates.

February 26 Morning for Mission: Penny for Your Thoughts
All ages will gather to kick off our congregational Lenten Mission Project to benefit Family Diversity Projects. This organization curates the exhibits like Nothing to Hide and Building Bridges to break down harmful stereotypes and eliminate barriers between different groups of people. Join us for the Morning for Mission to learn how we will focus on Mental Health at home throughout Lent while collecting spare change to benefit Family Diversity Projects.

April 2 Palm Sunday Program
April 9 Easter Sunday-no class

COMMUNITY MISSION OPPORTUNITY - FB4K

Last fall, Salem hosted two bike collection stations to benefit FB4K. In total, we collected approximately 120 bikes! The FB4K Madison workshop is now open, and they are looking for volunteers to help repair and clean bicycles for the spring bike giveaway. Interested? Visit the FB4KMadison website to learn more or to volunteer. Work teams are welcome so grab your friends and have fun! <https://fb4kmadison.org/volunteer/>

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Weekly Worship Workshop

Feb. 9 @ 7pm

Led by Sarah Pundt

This workshop will explore how we deepen our personal experience and understanding of weekly worship, while also contributing meaningfully to the congregation. Our first gathering focused on the many tasks that need to be completed on Sunday mornings before worship. Please see the list below of opportunities to be involved.

At our February 9 gathering we will learn about Liturgy and the Lectionary. Join us as we explore what they are and how we use them during Sunday worship.

Current Needs for Sunday Morning Support

Please contact Cara Bahr in the church office if you can help with these duties periodically.

- “Ready” the Building: Unlock doors, salt/shovel sidewalks, and turn-on lights throughout the building (prior to 9am).
- Greet the Pulpit Supply Pastor and help them with their needs
- Introduce Pulpit Supply Pastor to congregation and lead announcements at the beginning of worship.

"NOTHING TO HIDE" VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

"Nothing to Hide" Volunteers Needed:

- Reception Assistance: help with set-up, serving, clean-up and food donations. Please contact Kelli Malueg kellimalueg@yahoo.com
- Open Exhibit Hours: greet visitors at church during open exhibit hours during weekdays, weeknights, and by appointment. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Small Groups

For more information about any of our small groups, or to start a new group, please contact Sarah Pundt. All groups welcome visitors and you do not need to be a Salem member to participate. Please join us. All are welcome!

Koinonia February 16 @ 7pm

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

Parents Promise February 2 @ 7pm

This group is for parents of tweens, teens, and young adults. Join this circle of parents for conversation and fellowship as we support each other in raising young people of faith. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! We will meet in the church library on the first floor.

The UCC Beyond Salem

The UCC Beyond Salem For information on UCC Resources and Events, use the following links to access programming of particular interest.

UCC Digital Programming

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGrcFhQxZFhZJSciXdgZbRkPPDw>

UCC News Digest

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGrcFpMXGXzQDwlfVltMmBXHxM>

WI Conference Life Newsletter

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGrcFgJrzCPfpwttWGDhsZHVpMW>

UCCI Camps

Registration has opened for the many summer offerings for all ages! <https://ucci.org/>

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

February 2023

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!

Youth Sunday Planning

Feb. 5 @ 6:30

We will use our Feb. 5 gathering to finish our Youth Sunday planning. If you are interested in participating in youth Sunday but are unable to attend our planning meetings, please contact Sarah Pundt

Youth and Mental Health *(for youth and parents)*

March 12 @ 6:30

As part of our Nothing to Hide exhibit and series on Mental Health, we are offering a special workshop for youth and their parents. Representatives from NAMI Dane County (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will host a program for youth grades 6-12 aimed at reducing stigma and starting a conversation about mental health challenges for this age group. Parents and adults who care about youth (grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, and others) are invited to their own workshop in another room at the same time. Youth and parents will leave with resources designed to help them continue the conversation surrounding mental health at home.

RESCHEDULED!

Overnight Lock-In

April 21 -22 (5pm-9am)

YOUTH CALENDAR

February

5 Youth Sunday Planning

TBD FB4K Mission Project

March

4 @ 9-11am Youth Sunday Run-Through

5 @ 8am Youth Sunday

12 @ 6:30 Youth & Mental Health
(for parents and youth)

YOUTH MISSION

FB4K

It's the season for fixing and cleaning bicycles at the FB4K mission workshop. We have a group of youth interested in helping again this year and we will plan on having a volunteer night in February. Please let Sarah Pundt know if you are interested in participating so we can schedule our group work shift. Parents, please contact Sarah Pundt if you are available to help plan and/or supervise this event.

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	2 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	3	4
5 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Sunday Planning	6 Eve - Boy Scouts	7 7PM - BoCE Meeting	8 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	9 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop	10	11
12 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	13 Eve - Boy Scouts	14 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	15 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	16 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Kevin Booth's 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	17	18
19 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 5PM - "Nothing to Hide" photo exhibit opening 6:30PM - Speaker from NAMI Dane Co.	20 Eve - Boy Scouts	21	22 Ash Wednesday 7PM - Ash Wednesday Service	23 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25
26 9AM - Morning for Mission 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-8PM - Speaker on Addiction	27	28 6:30PM - Music in Worship				

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

"NOTHING TO HIDE" PHOTO EXHIBIT

February 19, 5PM - opening reception, 6:30PM - Speaker
February 26, 6:30-8PM - Speaker on Addiciton
More events planned throughout March

SAVE THE DATE FOR YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, March 5, 10:15am

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 7pm

"NOTHING TO HIDE" PHOTO EXHIBIT

February 19, 5PM - opening reception, 6:30PM - Speaker
February 26, 6:30-8PM - Speaker on Addiciton
More events planned throughout March

CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP

February 9, 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315
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Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt
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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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Living Out God's Love
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

