

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2025

by Hao Chen (Pexels)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY:

Week of July 6

2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30
Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Week of July 13

Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Week of July 20

Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52
Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Week of July 27

Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85
Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, July 17th at 6:30PM at the home of Kevin Booth.

FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends,

The book of Ephesians is a fascinating case study in the letters of the New Testament. It claims to be written by Paul, but there are important differences in the writing between this letter and the ones we are certain that he wrote. Nevertheless, the book is undeniably the product of people witnessing to God in Jesus Christ in the early church, even if likely later than Paul himself.

One of the pieces of the letter to the church in Ephesus that has captured the church's imagination through the years is the "whole armor of God," described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

I have seen posters for Sunday School rooms that illustrate the breastplate of righteousness and sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, using an image of a fantastical medieval knight, likely a crusader, or a fully armed roman legionary.

While these are dramatic and memorable, they miss the point of the passage.

The church in Ephesus would have been well acquainted with the look and equipment of the Roman legions. They would know about the plumed helmets and the rounded rectangular shields, the pilum, or spear, and the gladius, or short sword. But they themselves would have none of this gear. The images of a crusader or a legionary takes what is good news for those who have no weapons and no armor and confuses them again with those who would oppress or occupy them.

What the author of Ephesians is saying is that these church members who do not take up arms have something better. The Roman troops have helmets, but they have the salvation of God. The soldiers have breastplates. They have the righteousness of Jesus, the generosity of grace poured out for them, and which they pour out for the sake of their neighbors. Legionaries have belts that mark where they have

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

4: Monica Bachmann
5: Ann Nelson, Frank Westphal
6: Paul Wieland
7: Robert Zurbuchen
8: Chris Wilbricht
11: Jon Pundt
17: Kylie Hageman
26: Craig Rhiner
27: Dale Yurs

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

served and what awards they have received. These church folk have the truth. That God is God, and that God's love is greater than any empire. These soldiers have hobnailed sandals for marching and fighting. Followers of Jesus have whatever shoes they need for the sake of carrying and sharing the message of the Gospel of peace. Soldiers have shields protecting them from arrows and stones and darts. But the people have faith, which can stop the projections of the evil one. And while the legions have swords, this letter reminds the people that they have the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

It is all too easy to read something in the Bible and just assume it supports the status quo, or justifies violence. But if we read it carefully, we might just discover something far more powerful: a Gospel of peace that really is good news.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Phil

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to Stock the Shelves at Badger Prairie Needs Network. **339** pounds of food items were donated and delivered. Your continued support helps those who are experiencing food insecurity. A Dane County Public Health report published in February of 2025 stated that every day 42,000 people face food insecurity in our county. Food insecurity means not always having enough to eat, running out of food before there's money to buy more, or lacking access to nutritious options essential for good health. In 2024, emergency food distribution in Dane County reached a record high. The six largest food pantries reported an average 112% increase in food visits from 2021-2023. Your support helps keep the shelves stocked at Badger Prairie to ensure our neighbors are fed and healthy.



PASTOR PHIL'S VACATION

Pastor Phil will be on vacation July 2-10. Kathleen Owens will preach on July 6.

For pastoral care:
Lisa Hart (July 2-4)
608-438-1571

Kathleen Owens (July 5-9)
608-347-6317

SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies to the family of Anna May Rhiner who passed away on May 4, 2025 at the age of 92. Her funeral was held at Salem on May 9.

Our sympathies to the family of Nancy Wuthrich who passed away. Preliminary plans are for a service in late July to allow family living far away to attend. Arrangements are through Ryan Funeral Home.

90TH BIRTHDAY - DEBBIE BASS

The Bass family will host fellowship hour on July 27 in honor of Debbie Bass's 90th birthday. Also note the food drive for BPNN running July 28-August 6 in Debbie's honor (see flyer included in this newsletter).



CELEBRATING A COMMUNITY HERO

Debbie Bass's 90th Birthday and Her Lasting Legacy

The community is coming together to honor Debbie Bass, a trailblazer whose dedication has profoundly shaped local efforts to combat food insecurity. In celebration of her 90th birthday, a special food drive called the **Founders Food Drive** sponsored by Park Printing Solutions, will be launched on July 28th, to pay tribute to her lifelong commitment.

SAW THE NEED

Debbie Bass's journey as one of the founders of the Verona Food Pantry began with a humble church closet at Salem United Church of Christ in Verona. Recognizing a need in her community, she laid the groundwork for what would become a vital resource for countless families



THEY PLANTED THE SEED

In 1986, the Verona Food Pantry evolved significantly under Debbie's guidance. Originally, the pantry offered government cheese and bread to households in need. As demand increased, the pantry relocated to a loading dock at Park Printing Solutions, expanding its offerings and introducing pre-packed grocery bags to better serve the community. By 1993, the pantry found a new home in the basement of the Verona Public Library, providing clients with a more dignified grocery store-like experience.

THE SEED GROWS

In 2002, community leaders from local faith organizations collaborated to establish a shared support network. This effort led to the formal incorporation of the organization as Verona Area Needs Network (VANN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The Verona City Council passed a resolution ensuring the pantry's future, providing free space in perpetuity. The organization continued to grow, relocating in 2011 to a larger facility at 1200 Verona Avenue, featuring an expanded pantry, commercial kitchen, and support offices.

By 2015, VANN rebranded as Badger Prairie Needs Network to serve households beyond Verona, Dane County. Today, it boasts of over 250 volunteers and provides food assistance to 87,000 individuals.



park PRINTING SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

LET'S CELEBRATE DEBBIE BASS

We are proud of Debbie, whose parents founded Park Printing Solutions in 1952. Debbie joined the company twenty years later, working in administration until her retirement in 1998.

The Founders Food Drive honors Debbie's 90th birthday and recognizes her pioneering spirit, dedication and compassion.



HONORING A VERONA LEGACY!



DID YOU KNOW?

Park Printing Solutions is sponsoring a food drive to celebrate Debbie Bass's 90th Birthday!



In support of



JULY 28 - AUGUST 6

**No one should go hungry -
YOU CAN HELP!**



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



DROP OFF ITEMS AT
PARK PRINTING SOLUTIONS
Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM



608-845-6505



hello@parkprinting.com
parkprinting.com



550 East Verona Ave
Verona, WI 53593

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:45-7:30PM - VBS (at Sugar Rive UMC)	2 Pastor Phil's Vacation July 2-10	3	4 10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison	5
6 9AM - Worship (Kathleen Owens)	7	8	9	10 4PM - Reserved for Senior Recital	11	12
13 9AM - Worship	14	15 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	16	17	18	19 4PM - Reserved for Senior Recital 11:30AM - Community Meal at BPNN
20 9AM - Worship	21	22 7PM - BOCE	23	24 AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25	26
27 9AM - Worship 90th Birthday Party for Debbie Bass during fellowship hour	28	29	30	31		

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, July 17, 6:30PM at Kevin Booth's home

90TH BIRTHDAY - DEBBIE BASS

July 27 during fellowship hour

PASTOR PHIL ON VACATION

July 2-10

SALEM CHURCH STAFF and CONTACT:

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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SALEM UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Living Out God's Love

