

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

*Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation*

NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2022

Photo by Luciana Sena (Pexels)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUGUST:

### Week of August 7:

*Isaiah 1:1, 10-20*  
*and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23*  
*Genesis 15:1-6*  
*and Psalm 33:12-22*  
*Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*  
*Luke 12:32-40*

### Week of August 14:

*Isaiah 5:1-7*  
*and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19*  
*Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82*  
*Hebrews 11:29-12:2*  
*Luke 12:49-56*

### Week of August 21:

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*  
*and Psalm 71:1-6*  
*Isaiah 58:9b-14*  
*and Psalm 103:1-8*  
*Hebrews 12:18-29*  
*Luke 13:10-17*

### Week of August 28:

*Jeremiah 2:4-13*  
*and Psalm 81:1, 10-16*  
*Sirach 10:12-18*  
*or Proverbs 25:6-7 and Psalm 112*  
*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*  
*Luke 14:1, 7-14*

## REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

We are moving into the month of August, when many Salem folks are still on vacation and the heat of the day often determines how much outside activity goes on, and September seems like the “start-up” month for the congregation. Yes ... but ... the flurry of activity in September and the Fall ONLY happens if we set the ground-work for it, and that is just what is happening!

For instance, during the Summer, the Pastor Search Committee has been very busy putting together the “Church Profile”, which is the information that is posted on the UCC website for all potential candidates to see! And since that process will come to fruition sometime in the near future, we as a congregation need to start putting some things in place, some “New Things”, so that there will be momentum when the next settled Pastor does arrive.

Working with the Stewardship Committee, we have formed a broader concept, an “**Invest in the New Thing**” Team, to pull together the threads of preparation that this unique time affords us. We are coming out of the two-year CoVid time, when many of our members and friends have worshipped from home, and have not been involved in many church activities because, well, there have not been many church activities due to CoVid! NOW, we need to **come back together** ... to energize our church programs, to reach out to new people in our community, to become reacquainted with each other, and to search out new leadership from our congregation.

LOTS to do ... and this will be our theme for all these new things:

***Watch for the New Thing I am going to do.***  
***It is happening already - you can see it now!***  
(Isaiah 43:19, Good News Translation)

This is God speaking to Israel, coming out of Exile (can we relate to that?) God is going to do a New Thing (and we can anticipate that!). It IS happening already - even in August. (Time to get on board!)

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

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

Friends, please enjoy your summer time of relaxing, renewing, and even perhaps resting ... but ... get ready for the New Thing that God is doing with us, bringing us together in strength once more, in joy, in hope, and in exciting new times!

Peace and Joy in this Summertime, and the Time to Come!

Rev. Tom Robinson

Interim Pastor

# \$47,716

This is the amount remaining on our building loan as of June 30, 2022. 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.

\*If you've been paying attention you will notice that this figure is slightly higher than what was stated in the June newsletter, which was incorrect.

As of May 31, 2022 the balance was \$51,106.

## 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.



## NEW LOCK FOR CHURCH OFFICE DOOR

The lock on the church office door no longer functions and has been removed. A new lock will be installed soon, but the key will be different from the other doors in the church. If you currently have a key to the church and will need to have access to office, please contact Cara by phone or e-mail. She will come up with a solution to give access to those who need it.

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education  
608-692-3239 or [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org)

*Our VBS program in July was a huge success with lots of fellowship and laughs. We saw new faces, old friends, seniors, families, youth, and children. It was a true intergenerational blend of our Salem community. Now that VBS is over, mid-summer may seem like a quiet time at church. However, there is a lot of activity happening behind the scenes as we prepare for our fall programs. Explore some of the options below for how you can be part of our education ministries.*



## VBS THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who worked to make VBS a success. Over 20 people offered their time and talents before, during, and after our VBS program. VBS could not happen without them. Thank you also to everyone who came for fellowship and learning. More than 50 people attended our program and the excitement in the air was palpable. It was a fun way to spend three summer evenings!

## Looking Ahead..... Please mark your calendars!

September 18 @ 9am Sunday School Kickoff

September 24 @ 9am Sunday School classes resume for all ages

## Fall Updates:

It's only mid-summer but planning for our fall education ministry has begun. Please consider how you feel called to serve and contact Sarah Pundt with any questions or to volunteer.

- Kitchen volunteers for the Sunday school breakfast are needed.
- Sunday school teachers and classroom assistants are always needed for every age group (PreK-Grade 5, Grade 6-12, and Adult). Our teachers serve on a rotating schedule and teach when it fits their schedule.
- The church nursery is reopening! We need volunteers to make our nursery ministry a success.
- The BoCE (Board of Christian Education) is actively seeking 3 more individuals. In consultation with the Director of Christian Education, this advisory committee provides guidance for the content and structure of Sunday school and other programming at Salem.
- Is there something you want to learn about or a program you would like Salem to have? Please share your ideas!



# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

August 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 have two summer social outings planned, Verona Beach Day and Mini-Golf!  
Please refer to the calendar and check the Mighty Network for full details and to RSVP. If you are not part of the Mighty Network, please contact Sarah Pundt.**

### VBS and Youth

We had 6 youth volunteers at VBS! Thank you for making a difference and providing leadership for our younger Salem members.

### YOUTH MISSION

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

##### **Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)**

Our S.A.L.T adventure to Blue Mound State Park was an incredible experience. Bad weather, flooded tents, and an altered schedule did not slow us down! We are finalizing plans to share more about our experience with the Salem congregation. Please watch your weekly news for more information.

### Youth Garden

Our garden is growing! Youth are encouraged to sign up for shifts to harvest the produce, water, and weed (everyone's favorite!). The youth will share their harvest with members of the Salem congregation and with BPNN. Watch for their produce table in fellowship hall.



# AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9AM - Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9AM - Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9AM - Worship 6:30-9PM - Youth Mini Golf	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7PM -BoCE	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98  SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9AM - Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2022

*Thank You!*

A heartfelt thank you goes out to  
all the volunteers who worked to  
make VBS a success.

## SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315  
www.salemchurchverona.org

### Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson  
trobinson@salemchurchverona.org

### Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr  
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

### 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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An Open  
and Affirming  
Congregation

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

