



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH:

Week of March 3

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Week of March 10

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Week of March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 24 - Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

continued on next page...

FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends,

Our four Gospels each tell the story of the resurrection in their own way.

It can be confusing. After all, why could they not all agree on one way to tell the same story? I find it helpful to think of these Gospels as more than just four different writers. (Although when can four people who witness something agree with each other on all the details of what they have experienced?)

Instead, picture four different communities, each with their own needs, experiences, and backgrounds. Each of these communities brought their questions to the task of witnessing to Jesus Christ: Who is Jesus? What did he do? What did he teach? What does this say about God? Why did he die? And what does it mean that he was raised from the dead?

Each Gospel is the witness of a community of faith in answer to these questions.

When we encounter the resurrection in scripture, in the witness of the Gospels, it asks us where we have witnessed the resurrection in our own community. Did we see it in someone's sobriety? In someone's reconciliation? In love that moved past barriers or prejudices?

How have we experienced resurrection in our own lives? Where have we known healing, or seemingly impossible stones being rolled away?

As we move towards Easter, let us continue to look for resurrection around us and within us. For the first resurrection was just the beginning!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Phil

continued...

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or

John 19:38-42

Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to sponsor a Lily to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, the cost is \$15. There will be order forms in Sunday's bulletin for the next few weeks. Order forms are due on Sunday, March 17.

PALM SUNDAY INTERGENERATIONAL CELEBRATION

March 24 @ 9am

All ages are invited to join us for a procession with palm branches followed by activities for everyone. Please join us as we revisit the familiar stories of Holy Week with fresh eyes and open hearts. Meet in Fellowship Hall @ 9am for the procession.

MAUNDY THURSDAY



This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 28th at 7pm. This service will include Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae, chronicling Jesus's final week.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Chad Malueg, Lars Winterle
- 4: Laura Yurs
- 6: Steve Sundby
- 7: Hugh Hauser, Michael Moll
- 8: Donald Hefty
- 9: Judy Skupien, Elaina Durnen
- 10: Gary Nechvatal
- 14: Carla Baez, Eden Westphal
- 16: Isaac Worley, Oliver Gauthier
- 17: Anna Pundt
- 21: Kevin Booth
- 22: John Bass, Heather Thoma
- 26: Clarice Dassow
- 27: Diane Triplett

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

EASTER BREAKFAST

Immediately following the 6:45am Easter Sunrise Service there will be an Easter breakfast. Quiche, Oven French Toast, fresh fruit, coffee and juice will be served. Those wanting to help can meet at the church at 10:00am on Saturday, March 30th to put together the Quiche and French Toast Casserole. Donations of fresh fruit and baked goods are welcome. Please have them in the kitchen before 6:30am on March 31st. There will be a free will offering to cover the cost of the breakfast.

Questions contact Cindy Remus.

SYMPATHY

We are saddened to announce the death of Charles "Chuck" Hustad, who passed away at the age of 94. A longtime member of Salem Church, Chuck served on Council and as Council President. His memorial service will be Wednesday, March 6, at 11 am here at Salem UCC, with visitation beforehand.

YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE - #RELATABLE

March 17 @ 10:15am

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. (Luke 19:5-6)

The youth have selected the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) as the basis for their youth Sunday service on March 17. When asked why they wanted to focus on this story, their response was "#Relatable". As the tax collector in town, Zacchaeus is not a popular guy. In fact, he likely engaged in subversive tactics to regularly defraud his fellow citizens. Verses 5-6 above highlight the moment that Zacchaeus first encounters Jesus. A couple of things stand out in this brief interchange. Although they had never met, Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and then announced publicly that he wanted to spend time at Zacchaeus' house. In this moment of grace, we see that Zacchaeus is known and beloved by God regardless of the things he has done. In addition, Jesus shows us by example how we are to love one another similarly. Join the youth on Sunday, March 17 during worship to hear more about Zacchaeus and why his story is **#Relatable**.



SPECIAL OFFERING

**You're here to be light,
bringing out the God-colors
in the world.**

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously. **Share the light.**

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

BRAT FEST



*Salem UCC Youth is a
Brat Fest Charity*

Volunteer at Brat Fest!

Volunteers and their supporting organizations are the most integral part of the World's Largest Brat Fest! They set up, they grill, they cashier, they wrap, they stock condiments, they make sure the event grounds are clean, they tear down – you get it – they pretty much do it all!

Each year, Brat Fest depends on nearly 5,000 volunteers of all ages* with over 16,446 volunteer hours to play a special part in our continued success and our quest for the **WORLD RECORD** all in the spirit of community giving! Without them, Brat Fest would not be the same.



Brat Fest 2023

Brat Fest Volunteers receive:

- Brat Fest T-Shirt
- Brat Buck (Good for a Brat, Hot Dog, Corn or Soda)
- Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream free scoop
- An incredible fun time
- \$10 of every hour they volunteer, goes to the charity of their choice or to support Brat Fest (also a Non-Profit)

March Madness Food Drive

The University of Connecticut's 2023 March Madness final win over San Diego State University reached 14.7 million viewers which was the lowest all time audience for NCAA men's basketball final. For the entirety of March Madness, audiences were down seven percent compared to 2022.

In contrast to Badger Prairie Needs Network where the stats keep rising. In 2023 there were 23,000 pantry visits, feeding 80,000 individuals. Ingredients for 1.7 million meals were distributed, 4,000 weekend meals were served and 38 tons of food was diverted from landfills. BPNN operates one of Dane County's three busiest food pantries and is entirely led and run by volunteers. Those most affected by hunger in Dane County are children, seniors, the disabled and people of color. In over 70% of the households served, at least one adult is working. Many have two jobs.

How can YOU help to close the food gap? Join Salem's March Madness Food Drive



Photo by Markus Spiske from Pexels

Sunday March 17 – Selection Sunday

Select a personal care item to put in the basket.

(dental care item, bar soap, diapers, wipes, feminine products)

Sunday March 24- Sweet Sixteen

Bring: 3-5 lb. bags of sugar & flour, snack & breakfast bars

Sunday March 31 - Elite Eight

Bring: Bagged rice

Hamburger helper

Tuna helper

Chicken helper

Canned pineapple

Canned mandarin oranges

Canned peaches

Canned apricots

Sunday April 7 - The Final Four

Bring: Canned tuna

Canned salmon

Canned chicken

Dried protein beans (black, pinto & kidney)

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 PreK-Adult every Sunday morning 9-10am from September 17, 2023-May 19, 2024. All volunteers who serve with our children and youth have been trained and screened through our Safe Church Guidelines. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Age Group	Location
Pre-K (age 3)-grade 5	Lower Level
Middle/High School	2nd Floor Classroom
Adults	1st Floor Conference Room

Adult Class *Mighty Network*

The Mighty Network is a private online interactive platform that provides space for the adult class calendar, links to resources, and space for online conversations between group members. You do not need to attend the adult class to participate in this online resource and you do not have to join this online community to participate in the class. Because this network is private (just for Salem use and not intended for the general public), please contact Sarah Pundt for login information to join the group.

Adult Class Topics

Our Lenten Bible Study continues as we explore the Gospel of Mark 9-16. This study takes us into the details of Holy Week to deepen our understanding of this important story in our faith tradition. Please join us!

Palm Sunday Intergenerational Celebration: March 24 @ 9am

All ages are invited to join us for a procession with palm branches followed by activities for everyone. Please join us as we revisit the familiar stories of Holy Week with fresh eyes and open hearts. Meet in Fellowship Hall @ 9am for the procession.

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://www.ucc.org/programming-webinars/>

UCC News Digest

<https://www.ucc.org/news/>

WI Conference Life Newsletter

<https://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/1446-2/>

UCCI Camps

<https://ucci.org/>

SAVE THE DATE

June 23, 24, & 25
5:45-7:30pm

Join us for our intergenerational VBS program and community meal. Mark your calendars and watch for more details in future newsletters.

VBS 2024

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3 @ 9am Sunday School for All Ages
- 5 @ 6:30pm BoCE
- 10 @ 9am Sunday School for All Ages
- 17 @ 9am Sunday School for All Ages
- 24 @ 9am Intergenerational Palm Sunday Celebration
- 31 Easter Sunday (No Sunday School Programs)

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

March 2024

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Youth Opportunities at Salem: Grades 6-12

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.

#Relatable. That's the title of our youth Sunday service on March 17 which is based on the story of Zacchaeus. This Bible story is one that resonates with many of us. Sure it's fun to think about the little guy who climbs the tree to see Jesus. The little kid in us wants to climb a tree too! But Zaccheus' story is relatable for much deeper reasons. Zacchaeus makes a lot of bad choices and mistakes in his life, yet Jesus knows his name. Jesus wants to spend time with him. And spending time with Jesus absolutely transforms Zacchaeus. Through Jesus, Zacchaeus becomes aware of his belovedness, flaws and all. You are also beloved by Jesus, just for being you. You don't have to earn this belovedness through good grades, service hours, or being the captain of a team. Spend time with Jesus and you will learn that you are enough just as you are. You are beloved, flaws and all.

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: #Relatable

Our Youth Sunday worship service is one of the highlights of our program year. It takes a lot of team effort and individual work to put together, but it is a powerful experience for anyone who participates. Please note the calendar as we will use our March gatherings for collaborative youth Sunday planning.

Culver's Fundraising Event

March 27 @5-8pm

Join us and help earn money toward our SALT Trip to St. Louis. We have signed up for a shift at Culvers in Verona and will receive a percentage of the restaurant's profits earned during our shift. Wear your Salem swag and help spread the word about our church and our youth ministry. This is a great way for us to participate in the Verona community and earn some money for our trip. Tell your friends and family to join us for dinner and boost our sales (the percentage of profit we receive increases with larger sales)! Please note: this is the same week as Holy Week and school spring breaks.



SALT Trip to AMEN! St. Louis

July 9-14, 2024

10 youth grades 6-12 will be journeying to St. Louis for for our SALT Trip 2024! AMEN! St. Louis is a ministry of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, providing Urban Mission Experiences for Youth and Intergenerational Mission Teams. We will stay in the AMEN! House next door to the church. The AMEN! staff will plan a variety of service activities and corresponding learning opportunities. Naturally, we will save time for some St. Louis fun! More details regarding serving and learning experiences will be provided closer to our departure.

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Give Online					1 10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison	2
3 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering	4 Eve - Boy Scouts	5 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6:30PM - BOCE	6 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	7 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	11 Eve - Boy Scouts	12 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	13 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	14 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	15	16 9-11AM - Youth Sunday Run-Through
17 Youth Sunday 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	18 Eve - Boy Scouts 6-8PM - Quilt Group	19 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	20 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	21 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9AM - Palm Sunday Intergenerational Celebration 10:15AM - Worship	25 APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26	27 5-8PM - Youth Fundraising Event at Verona Culver's 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	28 Maundy Thursday 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter 6:45AM - Easter Sunrise Service 10:15AM - Easter Worship						

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

9AM - Intergenerational Program
10:15AM - Worship

Maundy Thursday

7PM - Worship with Holy Communion
and Office of Tenebrae

Good Friday

More info will be shared soon

Easter Sunday

10:15AM - Easter Worship

YOUTH SUNDAY - MARCH 17

The Salem Youth will lead worship to the theme of
#Relatable based off of the story of Zacchaeus

MARCH MADNESS FOOD DRIVE

March 17-April 7

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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

Pastor

Rev. Philip Hobson
phobson@salemchurchverona.org

Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr
cbahr@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt
spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Music:

Dawn Lingard
musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org

Director of Handbells:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

John Cashman

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

