

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2021

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE:

### **Week of June 6:**

1 Samuel 8:4-20  
Psalm 138  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

### **Week of June 13:**

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
Mark 4:26-34

### **Week of June 20:**

1 Samuel 17:32-49  
Psalm 9:9-20  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

### **Week of June 27:**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

## MARK-ET PLACE

*The Threefold Mission of the Church*

Swiss theologian Emil Brunner wrote in the 1930s that “the church exists by mission as fire exists by burning.” Mission, in other words, is absolutely essential to the life of the church. The church cannot be said to exist where it is not engaged in mission.

But what is the church’s mission? What is the work that works to make the church alive and vital?

My understanding is that a congregation has, under God, a mission that is best understood in a trinitarian sense. That is to say, the church has one mission – to serve God in the service of others – but this one mission has three modes. Where one mode of the church’s mission is outsized at the expense of the others that church, while it may have energy around one particular area of emphasis, does not yet have the kind of life our Lord wishes it to have.

The three modes I see in the church’s one mission are an internal mode, an external mode, and a diverse mode.

The church’s internal mission is service to itself and its own people. This aspect of congregational life is often disparaged as being too insular, too little concerned with others and the world outside the church. While this inward mission ought never be over-accentuated, undoing the fullness of the Christian ideal for congregations, it cannot rightly be ignored. The Apostle Paul said we are to “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15). And a greater than Paul said we are to love one another (Jn. 15:12). This is the church living in fellowship, showing concern for its members, comforting and supporting them, teaching them and providing for their spiritual needs. It is the congregation’s mission to itself and its own members. This should never be the church’s mission exclusively but it should not be excluded as the church goes about its life in Christ. Part of our mission is to lovingly serve one another in the household of faith.

The church’s external mode of mission is service to the world outside the congregation. This public ministry of the church includes both social service

*continued on next page...*

...Mark-et Place continued



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Dennis Bieri
- 5: Lyle Baez, Cindy Remus, Eric Hauser
- 6: Harvey Zingg, Dick Steele, Benjamin Shubak
- 7: Jodi Moll, Kash Hageman
- 10: Michael Cashman
- 11: Hannah Worley
- 15: Karen Williams, Mark Shubak, Kailey Hodel, Kaytlin Dahlk, Peter Gauthier
- 17: Dave Triplett
- 18: Charles Hustad, Blaise Westphal
- 22: Anna Putney
- 25: Doug Smith
- 26: Joanne Gauthier
- 27: Sue Thiede, Shirley Zurbuchen, Nadia Graese
- 29. Ben Hauser, Chase Runnheim

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

work and social justice work. The work of social service involves aiding the marginalized. The work of social justice involves addressing those aspects of society – whether governments, laws, policies, or programs – that contribute to the marginalization of persons. The church’s mission is to aid the oppressed and challenge the oppressor. There is often little disagreement as to the importance of Christian social service, but there is sometimes pushback against the idea of Christian social justice work, mostly on the grounds that it is something liberal and left-leaning, if not worse. The fact is that a conservative approach to the Bible leads to social justice work and involvement. At the risk of seeming to proffer a proof-text, I point to none other than Jesus’ own remark in the Sermon on the Mount that we Christians are to be as salt and light in society (Mt. 5:13-16). The church has from its Master this call to a mission outside itself. This external mode of the church’s mission cannot be the only thing the church values as important but it dare not be a neglected thing if the church is to be whole and healthy.

The church’s third mode of mission is diverse. This may be as difficult to pinpoint and to see as is the Third Person of the Trinity. The church’s external mode of mission is something that is organized for the whole congregation to participate in, such as a food drive. The diverse mode recognizes that each member of the church has his or her own particular gifts and talents which are to be used for the good of others, and often are as the people volunteer with various projects in the community. Elton Trueblood said that the church is its most active when it is empty; he meant when the people were out in society volunteering in their various chosen ways. It is a mistake to suppose a church is not engaged in mission if it has no external project the people are working on together, whether it is gathering clothing in a drive or gathering on the streets for a protest march. Insofar as its people are serving – whether as tutors or pantry workers or blood donors or library helpers – the church is in mission. And it is possible this diverse mission may bring more energy to the congregation than some formal external mission.

*MEY*

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN JUNE 6

We will begin our summer worship hours on Sunday, June 6 with worship at 9am.

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church Offering (STC), one of the national special offerings received by the United Church of Christ, furthers the work of our conference and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults.

Special envelopes for this offering have not been provided, but checks should be made out to Salem UCC and labeled for Strengthen the Church.

## A DEDICATION AND A BAPTISM

**Ephraam William Bahr** was dedicated in our sanctuary on May 2, 2021. He was born on October 15, 2019 and his parents are Nathan and Cara Bahr.

**William Thomas Pechan** was baptized in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 15, 2021. He was born on October 9, 2020 and his parents are Cody and Kari (Blake) Pechan.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ to meet on Thursday, June 10, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Nathan Bahr. He has recently moved so be sure to check for his new address. A light supper will be provided and we will enjoy a time of conversation and Bible study.



## DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

Our Daily Bread, These Days and The Upper Room devotional booklets are available in the information box located next to the outdoor labyrinth or if you come to in-person worship you can find them on the wall in the entryway. We can also mail them upon request. These booklets are provided by the Salem Women's Guild.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our pastor, Mark Yurs, will be retiring in August after serving Salem for 30 years. His last worship service is on August 1 and the congregation plans to honor Mark and Sherrol with an open house after the 9am service. Details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Please share this with others who might be interested and provide Cara Bahr ([cbahr@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:cbahr@salemchurchverona.org)) with contact information for those who are not currently part of our congregation, but may want to attend the celebration.

## WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING IN JULY

The Salem Women's Guild will be having a business meeting the first Thursday of July, which is July 1st, instead of the regular June meeting. One of the co-chairmen, Judy Skupien, will be in California during the month of June. All Guild members are invited to attend, as we will be meeting outside on the patio. In case of rain, bring your mask as we will meet in the fellowship hall and will social distance per CDC guidelines. No food will be served at this meeting.

# 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)

Our Sunday school classes have ended for the program year, but we are not necessarily on “summer vacation”. Summer worship continues weekly throughout the summer, but how else could we cultivate our faith during these summer months without formal Sunday school programming? I encourage you to “think green”. Green is the official color of this portion of the liturgical year, and it is the color of growth and new life. New growth is a common theme in the summer months as we tend to our yards and gardens, but it can also be a time of meaningful spiritual growth. So instead of coming to Sunday school to learn about the stories in the Bible, explore the ways you encounter Jesus in your summer activities and travels. Try looking for the weeds in your spiritual garden that might be crowding out space for new growth. Where does your faith feel withered, dry, or crowded? Below are some resources for all ages to help you along the way.

## FOR ALL AGES

### ***Oh, The Places You'll Go: Inspiration & Prayers for Summer Travels.***

“Sometimes we forget that all those wonderful stories in the Bible of healings, teachings, miracles, and deliverance take place against the backdrop of many of our favorite summer destinations: mountains, lakes, beaches, plains, rivers, and more.” (Building Faith Website) Follow this link to find Bible stories and prayers to deepen the meaning of your vacation destination. <https://buildfaith.org/inspiration-and-prayers-for-summer/>

### ***Fruits in Due Season: Growing Faith in the Summer Months***

Challenge yourself this summer to explore and grow in one of the fruits of the spirit. Follow this link for ideas and inspiration. <https://buildfaith.org/growing-faith-summer/>

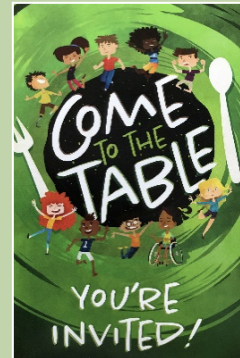
### ***Holy Hikes with Psalms***

The author provides list of lines from the Psalms which can be used to frame a hike or time spent in nature. The verses offer a holy lens that enriches both the time outdoors and the hiker's relationship with scripture. <https://buildfaith.org/holy-hikes-with-the-psalms/>

## FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

### ***Take-Out Church***

Grab a slice of the Gospel to go! Pizza delivery boxes are filled with faith-focused activities and items for children, youth, and families. The pizza box can slide neatly under the seat of the car for easy travel, and it includes games and activities to occupy everyone on long trips. The boxes also contain items and many ideas for fun and sabbath both indoors and outdoors at home. Pick up some Take-Out Church for your family near the side door entrance to the church or contact Sarah Pundt.



**Save the Date!**  
**VACATION**  
**BIBLE SCHOOL**  
August 15-19, 2021

## ADULTS

### ***Dwelling in the Word: The Parables***

The Damascus Project is an online Christian Education resource through the WI Conference UCC. On Thursdays through June and July the Damascus Project is offering a free online Bible study using the spiritual practice of Dwelling in the Word. Meeting days are Thursdays, 12 to 12:30 pm June 10, 17, 24 AND July 8, 15, 22 (no meeting on July 1). Come once or come every time. No preparation needed. And when we say 30 minutes, we mean it! To receive a weekly email reminder and the meeting link go to the Damascus Project network and search under Events. You may need to create a free account to join. <https://learning.the-damascus-project.org/feed>

### ***Listen Up! Bible Study***

In this Bible study series God's word is alive, with something new to say to all of us. It does not simply teach information about the Bible. It listens to God speak. Each study focuses on a specific book of the Bible. The complete collection of studies and leader guides is available for checkout from Sarah Pundt. Use these materials for a personal study or a small discussion group. If you would like assistance forming a Bible study group or would like to participate in a group, please contact Sarah Pundt.

## SMALL GROUPS ONLINE

*Our small groups are gradually shifting back to in-person gatherings. We look forward to seeing you!*

### **Koinonia**

*Salem Fellowship Hall June 17 @ 7pm*

The women of Salem gather for reflection and fellows. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

### **Parent's Promise**

*Salem Fellowship Hall June 24 @ 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! Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

## SPECIAL & SEASONAL EVENTS

### **Summer Camps are Open! (and it's not just for kids!)**

United Church Camps Outdoor Ministry

*Ignite your fire, feed your soul, build your faith.....  
in nature's sanctuary.*

Please take a moment to visit the UCCI website for the exciting camp opportunities for every age and interest [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org). In addition to family camps and traditional kids' camps, UCCI offers a variety of programs for adults. Here are some examples: Women's Wild Weekend, Seniors +, Active Adult Adventures (age 50+), Men's Northwoods Weekend, Memory Care Camp (for participants with dementia, care partners, and families), and Art Workshops at Cedar Valley.

Volunteer Opportunities: Ages 14+

Summer Employment Opportunities: Ages 18+

## WI Conference and National UCC Resources

If you are looking for ways to engage in the work of the church beyond the community of Salem, spend some time exploring the websites for the WI Conference UCC <https://www.wcucc.org/> and National UCC <https://www.ucc.org/>. Reading materials, webinar information, and action steps are available for a wide variety of topics.

### **You can find information on:**

Environmental Justice Ministries

Economic Justice Ministries

Racial Justice Ministries

Disabilities and Mental Health Ministries

Justice Peace and Action Network

Our Faith Our Vote

Programs and Education Resources

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE 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. All current youth families received an email invitation to join the network. Parents and youth are asked to respond to that email invitation as this will become our primary form of communication regarding all things youth related. 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!

June 6 @ 6:30pm      Campfire  
June 20 @ 6:30pm    TBD  
July 25 @ 6:30pm    Outdoor Movie Night

### Intergenerational Connections

#### **July 11      *Outdoors with John and Cari Bass***

John and Cari have invited the youth to their rural, wooded property in Barneveld to enjoy the hiking trails and outdoor labyrinth. More details forthcoming in the July newsletter but save the date!

*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.*

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### **FB4KMadison (Free Bikes for Kids)**

Our service activity for June 5 has been canceled by FB4KMadison. They have given away all of their bikes and are done needing volunteers for the season. I have told them we would like to help with a bike collection event in the fall instead. Thank you to those who had signed up and to the volunteer adults as well. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### June

- 6**      @ 6:30pm Youth Gathering  
*Campfire*
- 20**     @ 6:30pm Youth Gathering (TBD)

### July

- 11**      @ 9am Senior Sunday  
Time TBD Intergenerational Connections  
*Outdoors with John & Cari Bass*
- 25**      @ 6:30pm Youth Gathering  
*Outdoor Movie Night*

# SALEM NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2021

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Upcoming Youth Gatherings

*These gatherings will focus on fellowship, faith, and fun.*

*Monitor future emails for event details.*

<b>June 6 @ 6:30pm</b>	Youth Gathering - <i>Campfire</i>
<b>June 20 @ 6:30pm</b>	Youth Gathering - TBD
<b>July 11 Time TBD</b>	<i>Outdoors with John &amp; Cari Bass</i>
<b>July 25 @ 6:30pm</b>	Youth Gathering - <i>Outdoor Movie Night</i>

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An Open  
and Affirming  
Congregation

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

502 Mark Drive  
PO Box 930125  
Verona, WI 53593-0125

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



# JUNE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9AM - In-Person Worship 6:30PM - Youth Gathering	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Nathan Bahr's	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9AM - In-Person Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30PM - BoCE	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 9AM - In-Person Worship 6:30PM - Youth Gathering	<b>21</b> JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9AM - In-Person Worship (Guest Preacher: Tisha Brown)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			