



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2023

photo by Lina Jeffrey Czum

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY:

Week of January 1:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 13:23

Epiphany (January 6):

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Week of January 8:

Isaiah 43:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Week of January 15:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Week of January 22:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Week of January 29:

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Salem search committee was formed and commissioned in January 2022.

A church profile was developed through the process of small group discussions, a congregational online survey, assessing church and local demographics and receiving outside recommendations. Salem's church profile was posted by the conference on September 1, 2022. It was updated in November to reflect the debt free status and clarify the compensation package. The search committee has been reviewing and considering profiles received from the conference and meeting on a weekly basis. Zoom interviews have taken place. The progress that has been made in the transition to a new pastor is currently on track following the conference guidelines and leadership advice. There is a poster on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall that has been tracking the committee's progress. Most congregations, including Salem, have a 90-day notice period in their contracts, which will impact the start date. Once the search committee recommends a candidate to the Council, the candidate is then formally introduced to the congregation. Following a congregational vote and formal call, the candidate would then give notice to his/her current congregation. As the search for the new minister is completed, we should anticipate several months before they will be leading the congregation. The search committee covets the continued prayers of the congregation as they work toward identifying a final candidate and until the new settled pastor is with us.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Calvin Dettman
- 4: Kris Wilbrict, Salem UCC (1923)
- 5: Angela Quade
- 6: Neal Smith
- 7: Melanie Corning
- 10: Zach Nechvatal
- 14: Linda Bieri
- 16: Sherrol Yurs, Cora Hageman
- 17: Ellie Fitzwilliams
- 19: Kenneth Behnke
- 20: Kari Westphal
- 24: Cari Bass
- 26: Dan Durnen
- 28: Anika Quade
- 29: Ginger Dassow
- 30: Kathy Butzlaff

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

ADVENT MISSION PROJECT THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated Birthday Party Kits as part of the Advent Mission project. The goal of 50 bags was achieved! The bags will be distributed through out the month of January to BPNN kids. Making a child's birthday brighter and creating happy memories is living out God's love.

BPNN UPDATE

Thank you to our generous congregation for supporting the November Thanksgiving bags and December birthday bags for Badger Prairie Needs Network! The mission committee would like to encourage ongoing support of donations as BPNN works to meet the needs of an increasing number of patrons. Our bin in Fellowship Hall is always available to drop off donations. (Or you can drop off at BPNN during its open hours.) Current high need items include: Diced tomatoes, pasta (prefer not whole wheat), pasta sauce, tuna, cereal, oil, white rice, black beans, detergent (several small bottles preferred over 1 large bottle), soap, toothpaste, feminine products. It is absolutely fine to donate several of one item rather than a variety of items. Also, paper grocery bags as well as plastic grocery bags are needed.



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.



THANK YOU

The Women's Guild would like to thank Judy Skupien for all the work she did involving the Bazaar. She thanked everyone else, but did so much work herself. She obtained many of the raffle prizes from businesses in town and organized many other aspects. She goes above and beyond for the Guild and we are so happy to have her as President!

-Salem Women's Guild

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ will meet at the home of George Adams on Thursday, January 19, at 6:30 PM. Join us for this time of fellowship and Bible study.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICES

And we are live! Kevin Booth has worked diligently to get our live stream up and running. You can now view our services in real time by visiting our website or our YouTube channel.

Visit our website www.salemchurchverona.org/online-worship

Visit our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@salemucc_verona

2022 WOMEN'S GUILD RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Young at Heart quilt donated by Salem's quilting group (Ken Behnke)
2. \$50 cash donated by John and Helen Hageman (B. Harel)
3. \$25 gift card to Panera Bread donated by Pat McCarthy (Barb Smith)
4. \$50 gift card to any business in Verona donated by Ken Behnke First Weber Realtors (Roger Remus)
5. \$100 cash donated by Salem's Women's Guild (Nathan Bahr)
6. \$25 gift card to Bavaria Sausage & Cheese Haus donated by Dave and Diane Triplet (Howard Gust)
7. Christmas Joy sign donated by Joyce Gust (Cora Hageman)
8. \$30 gift card to Millers donated by Mary and Dwight Cutler (Kathy Homb)
9. \$50 cash donated by Judy Hansen (Elizabeth Cellier)
10. \$30 gift card to Millers donated by Mary and Dwight Cutler (Melissa Garrison)
11. \$25 gift card to Gus's Diner donated by JoAnn and Gary Aebly (Joan Uren)
12. \$50 cash donated by Verlis Luchsinger (Carlos Valdez)
13. \$10 gift card to Icki Sticki donated by Icki Sticki (Pat Smith)
14. \$20 cash donated by Heather Thoma (Claira Anderson)
15. \$50 gift card to Millers donated by Anna May Rhiner (Arlene Berke)
16. \$25 gift card to Grace donated by Steve and Pat Berry (Ken Dixon)
17. \$25 gift card to Walgreens donated by Lisa and Chuck Hart (Guy Williams)
18. \$50 Visa gift card donated by Capital Bank (Ken Dixon)
19. \$25 cash donated by Becky Hagenston (Debbie Bass)
20. \$25 gift card to Kohls donated by Susan Hageman (Laural Butts)
21. \$20 gift card to Millers donated by Rosemarie and Paul Wieland (Melanie Corning)
22. \$10 gift card to Dunkin Donuts donated by the Westphal family (Joan Uren)
23. \$25 gift card to Target donated by Lisa and Chuck Hart (John Cashman)
24. \$50 cash donated by Judy Hansen (Kathy Homb)
25. \$100 gift card to Millers donated by Millers (Ken Behnke)
26. 4 Culver's meals including custard donated by Culvers (Michael Wolfe)
27. \$50 Visa gift card donated by Capital Bank (Doug Smith)
28. \$25 cash donated by Becky Hagenston (Martha Booth)
29. \$50 gift card to Millers donated by Anna May Rhiner (Mary Cutler)
30. \$25 gift card to Sugar River Pizza donated by JoAnn and Gary Aebly (Dawn Lingard)
31. \$25 gift card to Ginko Tree donated by Steve and Pat Berry (Kevin Booth)
32. \$30 gift card to Millers donated by Mary and Dwight Cutler (John Butts)
33. \$25 cash donated by Becky Hagenston (Kaytie Dahlk)
34. \$25 gift card to Panera Bread donated by Pat McCarthy (Laural Butts)
35. \$25 gift card to Millers donated by Rosemarie and Paul Wieland (Julie Sundby)
36. \$25 gift card to Target donated by Lisa and Chuck Hart (John Cashman)
37. \$50 Visa gift card donated by Capital Bank (John Cashman)
38. \$100 cash donated by Salem's Women's Guild (Melissa Garrison)
39. \$50 gift card to Millers donated by Millers (Violet Remus)
40. \$25 cash donated by Becky Hagenston (Carlos Valdez)
41. \$30 gift card to Gus's Diner donated by Gus's Diner (Kathy Homb)
42. \$15 gift card to Draft House donated by Draft House (Howard Gust)
43. \$150 gift card to Millers donated by Millers (Ellie Contier)
44. \$25 gift card to Kohls donated by Lisa and Chuck Hart (Judy Skupien)
45. \$50 cash donated by Cindy Remus (Joan Uren)
46. Keurig coffee maker donated by Dorn's Hardware (Russel Gust)
47. \$25 gift card to Ginko Tree donated by Ginko Tree (Jared Zurbuchen)
48. \$50 gift card to Pizza Ranch donated by Pizza Ranch (Carlos Valdez)
49. \$25 gift card to Kohl's donated by Judy Skupien (Arlene Burke)
50. \$20 gift card and coffee donated by Sow's Ear (Melissa Garison)
51. \$50 gift card to Farm & Fleet donated by Farm & Fleet (Jane Percy)
52. \$50 cash donated by Judy Skupien (John Cashman)
53. \$25 gift card to Ginko Tree donated by Ginko Tree (Michael Wolfe)
54. \$50 gift card to Texas Road House donated by Heather Thoma (Anna Putney)
55. \$35 gift cards to Avanti's donated by Avanti's (Loretta Storandt)
56. \$50 gift card to Millers donated by Millers (Kay Berry)
57. \$50 gift card to any Business in Verona donated by Ken Behnke First Weber Realtors (Terri Droster)
58. \$30 gift card to Gus's Diner donated by Gus's Diner (Heather Thoma)
59. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Barb Smith)
60. \$50 gift card to Millers donated by Millers (Cindy Remus)
61. \$50 Visa gift card donated by Capital Bank (Anna Putney)
62. \$25 gift card to any business in Verona donated by Diane Luginbuhl (Micah Banaszak)
63. \$25 gift card to any business in Verona donated by Diane Luginbuhl (Kay Berry)
64. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Verlis Luchsinger)
65. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Joyce Gust)
66. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Micah Banaszak)
67. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Jared Zurbuchen)
68. \$25 gift card to Kwik Trip donated by Kwik Trip (Lisa Hart)

NOTHING TO HIDE

Mental Illness in the Family
Photo and Text Exhibit from Family Diversity Projects

Salem United Church of Christ
502 Mark Dr., Verona, WI
February 19-March 26, 2022

February 19:

5pm Exhibit Opening, Information Fair, and Reception

6:30pm Speakers from a variety of Dane County Mental Health Organizations

Speaker Series Topic: General Mental Health Information, Navigating the Health Care System, and Access Disparity to Services for BIPOC populations.

Sunday Speaker Series and Topics (6:30-8PM)

February 26: Addiction

March 5: Grief, Loss, and Trauma

March 12: Youth and Mental Health

March 19: Green Bandana Project and Ellen Warsaw (writer)

March 26: @ 2pm Elderly and Mental Health

Other Events: Check the February newsletter for full details.

March 10 @ 5:30pm Family Movie Night

March 18@TBD Evening Movie Night (PG-13)

Book Study Group

Exhibit Open Hours

All events take place at Salem UCC and are free and open to the public. Freewill offering gladly accepted to help offset event costs. Additional donations will be sent to Family Diversity Projects so they can continue offering their many photo and text exhibits.

“Nothing to Hide” Volunteers Needed:

- “Nothing to Hide” Planning Meeting Jan. 5 @ 7pm
- Reception Assistance: help with set-up, serving, clean-up and food donations. Please contact Kelli Malueg kellimalueg@yahoo.com.
- Open Exhibit Hours: greet visitors at church during open exhibit hours during weekdays, weeknights, and by appointment. Please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness (Isaiah 43:19a)***

We have been looking to this scripture verse all year as we navigate the many changes happening at Salem. This scripture passage is also fitting as we move into the New Year. It's typically a time of resolutions to be better and do better. When you reflect on the past year and look toward the new one, do you contemplate the well-being of your faith life? Do you feel closer to God than you did one year ago? Would you like to feel closer to God at this time next year? Faith and spiritual grounded-ness are just like any of your physical muscles: You need to stretch it, exercise it, build your endurance, and have good nutrition. Would you wake up tomorrow and decide to run a marathon by the end of the week? Of course, not! The same goes for your spiritual needs and well-being. The more often you tend to that part of your being, the more you will develop the tools and understanding for living a deeper and more meaningful life. So, while you might plan to lose a few pounds, exercise more, and set your reading goals for the year, think about ways you can cultivate your relationship with God. Does it include attending worship more frequently, trying the Adult Sunday school class, or joining a small group? Would you grow and benefit from participating on the newly forming worship team or congregational care team? Do you think mission in the community is where you could stretch your faith muscle? Salem UCC is growing and changing just as we are as individuals, and as you embark on the new year, your church family is here to help you every step of the way.

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.***

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Location</u>
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

January

1	New Years' Day (no Sunday school)
3	@7pm BoCE
8	Sunday School Resumes
15	Sunday School
22	Sunday School
29	Sunday School
30	@7pm Sunday School Teacher/ Assistant Meeting

Sunday school teachers and assistants will have a meeting on January 30 to review the fall semester and plan ahead for the spring. Please join Sarah Pundt in the first-floor conference room @ 7pm.

Help Wanted: Church Nursery Childcare

Please consider volunteering in the church nursery for one or more Sundays so we can provide this important ministry for our youngest church members and their families. We are also seeking applicants for paid childcare givers in the nursery. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more details.

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT PROGRAM AND ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

33 people of all ages participated in our impromptu retelling of the Christmas story. All generations were represented and enjoyed the interactive program and ornament making. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this event happen.



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).

January

- 1** No Class
- 8** Faith Stories: Baptism, Bibles, and Confirmation
- 15** Faith Stories: Faith Story Starter Questions and Faith Timeline
- 22** Statement of Faith

Other topics and important dates coming this spring:

- January 29-February 19** A Singing Faith: A Look at the Hymns of our Faith
- February 26** Morning for Mission (or Jesus is the Question)
- March 5-26** Jesus is the Question
- April**
- 2** Intergenerational Palm Sunday Program
- 9** Easter Sunday-no class
- April 16-May 28** Women of the Bible

New! Congregational Workshops

Weekly Worship

January 12 @ 7pm

Led by Sarah Pundt

This workshop will explore how we deepen our personal experience and understanding of weekly worship, while also contributing meaningfully to the congregation.

Congregational Care

January 24 @ 7pm

Led by Lisa Hart and Sarah Pundt

Pastors generally assist with any emergency pastoral care needs that arise, but there are many ways we can provide care for each other. This workshop will explore the nuts and bolts of supporting each other through any care needs (physical, spiritual, emotional).

Workshop Goals for Worship and Congregational Care:

- Deepen the worship and fellowship experience of every member of the congregation.
- Educate church members to help prepare and implement portions of Sunday worship and learn how to provide pastoral-type care to each other. The church needs everyone to help with church operations during this time of pastor transition.
- Provide a gift to our new settled pastor by having organized groups ready to help him or her with worship planning and pastoral care. Many churches have regular worship and congregational care teams in place to support their pastor. Pastoral candidates look favorably on choosing a church with organized support and actively engaged congregations.

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!

Koinonia

Cari Bass: Shining Our Light

January 19 @ 7pm

Join Cari Bass in Fellowship Hall for an evening of reflection. All women of Salem and visitors are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Parents Promise

February 2 @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.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

January 2023

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

FB4K

It's the season for fixing and cleaning bicycles at the FB4K mission workshop. We have a group of youth interested in helping again this year. Please let Sarah Pundt know if you are interested in participating so we can schedule our group work shift.

Every Sunday is Youth Sunday at Salem

Many of our youth give to the Salem and Verona communities on their own and in small groups. They are an incredible bunch and are really making their community a better place:

- They served the greater community by collecting bikes for FB4K (on a very cold day!)
- They served the WI Conference by volunteering as high school mentors at the Knock-Knock retreat. The middle schoolers also made new friends and deepened their faith connections during this experience.
- They served the church by helping put up Christmas decorations, participating in the Advent Program and Ornament Workshop, helping at the Women's Guild Raffle, reading the liturgy and lighting the Advent candle of Hope, helping the younger Sunday school group with their singing, volunteering in the church nursery, and assisting with the sound system during worship.

YOUTH CALENDAR

January

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 | @6:30pm Youth Sunday Planning |
| 9 | @7pm YMT Meeting |
| 27-28 | @5pm-9am Overnight Lock-In |

Mark Your Calendars

March 5 Youth Sunday!



THANK YOU!
The youth would like to thank Cindy Remus for organizing our gingerbread house making party. Fun was had by all!



Knock-Knock Middle School Retreat

4 youth and 2 adults from Salem participated in the Knock-Knock middle school retreat at the Daycholah Center on Green Lake. It was a snowy November weekend, but everyone had a good time. Here are a some reflections from the participants:

Sarah Pundt (adult chaperone): I had always heard great things about the Knock-Knock retreat but had never been able to attend. It was as good as its reputation! Our small group was readily welcomed in by the larger groups from other congregations. The youth seamlessly made new friendships and connections. The middle schoolers went to different workshops to learn how to manage peer relationships, engage in teamwork games, practice talking about tough stuff, and plan their own Sunday worship service. I was proud of our two high school students who volunteered as youth mentors for the weekend. They are both natural leaders and mentors. The highlight of the weekend for me was Saturday night at the music concert watching youth belt out songs about how much they are loved by God.

Kaden Nechvatal (11th grade): I really enjoyed getting to know all of the youth from the other churches. I thought it was interesting to hear how other churches do their services differently. We had a lot of fun singing and dancing and hanging out together.

Tucker Malueg (7th grade): Here are some things I enjoyed at Knock-Knock: I got to sleep in a room with 4 beds with Blaise and Kaden. I enjoyed the obstacle course and playing in the game room (liked the ball pass, checkers, passing the peace). I met new friends. I also had fun singing grace, sitting together as a group for meals, praying, and singing in the chapel. The dance was fun. I learned a new dance and really want to show the moves to my grandparents with my cousins

Eden Westphal (7th grade): I had a lot of fun at Knock-Knock because I felt very welcomed and accepted in that environment. I made lots of new friends that were my age and really seemed to have lots in common with! I was really comfortable with the people I was around and we had a lot of fun dancing and singing! I will definitely go back next year to try even more new things and make friends!

Blaise Westphal (11th grade): It was really fun to be able to go back to Knock-Knock because of the fond memories. It's a really special place because it allows us to socialize and learn about faith in a way that really connects with our lives.

Frank Westphal (adult chaperone): I loved attending Knock-Knock since I first chaperoned with Blaise, and it was a special treat that not only did I chaperone Eden, but Blaise went as a supervisor. The retreat itself never disappoints, and I have so much fun with the music, activities, and seeing some incredible middle schoolers, not only from Salem, but from the other churches.

JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3 7PM - BoCE Meeting	4	5 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - "Nothing to Hide" Planning Meeting	6	7
8 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Sunday Planning	9 Eve - Boy Scouts 7PM - YMT	10 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	11 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	12 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop	13	14
15 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	16 Eve - Boy Scouts Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	19 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at George Adams' 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	20	21
22 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	23 Eve - Boy Scouts	24 7PM - Congregational Care Workshop FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	26 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	27 5PM - Youth Lock-in (through Sat 9AM)	28
29 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	30 7PM - Sunday School Teacher/Assisant Meeting	31				

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

"NOTHING TO HIDE" PLANNING MEETING

January 5, 7PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

Sunday School classes will resume on January 8 at 9AM

CONGREGATIONAL WORSHOPS

January 12, 7PM - Weekly Worship Workshop
January 24, 7PM - Congregational Care Workshop

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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www.salemchurchverona.org

Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson

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Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr

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Director of Christian Education

& Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

