

NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2021

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Week of September 5:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and
Psalm 125

Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Week of September 12:

Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Week of September 19:

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1,

12-22

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Week of September 26:

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 and
Psalm 124

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

and Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

Dear new Salem Church friends,

What a joy it has been to meet more and more members and friends of Salem UCC, over the past few weeks, as your incoming Interim Pastor. I am looking forward to meeting even more of you, at church events, at studies and meetings to plan and learn, and, of course, at services of worship. We DO know that the upsurge in the (seemingly never-ending) CoVid pandemic is going to continue to make us stretch and strain to be creative in how we can get together. But if the intergenerational Vacation Bible School last week is any indication, Salem Church is up to the task! By holding VBS outside, we were able to gather, study, learn, and make new friendships. After the first two nights, I was asked if I could name all of the adults in the adult circle! Surprisingly (not the least to myself!), I could remember most of the names! I believe this is because people were so welcoming that each person became memorable to me.

Now, as we move into the Fall, into the "Church Year" with the kickoff of Church programming in September, and into the Interim Period, it will be a time for us to again be creative and determined to let our faith, fellowship, and love bring us together in faith, and hopefully in person. For our members who cannot get TO the Church, for reasons of health or safety, it is my hope that we can find ways to "visit", whether by video conference or phone or letters. Since I am a Pastor for all of Salem Church and for all persons interested in Salem Church, it will be my goal to meet everyone, somehow, as soon as we can make that happen!

It is also my prayer and vision for this Interim Time, that we can find new ways to reach out in Christian ministry to our community and to a world in such great peril and need. I have always loved an old Quaker story that tells about a visitor coming into the silence of a Friends' Meeting House for worship and asking the person next to him, "What time does the service begin?" The Quaker said, without hesitation, "When the worship is over."

That's a good goal for a UCC congregation, too, I think. When we depart from worship, whether in the sanctuary, or in our personal devotions, or Bible study, or just worshipping God by sharing time together, God intends for us to be strengthened and moved to Christian service. That can also be very, very fulfilling ... and ... FUN!

So, here's to the future time we will share. It is my joy and privilege to be your Interim Pastor, and I look forward to meeting each and every person of Salem Church!

With Peace and Joy,
Rev. Tom Robinson



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7: Doris Waldmann
- 8: Cathy Kwiliniski, Megan Price
- 9: Reid Adams
- 10: Eliese Yurs
- 11: Bernice Hamilton
- 12: Conlin Bass
- 13: Blake Adams
- 15: Joan Gering
- 16: Lisa Hart, Nathan Bahr, Violet Remus
- 18: Deb Zurbuchen
- 20: Tucker Malueg
- 21: Allison Hansen, Kathy Homb, Marisa Denu
- 24. Aayla Bahr
- 25: Lydia Durnen
- 26: Ellie Burgenske
- 29: Kevin Cashman
- 30: Anna May Rhiner

IN PERSON WORSHIP PROTOCOL

Following a decision made by the council at their August meeting, as well as the recent health order issued by Dane county, masks are now required inside our building. We will also discontinue congregational singing at this time. We ask anyone attending worship to please sign in as a means of taking attendance and providing contact tracing if necessary.

OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tom will typically be in the office Tuesday-Thursday from 1-5pm. Due to meetings or out-of-office needs, times may vary on a particular day, so please call beforehand, if possible. Cara has been working mostly from home and will continue to come in as necessary. She is planning to come in at least one morning a week from 8-10am.

FALL WORSHIP HOURS

Fall worship hours will begin on Sunday, September 18 with Sunday School kick-off at 9am and worship at 10:15am.

THANK YOU!

The Runnheim's (Brianna, Chase and Kristin) have been taking care of the weed control of the landscaping and the parking lot at this church this summer and have done a fabulous job for us. They deserve a thank you from the church.

NEW ADDESSS

We have been informed of a new address for Virginia Witt.

1870 Market St #7
Cross Plains, WI 53528



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ to meet on Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Harlan Hall. A light supper will be provided and we will enjoy a time of conversation and Bible study.

Tell your neighbors.....tell your friends.....

The Salem Youth are hosting a bicycle collection drive to benefit Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison. Donate your gently used bikes at Salem on Saturday, September 18 from 10am-2pm.

Gently used bikes of all kinds and sizes are needed. FB4K spends the winter months refurbishing the bikes and then in April/May, they will give them to low income and diverse communities throughout Dane County. Salem Youth plan to assist with refurbishing and distributing the bikes. Monetary donations are also accepted to offset the cost of bike refurbishing and purchasing helmets for the new bike owners. **Make checks payable to:** Salem UCC and include "youth, FB4Kmadison" in the memo.

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, 7so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. (Psalm 78:5-7)

This Psalm comes to mind at the beginning of every Sunday school program year as it highlights the importance of passing the teachings of our faith to our children. Consider the following questions: Where did you learn the Lord's Prayer? Who taught you how to look up Bible verses? Did someone special show you how to pray? Think about your answers and then think about the children in our congregation at Salem. They need someone to help them learn these same things. Please prayerfully consider how you can be part of this process. Please contact Sarah Pundt to discuss how we can put your spiritual gifts to work. We need multiple volunteers to serve in the following roles:

Sunday School Needs

Regular Sunday school classes for all ages begin on September 26 @ 9am.

Teachers

- Choose the group you want to teach. (PreK-Grade 2, Grades 3-5, Middle/High School Combined Class)
- Choose when and how often you want to teach.
- Easy to use curriculum makes planning a breeze.
- No experience necessary. Training and support provided

Assistants

- Salem's Safe Church guidelines require 2 adults in all classrooms with children under 18.
- Provide extra support to teachers as needed during class time.
- Choose the group you want to assist and how often you would like to help
- This position requires a loving heart but no advanced preparation or experience.

Superintendent (This role could be shared between two people.)

- Perform most of these duties at your convenience.
- Maintain Sunday school supply closet.
- Stock classroom supplies.
- Maintain lower-level Sunday school office
- Manage Attendance and Safe Church records for Sunday school.
- Manage Program Registration.

Adult Class

This Sunday school class typically explores thematic material for units lasting 3-6 weeks. Please consider leading this group for one Sunday or for an entire unit. The Director of Christian Education will work with you to cultivate the materials and information needed to lead this class.

RALLY DAY

September 19 @ 9am

Join us for breakfast as we gather again to launch our church program year. Come learn about our small fellowship groups, church committees, education programs, youth ministry, and music ministry.



**Community Breakfast
Sunday School Registration
Poster Fair and Information Tables***

Come learn about the many ways you can be part of the Salem UCC community!

**If you are part of a church committee or small group, please contact Sarah Pundt to be part of the poster fair and information tables at Rally Day. Come and educate the congregation about your purpose or mission and recruit members in the process.*

Birthday Kits for BPNN

Our VBS mission project was a huge success!! We collected the supplies to create 36 complete Birthday Kits plus additional items toward 7 more kits. We also collected \$75 in donations toward the Birthday Kit program.

Additions to the Church Nursery

The nursery will not be open for use for the foreseeable future because of Covid. However, we have recently received two generous donations to enhance the experience of our littlest church members. Katie Banaszak donated her dollhouse and Lori Cirves (Cari Bass' aunt) donated a large wooden ark with animals. Thank you to both individuals for their generosity.

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia

September 16 @ 7pm Fellowship Hall
All women of Salem are invited for a time of reflection and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Parent's Promise

September 23 @ 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.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 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!

Youth @ VBS

Thank you to Payton Corning, Kaden Nechvatal, Blaise Westphal, and Lars Winterle for their volunteer service at VBS. They are all fantastic role models for our younger congregation members and their service is greatly appreciated!

Youth Program Year Kickoff for Youth & Parents September 12@6:30pm-7:45PM

We will officially welcome our incoming 6th graders at this event! We will also review the Mighty Network, our safe church guidelines, complete registration forms, and discuss the calendar. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their youth. Even if you rarely attend youth events, please consider joining us to learn how our program is evolving and growing.

YOUTH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

12

@ 6:30-7:45pm Youth & Parent Program year "Kickoff"

26

@ 6:30-7:45pm Youth Gathering

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.

Tell your neighbors.....tell your friends.....

The Salem Youth are hosting a bicycle collection drive to benefit Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison. Donate your gently used bikes at Salem on Saturday, September 18 from 10am-2pm.

Gently used bikes of all kinds and sizes are needed. FB4K spends the winter months refurbishing the bikes and then in April/May, they will give them to low income and diverse communities throughout Dane County. Salem Youth plan to assist with refurbishing and distributing the bikes. Monetary donations are also accepted to offset the cost of bike refurbishing and purchasing helmets for the new bike owners. Make checks payable to: Salem UCC and include "youth, FB4Kmadison" in the memo.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Salem Youth Garden Project:

Eight of our Salem Youth have spent the summer tackling hunger in our community. The youth garden continues to provide a high yield of produce, most of which has been donated to BPNN. Every Monday through the summer, BPNN offer Bonus Produce Day which allows their clients to select free produce provided by local gardeners like the Salem youth. These Produce Day visits do not count as one of the two monthly visits allotted to BPNN clients.

Youth garden produce has also been shared with the congregation. Sliced tomatoes served at VBS were harvested straight from the garden! Vegetables and some fruits are frequently available at the youth garden table in the church lobby. Free-will offerings accepted to benefit BPNN.



At Your Service

Do you need assistance with lawn mowing, yardwork, outdoor painting, or dog walking? The youth of Salem would like to serve you. They are looking for opportunities to help their Salem community by providing any work that can be done outdoors, or in an otherwise Covid- safe environment. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information or to schedule a service.

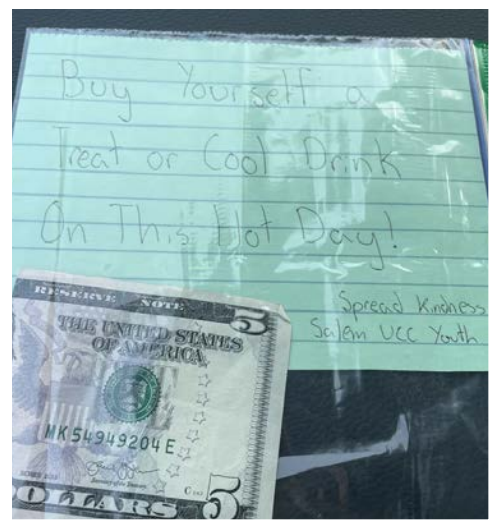
Random Acts of Kindness

The youth are working individually on “committing” a random act of kindness. Each youth was given \$10 with the challenge to bless someone in the community. It’s exciting to see where the Spirit leads our youth through the testimonials below:

Amy Luginbuhl: I left a note at a park on the top of a slide and a different note on a bench with five dollars in each.

Owen Luginbuhl: I put 5 dollars in two different diaper boxes at target with notes to spread kindness.

Payton Corning: My friends were headed to the mall and Chik-a-filet. Standing near the restaurant on a busy intersection was a man who appeared to be homeless holding a sign that said: Anything helps. We stopped and I gave him money and told him to get some food. His response to me was: God bless you. He had tears in his eyes. I didn’t plan to use my random act in this way, but in the moment, it felt like what I was supposed to do. I felt as though I was helping someone in need and his response made me feel as though we were both appreciative of God in our brief encounter.



SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1:30PM - Women's Guild Meeting	3	4	
5 9AM - Worship	6 LABOR DAY	7	8	9 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Harlan Hall's	10	11
12 9AM - Worship 6:30-7:45 - Youth Kick-off	13	14 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	15	16 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	17	18 10AM-2PM - Bikes for Kidz Drop Off
19 9AM - Rally Day - Sunday School Kick-off 10:15AM - Worship	20	21	22	23 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	24 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25
26 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	27	28	29	30		

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

BIKES FOR KIDZ DROP OFF

Saturday, September 18, 10am-2pm

RALLY DAY - SEPTEMBER 19, 9AM

Community Breakfast
Sunday School Registration
Poster Fair and Information Tables

FALL WORSHIP HOURS

*Begin on Sunday, September 19
9am Sunday School, 10:15am worship*

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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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

