

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER:

Week of December 5:

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians: 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Week of December 12:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Week of November 19:

Micha 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Christmas Eve:

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Christmas Day:

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 1-14, (15-20)

continued on next page...

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

"Peace on Earth" ...

What would it be worth to feel that there is Peace ... on Earth ... these days?

This phrase, often easily and thoughtlessly attached to this Season of Advent and Celebration of Christmas, has become a powerful yearning that seems beyond reach, even beyond imagination, in our current circumstances.



What would it be worth to us ...

... to have a deep peace in our daily life after nearly two years of the world, and ourselves, struggling with pandemic?

... to have peace in our streets as we feel overwhelmed by the enmities between communities, nations, races, religions, politics ... an ever-increasing list?

... to have peace, literally, on Planet Earth that keeps giving us signals that the home which sustains us is in deep peril?

... to have peace in our hearts, for the personal losses we have experienced that seem ignored, almost mocked, by all the lights and trappings of a holiday now more focused on consumerism than relationships?

This holiday month can certainly have a lot of wonderful associations for us, uplifting sights and sounds, memories, and celebrations, yet we deeply need to embrace the core meaning of "Peace on Earth", a hope that God can restore us and bring balance to our lives and this world.

During this Advent and Christmas season, we are going to focus in worship and reflection upon "Shalom", the Biblical Hebrew word for Peace. It is most aptly understood as a holy wholeness, a balance and completeness, far beyond simply an absence or ignoring of conflict. It is the origin of our Church's name: Salem.

Week of December 26:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians: 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

New Year's Eve:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalms 8

Revelation 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

"Peace on Earth" does not start "out there", but rather "in here", in each one of us taking a step in the direction of that wholeness. One gesture, then another. One effort or contribution, then another and another. One phone call, card, invitation to church, reconnection to someone that had been lost. One word of understanding, caring, love, hope ... to someone feeling alone.

What IS "Peace on Earth", "Shalom", worth to us? Only we can find out, and just the asking of that question ... is a sign of hope.

Peace on Earth,
Rev Tom

THANKGIVING BASKETS FOR BPNN - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous financial support to Badger Prairie Needs Network so that families in Verona and throughout Dane county were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with a complete meal. Members of Salem donated \$1892.50 towards the purchase of pies for Thanksgiving and fruit for Christmas to supplement the food provided by Second Harvest. The additional donations of sugar, flour and cooking oil were received with appreciation but not as enthusiastically as those roasting pans. During Advent there will be more opportunities to live out God's love by supporting our neighbors in need.



CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans Of The Cross

Over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, to help support retired clergy, their surviving spouses, and other church workers in their retirement and active church personnel during times of emergent need.

The people of Salem have contributed to this special Christmas offering regularly for decades. We hope that those of you who are able will find it in your heart to contribute once again this year. Your contributions - labeled "Christmas Fund" or "Veterans of the Cross" - can be dropped in the offering plate at Sunday worship or sent to the church through the mail at P.O. Box 930125, Verona, 53593.

WOMEN'S GUILD HOLIDAY RAFFLE

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! Only ONE more Sunday to buy your tickets for the Raffle! See Cindy Remus or Judy Skupien after church.

We are still accepting prizes: cash prizes, gift bags, Scrip cards, or any gift of your choice. Cindy Remus is your contact person for prize donations. A one-week Time Share Getaway and a beautiful quilt, along with two \$100 cash prizes are ready for the winning! (There will be many others too!) Contact Cindy Remus for a pick-up of your prize...yes, she will come to your home to pick it up.

Have you decided what you'll bake/make for the Baked Goods table? Bring your goodies on Sunday, December 5th, or drop them off at the church on Saturday morning, December 4th, between 10 a.m. and 12:00 noon. It will help the ladies if you put a price on your items.

If you can't make it to the Raffle, the Guild welcomes cash donations to support our mission of reaching out to help others in our church family, our community, and around the world. You can give/send your donation to Mary Cutler at 902 North Edge Trail, Verona, or drop your check in the offering plate (check made out to Salem Women's Guild).

We hope to see many of you Sunday, December 5th, for lots of fun, sweet treats, and HAPPY winners!





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Rhonda Blake
- 3: Maggie Groshan
- 5: Ethan Groshan, Dana Zurbuchen
- 6. Nathanael Steinagel
- 10: Heidi Grotelueschen
- 11: Brien Nechvatal
- 12: Payton Corning, Trevor Bass
- 16: Lisa Bakken
- 17: Josh Hart
- 18: Cara Bahr, Kathy Hauser
- 19: Scarlett Gauthier, Andrea Gust
- 22: Emma Hill
- 26: Chuck Hart
- 27: Barb Smith
- 31: Brandon Grotelueschen

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will offer one Christmas Eve Service this year at 7:30PM.

NEW MEMBERS

We recieved Nancy Dearborn, Steve Taylor and Elsie Oliver as new members on Sunday, November 14. Please welcome them to our church family.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group will meet on Thursday, December 9. We will be gathering at a restuarant so look for an e-mail with more details.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

One important way that we can remain in community with each other is by sharing our joys and concerns and prayer requests. We encourage you to share this information with Rev. Tom, either by e-mail (trobinson@salemchurchverona.org) or a phone call to the church and indicate if you wish for it to be made known to the wider congregation (shared via e-mail and during worship). You are welcome to leave Rev. Tom a voicemail message at mailbox extention 101.

POINSETTIA & WREATH SPONSORS

Poinsettias

Sponsor(s)

- Bell Choir
- Carrie Coenen
- John & Helen Hagemn
- Roger & Becky Hagenston
- Harlan & Gerri Hall
- Judy Hansen
- Chuck & Lisa Hart
- Nechvatal Family

- Ann Nelson
- Elsie Oliver
- Anna May Rhiner
- Sandra Rost
- Judy & Larry Skupien
- Barb & Doug Smith
- Sue Thiede
- Diane & Dave Triplett

Rose & Paul Wieland

Wreaths

- Cara & Nathan Bahr
- Mary & Dwight Cutler

- Remus, Garrison, & Thoma Families
- Barb & Doug Smith
- Julie & Steve Sundby
- Doris Waldmann
- Rose & Paul Wieland

In Memory/Honor of:

- Sue Rotar
- Keith Coenen
- Gift to the church
- Our parents
- Our parents
- Husband, Brothers, Parents
- Joan Hart, Molly Rankin
- Lucille Cleveland, Doug Cleveland, Dale Cleveland
- Carla Hageman
- Husband - Hubert Oliver
- Julian Rhiner
- Gift to the church
- All lives lost to Covid
- Gift to the church
- Bill Thiede
- Parents - Ralph & Barbara Zingg
- Parents - David & Dolores Triplett
- Gladys & Elmer Behnke
- Parents - Maria Buttchen, Raymond Ray

- Our daughter Gabriella Jane
- Lucille & Bernard Bjorge
- Elmay & Floyd Cutler
- Ann Dow and Dorothy Amans
- Gift to the Church
- Gift to the Church
- Rodney Waldmann
- Gift to the Church

This was not included in the print version of the December Newsletter and will be including in the January Newsletter.

Good-bye Letter from Carolyn Kleinfeldt

In 1957 the Reverend Zane Pautz invited Bob and I to attend the little white church located then at what is now the Miller's parking lot and called the "Swiss Reform" church or "Evangelical Reform" church. We became members in 1958 and have attended Salem ever since. Over the years we each served the Church in a variety of ways which led to making working partnerships and friendships that enriched our lives. Sadly, Bob passed away in November 2019, and now I too am leaving. I have sold my home on Edward street, from which I could see Salem's Bell Tower every day and could hear the laughter of children sledding on the Church hill in the winter. I also have left Verona and moved to Camp Hill, Pennsylvania near family. Bob remains with you in the small grove of Oak trees on the Church grounds where his ashes nourish a new oak tree. I wish to say good-bye to my fellow parishoners and wish you continued joy in the fellowship and charitable activities of this fine Church family. I will miss you.

-Carolyn Kleinfeldt

**If you would like Carolyn's new address you may request it from the church*

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. (Isaiah 9:6)

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

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 Rehearsals: Dec. 5, 12, & 19 @ 9am in the church sanctuary.



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.

Nov. 28 - Dec. 19: *Advent Study:* Rev. Tom will lead a discussion on Isaiah.

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.

December 16 TBD

January 20

Bible Trivia @ 7pm Host: Judy Skupien

Parent's Promise

January 27 @ 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 gathering is **January 27 @ 7pm**. *We will not be gathering in December.*

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

December 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.

YOUTH CALENDAR

December

5 @ 6:30 Youth Christmas Party

January

9 @ 6:30 Youth Gathering

21 @ 5pm Youth Lock-In Overnight

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:45PM - Confirmation 6-6:45PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45-7:30PM - Chancel Choir	2 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 Eve - Girl Scouts	3	4 Piano Recital
5 9AM - Sunday School 9AM - Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:15AM - Worship Women's Guild Raffle (following worship) 6:30-7:45PM - Youth Christmas Party	6 Eve - Boy Scouts	7	8 4:45PM - Confirmation 6-6:45PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45-7:30PM - Chancel Choir	9 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship	10	11 Afternoon - Piano Recital
12 9AM - Sunday School 9AM - Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:15AM - Worship Afternoon - Piano Recital	13 Eve - Boy Scouts	14 7PM - Council	15 4:45PM - Confirmation 6:30PM - Bells	16 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 Eve - Girl Scouts 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	17	18
19 9AM - Sunday Schol 9AM - Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:15AM - Worship 3PM - Christmas Program	20 Eve - Boy Scouts	21	22 JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	23 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	24 7:30PM - Christmas Eve Candelight Service	25
26 10:15AM - Worship	27 Eve - Boy Scouts	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 19th, 3pm



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 7:30pm

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

www.salemchurchverona.org

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Choir Director:

Janet Dahl

jdahl@salemchurchverona.org

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

Kevin Booth

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

