

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation



Photo Credit: Mike Crowley, www.lifeinthenorthwoods.com

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR OCTOBER:

Week of October 3:

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26
Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Week of October 10:

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and
Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Week of October 17:

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c
Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

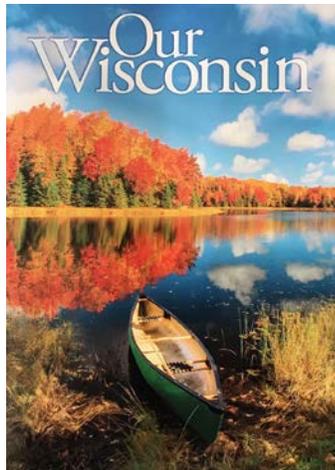
Week of October 24:

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8,
(19-22)
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Week of October 31:

Ruth 1:1-18 and Psalm 146
Deuteronomy 6-9, and Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...



This month's "Reflections" is, literally, about "reflections", the kind that are seen on the surface of a still lake. For instance, one of our enjoyments of life is the arrival every two months of "Our Wisconsin" magazine, which has amazing photography of beautiful places and interesting things about our beloved Wisconsin! We love them, both the Magazine and the State!

The October/November 2021 edition just arrived, adorned on the cover by a spectacular Fall-colored photo of a very still lake, with the water mirroring the distant trees, clouds, and sky. Except for the canoe near the close-up shoreline, you could almost turn the photo upside down for the same view, yet there is slight blurring in the water near the distant shoreline, probably natural refraction of the light. Any almost-perfect reflection is going to have some even-slight variations. But WOW, what a stunning impact!

Our life of faith should also be that kind of reflection, to whatever degree we are able to reflect the love, compassion, understanding, hope, and reconciling presence that God provides for us. That, to me, is precisely what Jesus was teaching in always talking about a "Realm [Kingdom] of God" that is everywhere around us and within us. And we CAN reflect that amazing beauty and presence of God to others, just not ever as perfect as the "Original"!

Sometimes I think that we may even "raise the bar" too high for others, as if requiring their reflection of God to be an absolutely "perfect" reflection. We may be critical or disparaging when another person of faith doesn't always live up in our estimation to the standard God has set. But if they are sincerely trying ... then the "perfection" is still within the reflection, just perhaps with some ripples or debris in the water. So, instead of being critical, let's look for the divine that is being reflected, and then we might appreciate all the more the one who is trying to reflect it. And ... let's try to provide that reflection with our own lives, too! We are never going to be "perfect", but we certainly can reflect that which is!

Peace and Joy, Rev. Tom Robinson

P.S. Thanks to Wisconsin professional photographer Mike Crowley, whose work can be seen on: www.lifeinthenorthwoods.com

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Judy Hansen
- 8: Skylar Flood
- 9: William Pechan
- 12: Gladean Zurbuchen
- 13: Anna Yurs
- 14: Mark Hodel, Emily Syal
- 15: John Cashman, Dianne Gintz, Julie Adams, Ephraam Bahr
- 16: Kory Blake, Kati Hart
- 17: Abbey Wilbricht
- 22: Ken Anderson, Blake Borelli
- 25: Asher Burgenski
- 26: Becky Hagenston
- 29: John Hageman
- 30: Larry Skupien



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering

is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

We will be receiving and dedicating this Special Offering on October 3rd, World Communion Sunday. We will also continue to collect for the offering throughout the month of October, and contributions can be made on the website of the United Church of Christ as well. Here's that link:

<https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>

SYMPATHY

Our sympathies to the family of Carla Hageman who died on September 20th. Her memorial service was held at Salem on September 23, 2021.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group will meet on Thursday, October 14, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Hugh Hauser (2680 Granite Circle, Fitchburg). A light supper will be provided and we will enjoy a time of conversation and Bible study.

GUILD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

Recent activities of the Guild included the provision of sandwiches, cheese, and dinnerware for Mark's Retirement Open House. In August, dinner was served to the VBS attendees, and \$75 donated toward the cost of supplies.

Three officer vacancies; chairman, secretary, and Sunshine Lady were discussed. Information will be provided and people to explain each position on Church Rally Day, September 19th. Please continue to seek God's guidance in this area.

Due to declining numbers in meeting attendance and basically changes in society today, the Guild voted to change the number of meetings per year to three: the April meeting will discuss/plan for the Spring luncheon, the June meeting will address VBS needs, camp scholarships, youth mission trip expenses, and any other requests to the Guild, and the November meeting will plan/organize for the Holiday Bazaar and Raffle and vote on donations to the various organizations we help each year.

Knowing that long ago the Guild had by-laws which have not been used (or located) for a long time, a suggestion was made to formulate a mission statement for the Guild. It would be a succinct statement of our mission... specifically what is done in our ministry. Upon acceptance of the motion, further discussion will be held at the November meeting.

Depending on pandemic conditions, the Holiday Bazaar will be held in December, keeping it within the church. Cookies may be available, but no meal due to Covid. Tickets will go on sale in early November, if at that time it is determined safe to have this event. You will be kept posted as time nears.

The next meeting will be November 4, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINATION LETTER

Dear Members and Friends of Salem United Church of Christ,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Church Council to inform you how we are beginning the work of finding our new permanent, installed pastor. The council has met with our conference representative who has provided background material to help guide us in this process. The first step in the process is the formation of the search committee.

Just as the local church is not “our” church but rather God’s, so too the search committee is really God’s committee. A search for a new pastor is one of the most spiritual ministries in the church. The selection of the search committee members is a task that is approached with prayer, wisdom, sensitivity, and awareness that God may be calling certain church members to consider serving in this capacity.

Search committee members must be nominated, with their knowledge and agreement to be nominated, by a member of the congregation. Those who submit nominations should include a brief description of why that person would be an asset to the committee. The Church council will select the committee from all of nominees, so nomination does not guarantee final selection by Council to the committee.

Individuals nominated for the committee should have the following attributes:

- A passionate commitment to Christ’s church.
- A positive attitude (no grudges).
- A capacity to approach the task with openness rather than a pre-determined agenda.
- A sense of integrity and respect for others.
- An ability to be absolutely confidential.
- A capacity to listen, to participate in a group, and to come to consensus.
- An active supporter of the church.
- Trusted and respected by the congregation.
- Willing and able to make this responsibility a very high priority.

Search committee members must be willing to make the following commitments:

- A Faith commitment: Search committee members make a faith commitment to develop as faith-centered, prayer-directed people of God willing to listen to God in the process of seeking a new pastor.
- A Time commitment: The time to complete the search process may be as long as 18 to 24 months.
- A commitment to Confidentiality: Confidentiality is imperative when dealing with personnel discussions.
- A commitment to Openness: Search committee members commit to genuine consideration of all candidates and involves understanding the gifts, skills, and experience of candidates are primary in determining their ability to serve the congregation.
- A commitment to Consensus: Search committee members need to be of one mind in recommending their prospective pastor to the congregation. Each member must be able, with a clear and positive conscience, to support and endorse the individual presented before the congregation.

If you would like to nominate someone to be a part of the search committee, please submit a note with the name and a brief description of why you feel that person should be a member of the committee. Recommendations can be dropped in the box outside of the church office door (same box as for pledges/donations).

Yours in Christ,
Kevin Booth

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Thank you for everyone who has offered to serve in our Sunday school program for the 2021-2022 program year. Your help is making a difference. We still need more help! Offering one Sunday morning of your time would have a big impact on our children and youth ministries. Please consider the following opportunities:

Volunteers Needed in Grades PreK-Grade 5

Oct. 3	One teacher
Oct. 17	One teacher, one assistant
Oct. 31	One teacher
Nov. 7	One teacher

**Easy to use curriculum with training and support available!*

Middle/High School Combined Class

Can you spare one or two Sunday mornings to spend an hour with our youth? We are still looking for assistants to help with the middle & high school combined class. This class is primarily discussion based and we have 3 dedicated teachers who rotate responsibilities. The assistant would provide the 2nd adult needed for Safe Church purposes.

Superintendent

This role could be shared between two people and most of these duties can be done at your convenience.

- Maintain Sunday school supply closet.
- Stock classroom supplies.
- Maintain lower-level Sunday school office.
- Manage Attendance and Safe Church records for Sunday school.
- Manage Program Registration.

Church Nursery

The nursery will remain closed until further notice as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. Please know that at Salem UCC children are warmly welcomed in church during worship.

Christmas Program

Matt and Lucy's Version Births

December 19, 2021 @ 3pm

This Christmas program (published by Living the Questions) encourages children and adults alike to explore the different narratives of Jesus' birth and what that means for our understanding of scripture. Lots of hands are needed to make the Christmas program come to life and we have jobs both large and small for everyone to participate. Please join Sarah Pundt on Thursday Oct. 14 @ 7pm for a planning meeting and learn how you can be part of this important Salem tradition. This meeting will be a brainstorming and planning session so please come share your ideas even if you don't know how you would like to be involved. Contact Sarah if you plan to attend this meeting or if you have any questions.

Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays @ 9am in Fellowship Hall

Our program theme this year will focus on doing God's work in the community. The exact dates for each unit are still uncertain but this is a rough outline for the year ahead. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to be added to the Adult Class email list. You will continue to receive class reminders if you were on the email list last year.

September: *In the Room with Walter Brueggemann*

October: *The Prophets*

November: *Land Acknowledgment*

December: *Advent Study*

Jan./Feb.: *Listen Up! Bible Study of 1 Corinthians*

Lent: *Dwelling in the Word- The Parables*

April/May: *Serving as the Hands and Feet of Jesus*

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia

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.

Upcoming Gatherings:

October 21

Program: *Blessed are the Peacemakers*

Host: Cathy Kwilinski

November 18

Program: *From Idea to Published*

Host: Nancy Dearborn

As a published author of children's books, Nancy will share her journey through every stage of the writing and publishing process as she witnessed her writing dream come to life.

Parent's Promise

October 28 @ 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. At our September gathering, 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 and fellowship.

The Big Read: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

What if everybody in the Conference read – and talked about – Braiding Sweetgrass? The Conference Creation Care Team is encouraging congregations throughout the Conference to read Braiding Sweetgrass in the months ahead – a Big Read – in order to spur a statewide conversation as a response to the Kairos Call to Action on behalf of God's good, but threatened, Creation. Guided discussions at Salem, access to conference materials and activities, and an opportunity to hear the author speak in October will all be part of our Big Read. A small group at Salem is meeting on 9/30 @ 7pm in fellowship hall to begin our Big Read. You can join the group at any time, even if you missed the 9/30 gathering. Please contact Sarah Pundt to participate in a Big Read group at Salem.



Salem T-Shirts still available!

We have a limited supply of T-shirts available for \$10 each. Stop by fellowship hall after worship or contact Sarah Pundt to purchase your shirt.

Youth Sizes: S & XL (Youth sizes M and L are sold out)

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, & 2XL (Adult size L is sold out)

CROP WALK - JOIN OUR TEAM



CROP Walk for Hunger Madison

October 17 @ 1pm, First Congregational UCC Madison

The Salem Youth invite you to join us in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk. We are walking on October 17 to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Join us with your steps and your donations to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. The youth

have set a goal of collecting \$1000 in donations to benefit CROP Hunger Walk. To walk with our team or make an online donation, the CROP Walk link is on the church website www.salemchurchverona.org

You may also write a check payable to: Salem UCC with "Crop Walk" in the memo.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 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!

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.

Fall Party Oct. 10 @ 5-7:30pm

All youth are invited to join us at John and Cari Bass' rural property in Barneveld. We will roast hot dogs and s'mores over the campfire, play games, and have a night hike in the woods. Meet at Salem at 4:30pm to carpool to Barneveld. We will return to church at 8pm. Complete event information is available on the Mighty Networks or contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

YOUTH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

10	@ 5-7:30pm Fall Party at John & Cari Bass'
17	CROP Walk



CROP WALK - Join our Team!

CROP Walk for Hunger Madison October 17 @ 1pm First Congregational UCC, Madison

The Salem Youth invite you to join us in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk. We are walking on October 17 to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Join us with your steps and your donations to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. The youth have set a goal of collecting \$1000 in donations to benefit CROP Hunger Walk.

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Salem Youth Garden Project:

Eight of our Salem Youth spent the summer tackling hunger in our community by planting and tending a community garden. The harvested produce was donated to BPNN and shared with the Salem congregation. The final harvest donation went to BPNN in mid-September bringing the grand total of donated produce to 154 pounds! The free-will offering at the youth produce table generated about \$100 of donations from the congregation. These donations were sent to 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.



FB4K Madison 67 Bikes Collected!

On September 18, the Salem Youth hosted a bicycle collection drive to benefit Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison. 67 bikes were donated by the Verona Community. FB4K spends the winter months refurbishing the bikes and then in April/May, they will give them to low income and diverse communities throughout Dane County. Salem Youth plan to assist with refurbishing and distributing the bikes. The youth also collected \$45 in donations to be used for bike refurbishing and purchasing helmets for the new bike owners.



OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 World Communion Sunday 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	4 Eve - Boy Scouts	5	6	7 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	8	9
10 Consecration Sunday 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 5-7:30PM - Youth Fall Party	11 Eve - Boy Scouts	12 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	13 6:30PM - Bells	14 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Hugh Hauser's	15	16
17 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 1PM - CROP Walk	18 Eve - Boy Scouts	19	20	21 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	22	23
24 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 31 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	25 Eve - Boy Scouts NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26	27	28 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	29	30

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2021



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 3rd

*We will also receive the
Neighbors In Need offering*

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

October 10th

Dedication of our pledges for 2022



CROP WALK FOR HUNGER

*Sunday, October 17 @ 1pm
First Congregational UCC,
Madison*

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

Kevin Booth

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Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Living Out God's Love
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

