

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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

Photo by Jos van Ouwerkerk, Pexels

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MAY:

### Week of May 5

*Acts 10:44-48*

*Psalms 98*

*1 John 5:1-6*

*John 15:9-17*

### Assension of the Lord May 9

*Acts 1:1-11*

*Psalms 47 or Psalm 93*

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

*Luke 24:44-53*

### Week of May 12

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26*

*Psalms 1*

*1 John 5:9-13*

*John 17:6-19*

### Week of May 19

*Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Psalms 104:24-34, 35b*

*Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21*

*John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

### Week of May 26

*Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29*

*Romans 8:12-17*

*John 3:1-17*

## FROM PASTOR PHIL

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. And Mother's Day is complicated.

Our community includes people who are amazing moms and grandmas. And we have people who have wanted to be moms but for one reason or another it has not happened. We have people in our midst who have raised their own children, and some who have raised their children's children.

We know and love people who have lost children, before or after they were born.

Honoring mothers is important. And life is also complicated.

Some mothers are absent, because they have died and joined the church eternal. Some mothers are absent because they never learned how to mother well.

Some people have mothered us with no blood ties or familial bonds.

The love of God is fully real and present for all of these people in all of life's complications.

The original Mother's Day was also complicated. From an article in Plough.com: "In the United States, the origins of the official holiday go back to 1870, when Julia Ward Howe – an abolitionist best remembered as the poet who wrote "Battle Hymn of the Republic" – worked to establish a Mother's Peace Day. Howe dedicated the celebration to the eradication of war, and organized festivities in Boston for years."

Her summons to Mother's Day was far from timid. One paragraph reads:

"Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

Praise God for the fierce and loving women who have raised us, who have taught us, who have nurtured and challenged us, and who have prayed for us.

Happy Mother's Day.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Phil



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Sawyer Quade
- 5: Mark Yurs
- 8: Martha Booth
- 14: Morgan Moll
- 18: Arlene Stadlberger, Catie Cullen
- 19: Kari Pechan
- 21: Guy Williams
- 24: Carolyn Kleinfeldt
- 25: Sarah Worley
- 28: Israel Kwilinski, Drew Adams
- 29: Kay Berry

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

The month of May marks the return of spring, flowers blooming in the trees and across the landscape. May also brings us Mother's Day in the middle of the month and Memorial Day at the end of the month. New things are blooming everywhere you turn. At Salem there are also new things in the works.

You won't see it at first but in May we will be weeding and seeding at the new prairie out next to the garden.

On **Saturday, May 11** we will gather at the church at 9am for our annual spring clean-up. There will be mulch to move, plants to trim and other chores to attend to. Please consider joining us, we hope to wrap everything up by noon.

On **Tuesday, May 28** Salem will host a blood drive drive from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. You can get more information and sign up to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

I am sure that you have noticed the current condition of our driveway. The building and grounds committee has been considering bids from vendors to replace the driveway and will be presenting a proposal to the council soon. The required work will cost about \$125,000. There will be more information coming soon on this topic.

Work continues to develop a new membership directory. We will join forces with Sugar River UMC for vacation bible school from June 23 - 25 and planning is already underway for a 101st anniversary celebration in September. These are just some of the things coming your way this summer and beyond.

Regarding finances, we finished the first quarter of 2024 with approximately \$72K in income and \$93K in expenses. The first quarter of the year is historically a low period for giving and a higher period of expenses. Please consider this in your giving.

Please feel free to reach out if you have a question or concern. Thank you for your support of Salem UCC.

John Cashman

## BLOOD DRIVE

Salem is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 28, 1:30-5:30PM. We will need volunteers to check people in and host the cantina.



## CRAFT DAY

Do you like doing different craft projects? Don't really have space to spread out at home? Please join me on Saturday, May 4 from 9-7 in the lower level of the church and craft with your friends! I would love if you would come and join me. Bring whatever you want to work on and enjoy the company and ideas of others! Please let Stefanie Steinagel know if you have any questions. Looking forward to creating with you!

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



The **Strengthen the Church Offering** furthers the work of the national UCC and our conferences as we work together to start new churches and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. Together, we further our commitment to be a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all.

Bulletin inserts in the coming weeks will provide specific information on how this special offering is used.

Though we will dedicate our offerings as a congregation on May 28 (envelopes will be provided in the bulletin), we will be collecting this special offering throughout the month of May. You may also use the included QR code to donate directly online.



## WOMEN'S GUILD

Salem Women's Guild – After a lengthy discussion at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was unanimously voted to not hold the Spring Salad Luncheon this year. The number of attendees to this event has sharply decreased since Covid19, as has a decrease in workers, so the decision was that it is no longer worth the effort put into it.

The Guild also voted to disperse \$2,200 to the various organizations that we regularly contribute to each year.

The next meeting will be held June 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

## MISSION UPDATE

### Badger Prairie Needs Network-Last Build Warehouse Addition

Needs of the community require BPNN to expand one more time. Additional warehouse space, workspace for the leadership team, bigger offices for Joining Forces for Families and space for new programs to tackle the challenges of poverty are needed. Volunteers face cramped quarters to do their work and provide services for the clients. The addition will add 12,000 square feet on two floors along with a loading dock. More than 75% of the \$3.4 million goal has already been secured.

All donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the new addition. Salem's mission committee will donate \$100 of their budgeted funds towards this campaign. Salem has played a significant role in the history of BPNN and the committee feels it is important for Salem to contribute and be recognized. During the month of May do your part to fight poverty and end hunger. The committee encourages members of the congregation to donate towards the last build, every contribution is important. If you are interested in adding to Salem's donation, please make note on your check or online donation that it is for the "BPNN last build". If you are interested in donating more and being recognized go to [www.bpnn.org](http://www.bpnn.org)

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30pm. Location TBD.

## EVENTS AT BADGER PRARIE NEEDS NETWORK

### Community Meal

Saturdays, May 4 & 18, June 1 & 15  
11:30am-12:45pm

Join us for a delicious free lunch on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month in the Kasieta Center. All welcome, no registration required! Watch BPNN's Facebook page for the week's menu.

## CLEAN UP DAY - MAY 11

Join us at 9am on Saturday, May 11th as we spruce up the church inside and out. Work will wrap up around noon.

### New Volunteer Orientation

Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 1:30-3pm  
Saturday, May 11 & 25 from 9-10:30am

Volunteers are required to attend a 90-minute orientation, which includes an overview of the organization and volunteer jobs, instructions to sign-up for shifts, and a tour of the building. Registration is required.

Register at [www.bpnn.org/volunteer](http://www.bpnn.org/volunteer)

Join the growing number of Salem members who volunteer at BPNN!

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

So many wonderful things are happening on Sunday, May 19th. This marks the end of our Sunday school year and we will be honoring our Sunday school teachers and assistants. The vocal choirs and handbell choir will each share music. Stick around after worship for an extended fellowship time hosted by Rose and Paul Wieland.

## SYMPATHY

Our sympathies to the family of **Elisabeth (Pankonin) Fjelstad** who passed away on March 29, 2024. Her service was held at Salem on April 5.

Our Sympathies to the family of **Ann Wealti** who passed away on April 1, 2024. Her service was held at Becker-Beal Funeral Home in Belleville on April 13.

# 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)

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

## Last Day of Classes

The last day of our Sunday school program year is May 19.

## Christian Education Calendar

### May

- 5 Sunday School All Ages
- 12 Sunday School All Ages
- 19 Last Day of Sunday School & Sunday School Leader Appreciation

## Sunday School Leader and Assistant Appreciation

Please join us in worship on May 19 as we will recognize the commitment of our Sunday school leaders and assistants during this past school year.

## Adult Class Topic

The **Ants and the Grasshopper** documentary follows a Malawi woman as she travels across the United States to dialogue with Americans about climate change and the impact it is having on her small farming community in Africa. Using Bible texts, a study guide, and this film, we will explore climate change, gender and racial inequality, the gaps between the rich and the poor, and the ideas that groups around the world have generated to save the planet. Join us for our Sunday morning discussions through May 19 @ 9am.

## 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. We are collaborating with Sugar River UMC this year to offer a community VBS program.

Mark your calendars and watch for more details in future newsletters.

**VBS 2024**

# Community Vacation Bible School

Hosted by Salem UCC & Sugar River UMC

VBS for All Ages

June 23, 24, & 25

5:45-7:30pm

This year we are excited to collaborate with Sugar River UMC to plan and host a community VBS experience. We will follow our familiar format that includes a community meal, programming for PreK-Grade 5, opportunities for youth grades 6-12, and Bible study for adults.

Both churches are recruiting volunteers who will work together to make the VBS magic happen. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in helping with crafts, music, games, or childcare (for infants and toddlers).

If you are willing to help with the meals, please John Cashman.

There is no cost to attend VBS, but we would like to know if we should expect you. Registration materials are available by contacting Sarah Pundt. Please submit registrations by June 9 so that we have enough food and supplies for everyone.

## VOLUNTEER AT BRAT FEST



Brat Fest 2023

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.

Volunteer Registration is now open. Please watch the Friday weekly news for the signup link and further instructions. Registering early improves your chances of securing the shifts and jobs you prefer.

### 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

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

May 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.

### 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 Service - May 11 @ 9am-12pm

Youth and parents are invited to join the congregation for a spring clean-up day at church. Many jobs both indoors and outdoors need to be done to spruce up our church home. Please join us in serving the church that serves us.

### Youth Gathering - May 19 @ 6:30-7:45pm

This is our last youth gathering of the program year and it is also Sarah's last gathering as the Director of Youth ministry before her retirement July 31. We will spend time reminiscing about our favorite youth memories together. We will enjoy a campfire, weather permitting.

### Brat Fest! Memorial Day Weekend

Don't forget to sign up for a volunteer shift at Brat Fest. Our youth program receives \$10 for every hour worked at Brat Fest. Complete sign-up info is available on the Mighty Network or contact Sarah Pundt.

### HS Graduate Recognition

#### Sunday, June 9 @ 9am

Join us in worship for a special time of recognition for our 4 graduating high school seniors: Marisa Denu, Kaden Nechvatal, Chase Runnheim, and Blaise Westphal. This is an important opportunity for us to send them off on their new adventures while also remembering what they meant to us in their time at Salem.

### SALT Trip to AMEN! St. Louis - July 9-14, 2024

10 youth grades 6-12 will be journeying to St. Louis 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.

### SALT Trip News and Notes

All youth and chaperones attending the SALT Trip should monitor their emails for permission forms and other important information. As our trip date approaches, we will have many details that need attention. Please also mark the following on your calendars:

#### June 20 @ 6-8pm, SALT Trip Planning Meeting

This planning meeting is for chaperones and youth participating in the SALT Trip. We will discuss the trip itinerary, packing list, meal plan, and other important details. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are unable to attend this meeting so that alternate arrangements can be made to provide you with this important information.

#### July 29 @ 6pm, SALT Sharing Potluck

We will host a potluck supper and share our SALT Trip experiences with the congregation.

# MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>Give Online</b>			<b>1</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>2</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>3</b> 10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison	<b>4</b> 8AM - 5PM - Piano Auditions 9AM -7PM - Craft Day (Lower Level)
<b>5</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Afternoon - Piano Recital	<b>6</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>8</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>9</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9AM - 12PM - Church Clean up
<b>12</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>13</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>15</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>16</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Afternoon - Eagle Scout Court of Honor 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering	<b>20</b> Eve - Boy Scouts 6-8PM - Quilt Group	<b>21</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6:30PM - BOCE	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>24</b> <b>Brat Fest - May 24-26</b>  <b>JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>25</b> Music Recital
<b>26</b> 10:15AM - Worship Afternoon (Music Recital)	<b>27</b> Eve - Boy Scouts <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>28</b> 1:30-5:30PM - Red Cross Blood Drive 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# MAY NEWSLETTER 2024

## CRAFT DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 4

9AM - 7PM (Lower Level)

## SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 11, 9AM - noon (indoor/outdoor)

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

Music Sunday, Sunday school teacher and assistant appreciation, extended fellowship time

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Hosted by Salem on Tuesday, May 28, 1:30-5:30PM

## BRAT FEST

May 24-26 (volunteer or visit)

### SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

[www.salemchurchverona.org](http://www.salemchurchverona.org)

#### Pastor

Rev. Philip Hobson

[phobson@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:phobson@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr

[cbahr@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:cbahr@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt

[spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Instrumentalist:

Dawn Lingard

[musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Choirs

Kelly Garrow

[choir@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:choir@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Handbells:

Carrie Coenen

[handbells@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:handbells@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Church Council President:

John Cashman

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**

