

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER:

Nov 1, All Saints Day:
Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Week of November 7:
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Week of November 14:
1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Week of November 21:
2 Samuel 23:1-7 and
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93
John 18:33-37

Thanksgiving Day
Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

Week of November 28:
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

Dear Salem Church Members and Friends,

I am looking forward to an experience that I have never had before: a UCC Annual Congregational Meeting! Since, as your Interim Pastor, I now have “dual standing” with the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, it will be interesting and inspiring to see how the UCC emphasis on the strength of the individual congregation will be expressed.



In our case, we are on the front end of a new era for Salem Church, as the congregation begins the process to prepare for, and then search for, the next long-term Pastor. What we do now, the enthusiasm we focus on this “new thing”, and the deep-listening that we do to God’s Spirit will greatly impact the future of our congregation for MANY years to come.

So, two things are going to be vitally important as we prepare for this meeting, on Sunday, November 14th after Morning Worship:

- To BE there, in person (with safe gathering practices in this pandemic era, as we have been doing), or to join us online if we can set up an online link to listen and/or participate (we will keep you posted, if we can arrange this), and,
- To prayerfully consider persons to nominate (with their knowledge and agreement, of course) for the upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee. We need for our Council to choose a PNC that will be balanced in representation of our congregants, blessed by a cooperative spirit of hope and common purpose, and gifted with the abilities to manage a very important and, at times, complex task!

So, **Annual Congregational Meeting** - November 14th! An incredibly important time for us to begin emerging from the exhausting pandemic experience which may have taken a great deal of energy and motivation out of our faith life!

Also, the month of November brings us to ... well, yes, Thanksgiving ... but also also The Season of Advent! The **Sunday of Thanksgiving Weekend (November 28th)** is the **First Sunday of Advent**, our spiritual preparation for the Christmas Celebration! Can you BELIEVE that we are already talking



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Soren Winterle, Virginia Witt
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
- 23: Tom Bass
- 24: Nan Zurbuchen
- 26: Bruce Quade, Greg Bass
- 29: Beth Yurs

SYMPATHY

Our sympathies to the family of Gladean Zurbuchen who died on October 18. A private graveside service was held on October 27.

BAPTISM

We welcomed McKenzie Lea Moyer into our church family through baptism on October 17. She was born on May 1, 2021 to her parents Sarah Luchsinger and John Moyer. McKenzie is the great granddaughter of Verlis Luchsinger.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group will meet on Thursday, November 11, 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.

about Christmas! For our worship focus during Advent, we are going to explore the Biblical Concept of "Shalom" (which also means "Peace" and "Salem"). By looking at the words of the Prophet Isaiah, and how those prophecies connect with our Christian Hope, we will share how God's People yearned for the wholeness that Jesus the Christ brought to them and to all people.

So, Dear Friends, this is the time of year to come back together, as a Congregation that has enormous potential to bring Peace and Healing into our Nation and World. This is a time to recognize the sense of "Exile" that we share with God's People Israel, as we begin our 'return' from almost two years of CoVid!

With Peace and Joy in the Service of Christ,
Rev Tom Robinson

THANKGIVING BASKETS FOR BPNN



Once again, due to Covid, the collection of donations and distribution of the baskets will be different than in years past. Most of the food for the baskets will be provided through Second Harvest at no cost to Badger Prairie Needs Network. Congregations are asked to make monetary donations to supplement the food received so clients can

receive pies at Thanksgiving and fruit in their Christmas baskets. BPNN can purchase pies for \$6.50 and fruit for \$20. BPNN is anticipating providing 400 baskets to local families both for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Checks should be made out to Salem. Please note that the check is for a Thanksgiving basket. Checks can be placed in the collection plate or mailed to church by November 14.

Other items currently needed are aluminum roasting pans for the turkeys, sugar, flour and cooking oil. A donation bin is located in the fellowship hall for these additional items.

Thank you for your continued generous support of our neighbors in need.

CROP WALK: THANK YOU TEAM SALEM!



On October 17, a team of 17 youth and members of Salem participated in the CROP Walk for Hunger Madison. Our team raised \$1,470! These donations will be used to combat hunger here in Dane County and around the globe. Thank you to everyone who generously supported our team and to every walker for raising awareness for the needs of others.

WOMEN'S GUILD HOLIDAY RAFFLE



Women's Guild News – Holiday Raffle Planned

The Salem Women's Guild has made the decision to have an "In-house" Holiday Raffle this year!

It will be held the first Sunday, December 5 following the church service. Also included will be a sale of baked goods to add to the fun. We are asking those who like to bring items to sell (cookies, fudge, walnuts, Pfeffernusse, etc.) to bring **HALF** the quantity because the public will not be taking part and we do not want lots left over. As in past years, the donation of items for the raffle will be greatly appreciated, and already included is Fred Wenger's donation of a one-week Time Share Vacation and a quilt made by Salem's Quilting Group.

Raffle tickets will go on sale the first Sunday in November. Cindy Remus is in charge of ticket sales and will be the contact person for your donations of prizes for the raffle. Further details will be given in the bulletin and weekly newsletters.

If you know you can't attend the raffle, the Guild will graciously accept a cash donation to help further our mission of helping people in our church family, in our community, and around the world.

CDC guidelines will be followed. **Note that this event is subject to cancellation if COVID numbers at the time prohibit inside gatherings.**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all who brought forth their pledges during worship on October 10th. An e-mail has been sent to those we haven't heard from yet with instructions on how to submit a pledge if you still wish to do so. You may use this link to submit an online pledge card <https://salemchurch.breezechms.com/form/efe68237>. You may also pick up a paper pledge card at church or request that one be mailed to you. Thank you for your faithfulness to God and your loyalty to Salem.

TOTENFEST: NOVEMBER 21

We will observe the Liturgy of Totenfest in our online worship service for November 21. 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 chose to remember.

Salem's Totenfest roll for 2021 includes the following persons:

- Gladys Behnke**, who died April 9, 2021
- Carla Hageman**, who died September 20, 2021
- Gladean Zurbuchen**, who died October 18, 2021

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Sunday school classes for all ages are offered every Sunday @ 9am September-May.

PreK-Grade 5: Lower Level Sunday school area
Grades 6-12: 2nd Floor Youth Room (opposite choir loft)
Adults: Fellowship Hall

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 of all ages are warmly welcomed in church during worship

Morning for Mission November 21 @ 9am, Fellowship Hall

Our Sunday school hour on Nov. 21 will be an intergenerational event to explore the mission work of our congregation members. Come learn more about what we are doing, what community relationships we are cultivating, and how you can be involved. The youth will also share how they have served in the community, and the church Advent mission project will be introduced. This event is co-sponsored by the Director of Christian Education and the Mission Committee.

Ornament Sunday November 28 @9am, Lower-Level Sunday School Area

Our annual ornament making tradition returns in person! Join us to create your own collection of Christmas ornaments. This workshop is geared toward families, children, and youth, but all ages are welcome to participate.



Christmas Program Matt and Lucy's Version Births December 19@ 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 contact Sarah Pundt to find out how you can be involved.

Adult Sunday School Class Sundays @ 9am, Fellowship Hall

Our program theme this year focuses on being the hands and feet of Jesus beyond our church walls. Below is a list of topics we will explore (dates are approximate). Update: This class is now hybrid! We will continue to meet in fellowship hall each Sunday @9am, but a zoom link is provided for anyone who would like to participate from the comfort of home. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to be added to the Adult Class email list.

November: *The Prophets*
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.

November 18

Program: *From Idea to Published*

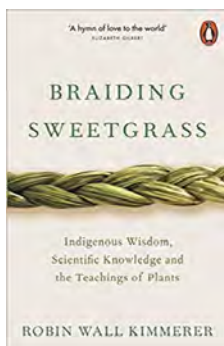
Host: Nancy Dearborn

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

Date TBD @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. Our next regularly scheduled meeting falls on Thanksgiving Day, so we will choose an alternate date. Please watch your email and Friday weekly news for our November gathering date.



The Big Read: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

What if everybody in the WI Conference UCC 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. Read the book on your own, participate in the Conference online offerings, or join our Salem discussion group. Please contact Sarah Pundt to be part of the Big Read group at Salem.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

November 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.

November 7 @ 6:30-7:45

At this gathering, we will review and reflect on our mission experiences so far this year. We will work together to prepare a display or presentation for the intergenerational Morning for Mission on Nov. 21.

November 21 @6:30-7:45

Youth Sunday is a sacred tradition for the youth of Salem. We will use the Nov. 21 meeting to select our theme and map out the planning process. All youth are invited to participate in this special and important experience. Youth Sunday is on March 6, 2022.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you, Team Salem!

On October 17, a team of 17 youth and members of Salem participated in the CROP Walk for Hunger Madison. Our team raised \$1,470! These donations will be used to combat hunger here in Dane County and around the globe. Thank you to everyone who generously supported our team and to every walker for raising awareness for the needs of others.



YOUTH CALENDAR

November

- 7 Mission Reflection
- 21 Youth Sunday Planning

December

- 5 Youth Christmas Party



NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day	2	3 6-6:45PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45-7:30PM - Chancel Choir	4 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 Eve - Girl Scouts	5	6
7 Daylight Savings Time 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering	8 Eve - Boy Scouts	9 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	10 6-6:45PM - BRC 6:45-7:30PM - Chancel Choir	11 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Hugh Hauser's	12	13
14 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Annual Meeting Following Worship	15 Eve - Boy Scouts	16	17 6:30PM - Bells	18 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 Eve - Girl Scouts 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	19	20
21 9AM - Morning for Mission 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Gathering	22 Eve - Boy Scouts	23 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	24	25 Thanksgiving Day 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent 9AM - Ornament Sunday 10:15AM - Worship	29 Eve - Boy Scouts	30				

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Sunday, November 5th

Turn back your clock before bed on Saturday

ORNAMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, November 28th

This workshop is geared toward families, children, and youth, but all ages are welcome to participate.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 14

following the 10:15am worship service

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

www.salemchurchverona.org

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Choir Director:

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Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

Kevin Booth

An Open
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Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

