

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUGUST:

Week of August 1:

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Week of August 8:

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Week of August 15:

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Week of August 22:

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-20, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Week of August 29:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 15
James:1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

INTERIM MINISTER NAMED

The church council shared in worship on Sunday, July 25 that Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson will be our interim pastor. His first day at Salem will be on Monday, August 16. He relocated here from the East Coast to take an interim position which is now complete. His wife is a chaplain at UW Hospital.

WOMEN'S GUILD REMINDER - PAYING HOSTESSES

With the Guild not meeting regularly this past year due to Covid, we thought a reminder for the "paying hostesses" would be helpful. These are women who have signed on to make a yearly donation of their choice to help support the Guild. Paying hostesses for the month of March are Joyce Fredrickson, Becky Hagenston, Verlis Luchsinger, Pat McCarthy, and Ann Nelson. The paying hostesses for April this year are Helen Hageman, Susan Hageman, Lisa Hart, and Judy Skupien. For the month of June, they include Ruth Ellen Phillips, Sue Thiede, Karen Williams, and Sherrol Yurs. Your donations can be given or sent to Mary Cutler or placed in the offering plate, marked for a donation to the Women's Guild. Thank you for your support!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Group of Salem United Church of Christ will meet on Thursday, August 12, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Kevin Booth. A light supper will be provided and we will enjoy a time of conversation and Bible study.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



4: Colleen Bass	15: Isaac Bahr	29: Melissa Remus
5: Madeline Moll	16: Katherine Shubak	30: Heidi Hodel
7: Debbie Bass	17: Michael Fiez	31: Krista Nechvatal
8: Owen Luginbuhl	22: Dawn Lingard	
13: Gladys Schmid	23: Verlis Luchsinger	
14: Bake Adams	27: Lena Woodis	

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

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35 (NRSV))

"Come to the Table"

Dates: Aug. 15, 16, & 17

Time: 5:45-7:45pm

Who: All Ages

Cost: Free!

Each evening will begin with a community meal followed by programs for children, youth, and adults. Come for the meal only, come for the program only, or come for the entire evening! We will explore three different Bible stories of Jesus hosting people for a meal. Through these versus we will be reminded that Jesus' love changes everything, we always have enough of what we need, and everyone is welcome. The children and youth will enjoy projects, games, Bible stories, music, and more. The older youth and adults will join a discussion group led by Cathy Kwilinski. Please contact Sarah Pundt to register.

Our dinners and activities will be held outside as much as possible. Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets to use during our meal. Bug spray is also a good idea.



VBS BREAKING NEWS!

We have an exciting surprise scheduled for our last night of VBS. Author, Nancy Dearborn, will be with us to share her recently published children's book Hugga Loula. Throughout VBS, we will explore the power of Jesus' welcome and invitation to all. Hugga Loula will help the children discover one way they can provide a similar welcome to others. With the healing power of a hug and an act of kindness, little Hugga Loula diffuses all sorts of situations.

Nancy Dearborn recently began attending our worship services, but she is not new to Salem. She grew up in the church and after many years of living in the American Southwest, she has returned to this area. Nancy still has many ties at Salem through family and friends. It is an incredible treat for the children to experience a book through the voice of the author. We are honored and grateful to Nancy for sharing her gifts with us.

VBS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

August 3 or August 11 @ 7pm

We will offer two VBS volunteer orientation meetings. At these meetings, the volunteers will learn more about their individual assignments. Safe Church training will be offered at these meetings for those who still need it.

VBS MISSION PROJECT: Birthday Kits for BPNN

Our VBS theme focuses on the Christian practice of inviting people into our midst. A great joy for many children is inviting friends to share a birthday cake. For children who face food insecurity birthday celebrations are often limited. As we gather at VBS for our community meals and fellowship, let's work together to create special birthday memories for Dane County families. BPNN provides birthday kits to 200 area children per month. To help make the luxury of a birthday cake a reality for these families, we will be collecting the supplies needed to create birthday kits. Donations can be brought to church through July and early August until the end of VBS. BPNN requests the following items:

- cake mix
- prepared frosting
- 9x13 cake pan
- package of birthday candles
- disposable party plates and napkins (please do not provide items intended to be gender or age specific since we are unable to predetermine which items go to a specific child)
- large gift bags (used to assemble the individual birthday kits)
- monetary donations: check payable to Salem UCC. Write BPNN Birthday Kit in the memo

A note about Covid-19 and VBS from the Director of Christian Education...

I know we are all excited and impatient to return to our in-person programs and a sense of normalcy. I am looking forward to having our adults and children together again to create new memories of summer fun at VBS. Part of my role as Director of Christian Education is to create a friendly, welcoming, and safe space for everyone. Covid makes creating this safe space challenging because it is almost impossible to meet everyone's needs and expectations.

Our children under the age of 12, are not yet eligible for the vaccine which makes them especially vulnerable to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases. I think we are safe to proceed with VBS (as of this writing), but we need to do so with caution. The health and safety of these young people is my top of my priority.

In an effort to keep our children healthy, Covid-19 precautions may be a bit more restrictive at VBS than during our Sunday worship times. We will have our meals and programming outside as much as possible. Families are asked to space themselves during the meals. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building and frequently throughout the VBS evening. Everyone is asked to wear a mask inside when children are present. I have also consulted with the church council on food safety measures for VBS, and I regularly monitor information provided by the CDC and the WI Council of Churches. Final adjustments to our Covid-19 precautions will be made as needed during the final week prior to VBS.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help make our return to VBS happy, healthy, and safe for all!

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia

September 16 @ 7pm*

Fellowship Hall

All women of Salem are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. ***Please note that we will not have a Koinonia gathering in August. We hope to see you in September.**

Parent's Promise

September 23 @ 7pm*

Church Library

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! Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information. ***Please note that Parent's Promise will not be meeting in August.** We look forward to seeing you at our September gathering when we will begin exploring God's Messy Family: Finding Your Place When Life Isn't Perfect by Jacob Armstrong. No need to purchase the book. Simply come and enjoy some conversation.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 2021

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 @ VBS

Come join your friends at VBS! Youth grades 6-12 have a variety of ways to participate in our VBS program depending on their interests. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Youth Planning Meeting **August 29 @ 6:30pm-7:45pm**

This youth event will serve as a fall planning meeting before our youth kickoff on Sept. 12 (Sunday school kickoff is not until Sept. 19). Some of the items we will discuss: How to welcome the incoming 6th graders; mission ideas; SALT Trip summer 2022; youth gathering ideas; Fall Festival party; Knock Knock & Jesus Core; and Youth Sunday. Please bring your ideas to help make this the youth program you want to have. Watch the Mighty Network for details as the date draws near.

Planning ahead.....

Youth Program Year Kickoff for Youth & Parents **September 12 @ 6:30pm-7:45PM**

We will officially welcome our incoming 6th graders at this event! We will also review the Mighty Network, our safe church guidelines, complete registration forms, and discuss the calendar. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their youth. Even if you rarely attend youth events, please consider joining us to learn how our program is evolving and growing.

Thank you.....

A special thank you to John and Cari Bass for hosting us on their rural property in Barneveld. We had a wonderful summer afternoon and evening filled with hiking and seeing sights like the grandfather tree and the old homestead ruins. Hot dogs and s'mores roasted on the campfire and time spent together made for a relaxing summer day.



Cari, John, Kaden, Blake, Blaise

Spend time with us

Do you have a special interest or hobby you would like to share with Salem's Youth? Intergenerational connections are vital to healthy faith development in young people. Please contact Sarah Pundt to plan and schedule your event.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Salem Youth Garden Project

The garden is growing like a weed (and growing lots of weeds too!) Lars Winterle has been our most recent gardener tending our plot. We have harvested cucumbers, squash, zucchini, beans, basil, and mint. Our produce has been donated to BPNN and shared with the congregation. Please visit our garden table in the church lobby to share in the bounty. Free-will offerings accepted to benefit BPNN.

At Your Service

Do you need assistance with lawn mowing, yardwork, outdoor painting, or dog walking? The youth of Salem would like to serve you. They are looking for opportunities to help their Salem community by providing any work that can be done outdoors, or in an otherwise Covid- safe environment. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information or to schedule a service.

Random Acts of Kindness

The youth are working individually on "committing" a random act of kindness. Each youth will be given \$10 with the challenge to bless someone in the community. Their efforts can benefit a family member, a friend, or a stranger. Watch future newsletters for updates on this mission. It will be exciting to see where the Spirit will move our youth this summer!



Cari, John, Kaden, Blake, Blaise

YOUTH CALENDAR

August

- 15, 16, 17** @ 5:45-7:45pm VBS
29 @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth Gathering

SEPTEMBER

- 12** @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth & Parent Program year "Kickoff"
26 @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth Gathering

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9AM - Worship 10AM - 2PM - Retirement Open House	2	3	4	5	6 Wedding: Monica (Fiez) & Kai Bachmann	7
8 9AM - Worship (Larry Balleine)	9	10 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	11	12 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Kevin Booth's	13	14
15 9AM - Worship (Brad Bergin) 5:45-7:45PM - VBS	16 Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson's First Day @ Salem 5:45-7:45PM - VBS	17 5:45-7:45PM - VBS	18	19 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	20	21
22 9AM - Worship (Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson) SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	23	24	25	26 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	27	28
29 9AM - Worship 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering	30	31				

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2021

INTERIM PASTOR NAMED

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson will begin on August 16th

GUEST PREACHERS

Sunday, August 8 - Larry Balleine

Sunday, August 15 - Brad Bergin

VBS - AUGUST 15, 16, 17

5:45-7:45pm - All ages are welcome!

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

www.salemchurchverona.org

Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson

Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr

cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Christian Education

& Interim Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt

spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Choir Director:

Janet Dahl

jdahl@salemchurchverona.org

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

Kevin Booth

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

502 Mark Drive
PO Box 930125
Verona, WI 53593-0125

Living Out God's Love
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

