



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2022

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH:

March 2 (Ash Wednesday):

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20

Week of March 6:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Week of March 13:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Week of March 20:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Week of March 27:

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

During the month of March (beginning March 13th), for the Season of Lent, we are going to share from the heart of the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthian Church, in Word and Worship. It is a powerful experience! Perhaps having it designated in "chapters" (we did that, not Paul!) takes away from the surging dynamics of the letter, one written over weeks or months by hand originally.

Paul moves from the customary greetings and affirmations, and then into a series of responses to issues in the 200+ Christian Community (a collection of house-churches). Next, he deals with how our faith is lived in a diverse and changing world. He then gives the unifying image of the Church as a "Body of Christ" with vastly different parts that must work together, followed by the beloved passage on Love, and then the challenges of embracing and fulfilling the gifts of God's Spirit that guide us and uphold us.



I am not reviewing I Corinthians just for the sake of Biblical edification, but because so many of the challenges and questions of the First Century Church are still current for our Twenty-First Century Church. We still need to center ourselves on Christ, in the Spirit of Christ, yet not in isolation from the culture that swirls around us, but engaged with the culture and its needs. We need to share our faith experience with joy, with everyone, but not in ways that offend and turn others

away. We need to have patience with each other, strength for each other, love for each other, and humility around each other.

No one says this is easy – but it is the most life-giving faith we can live, a faith that carries us into the future God intends for our congregation, and for God's world. Scan through, or read carefully, the whole of First Corinthians again. Feel Paul's spiritual passion, his emotional angst, his occasional sarcasm, his heart-felt yearning, and his earnest and prayerful guidance. Ignore the chapter and verse markings – read it as a whole-cloth.

As we move toward the bright future of Salem Church, this may be the most important guide we can share.

Peace and Joy in Christ,
Rev. Tom



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Chad Malueg, Lars Winterle
- 4: Laura Yurs
- 6: Steve Sundby
- 7: Hugh Hauser, Michael Moll
- 8: Donald Hefty
- 9: Judy Skupien, Elaina Durnen
- 10: Gary Nechvatal
- 14: Carla Baez, Eden Westphal
- 16: Isaac Worley, Oliver Gauthier
- 17: Anna Pundt
- 21: Kevin Booth
- 22: Halle Borelli
- 24: John Bass, Heather Thoma
- 27: Diane Triplett

BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

At their last meeting on Feb 8, the church council decided to re-open the church and resume in person worship and meetings. As before, worship services will continue to be available online through our website.

"NEVER LOSE HOPE"

Youth Sunday Worship Service | Sunday March 6 @ 10:15 am

Join the Salem Youth for their worship service based on Exodus 14 and Luke 4. Come explore the connections between Moses parting the Red Sea, Jesus' time in the wilderness, and our current experience in the pandemic. How do we learn to manage struggles from those who came before us? How do times of struggle impact our faith? The youth have explored these questions and more and are excited to share their worship service with you.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love

responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, **Love remains.**

We will be receiving OGHS offerings through the month of March. Offerings may be sent to the church or made directly online at ucc.org/oghs

Thank you for your generosity

THANK YOU

Thank you to the church council for allowing the church open giving Lyle the service he would have wanted.

Thank you Reverend Tom for the great service.

For Harlan Hall and Becky Hagenston for helping out.

And a very special thank you to the Barry Robinson Chorus. It made the service so beautiful

The Lyle Baez family

OFFICE HELP

Our office administrator, Cara Bahr, is expecting her 4th child and will need a little help in the office during mid-late April and possibly into early May. She has the ability to do most of her work from home, but depending on the timing of baby's arrival, she may need some help printing the bulletin. Please contact Cara if you may be able to help.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Salem will offer an Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 at 7pm. This will be the only Wednesday service offering during Lent for this year. Look to the April newsletter for any worship opportunities during Holy Week.

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.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

We were able to use the bazaar funds to make donations to the following organizations as voted upon at our November 2021 meeting: New Glarus Activity Fund - \$150, New Glarus Home auxiliary - \$400, Prison Ministry Project - \$600, Lakeland University Scholarship - \$400, Wisconsin Conference UCC blanket fund - \$300, Save the Children (buy a cow) - \$200, Verona food Pantry - \$100, and "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklet - \$100. This totals \$2,250, which we were able to do thanks to you, our Salem members and supporters. When you help us, we can help others, which is our mission!

It is still TBD if we can have our annual Spring Luncheon this year. We will keep you informed as we approach Springtime. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 1:30pm.

SYMPATHIES

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Anna (Anne) Schmidt who died on February 24, 2022. She was our oldest member at nearly 105. Her memorial service will be Friday, March 4 at 1pm with visitation at noon.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

These Days, Our Daily Bread and The Upper Room devotional booklets are available on the wall inside the main entrance to the church and in the information box near the outdoor labyrinth. These booklets are provided by the Women's Guild.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Salem is pleased to make available scholarships for current church members for expenses during the first year of college, trade school, or technical college.

To receive one of these scholarships, interested persons must complete an application form by April 1, 2022. Contact the church office to receive an application form should you wish one.

Please note this is not limited to high school seniors. Older adults who are planning to attend college, trade school, or technical college are likewise encouraged to apply.

From Your Salem Pastoral Search Committee

Hello Salem family!

As you know we have an active Pastoral Search committee working to find the right long-term Pastor for Salem. The first part of this effort is to write a church profile that describes our congregation and community, and we need your help! Between now and Easter (April 17), the Search Committee will offer meetings to make sure that our church profile appropriately captures your inputs regarding where we've been, where we are, and where we think God is calling us to be or to go as a congregation.

We are looking to team up with existing groups (e.g. Council, Fellowship, Choirs) to have these conversations, as well as to offer a few sessions on Sunday after church between March 6 - April 10th. If you want to participate in these, but would rather do that remotely, please contact Jon Pundt so that we can coordinate a Zoom call and agenda. We want to complete this information gathering phase before Easter.

Zooming out to the big picture, we intend to complete the profile with Council approval by the end of May, and then expect a 3-6 month search and interview process once the position is posted. We understand that this feels like a long time, and we really appreciate your trust in us and our use of the UCC formal process to take the time to do this right.

Thanks so much- and be on the lookout for invitations. We can't wait to hear from you!

Search Committee

Jon Pundt, Chair (communication@salemchurchverona.org)
Krista Nechvatal
Angela Quade
Karen Williams
Kathy Hauser
Brad Bergin
Brian Winterle
(Pastor Tom Robinson)

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” (Exodus 14:14) Moses said these words to the Israelites when they were in the wilderness and afraid. The youth have planned their Youth Sunday worship service around Exodus 14, the story of Crossing the Red Sea. They chose this scripture to represent the parallels between the wilderness of the Israelites and the wilderness in this pandemic age. When you feel at a loss for direction or are afraid, remember these words from Moses that the Lord is with you.

Sunday School Classes for all ages*

Sunday school classes for all ages are offered every Sunday @ 9am September-May.

PreK-Grade 5:	Lower Level Sunday school area
Grades 6-12:	2nd Floor Youth Room (opposite choir loft)
Adults:	Fellowship Hall

Church Nursery: The nursery will remain closed until further notice as we continue to navigate through the pandemic. Please know that at Salem UCC children of all ages are warmly welcomed in church during worship

**Sunday school classes have returned to in-person programming. Welcome back to the church building!*

Adult Sunday School Class Sundays @ 9am, Fellowship Hall

Our program theme this year focuses on being the hands and feet of Jesus beyond our church walls. Below is a list of topics we will explore (dates are approximate).

March 6	<i>No Adult Sunday School Class</i>
March 13:	<i>Morning for Mission</i>
March 20 – Apr. 3	<i>Dwelling in the Word- The Parables</i>
April/May:	<i>Serving as the Hands and Feet of Jesus</i>

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (BOCE)

The BoCE oversees all aspects of the Christian Education offerings at Salem: Sunday School for all ages, Palm Sunday Pilgrimage, Vacation Bible School (all ages), Christmas program, Parent's Promise, Koinonia and other adult small groups. In consultation with the Director of Christian Education, this advisory committee provides guidance for the content and structure of Sunday school and other programming. We are shifting from a model where the members of the BoCE provide the volunteer service for this programming, and they will now solely serve in an advisory capacity. This important church committee is mandated in the Salem church constitution.

We need you! This committee is more important than ever. As we search for a new pastor and try to grow our church, a strong BoCE provides the backbone for our education ministries and sends a clear message that we are a vibrant and engaged congregation. No previous experience required, and anyone who believes in the value of Christian Education is welcome. Please contact Sarah Pundt to learn more about this opportunity or to participate in this advisory group.

LENT



“Be the Church” Lenten Devotional

Our annual Lenten Devotional is back by popular demand. This devotional provides daily reflections written and created by Salem congregation members. The theme for the devotional this year is “Be the Church”. The adult Sunday school class has been exploring ideas for being the hands and feet of Jesus beyond our church building. This devotional theme builds on that and calls us to action in our community as both individuals and as a congregation.

Copies of the devotional will be available in the back of the sanctuary beginning Feb. 27. If you would like an electronic copy of the devotional, please contact Sarah Pundt.

Morning for Mission March 13 @ 9am

See newsletter insert for full details.

Palm Sunday Program April 10 @ 9am

We need volunteers to help make this program happen. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to help create and organize our Palm Sunday morning experience. Ideas can range from our traditional Donkey Walk and Pilgrimage to intergenerational activity stations in Fellowship Hall. New ideas welcome! We do not have BoCE members to help make this program a reality and we will need to rely on volunteers to provide this opportunity.

VBS News!

Passport to Peace

July 10-12

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia March 17 @ 7pm Host: Search Committee

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

The Pastoral Search committee will join our gathering as part of the search and call process. As we look for a permanent resident pastor, they want to assess the needs of the different church groups and committees in the congregation. Please join us in fellowship hall for this important discussion.

Parent's Promise March 24 @ 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. We are currently 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. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

The Mission Committee, the BoCE, and two of our Confirmands (Brianna Runnheim and Blake Adams) are sponsoring our church wide Lenten Mission project to benefit FB4KMadison (Free Bikes for Kids Madison). Last fall, the Salem Youth collected 67 bikes from the local community for the benefit of FB4KMadison. It costs about \$100 per bike to get it into the hands of a new owner. This cost covers the bike helmet, lock, and any maintenance/repairs.

How to help:

- Donate a new bicycle helmet
- Donate a bike lock (a lock with a combination and not one with a lock/key)
- Donate funds to support the mission of FB4KMadison. Checks payable to FB4KMadison.
- Donate your time: visit the FB4Kids website to volunteer (fb4kmadison.org). They have different tasks, and most do not require any experience. Some experience required for bicycle repair positions.



Morning for Mission: FB4KMadison March 13, 2022 @ 9am

Join us in fellowship hall during the Sunday school hour to kick off our Salem Lenten Mission project! A representative from FB4KMadison will be with us to share the mission and purpose of the organization, and an understanding of the beneficiaries of this program. Come learn more about this organization in our community and how we can partner together to make a difference.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

March 2022

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!

Lock-In Overnight Our Lock-In scheduled for Jan. 21 was postponed due to Covid restrictions. We adapted our plan and had an outdoor sledding party and campfire. Thank you to Rod and Kristin Runnheim for organizing and supervising the fire and bringing the hot beverages. It was a cold evening but a good time was had by all! Please watch for details on our rescheduled lock-in overnight.

March 13 @6:30-7:45pm

Come join our drum circle! We have beautiful drums and percussion instruments that we will bring out for an evening of fun and community.

Youth Sunday March 6 @ 10:15am

Our Youth Sunday worship service is right around the corner on March 6. On Saturday morning March 5, we will practice a run-through of the worship service. All youth are invited and encouraged to participate in some way with this service.

S.A.L.T. Trip June 24-26

Camping @ Blue Mounds State Park

During our two-day S.A.L.T. trip, we will engage in a conservation project and explore the work done by Al Swain, a beloved Salem member who passed away in 2019. We will make Intergenerational Connections with congregation members who join us to share their experiences. Hiking, swimming, campfires, and games will top off our fun experience. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

Registration is now open!

YOUTH CALENDAR

March

5	@ 10am-12pm	Youth Sunday Prep
6	@ 8am	Youth Sunday
13	@ 6:30pm	Youth Gathering

April

10	@ 6:30pm	Youth Gathering
24	@ 6:30pm	Youth Gathering

S.A.L.T. Trip!

Camping at Blue Mounds State Park

June 24-26

Registration Open!

Scholarship Opportunity

Salem offers a scholarship to all graduating seniors who apply. If you are interested, contact Cara Bahr (cbahr@salemchurchverona.org) for an application. Applications are due back to the church by April 1, 2022.

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir 7PM - Ash Wednesday Service	3 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	4	5 10AM-12PM - Youth Sunday Prep
6 YOUTH SUNDAY 8AM - Youth Sunday Run-through 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	7 Eve - Boy Scouts	8 7PM - Council	9 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	10 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9AM - Morning for Mission 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Gathering	14 Eve - Boy Scouts	15	16 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	17 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	18	19
20 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	21 Eve - Boy Scouts	22	23 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	24 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	25	26
27 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	28 Eve - Boy Scouts	29	30 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	31 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98		

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2022

"BE THE CHURCH" LENTEN DEVOTIAL BOOKLET

Available beginning on Feb 27

Contact Sarah Pundt to request an electronic copy

YOUTH SUNDAY

"Never Lose Hope"

Sunday March 6 @ 10:15 am



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315

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Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson

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Sarah Pundt

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Music Director:

Dawn Lingard

Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

Church Council President:

George Adams

An Open
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

