

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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



NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2024

Photo by Cara Bahr (Gov. Dodge State Park)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE:

### Week of June 2

*1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and  
Psalm 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
Mark 2:23-3:6*

### Week of June 9

*1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20,  
(11:14-15) and Psalm 138  
Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35*

### Week of June 16

*1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 and  
Psalm 20  
Ezekiel 17:22-24 and  
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34*

### Week of June 23

*1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23),  
32-49 and Psalm 9:9-20 or  
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16  
and Psalm 133  
Job 38:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-3,  
23-32  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41*

## FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends,

June is Pride Month. This is a time when we lift up the lives and identities and the calling of God to ministry, alongside all the rest of us, of our brothers and sisters and siblings who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a spiritual season of reconnection to the message that God is not only for all people, but especially for those who have been denied, demeaned, or demonized by others.

As an Open and Affirming congregation of the UCC, we have set ourselves on the path of growing in our faith. Specifically, growing in our faith in how we welcome and love our neighbors, how we recognize how God is calling ALL people to be a part of the ministries of love and justice, hope and peace.

I am challenged by this growth to our faith. I grew up in a homophobic culture. I came of age in a time and place where being different all too often meant being treated as deficient. And these are hard lessons to unlearn. But I have also heard the word of God faithfully preached by people who are same-gender loving and by people who are transgender. I have seen the faithfulness of friends and family who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

And I have also witnessed how the ACLU is currently tracking 515 anti-LGBTQ bills in the United States. And even if not all of these bills become law, and thankfully a number of them have been defeated, they continue to demean and damage the real lives of real people. I have witnessed the challenges that transgender people face. The Human Rights Campaign describes these challenges as a lack of legal protection; poverty; stigma, harassment and discrimination; violence; lack of healthcare coverage; and difficulty getting identity documents.

Being an Open and Affirming Church is a statement that our faith challenges us to work towards justice for all our brothers and sisters and siblings, and bless the full humanity of all those around us. May we dedicate this month to taking steps forward in this work. For all our sakes.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Phil

## Week of June 30

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130  
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15,  
2:23-24 or Lamentations 3:22-33  
and Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Dennis Bieri
- 5: Cindy Remus, Eric Hauser
- 6: Benjamin Shubak
- 7: Jodi Moll, Kash Hageman
- 10: Michael Cashman
- 11: Hannah Worley
- 15: Karen Williams, Mark Shubak,  
Kailey Hodel
- 17: Dave Triplett
- 18: Charles Hustad, Blaise Westphal
- 22: Anna Putney
- 25: Doug Smith
- 27: Sue Thiede, Shirley Zurbuchen
- 29: Ben Hauser, Chase Runnheim

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

It's hard to believe that it's June and summer is here. Remember that Sunday services will switch to 9:00am this month.

Last month I mentioned a project to redo our parking area, costing about \$125,000. The council has decided that it would be in our best interest to wait on the project until next summer and hold a capital campaign this year to build up the funding. More to come on this topic.

Sarah Pundt has announced that she will retire from her duties as our Christian educator at the end of July. We are truly grateful for all the work Sarah has done for Salem. She has created something special and although she will still be here in the pew on Sundays, she will be missed by all who have worked with and learned from her in her educator roles.

Cara Bahr has also announced that she will be leaving her job as our office administrator around the end of July. The Bahr's have bought a new home in the Elkhorn area to be nearer to family. We are thankful for all the work she has done for the church, and we will miss her and the entire Bahr family.

Council is working with Pastor Phil on a search to fill vacancies as soon as possible. Work continues on a new church directory and vacation bible school is coming up June 23-25. Check with Cari Bass if you would like to volunteer to help with food for VBS.

Regarding finances, as of the end of May we had approximately \$91K in income and \$112K in expenses. Please consider this in your giving.

Please feel free to reach out if you have a question or concern. Thank you for your support of Salem UCC.

John Cashman

*"To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self, to see only Him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30PM.

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning on Sunday, June 2, our worship services will start at 9am. We will follow this schedule throughout the summer.



# New Church Directory Coming Fall 2024!

We need your help to bring you a fresh church directory this fall!

## There are 2 ways to update your information:

1. Enter your own information via our Breeze Software. You can upload a family photo, too, or we can take a photo for you later and add it in. If you do not have Breeze login information, please contact Cara Bahr to gain access: [cbahr@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:cbahr@saalemchurchverona.org)
2. Complete the below information sheet and return to the box outside of Cara's office and we will input the information for you or email it to: [directory@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:directory@saalemchurchverona.org)

If you have adult children that prefer a separate listing from family, please have them submit a separate form.

**Photos:** If you have a photo you can submit that here: [Directory@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:Directory@saalemchurchverona.org)  
If you do not have a photo to submit, we'll be arranging photo days to take one for you.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First names of adults in family: \_\_\_\_\_

First names of children in family: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you'd like us to know for printing purposes: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a photo to submit

I will need a photo taken

Questions? Please contact Krista Nechvatal or Kris Wilbricht  
or send an email to: [directory@saalemchurchverona.org](mailto:directory@saalemchurchverona.org)

Thank you!

# 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)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Thank you!** Our Sunday school program year ended on May 19 with a celebration of our classroom leaders and assistants. It was another great year of community and learning. Heartfelt thanks for all the volunteers in our Christian Education Ministry. Sunday school programming for all ages will resume on September 15 @ 9am.

**Currently Recruiting!** Our Christian education ministry needs the entire community to participate to thrive. Please consider serving as a Sunday school leader, assistant, or with one of our intergenerational events. Rally Day, Ornament/Advent Sunday, Christmas programs and events, Palm Sunday, and VBS are all organized by the BoCE. Choose when and how you would like to serve and help us maintain our wonderful education ministry for all ages. Please contact Sarah Pundt, Kelli Malueg @ [maluegfamily@gmail.com](mailto:maluegfamily@gmail.com), or Dave Triplett @ [dtriplettjr@att.net](mailto:dtriplettjr@att.net) .

# GOD LOVES US

## Community VBS 2024

*Hosted by Sugar River UMC and Salem UCC*

**DATES:** June 23 @ Salem UCC  
June 24 @ Salem UCC  
June 25 @ Sugar River UMC

**TIME:** 5:45-7:30pm

### **Nightly Community Meal**

Provided by Salem Women's Guild (6/23), TBD (6/24),  
Holy COW Food Truck (6/25)

**PreK-Grade 5:** **Bible Stories, Crafts, Games, and Music**

The children will be outside (weather permitting). Please dress appropriately for conditions and consider coming prepared with bug spray.

**Grades 6-12:** **Contact Sarah Pundt to build your own VBS**

**Adults:** **Bible Study or Fellowship Time**

The adult program will be co-led by Lisa Hart (Salem UCC) and Ty Hines (Sugar River UMC).

**To Register: Complete a dinner reservation form for each household and a registration form for everyone under age 18.\***

\*There is no cost to attend VBS, but we would like to know if we should expect you. Registration materials are available by contacting Sarah Pundt. Please submit **registrations by June 9** so that we have enough food and supplies for everyone.

Volunteers: Volunteer orientation will be held on June 18 @ 6:30-8pm. Location TBD. Watch your email for more details.

# GOD LOVES US

# Community VBS 2024

Hosted by Sugar River UMC and Salem UCC

**You are invited!** Sugar River UMC and Salem UCC are excited to collaborate and host a Community Vacation Bible School. Each evening will begin with a kid-friendly community meal followed by programming for ages PreK-Grade 5, opportunities for youth grades 6-12, and Bible study for adults. Childcare is available upon request.

What: **Community Meal and VBS Programs for Children, Youth & Adults**  
When & Where: **June 23 & 24 @ Salem UCC**  
**June 25 @ Sugar River UMC**  
Time: **5:45-7:30pm**

Please let us know your plans to attend by **June 9**. (one sheet per household)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For planning purposes please let us know if you will be joining us for dinner:

|                | # Adults | #Children |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Sunday (6/23)  | _____    | _____     |
| Monday (6/24)  | _____    | _____     |
| Tuesday (6/25) | _____    | _____     |

Please note any food allergies and we will do our best to accommodate your needs:

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### Commonly asked questions:

I can't attend every evening. Can I miss a night?

*Answer: Yes! Come when it works for you.*

Can I attend just the dinner or just the program?

*Answer: Yes! You can participate in the way that works for you!*

Is there a fee?

*Answer: No! VBS is a ministry of Salem UCC and Sugar River UMC and is offered at no cost.*

*Children and youth under age 18 need to complete a registration and waiver form. For registration materials, please contact Sarah Pundt [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org) or Erin Ford [erin.ford@sugarriverumc.org](mailto:erin.ford@sugarriverumc.org)*

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

June 2024

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

## Youth Opportunities at Salem: Grades 6-12

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!

## Thank You

Thank you to all youth and parents who assisted with the Salem Spring clean up day. We made great progress! Thank you also to everyone who worked on behalf of Salem's Youth Ministry at Brat Fest.

## HS Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 9 @ 9am

Join us in worship for a special time of recognition for our 4 graduating high school seniors: Marisa Denu, Kaden Nechvatal, Chase Runnheim, and Blaise Westphal. This is an important opportunity for us to send them off on their new adventures while also remembering what they meant to us in their time at Salem.



## SALT Trip to AMEN! St. Louis - July 9-14, 2024

10 youth grades 6-12 will be journeying to St. Louis for our SALT Trip 2024! AMEN! St. Louis is a ministry of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, providing Urban Mission Experiences for Youth and Intergenerational Mission Teams. We will stay in the AMEN! House next door to the church. The AMEN! staff will plan a variety of service activities and corresponding learning opportunities. Naturally, we will save time for some St. Louis fun!

## SALT Trip News and Notes

All youth and chaperones attending the SALT Trip should monitor their emails for permission forms and other important information. As our trip date approaches, we will have many details that need attention. Please also mark the following on your calendars:

### June 20 @ 6-8pm, SALT Trip Planning Meeting

This planning meeting is for chaperones and youth participating in the SALT Trip. We will discuss the trip itinerary, packing list, meal plan, and other important details. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are unable to attend this meeting so that alternate arrangements can be made to provide you with this important information.

### July 29 @ 6pm, SALT Sharing Potluck

We will host a potluck supper and share our SALT Trip experiences with the congregation.

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### June

- 9 HS Graduate Recognition Sunday
- 20 @6-8pm SALT Trip Planning Meeting

### July

- 9-15 SALT Trip to AMEN! St. Louis
- 29 @6pm SALT Trip Sharing Potluck

# JUNE 2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|---|-----------|
| <b>2</b><br>Summer Worship Hours Begin<br>9AM - Worship     | <b>3</b><br>Eve - Boy Scouts                                    | <b>4</b><br>5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts              | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>1:30PM - Women's Guild Meeting<br>6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 | <b>7</b><br>10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>Graduation Sunday<br>9AM - Worship              | <b>10</b><br>6PM - Quilting                                     | <b>11</b><br>6PM - Finance<br>7PM - Council       | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br>6PM - Worship on VHAT-98<br>6:30PM - Men's Fellowship     | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>Father's Day<br>9AM - Worship                  | <b>17</b><br>6PM - Quilting                                     | <b>18</b><br>6:30-8PM - VBS Volunteer Orientation | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br>6PM - Worship on VHAT-98<br>6-8PM - SALT Trip Planning    | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>9AM - Worship<br>VBS June 23-25<br>5:45-7:30pm | <b>24</b><br>VBS<br>5:45-7:30pm<br>JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE | <b>25</b><br>VBS<br>5:45-7:30pm                   | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>6PM - Worship on VHAT-98                                  | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b> |
| <b>30</b><br>9AM - Worship                                  | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>6PM - Worship on VHAT-98                                   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |



# JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024

## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

begin on Sunday, June 2 at 9am

## GRADUATION SUNDAY

Honor our high school graduates during worship  
on Sunday, June 9 at 9am

## COMMUNITY VBS

Hosted by Salem UCC and Sugar River UMC  
June 23-25, 5:45-7:30pm

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Look inside for how to update your info  
and submit a photo

### SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

[www.salemchurchverona.org](http://www.salemchurchverona.org)

#### Pastor

Rev. Philip Hobson

[phobson@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:phobson@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Office Administrator:

Cara Bahr

[cbahr@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:cbahr@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Christian Education & Director of Youth Ministry:

Sarah Pundt

[spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Instrumentalist:

Dawn Lingard

[musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:musicdirector@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Choirs

Kelly Garrow

[choir@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:choir@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Director of Handbells:

Carrie Coenen

[handbells@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:handbells@salemchurchverona.org)

#### Church Council President:

John Cashman

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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**

