

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2023

Photo by Peter de Vink from Pexels

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY:

Week of July 2:

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Week of July 9:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Week of July 16:

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Week of July 23:

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Week of July 30:

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends of Salem,

Veteran pastor and author Robert Harris compared a minister arriving at a new church to Alice entering Wonderland. When heading down the rabbit hole and into this new place, Alice felt some confusion. Everything was familiar, and yet it is also all different. She felt a whirlwind of emotions: excitement about the new adventures and possibilities, concern over all the many unknowns, joy for the future, grief at the loss and changes from the past.

I can confirm many of the same emotions. Maybe you have had some of these as well.

Harris's first and foremost piece of advice to ministers coming to a new church is Be Curious! He recommends that pastors should be like Alice. She asked all sorts of questions: Where are we? Who are all of these characters and why do they act like this? Why are things this way? What's behind this door?

I mentioned at my first Council meeting that I will be spending the beginning of my time at Salem listening and learning how y'all do church. This may seem strange. After all, with two decades of ministry experience, doesn't the new guy know how to do church, yet? Well, yes. But I don't want you to be "My Former Church 2.0." I do not think you could be, even if you tried. I want to learn what parts of church, of worship, of fellowship, of service are important to you. And I will not be "Pastor Mark 2.0." Because I cannot be, even if I tried.

So, I am going to let curiosity lead the way. This means that I will probably ask you your name multiple times unless you are wearing your nametag. Perhaps the old idea of "tell them seven times and they will learn it" will work on me. Feel free to keep reintroducing yourself to me.

I will also be setting up times to talk to everyone in the church. I am hoping over the summer to have a chance to sit down with all the members and friends of Salem, to get to know you better and let you get to know me as well. Keep an eye and an ear out for opportunities to sign up.

And as you enjoy summer and join us in worship, stay curious!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Phil



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Monica Bachmann
- 5: Ann Nelson, Frank Westphal
- 6: Paul Wieland
- 7: Robert Zurbuchen
- 8: Chris Wilbricht
- 11: Jon Pundt, Theresa Bass
- 14: Zoey Shaw
- 17: Kylie Hageman
- 18: Sabrina Jacobus
- 26: Craig Rhiner
- 27: Dale Yurs

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

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.



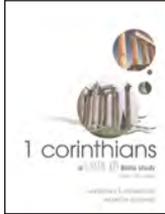
SYPMATHY

Donna Weis died at her home in Baraboo on June 9 following a seven-year battle with multiple myeloma. Our deepest sympathies to her husband Joe and their family.

TABLES FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Guild recently ordered 18 new white lightweight tables for the Fellowship Hall. Most have been delivered except for five. The remaining five will be delivered either this week or next, and some of you may be called to help unpack them and switch them out with the old heavy tables that are in the Fellowship Hall now. Our question: Is anyone interested in taking some (or all) of the old sturdy but heavy tables? Or does anyone know of an organization or group that could use these tables? If so, please contact Mary Cutler at 608-692-7595. They are free for the taking. If no one is interested, we will resort to putting them on Facebook Marketplace or donating them to St. Vincent's or Goodwill. There are approximately 12 to 15 tables available.

LISTEN UP! BIBLE STUDY



The Salem UCC library has a collection of Bible Study resources available. These studies can be done individually, but also are ideal for a small group setting. Start your own Bible study or contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in joining a group. Choose and check out your selected study in Fellowship Hall.

S.A.L.T. TRIP SHARING POTLUCK

Monday, July 24 @ 6-8pm

This newsletter will be printed while we are away on our SALT Trip, but we are eager to share our experiences with the congregation upon our return. The youth are hosting a potluck dinner and program for the entire congregation on July 24 @ 6-8pm. Please bring a dish to pass.

THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH!

Sincere thanks for supporting the youth SALT Trip:

- The Salem Women's Guild provided a \$500 donation.
- Heather Thoma organized our participation in Brat Fest and we are grateful for the many volunteers who helped at the festival. We raised \$1,055 toward our SALT Trip.
- Our SALT Trip Chaperones: Hugh Hauser, Kelli Malueg, and Kristin Runnheim.
- The many individuals who offered donations.

The Salem Community is always very generous in supporting our youth. SALT Trips have a significant impact on our youth and are often a key touchpoint in their faith life. Thank you for continuing to support our youth and the youth ministry at Salem.



BADGER PRAIRIE

NEEDS NETWORK

Badger Prairie Needs Network is in need of additional volunteers this summer. Volunteer opportunities include working in the food pantry, food recovery, food repackaging, participating in a community meal, and being on the Flags for Food Team. Get started by filling out a registration form online and then attending one of the New Volunteer Orientations on a Thursday afternoon or Saturday morning. After orientation, you'll receive access to a SignUp calendar that shows all the kitchen and pantry volunteer shifts. It's easy to select from dozens of shifts available each day at BPNN. You pick and choose when and how often you would like to volunteer. In addition, BPNN has a new mentoring program that will help first-time pantry volunteers start their BPNN experience on the right foot.

Here's the volunteer link: <https://www.bpnn.org/volunteer>

BPNN's Most Needed Items

- Canned tuna, salmon and chicken
- White rice
- Canned protein beans such as black, pinto, kidney
- Canned fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Cooking oil
- Menstrual pads
- Baby wipes
- Paper grocery bags

Donations of personal care items such as baby wipes, dental care, bar soap and feminine hygiene products can be directly shipped to BPNN through the **Amazon Wish List** on their website.

Produce from your garden can be brought to the back door volunteer entrance during regular pantry hours.

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

When things change, God is with you. When you need help, God is with you. When you are afraid, God is with you. God is with you at all times and in all circumstances. This is a message we all need to hear, and it is the theme of our 2023 VBS. Join us on July 9, 30, & Aug. 13 @ 10:15am-12pm. We have programs and groups for everyone followed by a kid-friendly community meal. Childcare for children under age 3 is available upon request.

Infants-Age 3: Parents and caregivers bring your little ones and gather for fellowship/play time and lunch. We have several families with babies born during Covid and some new families too. The casual atmosphere of VBS is the perfect opportunity for you and your child(ren) to get better acquainted with each other.

Age 3-Grade 5: VBS will include a Bible story, music, games, projects, and crafts. The children will share some of their music during worship on Aug. 13 @ 9am.

Grades 6-12: The youth all have different ways they like to participate in VBS. Some middle schoolers participate as VBS "campers". Some middle and high school students volunteer. And some high school students participate in the adult discussion group. Please contact Sarah Pundt to customize your personal VBS experience.

Adults: Everyone is invited to join our discussion group focused on the same Bible stories and themes the children will be learning. This group will be Bible study, discussion, and fellowship combined.

Church Nursery

We are hiring! If you know someone who is 18+ and loves children, please let them know that we are hiring caregivers for our church nursery and contact Sarah Pundt. Families, please watch the weekly news for nursery care notices and availability.

Church Library

Our church library has many fiction and non-fiction titles for you to enjoy as summer reading. The children's library is located in the lower-level Sunday school area.

Parents Promise July 13 @ 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.



Vacation Bible School

10:15am-12pm

July 9, 30, & Aug. 13

Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to register or to volunteer.

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://ucc.org/>

Registration has opened for the many summer offerings for all ages!



You're Invited to Vacation Bible School!

Location: Salem UCC, 502 Mark Dr., Verona, WI

Dates: July 9, 30, and August 13

Time: 10:15am-12pm

Ages: All! This is an intergenerational event.

All ages are invited to join us for three VBS events and each morning will end with a community lunch!

- Children Under 3: Parents and young children will have the opportunity to play and socialize.
- PreK-Grade 5: Will enjoy games, activities, crafts, music, and Bible stories.
- Youth grades 6-12 should contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org for a customized VBS experience.
- Adults will gather for Bible study and fellowship.

Please let us know your plans to attend. (one sheet per household)

Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

For planning purposes, please let us know if we should expect you for lunch:

	# of Adults	# of Children
July 9		
July 30		
August 13		

Commonly Asked Questions

Q: I can't be there for all three events. Is it ok if I miss a day?

A: Yes! Come when it works for you.

Q: I can't stay for lunch; can I still participate in the Bible study?

A: Yes! You can join the Bible study and not stay for lunch. Or you can stay for lunch and not participate in the Bible study. Make your VBS experience your own.

Q: Is there a fee?

A: No! VBS is a ministry of Salem UCC and is offered free of charge.

Children and youth under age 18 need to complete a registration form. For registration materials, please contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org or 608-845-7315.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

JULY 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!

SALT Trip Sharing Potluck

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Bratfest 2023

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	7	8
9 9AM - Worship 10:15AM-12PM - VBS	10	11 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	12	13 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parents Promise	14	15
16 9AM - Worship	17	18	19	20 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	21	22
23 9AM - Worship	24 6-8PM - Youth SALT Trip Sharing Potluck	25 6PM - BOCE Meeting AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26	27 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	28	29
30 9AM - Worship 10:15AM-12PM - VBS	31					

JULY NEWSLETTER 2023

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Bring a dish to pass

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

10:15am-12pm

July 9, 30, & Aug. 13

(see flyer and registration form inside)

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

Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams



**Give
Online**

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

502 Mark Drive
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Verona, WI 53593-0125

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

