

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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

NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2023

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR OCTOBER:

### **Week of October 1:**

*Exodus 17:1-7 and  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and  
Psalm 25:1-9  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32*

### **Week of October 8:**

*Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and  
Psalm 19  
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46*

### **Week of October 15:**

*Exodus 32:1-14 and  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14*

### **Week of September 22:**

*Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99  
Isaiah 45:1-7 and  
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22*

### **Week of September 22:**

*Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46*

## FROM PASTOR PHIL

Members and Friends of Salem,

I want to offer gratitude for the joy of this church.

On the 24th, we celebrated my installation as the pastor and teacher at Salem United Church of Christ. What an amazing day that was. We had the support of clergy from around the Southwest Association, and even one from Illinois.

Kerri Parker preached that we are to be broadcast out into the world for the message of good news to all people. Shawn Stapleton called me out (lovingly) and reminded me in no uncertain terms that ministry is a team sport. Beth Voight reminded all of us that we are to regard one another with care and compassion.

Thank you to Brad Bergin, Kathy Hauser, Krista Nechvatal, Angelika Pegel-Quade, Jon Pundt, Karen Williams, Brian Winterle, for your work as the Pastoral Search Committee. Your hours, and weeks, and months of work led to the 24th, and I am grateful. I hope your participation in anointing the congregation for our mutual ministry was as meaningful for you as it was for the church members who told me how it felt to them.

Thank you, Dawn, Tyme, Julie, Chancel Choir and BRC for the amazing music.

Thank you Cara for wrangling the bulletin.

Thank you all for the lovely reception.

And thank you Salem UCC. Here's to new beginnings.

Grace and Peace,  
Phil

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30PM at the Stone Porch Alehouse at 950 Kimball Ln, Verona (formerly Grey's Tidehouse).



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Judy Hansen
- 8: Skylar Flood
- 9: William Pechan
- 13: Anna Yurs
- 14: Mark Hodel, Emily Syal
- 15: John Cashman, Dianne Gintz, Julie Adams, Ephraam Bahr
- 16: Kory Blake, Kati Hart
- 17: Abbey Wilbricht
- 22: Ken Anderson
- 26: Becky Hagenston
- 29: John Hageman
- 30: Larry Skupien

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

Many church members were in attendance at the September 24 afternoon service officially installing Rev. Dr. Phil Hobson as the new pastor and teacher at Salem UCC. It was a joyful ceremony of welcome and inspiration as colleagues from the UCC Wisconsin Conference, local pastors, and friends from Phil's seminary days preached and prayed for his successful ministry at Salem. The Pastoral Search Committee hosted a fellowship time after the service. Members of that Committee - Brad Bergen, Kathy Hauser, Krista Nechvatal, Angela Quade, Jon Pundt, Karen Williams and Brian Winterle - deserve heartfelt thanks from all for the care and attention they brought to the process of finding and recruiting Salem's new pastor.

The Finance Committees is currently meeting to review the church's expenses and forecast needs for the 2024 church budget. Your prompt and generous response to the Stewardship Committee's pledge drive will put the church on firm financial footing for the year to come.

Thanks to all who have stepped forward to fill one of the many roles on Council or church committees that open up every year. Those who serve Salem with their time and talents find that working together to build our church fellowship is a satisfying task.

One of the roles that remains unfilled is that of one of Salem's two Financial Secretaries. The responsibilities of that job are to receive and deposit all money coming in to the church (eg. Sunday offering, special offerings), keep an accurate records of receipts and of giving by each member, issue annual statements of giving to members, present a report of receipts at the annual meeting. Frank Westphal continues to serve as Financial Secretary as Heather Thoma steps down after many years of service. Contact Frank, Pastor Phil or Council President George Adams if you would like to learn more.

Finally, the Council is happy to welcome Tyme Baez as our new Choir Director. Take time to find him some Sunday and introduce yourself.

### General Stewardship Report for October:

Last month's income: \$26,473  
Last month's expenses: \$23,940  
YTD income: \$196,876  
YTD expenses: \$194,155

## 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.



## SYMPATHIES

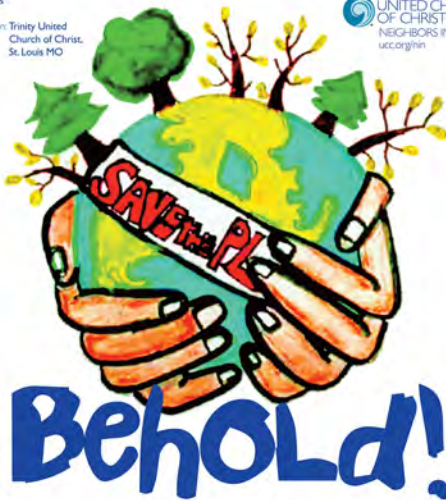
To the family of **Rhoda Gust**, who passed away on September 2. Her memorial service will be held at Salem on Saturday, October 14 at 11am. Visitation at Ryan Funeral Home in Verona will be held on October 13, 6-8pm and again at Salem UCC on October 14 from 10:30am until the memorial service.

To the family of **Dick Steele** who passed away on September 18. His visitation and memorial service were held on September 30 in Dubuque, Iowa where he and his wife, Karen, resided.

# NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United  
Church of Christ,  
St. Louis MO

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023  
ucc.org/nin



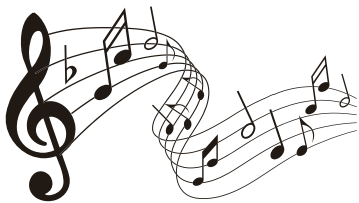
"God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive during the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfyatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established

churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at anytime: [ucc.org/nin](https://ucc.org/nin)

## AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BRC



Please join the Barry Robinson Chorus as we celebrate our 20th anniversary in a concert of our favorites through the years.

Director Tyme Baez and accompanist Julie Sundby will bring the men in black to your ears at 3:30PM on November 5th in the Salem sanctuary.

See you there!

## LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING MEETING

**October 12 @ 7pm**  
**First Floor Conference Room**

Everyone is invited to help plan this special community event. We have tasks and roles for all interest areas and abilities. Come share your creative ideas to make this event a great success!

***We are still looking for animals for this event. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you have any leads.***



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

DAIS

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES



October 18th, 6:30 - 8pm

## A CONVERSATION ABOUT FAITH & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Join us at Salem United Church of Christ for a conversation! Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), in collaboration with local faith leaders, will be holding a workshop that provides tools and knowledge to help fellow parishioners and friends in need.

We will discuss what domestic violence looks like, how to help create a safety plan, and resource access. Throughout the workshop DAIS will answer questions and discuss scenarios for the faith community to work through.

Please follow the qr code to RSVP.

October 18th, 6:30 - 8pm  
Salem United Church of Christ  
502 Mark Drive - Verona, WI



Have questions? Email [aydenr@abuseintervention.org](mailto:aydenr@abuseintervention.org) for more information.

[abuseintervention.org/events](http://abuseintervention.org/events)

## THANKSGIVING MEALS

### Badger Prairie Needs Network Thanksgiving Meals

It is again time for the community of Verona to join together to help provide Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors in need throughout Dane County. Many of the families who are clients at BPNN don't eat the traditional Thanksgiving foods. To avoid food waste, rather than offer pre-assembled baskets, families are allowed to shop for the items their families will eat on Thanksgiving. If you would like to sponsor a household for Thanksgiving, please contribute \$65.

Checks should be made out to Salem. Please note that the check is for Thanksgiving meals.

If you would prefer to donate goods, these are the items in need for Thanksgiving meals and throughout the year. Cases of the items would be greatly appreciated.

- White Rice
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Mandarin Oranges
- Canned Pineapple
- Flour

Food donations can be placed in the bin in the fellowship hall.

All donations (monetary and food) need to be to Salem by Sunday October 29th.

Thank you for your help in making a Thanksgiving meal possible for our neighbors!



## QUILT GROUP

The Salem Quilt Group meets from 6-8pm on the third Monday of the month at Kay Berry's house. If you are interested in joining us, please contact her at [berry\\_robert@msn.com](mailto:berry_robert@msn.com) for more information.



# Madison CROP Hunger Walk

The Salem Youth invite you to join our walking team (virtual and in-person options available) or donate to our efforts!

*CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.*

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM**

First Congregational UCC

1609 University Ave



**Help Salem Youth meet their goal of 20 walkers and \$1700 raised!**

To join our walking team or donate online to our efforts visit:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/salem-ucc-youth-and-congregation-2>

or

Checks payable to **CROP Walk** (Salem UCC in the memo) and deliver to Sarah Pundt.

# *Pasta Dinner*

Hosted by Salem Youth  
October 28, 2023 @ 5-7pm  
Fellowship Hall

## **Pasta Bar Menu**

Spaghetti Noodles & Elbow Macaroni  
Sauces: Marinara, Cheese, Alfredo, & Pesto  
Meatballs, Shredded Chicken  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert: Cookies and Bars  
Beverages: Coffee, Milk, Juice, Water

Build your own pasta plate and enjoy beverage service at your table.  
Come for a fun evening with good friends and  
good food to benefit a great cause.

Freewill Offering Collected to benefit Youth SALT Trip Fund



# 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)

## Together We Are One

*So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* (Romans 12:5)

On September 17, 54 people gathered for breakfast in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the beginning of a new program year. The room was full of great energy, conversation, and yummy food. Everyone was invited to write a prayer or share a word of hope/concern for the coming year and include it on the "Together We Are One" bulletin board. If you were unable to join us, additional supplies are available in Fellowship Hall to add your own prayers to the congregational board. Offer your prayers to God and walk with your Salem family on this faith journey. Prayer and worry stones are also available for you to take.

## Nursery News

At Salem UCC, children are always welcome in the sanctuary, and Sunday morning worship is intended to be a family experience. However, we appreciate that some parents might need support during worship with wiggly little ones. Therefore, we have created a relaxed space in the first-floor library for use during worship. This space is outfitted with toys, crayons/paper, books, puzzles, and more. The worship service is live streamed in the library so you will not miss any part of the service. This space is open to anyone who finds they would be more comfortable using this alternate room. Parents have not been utilizing the staffed nursery, so we have temporarily paused that ministry. Let us know what you think of this new space!

## 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.*

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

## PreK-Grade 12

Children and youth are welcomed into spaces where they are known and loved, where their questions are taken seriously, and where they can gather to hear God's story and find meaning for their lives. Our Sunday school leaders use the Shine curriculum to guide children and youth to stretch and grow toward God's light, and then shine that light to others. The PreK-Grade 5 class will share music time, children's church, and a project or craft. The Middle/High School combined class is more discussion based with some hands-on learning.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult class is structured in a series of 4–6-week units that focus on a variety of discussion topics, themes, and Bible studies. We strive to grow in our understanding of scripture and how we are called to live like Christ in our daily lives. The weekly discussions are designed to be experienced independently, so come as it fits your schedule. You won't be "behind" if you miss a week. Discussions are led by the Director of Christian Education and other adult leaders. A full calendar of discussion topics and Bible studies will be available at the breakfast on 9/17.

## Fall 2023 Topics for Adult Class

### ***Justice, Righteousness, and Careful Biblical Interpretation***

Oct. 1, 8, 15, & 22

Throughout history, the Bible has been used to cause harm to marginalized populations. In this unit we will examine the improper use of scripture to oppress Native Americans, African Americans, Women, and the LGBTQIA+ communities. We will also explore resources and tools that guide us in careful interpretation of scripture.

### ***Worship Ways: Understanding the Different Components of Sunday Worship***

Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, & 19

Deepen your understanding of Sunday worship by learning or revisiting what the different components of our church service mean. We will take a fresh look at liturgy, the lectionary, prayers, communion, and more.

### ***"Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent"***

Dec. 3, 10, & 17

Focus, rest, and renew spiritually throughout the Advent Season. Simple prayer practices, scripture readings, and creative reflections will help you cultivate a special time of waiting this Advent.

## 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/>



# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

October 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!

### CROP Walk

**Oct. 15 @1pm**

Join our walking team to help stop hunger locally and internationally. Follow this link <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/salem-ucc-youth-and-congregation-2> to join the Salem UCC Youth and Congregation Team or to make an online donation. Bring a sack lunch and join us for lunch after worship. At 12:15, we will head over to First Congregational UCC, 1609 University Ave.

Last year, we had the largest Madison team with 24 walkers and raised about \$1500. Help us surpass those numbers to make an impact.



CROP Walk 2022: Team Salem

### Oct. 28 (5-7pm) Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

Our pasta dinner will help raise money for our 2024 SALT Trip. All youth and families are encouraged to participate. Please watch your email for an online sign-up to help. RSVP on the Mighty Network or contact Sarah Pundt.

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### October

- |           |         |                         |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | @ 5-8pm | Cookout and Campfire    |
| <b>15</b> | @ 1pm   | CROP Walk               |
| <b>28</b> | 5-7pm   | Pasta Dinner Fundraiser |

### November

- |              |               |                                      |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>12</b>    | @ 6:30-7:45pm | Youth Gathering                      |
| <b>17-19</b> |               | Knock Knock<br>Middle School Retreat |

### December

- |           |               |  |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| <b>3</b>  | @ 6:30-7:45   | Youth Gathering  |
| <b>9</b>  | TBD (Evening) | Salem Live Nativity                                      |
| <b>17</b> | @ 6:30-7:45pm | Youth Gathering<br>(Gingerbread Houses With Cindy Remus) |

# OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>World Communion Sunday</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 5-8PM - Youth Cookout & Campfire	<b>2</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>5</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>6</b> Serve at Meals for Madison	<b>7</b> Wedding - Johnny Halverson/Megan Ferrell
<b>8</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>9</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>11</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>12</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Live Nativity planning meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11AM - Memorial Service (Rhoda Gust)
<b>15</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 1PM - CROP Walk (First Cong. UCC, Madison)	<b>16</b> Eve - Boy Scouts 6-8PM - Quilt Group	<b>17</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel 6:30-8PM - Faith and Domestic Violence (hosted by DAiS)	<b>19</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Great Dane Fitchburg	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>23</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6:30PM - BOCE Meeting	<b>25</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel <b>NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>26</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5-7PM - Youth Pasta Fundraiser
<b>29</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>30</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>31</b>				<b>Give Online</b>

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023

## CROP WALK

October 15, 1pm  
First Congregational UCC in Madison

## LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Thursday October 12, 7pm  
First Floor Conference Room

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Month of October



## PASTA DINNER

Hosted by Salem Youth  
October 28, 2023 @ 5-7pm  
Fellowship Hall



### 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 Choirs

Tyme Baez  
choir@salemchurchverona.org

#### Director of Handbells:

Carrie Coenen

#### Church Council President:

George Adams

An Open  
and Affirming  
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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PO Box 930125  
Verona, WI 53593-0125

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

