

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

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

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2024

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## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL:

### **Week of April 7**

*Acts 4:32-35*

*Psalms 133*

*1 John 1:1-2:2*

*John 20:19-31*

### **Week of April 14**

*Acts 3:12-19*

*Psalms 4*

*1 John 3:1-7*

*Luke 24:36b-48*

### **Week of April 21**

*Acts 4:5-12*

*Psalms 23*

*1 John 3:16-24*

*John 10:11-18*

### **Week of April 28**

*Acts 8:26-40*

*Psalms 22:25-31*

*1 John 4:7-21*

*John 15:1-8*

## FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends,

Easter is a season.

Easter is a Sunday on which we remember that Sunday nearly 2,000 years ago when the stone was rolled away and the angel said, "He is not here. He has been raised." And every Sunday is a little Easter.

But Easter is also a season. From the day of the empty tomb until the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it took a long time for his earliest followers to figure out what it meant and what to do with the resurrection.

We often look at Lent as the journey to get to Easter. But how much time does it take for us to recognize the truth of the resurrection in our own lives? How long does healing take? What needs to happen for us to let some things go and embrace the reality that God can make ALL things news?

So now that we have arrived at Easter, let us seek to live into the resurrection: forgiving and being forgiven, loving and being loved, changing and being transformed, as best we are able, with the help of God.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Phil

## SYMPATHY

We are sad to announce the passing of Diane Flood. Over the years, Diane has served our church in many ways, including serving on Council and playing in the bell choir. Our prayers go out for husband Charles, as well as their children and grandchildren. Arrangements are pending.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Noah Nechvatal
- 2: Gary Aebly, Ellen Bass
- 3: Astrid Swain
- 4: Clifford Hageman, Pat Anderson
- 7: Kain Hageman
- 8: Kelli Malueg
- 9: Steve Witcraft, Avery Durnen
- 10: Howard Gust
- 12: Arlene King
- 14: JoAnn Aebly
- 16: Sarah Pundt
- 17: Kaden Nechvatal
- 18: Sue Castle, Alexandra Flood
- 23: Machai Bahr
- 24: Lis Pankonin, Brianna Runnheim
- 25: Gladys Hustad, Chris Worley
- 26: Helen Hageman
- 30: Nicolas Flood

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



## CRAFT DAY

Do you like doing different craft projects? Don't really have space to spread out at home? Please join me on Saturday, May 4 from 9-7 in the lower level of the church and craft with your friends! I would love if you would come and join me. Bring whatever you want to work on and enjoy the company and ideas of others! Please let me know if you have any questions and together we will figure it out. Looking forward to creating with you!



Brat Fest 2023

## COUNCIL CORNER

Welcome to April, I hope you feel a bit of spring in the air. This season brings growth and new life bursting from the ground, there is also the wind and the rain, followed by the sun and the promise of a full life through the blessings of God. I hope you all feel joy and are looking for the good things on the horizon.

Please join me in welcoming our new choir director Kelly Garrow. Kelly is an accomplished music teacher and musician from Belleville. She is also a teacher at the Madison Childrens Theatre and was the choir director at St. Francis of Assisi church. We are all very excited to have Kelly joining Salem and look forward to working with her.

The council has been working on a few new things this spring. Cari Bass led the charge to send out a flyer to our neighbors talking about our Holy week celebrations. Cara Bahr created a wonderful design, and it was sent out to 1200 households directly surrounding the church.

The council will be monitoring results, and we may be doing more of this type of communication in the future.

In other events Krista Nechvatal and Kris Wilbricht are looking into updating our membership directory. Doug Smith has been working with the Red Cross and we will be holding a blood drive on Tuesday, May 28. We will be having work done on the developing prairie out in our yard and will be getting bids to do some work on the blacktop. These are just a few of the things going on at Salem. Please read your newsletter about current events and look for more information coming in the months ahead.

From a financial perspective, at this writing we have receipts in from January and February and we are showing income at 45K and expenses at 55K. Much of this discrepancy is due to annual insurance and HVAC contracts coming due. The finance committee will keep an eye on these numbers and communicate as the year develops.

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

-John Cashman

## VOLUNTEER AT BRAT FEST

Each year, Brat Fest depends on nearly 5,000 volunteers of all ages\* with over 16,446 volunteer hours to play a special part in our continued success and our quest for the WORLD RECORD all in the spirit of community giving! Without them, Brat Fest would not be the same.

Volunteer Registration is now open. Please watch the Friday weekly news for the signup link and further instructions. Registering early improves your chances of securing the shifts and jobs you prefer.

### Brat Fest Volunteers receive:

- Brat Fest T-Shirt
- Brat Buck (Good for a Brat, Hot Dog, Corn or Soda)
- Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream free scoop
- An incredible fun time
- \$10 of every hour they volunteer, goes to the charity of their choice

# 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

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

### Adult Class *Mighty Network*

The Mighty Network is a private online interactive platform that provides space for the adult class calendar, links to resources, and space for online conversations between group members. You do not need to attend the adult class to participate in this online resource and you do not have to join this online community to participate in the class. Because this network is private (just for Salem use and not intended for the general public), please contact Sarah Pundt for login information to join the group.

### Adult Class Topic April 7- May 19

The **Ants and the Grasshopper** documentary follows a Malawi woman as she travels across the United States to dialogue with Americans about climate change and the impact it is having on her small farming community in Africa. Using Bible texts, a study guide, and this film, we will explore climate change, gender and racial inequality, the gaps between the rich and the poor, and the ideas that groups around the world have generated to save the planet. Join us for our Sunday morning discussions throughout April and May @ 9am.

### 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/>

### SAVE THE DATE

June 23, 24, & 25  
5:45-7:30pm

Join us for our intergenerational VBS program and community meal. We are collaborating with Sugar River UMC this year to offer a community VBS program. Mark your calendars and watch for more details in future newsletters.

**VBS 2024**

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

April 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.

Dear Youth and Families,

The hard work of Youth Sunday planning culminated in a wonderful and meaningful Youth Sunday Service. 14 Salem Youth participated in or contributed to the service. I appreciate each of you for your individual contributions. You worked well together as a team, you challenged yourselves, and you eloquently made the story of Zacchaeus **#relatable** for others. Each of you is a gift to me and to the Salem community. We now pivot from this gratifying work to a Spring season full of fun, fellowship, and service opportunities. Please read through the available options below and join us when you can!

Blessings, Sarah

## 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!

## Amazing Grace - April 14 @1:30-5pm (ish)

After a several-year hiatus, the popular AMAZING GRACE is back on! Teams of church youth from the Madison area gather at First Cong for a race on Sunday, April 14. Teams complete challenges to earn clues that take them around the city on a race to the finish line. Think of it as a mash-up of an Escape Room, Scavenger Hunt, Puzzle Solving, Bible Study, and RACE! Advance sign up is required.

## Service Opportunities

The youth want to focus their Spring service efforts on the church.

## April 28 Youth Host Fellowship Hour

Salem Youth will host fellowship hour following worship to thank the congregation for their support throughout the year. Youth are asked to sign up to bring food items, help with setup at 9am on April 28 (during Sunday school hour), and participate in serving and clean up. Please watch the Mighty Network for a sign-up genius for the food items and jobs.

## TBD Salem Spring Clean Up Day

Watch the Mighty Network for information for a spring clean up day. We will help spread mulch and tend to other outdoor jobs as needed.



## 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! More details regarding serving and learning experiences will be provided closer to our departure.

# SALEM YOUTH APRIL NEWSLETTER | 2024

## YOUTH CALENDAR

### April

**14** @ 1:30-5(ish) Amazing Grace

**28** Youth Host Fellowship Hour

### May

**19** @ 6:30-7:45 Youth Gathering

**24-26** Brat Fest

### June

**9** @ 9am High School Graduate Recognition

**SALT Trip to AMEN! St. Louis  
July 9-14**

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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



# APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>3</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>4</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 1:30PM - Women's Guild Meeting	<b>5</b> 10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>8</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>10</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>11</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 1:30-5PM - Amazing Race (Youth)	<b>15</b> Eve - Boy Scouts 6-8PM - Quilt Group	<b>16</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts	<b>17</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel	<b>18</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>22</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 5:30-6:30PM - Cub Scouts 6:30PM - BOCE	<b>24</b> 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Bells 6:45PM - Chancel <b>MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>25</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	<b>29</b> Eve - Boy Scouts	<b>30</b>				



**Give  
Online**

# APRIL NEWSLETTER 2024

## WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

April 4, 1:30PM

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR

Kelly Garrow

## VOLUNTEER AT BRAT FEST

to benefit the Salem Youth

## AMAZING RACE

Youth Event: Sunday, April 14, 1:30-5PM

## SAVE THE DATE

Craft Day - May 4, 9AM-7PM

### 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)

#### Director of Music:

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

#### Church Council President:

John Cashman

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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PO Box 930125  
Verona, WI 53593-0125

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