

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2022



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER:

All Saints day (Nov 1):

Daniel 7:1-3, 13-18 and Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

Week of November 6:

Haggai 1:15b and Psalm 145:1-5,
17-21 or Psalm 98
Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Week of November 13:

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12
Malachai 4:1-2a and Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Week of November 20:

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79
Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Thanksgiving Day (Nov 24):

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
and Psalm 100
Philippians 4:4-9
John 6:25-35

Week of November 27:

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

On this upcoming **Sunday, November 6th**, we are going to celebrate and tabulate the “estimate of giving” response to our “Invest in the New Thing” campaign for Salem Church. As we munch-out on a Theme-based sheet cake ... we will await the sense of how our congregation has responded to



support the budget for 2023. This is a budget that will include some exciting new features, including the Salary and Benefits for Salem Church’s next Settled Pastor. We don’t know exactly “who” or “when”, but the Search Committee is diligently working to discern whom God is calling to join Salem Church in a vibrant and faith-filled future!

So, plan to be here for this special time of worship, of cake, and of supporting God’s work among us. AND ... you will have an extra hour of sleep to help you be energized! [Don’t forget to set your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night]

So, if you have not already sent your “estimate of giving” card back to the Church in the stamped envelope, please do so, or plan to bring it to worship on November 6th for the Dedication of the 2023 “Invest in the New Thing” Campaign.

Then, on **Sunday, November 13th**, Salem Church will come together after worship for a potluck lunch and the Annual Meeting of Salem UCC. For worship, Salem Church will be privileged to meet and welcome the new Associate Conference Minister for the Southwest Association in Wisconsin, the Rev. Rachel Bauman. If you want to read her bio, it can be found at: <https://www.wcucc.org/staff/rev-rachel-bauman/>

On **Sunday, November 20th**, we welcome the Rev. Kathleen Owens to preach. Kathleen is a long-time Verona resident, a close neighbor of Salem Church, and a Presbyterian colleague/friend of mine, who has served in many ways for the regional John Knox Presbytery and in many capacities ecumenically statewide for justice issues.

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Soren Winterle, Jared Zurbuchen
- 2: Matthew Gust, Dana Zurbuchen
- 5: Samuel Shubak, Jackson Pundt
- 8: Susan Hegeman
- 9: Savannah Burke
- 12: Celia Hauser
- 13: Anna Pauley
- 14: Bryan Blake
- 18: Laura Williams
- 19: Gary Butzlaff
- 24: Nan Zurbuchen
- 26: Bruce Quade, Greg Bass
- 29: Beth Yurs

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

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And ... to finish out November, **Sunday November 27th** is the **First Sunday in the Season of Advent!**

November is going to be a very busy and important month in the life of Salem United Church of Christ, Verona! Please make a special effort to be here and to participate in this New Thing that God is doing with us at Salem!

Peace and Joy,
Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson, Interim Pastor

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, November 13 following worship

Please plan to stick around after worship to enjoy a potluck lunch followed by our annual congregational meeting,

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 BAZAAR

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Women's Guild Christmas Bazaar and Raffle will be held on **Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** We are happy to announce that this year we will be serving the meal of Barbecue sandwiches, salads, and pies. The cost will probably remain at \$7.00 per person, although we will make that determination at our business meeting on Thursday, November 3rd. Our big prize this year will be a beautiful quilt made by the Salem quilters. We wish to thank Fred Wenger for providing the top prize of a one-week time share for many years. Due to extenuating circumstances, he can no longer provide this prize. Raffle tickets will go on sale soon.

COMING IN SPRING 2023:

"Nothing to Hide" (Family Diversity Projects Photo Exhibit)

Salem will be hosting the "Nothing to Hide" photo exhibit to engage the surrounding community in a discussion about mental health issues facing families today. "These compelling accounts (in the exhibit) 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." Please join Sarah Pundt for a planning meeting at church on Nov. 10 @7pm. This event offers an exciting opportunity to address an important topic, educate ourselves and others, and engage with the broader community.

BUILDING LOAN

WE DID IT! We have officially paid off our building loan (early) and are free from debt. Thank you to all who have contributed to our building loan over the years.

FB4K MADISON BIKE COLLECTION EVENT AT SALEM

Nov 19, 10am-2pm

After a successful collection event in October, FB4K Madison has asked Salem to host their November bike collection event. We are recruiting volunteers from the congregation to help support this wonderful organization. Scheduling is flexible. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org if you are interested in helping.

TOTENFEST: NOVEMBER 20

We will observe the Liturgy of Totenfest in our online worship service for November 20. Totenfest is the ceremony in which we remember by name those from our congregation who have died in the last twelve months. It is a liturgy that falls each year on the Sunday immediately prior to the beginning of Advent. This is the last Sunday of the church's year. A new church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

In the Liturgy of Totenfest there is a roll call of the dead. As each name is read, a candle is lit in their honor, and a bell is tolled. There is an extra candle in addition to one for each person from the church who has died. At the time the extra candle is lit, worshipers are invited to name aloud anyone whom they choose to remember.

Salem's Totenfest roll for 2022 includes the following persons:

Ruthellen Philips, who died December 27, 2021

Lyle Baez, who died January 2, 2022

Anna Schmid, who died February 24, 2022

Virginia Witt, who died March 5, 2022

Tom Bass, who died April 25, 2022

Joyce Fredrickson, who died May 24, 2022

CROP HUNGER WALK



Twenty-four walkers from Salem participated in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 16. We were able to raise \$1440 to fight hunger around the world and locally. Thank you for your support!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ will meet at the home of Jon Pundt on Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 PM. Join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Salem Women's Guild News – By now you should have received a letter and questionnaire from the Guild. It was requested that they be returned to the church by October 18, 2022. If you have not done so, please return ASAP (we will still accept them). Thank you for your participation; it will help in guiding our plans for the future!

Paying Hostesses for:

September

Pat Anderson
Marsha Behnke
Gerri Hall
Doris Waldmann

October

Debbie Bass
Kay Berry
Bernice Hamilton
Joan Uren

November

Mary Cutler
Jane Legler
Anna Pauley
Mary Poole
Cathy Kwilinski

CHURCH KEYS

It is time for an audit of our church keys. Cara will contact those with keys to verify the number on the key. If you have a key and no longer need it, please return it to the office.

Climate Justice Opportunities

Climate Ambassador Training

How do we link our faith to the climate crisis? How do we effectively talk about climate change with others? What opportunities do we have to make a difference in our local churches and communities? These questions and more will be addressed in the Blessed Tomorrow Ambassadors Training Program that is being offered by the United Church of Christ and ecoAmerica. This free, virtual, interactive training will take place on Saturday, November 5th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm ET. Featured presenters include the Rev. Carol Devine, the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, the Rev. Michael Malcom, and Andrew Wells-Bean. Training participants will receive a free copy of Berndt's book, [Cathedral on Fire: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis](#). [Learn more and register here!](#)



We find ourselves in the midst of ongoing climate and environmental justice crises. The future sometimes seems uncertain and even frightening. Yet as people of faith, we are called to heed prophetic voices and fight for a livable planet.

It is in action that hope is found. As the Israelites confronted the challenges of their time, the prophet Jeremiah passed along God's message: Your labor is not in vain. There is hope for your future. (Jeremiah 31:17) That's why we are calling all UCC children and youth: Draw or paint about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Sunday school class and youth group participation encouraged. Winners will be selected in November!

Online Book Discussions

New York UCC Conference have invited members of the WI Conference to participate in two virtual discussions of books with racial justice themes in November and December. Each is a two-session discussion. Both series will be facilitated by Courtney Williams, a doctoral fellow in the sociology department at Louisiana State University; Mary Frances Stuck, professor emerita of sociology at the State University of New York at Oswego; and the Rev. Gary Smith, director of the Center for Racial Justice, which is affiliated with the New York Conference UCC. Details:

"Between the World and Me"

Author: Ta-Nehisi Coates

5:30 to 7 p.m. Central

Nov. 9 and 16

via Zoom

In this National Book Award-winning work, written as a letter to his teenage son, Ta-Nehisi Coates weaves personal narrative, reimagined history and fresh reporting to illuminate the past, confront the tense state of race relations today and offer a vision for a way forward. The discussion will take place on Zoom, and a link will be sent in advance of the first session. Please read Chapter 1 (pages 5-71) prior to the first session. [Register now.](#)

"The Undocumented Americans"

Author: Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

5:30 to 7 p.m. Central

Nov. 30 and Dec. 7

via Zoom

Looking beyond the flashpoints of the border or the activism of the DREAMers, Karla Cornejo Villavicencio explores the lives of the undocumented—and the mysteries of her own life. And through it all, the author grapples with the biggest questions of love, duty, family and survival. The discussion will take place via Zoom and a link will be sent out prior to the first session. Please read the Introduction and first three chapters prior to the first session. [Register now.](#)

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1) This first verse of Psalm 107 introduces the writer's instructions throughout this Psalm to give thanks to God in all things. Verses 8, 15, 21, and 31 all repeat the call to give thanks to the Lord. The other verses of the psalm describe the ebb and flow of life; the challenges we face, the mistakes we make, and the redemption we experience when we turn to God. Each struggle is met with the same command to give gratitude to God. It can be very difficult to acknowledge God's benevolence when we feel crushed under the weight of our common challenges. But during this season of Thanksgiving, spend time with this Psalm and turn to God to give thanks to God in all things.

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.**

Age Group	Location
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

Christian Education Calendar

November

6	Sunday School
13	Sunday School
20	Children's Music (Grades PreK-Grade 12)
27	Ornament Sunday

Children's Music, Nov. 20 @9am

Once per month, all grades PreK-Grade 12 will meet in the lower-level Sunday school area @ 9am. The youth will serve as mentors for the younger children during children's choir.

Ornament Sunday, Nov. 27 @9am

Sunday school students and families are invited to participate in this popular annual tradition. Please join us in the lower-level to create Christmas tree ornaments.

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).

November

6	Great Themes of the Bible: God's Compassion for the "Least of These"
13	Great Themes of the Bible: God Loves Us
20	Great Themes of the Bible: God is Always Bigger Than We Think
27	Advent Study*

*Advent Study: Advent Antiphons

November 27, Dec. 4, 11, & 18

Antiphons are ancient Christian chants based on pieces of Psalms and other Hebrew scriptures. They express deep theological convictions. We will use a collection of these Antiphons and a series of reflection questions to create our own personal daily Advent devotional.

Church Nursery Childcare

After the pandemic closure, plans are underway to reopen the church nursery! This education ministry provides support and resources to our youngest members and their families. Childcare during the Sunday school hour allows young parents the opportunity to participate in our Music Ministry or other Christian Education Programs. Children of all ages are always welcome in worship, but nursery care is offered for children age 5 and under for those who need it. Please consider volunteering in the church nursery for one or more Sundays. We are also seeking applicants for paid childcare givers in the nursery. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more details.

November Nursery Staffing

If two volunteers are listed, the nursery will be open during worship only. We need more volunteers or paid staff to provide nursery care during the Sunday school hour.

Date	Adult Caregiver (Safe Church trained and +18)	Assistant (Adult or Teen)
Nov 6	Can you help?	Kaden Nechvatal
Nov 13	Can you help?	Eden Westphal
Nov 20	Heather Thoma	Can you help?
Nov 27	Heather Thoma	Eden Westphal

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!

Parents Promise Nov 10 @ 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.

Koinonia Nov 17 @ 7pm

All women of Salem are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Cindy Remus will be the hostess for the evening to unlock the doors and set up the meeting space. If you would like to offer a program or reflection, please contact Cindy @ cindyremus@yahoo.com

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

November 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!

YOUTH MISSION

CROP Walk

The youth spearheaded a wonderful CROP Walk initiative. Their efforts taught the Sunday school students about the CROP Walk, created a team of 24 walkers from Salem, and raised about \$1400.

FB4K Bike Collection Event

Nov. 19 @ 10am-2pm

Salem Youth will be collecting used bicycles to benefit FB4KMadison (Free Bikes for Kids). Youth are encouraged to sign up and help with the collection. Visit the Mighty Network or contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Knock-Knock Middle School Retreat

Nov. 18-20 @ Daycholah Center

This popular retreat is back! Middle school is a time when youth experience significant transition in their lives. They are gaining more independence, exploring new friendships, and becoming aware of more complex life situations. **Knock Knock** is an opportunity to explore all of this through the lens of faith, while also developing and deepening relationships with the youth and adults in your church group. Throughout the weekend, we will be inspired by the music of [Jacob Nault](#), our music and worship leader. We are registering the Salem middle schoolers as a group. Please contact Sarah Pundt with questions or to register.

YOUTH CALENDAR

November

6	@ 6:30pm Youth Gathering
18-20	Knock-Knock Middle School Retreat
19	10am-2pm FB4K Bike Collection

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Eve - Cub Scouts	2 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	3 1:30PM- Guild Meeting 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7:15-8:45PM- Girl Scouts	4	5
6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Gethering	7 Eve - Boy Scouts	8 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	9 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	10 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	11	12
13 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Annual Meeting and Potluck	14 Eve - Boy Scouts	15 Eve - Cub Scouts	16 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	17 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Jon Punt's 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	18 Nov 18-19 - Middle School Knock Knock Retreat	19 10AM-2PM - Bike Collection Event
20 9AM - Sunday School (Grades PreK - 12 have music) 10:15AM - Worship	21 Eve - Boy Scouts	22 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 6PM -BoCE	23	24 THANKSGIVING 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	25	26
27 9AM - Ornament Sunday 10:15AM - Worship	28 Eve - Boy Scouts	29	30 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	1 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	2	3 11AM-1PM - Women's Guild Bazaar and Raffle

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 6th

Turn back your clock before bed on Saturday

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Sunday, November 13 following worship

Please bring a dish to pass

BIKE DONATION EVENT

Saturday, November 19, 10AM-2PM, Salem UCC

Volunteers needed to help with collection



ORNAMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, November 27

during Sunday school hour (9AM)

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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Interim Minister:

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Sarah Pundt

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

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and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Living Out God's Love
SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

