

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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

NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2023

Photo by Cara Bahr (Devil's Lake State Park)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER:

### **Week of September 3:**

*Exodus 3:1-15 and  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Jeremiah 15:15-21 and  
Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28*

### **Week of September 10:**

*Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149  
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20*

### **Week of September 17:**

*Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or  
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Genesis 50:15-21 and  
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35*

### **Week of September 24:**

*Exodus 16:2-15 and  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Jonah 3:10-4:11 and  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16*

## FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends of Salem,

I am so happy to announce that on Sunday, September 24, at 3 pm, we will gather in the sanctuary for a special worship service, at which I have the honor and privilege of being installed as your pastor.

From our Book of Worship: "In [this service] the association, at the request of a local church, confirms and celebrates the covenant between a local church and a newly called pastor and teacher and reaffirms the covenantal relationship of all the churches in the association."

Three things are vitally important about this service. The first is that vows are spoken, by me as your pastor, by you the congregation, and by representatives of the association. We affirm that we are all in ministry together, and we are all accountable to each other in this mutual ministry. And we declare these things before God.

The second is that we remember we are part of a church that is larger than Salem UCC in Verona. We are a part of the Southwest Association, of the Wisconsin Conference, of the United Church of Christ, of the Christian church around the world, of the wide variety of people of faith, and of the human family.

The third important piece of this time is joyful celebration, both in worship and then in fellowship, for how the Holy Spirit still moves and inspires and informs and energizes our life as a church here in Verona.

So we are going to have a special time of worship, giving thanks to God, and celebrating the formal beginning of our mutual ministry together. And we are going to have a celebration with food and fellowship and fun afterwards.

Join us in person or on-line as we rejoice together in being the church.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Phil

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, September 21 at 6:30PM at Quivey's Grove.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7: Doris Waldmann
- 8: Cathy Kwiliniski, Megan Price
- 9: Reid Adams
- 10: Eliese Yurs
- 12: Conlin Bass
- 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, Ivy Grotelueschen
- 30: Anna May Rhiner

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

### Financial Secretary Position

After many years of faithful service, Heather Thoma will be resigning her position as one of Salem's Financial Secretaries at the end of 2023. If you feel moved to consider filling this important role, talk with Council President George Adams or with Frank Westphal who continues to serve as one of Salem's Financial Secretaries.

### General Stewardship Report for September:

Last month's income: \$33,397

Last month's expenses: \$27,284

YTD income: \$170,403

YTD expenses: \$201,640

(includes \$30,000 transfer out of checking to money market account)

## WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

There will be a special meeting of the Guild on Thursday, September 14, at 1:30PM. We will discuss the current status of the Guild and take care of any necessary business. Pastor Phil will be joining us to share his ideas about the Guild. Hopefully it will be a very satisfying and uplifting discussion. All Salem members are welcome to attend.

## 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.



## FALL OFFICE HOURS

\*Office hours may vary slightly

**Cara Bahr, Office Administrator**

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

9-11:30am

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays & Thursdays**

9-11:30am

---

**Rev. Phil Hobson, Pastor**

**Tuesday - Friday**

Mornings & Afternoons with a break for lunch

## MEALS FOR MADISON

Several years back, Salem helped with the Friday meal at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Madison. We are back at it on the first Friday of each month. If you are interested in participating, there is a sign up sheet behind the pews or you can speak with John Cashman for more information.

# *Fall Breakfast Potluck*

Hosted by the Board of Christian Education



Photos by Olya Kobruseva

**Sunday, September 17th  
at 9am in fellowship hall**

Join us as we celebrate the change of seasons and the beginning of our Fall programming. Come for breakfast, enjoy the fellowship, and stay for worship at 10:15am. Please bring a dish to pass. Coffee and beverages provided.

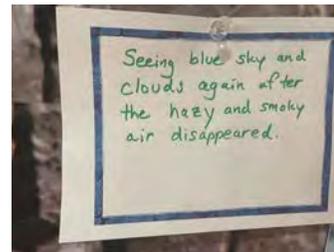
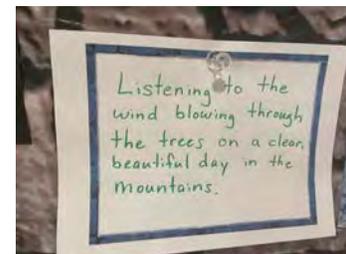
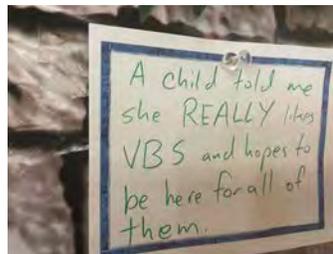
# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education  
608-692-3239 or [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org)

## Congregational Summer Project: God Sightings

Throughout VBS, we learned in the Book of Daniel that God is always with us, even when things change, we need help, or we are afraid. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were sentenced to the fiery furnace they faced certain death. **But there was another in the fire.** *"He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god." (Daniel 3:25)*

Thank you to everyone who added God Sightings tiles to our mosaic wall in fellowship hall. Two themes showed up repeatedly in the shared sightings: beautiful miracles in the natural world, and our relationships with others. If this is where we are more likely to experience the presence of God, how can we increase the amount of time we are experiencing these situations. Get outside, go for a hike, sit on your porch to listen to the birds, or feel the sun and rain on your face. Invest in your relationships with others and in your interactions with strangers. Give people your time and attention. Now the challenge is to expand how and where you experience the presence of God. Search for God in the hard places, the ordinary places, and the places you feel most alone. In those moments, your seeking and perseverance will inevitably make way for the most holy of God sightings.



## VBS Wrap-Up

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers and participants at VBS! With strong attendance and enthusiasm, we experienced the joy of fellowship and learning on three beautiful Sunday mornings. Special thanks to the meal hosts: Women's Guild, Men's Fellowship Group, and the Church Council.

## 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 are creating a relaxed space in the first-floor library for use during worship. This space will be outfitted with toys, crayons/paper, books, puzzles, and more. We are also working toward providing a livestream of the church service in the library. This space is open to anyone who finds they would be more comfortable using this alternate room. Our goal is to have this resource prepared and available by Sept. 17. Please monitor the weekly news for updates. Families have not been using our staffed church nursery, so we have suspended nursery care in our lower-level children's nursery until further notice.

# 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.

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

## Christian Education Events

### September

17	@ 9am	Fall Breakfast Potluck
24	@ 9am	Weekly Sunday School Classes Begin
26	@ 6:30pm	BOCE

## 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.

All families will receive an email with online registration instructions for the 2023-2024 program year.

## 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.

---

### Safe Church Training

The Safe Church training previously scheduled for September 11 has been cancelled.

---

## 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

SEPTEMBER 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!

### Message to the Youth:

Dear Youth, I enjoyed the individual conversations I had with many of you. You are deep thinkers who love God and value the relationships in your lives. You want to serve the community, have fun, and spend time together. Thank you for taking the time with me and allowing me to learn about you, your worries, your joys, and your needs. It is a blessing to be on this journey with you. ~Sarah

### Youth & Parent Information Meeting **September 17 @ 6:30pm**

Youth grades 6-12 and their parent(s) or guardian are invited to attend our program year information meeting. We will talk about the calendar and plans we have for the year, learn more about the Mighty Network, discuss SALT Trip options for next summer, and welcome our new members. Please RSVP on the Mighty Network or contact Sarah Pundt.

### Cookout & Campfire with John & Cari Bass **October 1 @ 5-8pm**

John and Cari have invited us to return to their home in Barneveld for some Fall outside fun. Yard games, hiking, campfire, dinner, and s'mores will all be part of the evening. We will meet at Salem @5pm to carpool. This is a rain or shine event. Please dress appropriately for the activities and the weather. Please RSVP on the Mighty Network or contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### September

**17** @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth & Parent Info Meeting

**19** @ 7pm YMT Meeting

### October

**1** @ 5-8pm Cookout and Campfire

**15** @ 1pm CROP Walk

**28** TBD (Evening) Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

### November

**12** @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth Gathering

**17-19** Knock Knock  
Middle School Retreat

### December

**3** @ 6:30-7:45 Youth Gathering

**9** TBD (Evening) Salem Live Nativity

**17** @ 6:30-7:45pm Youth Gathering  
(Gingerbread Houses With Cindy Remus)



SALT Sharing Dinner

# SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Serve at Meals for Madison	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9AM - Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>7</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> IRON MAN 10:15AM - Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>13</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>14</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 1:30PM - Women's Guild Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9AM - Fall Breakfast Potluck 10:15AM - Worship 6:30-7:45PM - Youth and Parent Info meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7PM - YMT Meeting	<b>20</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>21</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Quivey's Grove	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9AM - Sunday School (Ages Pre-K through adult) 10:15AM - Worship 3PM - Intallation Service for Rev. Phil Hobson	<b>25</b> <b>OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30PM - BOCE Meeting	<b>27</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>28</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

## FALL BREAKFAST POTLUCK

September 17, 9am  
Bring a dish to share

Welcome back for a new program year

## FALL WORSHIP HOURS

Begin on Sunday, September 10  
10:15am worship  
Sunday School begins on September 24 at 9am

## PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE

Rev. Phil Hobson  
Sunday, September 24  
3pm at Salem UCC

### 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  
PO Box 930125  
Verona, WI 53593-0125

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

