

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2022

Photo by Cara Bahr

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Week of September 4:

*Jeremiah 18:1-11
and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
and Psalm 1
Philem 1:1-21
Luke 14:25-33*

Week of September 11:

*Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
and Psalm 14
Exodus 32:7-14
and Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10*

Week of September 18:

*Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
and Psalm 79:1-9
Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13*

Week of September 25:

*Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
and Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31*

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

Dear Salem Church Members and Friends,

In the month of September, we get back to the “regular” routines of most of the year, even though “regular” and “routines” have been terms we have not used so much over the past two years! Yet, there are going to be the “regular routine” startup of Public School and Church School, the preparation that we always make for the upcoming year (2023) in terms of planning and funding, and the electing of Church Officers (Annual Meeting on November 13th).

NEW THING

But there will be some **new features** to go along with our “**Watch for the New Thing**” theme for ministry and mission and stewardship!

For instance, we are currently collaborating with Sugar River Methodist Church on a Team approach to the question: “How can we be

Good Neighbors, especially to new residents in the 500+ apartments being built literally within eyesight of our churches?”

And in preparation for the settled Pastor Search, the Church Profile is being posted by the UCC even as we write/read this, and the Fall will be a time when Candidates will apply and begin the interview process, and so on. Exciting New Things, indeed! During one Fall Campaign Sunday, the Search Committee is planning to lead worship and share with the Congregation the “results” and insights of the Church Profile. Plus, other preparations are going-on, such as cleaning and clearing out some of the “generations” of “stuff” that tends to accumulate in churches, spear-headed by our Council, so that we have a fresh start going into 2023!

We also will be welcoming a new Associate Conference Minister for the Southern Region of Wisconsin, the Rev. Rachel Bauman, who will be working with our Search Committee during the Candidate review process. She starts just after Labor Day, and we hope to welcome her to worship with us soon!



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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7: Doris Waldmann
- 8: Cathy Kwiliniski, Megan Price
- 9: Reid Adams
- 10: Eliese Yurs
- 11: Bernice Hamilton
- 12: Conlin Bass
- 13: Blake Adams
- 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
- 30: Anna May Rhiner

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

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So, yes, God is saying to us:
Watch for the New Thing I am going to do.
It's happening already – you can see it now!
 Isaiah 43:19 (Good News Bible/Today's English Version)

It's going to be an action-packed Fall – with 10:15 a.m. worship beginning September 11th, and Church School Kickoff on September 18th!

See you in September!!!
Rev. Tom

\$44,319

This is the amount remaining on our building loan as of July 31, 2022.
 The Salem Church Council is challenging the congregation to bring this
 number down to ZERO by the end of this year.
 We will provide a monthly update to track our progress.

FALL OFFICE HOURS

*Office hours may vary slightly, but this is the general schedule we are planning for

Cara Bahr, Office Administrator

Tuesdays & Thursdays

8:30-12pm

Every Other Friday beginning

9/10

1-3pm

Rev. Tom Robinson, Interim Minister

Monday - Thursday

1-4pm

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Are you wondering about the progress being made in the transition to a new settled pastor? Members of the search committee worked diligently this summer to complete Salem's church profile in early August. The local church profile asks three primary questions: *Who are we? Who is our neighbor? and Who is God calling us to become?* Input from the congregation during small group meetings and a church wide survey was summarized and shared with the council and congregation in June. The committee used this information to complete sections of the profile, solicited recommendations and curated the MissionInsite data. Throughout this process there was heartfelt discussion about Salem's past, the current need and hope for the future. The church council unanimously accepted the finalized profile at its August meeting and it was sent to Rev. Ted Drewsen the Bridge Associate Conference Minister for validation. The conference has posted our open position on UCC Ministry Opportunities.

The next step is meeting with the new Associate Conference Minister Pastor Rachel Bauman in September about reading candidate profiles received from the conference. Be in prayer and patient as we await the pastor who is called to assist us on the path God is calling Salem.

MEALS FOR MADISON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Every Friday for many years St. Marks Lutheran Church in Madison has provided a free noon meal for the community. In the past Salem UCC participated as a volunteer organization to help staff this meal once per month. The job involves preparing, serving and cleaning up for their Friday noon meal. We need 4 to 5 volunteers who can help at St. Marks from approximately 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the chosen Friday. We are currently exploring whether or not we can commit to supplying volunteers one Friday a month. We would need a group of 10 or 15 people who might be interested in periodically going to St. Marks to help out. Here is a link with more information <http://www.stmarksmadison.org/friday-meal.aspx>

If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer opportunity please contact John Cashman at jchange@tds.net or 608-720-0719. We are exploring our ability to commit to providing volunteers the first Friday of every month.

YOUTH WILL SHARE S.A.L.T MISSION

On **September 18, 25, and October 2**, the youth and chaperones from the mission trip will share their experiences. Different youth will speak each week during worship, and we will have a poster display in fellowship hall. Stop by during coffee hour to look at our photos and ask questions. We had a wonderful experience and look forward to sharing it with the congregation.

AL SWAIN PRAIRIE MAINTENANCE

Blue Mound State Park

As part of the SALT Youth Group trip, the participating youth and adults had the opportunity to work with the Blue Mounds State Park rangers to help with prairie maintenance work on the Al Swain prairie. With the limited personnel resources at the park, they welcomed our help, as there is always more work to do than hands available. We're hoping to plan one or more return trips to the Al Swain prairie this fall and/or next spring and summer to help with additional maintenance, which could include seed collection, ongoing removal of invasive species, and any other work the rangers would like us to help with. We will pass on details of dates/times when available. Stay tuned!

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 WORSHIP TIMES

Our worship time will change for the fall on Sunday, September 11th, with Sunday School at 9am and worship at 10:15am.

IronMan is on Sunday, September 11. You may need to find an alternate route and provide extra time to arrive for worship at 9am.

LIVE STREAM HELP

Kevin Booth is looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping with live-streaming our Sunday services. Let him or the church office know if you are interested.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men's group of Salem United Church of Christ to meet on Thursday, September 22, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Harlan Hall. A light supper will be provided and we will enjoy a time of conversation and Bible study.

Celebration Potluck Breakfast



Photos by Olya Kobruseva

Sunday September 18 @ 9am

Bring a dish to share and an appetite for fellowship.

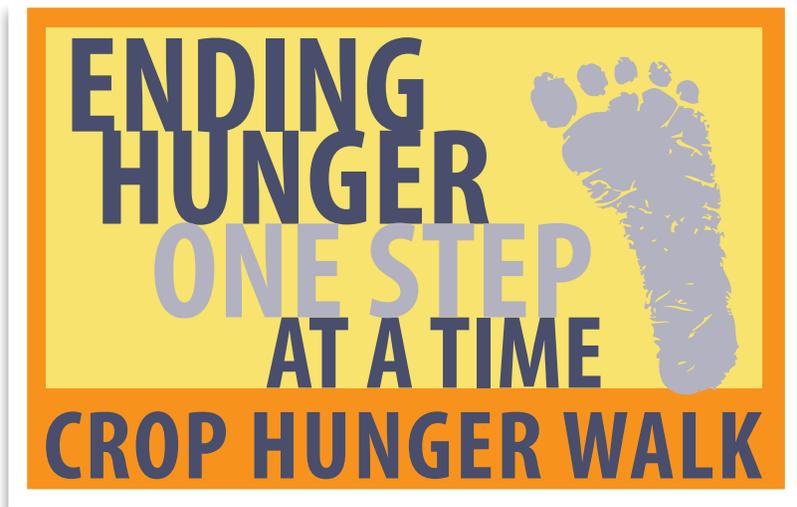
Welcome Back.....Welcome Forward!

What we missed most during the pandemic was fellowship with each other. This breakfast is our official **Welcome Back!** event to that sense of community.

And since we know everything is different in our post-pandemic world, we **welcome** you **forward** to the possibilities that lie ahead in our new normal.

Everyone is invited to join us for a celebration potluck breakfast in fellowship hall on **September 18 @ 9am**. Please bring a dish to pass. Kitchen volunteers are needed. Please contact Sarah Pundt to help.

Come for fellowship. Come for a homecoming. Come for something new.
All are welcome.



Join the Salem CROP Walk Team!

October 16, 2022 @ 1pm.

The Salem Youth are once again sponsoring a CROP walk team and they invite the Salem congregation to join them.

Please visit the team page to join the group or make a donation:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/salem-ucc-youth-and-congregation-2>

Morning for Mission Oct. 2 @ 9am

The youth are hosting a Morning for Mission to share what they have learned about the CROP Walk and why they are inspired to participate again this year.

Come learn more about this organization and join the team!

Last year, Salem had the largest local team with 17 people and raised \$1500. Can we top that this year? Please register and join the youth in their quest tackle hunger around the world.



2021 Salem CROP Walk Team

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.
The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

In the coming months, the Search Committee, the Stewardship/Mission group, and Tom Robinson will all be talking about the theme: "Watch for the New Thing". Most of that discussion focuses how we become new and renewed as a church, especially in our search for a settled pastor. In this very important process, remember that your personal Christian journey needs tending as well. In addition to moving the church toward our "new normal", we also need to focus inward on our own spiritual newness as individuals. Please join us this fall as a student, a teacher, a volunteer, or a participant to awaken something new within you.

Sunday School

Sunday school is provided for all ages every Sunday morning 9-10am from September 18, 2022-May 21, 2023. Nursery care is provided during the Sunday school hour for children ages 6 mos-2 years and during worship for children ages 6 months-5 years. **Transportation and childcare are available for all other events upon request. Contact Sarah Pundt for more information.**

| <u>Age Group</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Nursery (Under age 3) | Lower Level |
| Pre-K (age 3)-grade 5 | Lower Level |
| Middle/High School | 2nd Floor Classroom |
| Adults | 1st Floor Conference Rm |

Christian Education Calendar

September

- 18 Celebration Potluck Breakfast
- 25 Sunday School Classes Resume (all ages)

October

- 2 Morning for Mission
- 9 Sunday School
- 16 Sunday School (Music?)
1pm Crop Walk
- 23 Sunday School
- 30 Sunday School

Church Nursery Childcare

After the pandemic closure, plans are underway to reopen the church nursery! This education ministry provides support and resources to our youngest members and their families. Childcare during the Sunday school hour allows young parents the opportunity to participate in our Music Ministry or other Christian Education Programs. Children of all ages are always welcome in worship, but nursery care is offered for those who would like to use it.

The nursery will reopen once we have re-established a childcare team. Please consider volunteering in the church nursery for one or more Sundays. We are also seeking applicants for paid childcare givers in the nursery. Please contact Sarah Pundt for more details.

Adult Sunday School

All are welcome! Please join us in the first-floor conference room as we discuss a variety of topics related to Bible study, Christian living, social justice, and the church. Hybrid class options are available for those who wish to join remotely (contact Sarah Pundt).

September

18 **Celebration Potluck Breakfast**

25 **Dwelling in the Word: Isaiah 43:19 and 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Covid will always be part of our world, but as we emerge from the pandemic and look forward, the newness is both exciting and a bit daunting. We will explore these texts to discern what they mean for us as individuals and for the church.

October

2 **Morning for Mission: CROP Walk**

Meet in the conference room to learn more about the CROP Walk: who walks, why walk, who benefits? The youth are organizing a CROP Walk team and encourage everyone to join us for the Morning for Mission and the CROP Walk Madison on Oct. 16 @ 1pm.

9 **Biblical Interpretation 101:** We will examine the principle challenges of faithful interpretation of the Bible, including the importance of language and historical and social settings.

16 **Biblical Interpretation 101:** We will explore three major periods of Biblical interpretation and how interpretation has changed over the centuries.

23 **Biblical Interpretation 101:** Why do people interpret the Bible differently? We will examine our own faith stories to explore this question.

30 **Great Themes of the Bible**

Small Groups

For more information about any of our small groups, or to start a new group, please contact Sarah Pundt. All groups welcome visitors and you do not need to be a Salem member to participate. Please join us. All are welcome!

NEW! Family Story & Activity Time

Sept. 28 @ 6:30pm-7:15pm

This group is intended for families with children under age 5, but families with older children are also welcome. The primary goal of this group is to create a fellowship opportunity for our younger families and their children. We might read stories, have activities, or simply go outside and play. The group participants will ultimately shape the group focus and meeting day/time. This inaugural meeting is intended to assess interest and plan a group framework that works for interested participants. We will gather in the church nursery (located in the lower-level Sunday school area).

Parent's Corner

We are rearranging the lower-level of the church to better meet the needs of our current Sunday school families. One of the classrooms will be an area for parents to gather while their children are in Sunday school. Comfortable furniture, coffee, and tea will be available for parents on Sunday mornings at 9am. Parent resources will also be available for checkout or perusal while you are there. Please make yourself comfortable and enjoy some quiet time or fellowship with other parents. Don't forget that you are also welcome to join the adult class in the conference room.

Parents Promise Oct. 6 @ 7pm

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. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! We will meet in the church library on the first floor.

Koinonia Sept 15 @ 7pm

Cathy Kwilinski will lead a program on communion and what it means for us. World Communion Sunday is Oct. 2, so this is the perfect opportunity to deepen our understanding of this sacrament.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

September 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!

Youth Gathering

Sept. 18 @ 6:30-7:45pm

We will use this gathering to prepare for our Oct. 2 Morning for Mission. Meet in fellowship hall.

YOUTH MISSION

S.A.L.T. (Serving and Learning Together) Trip

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

On September 18, 25, and October 2, the youth and chaperones from the mission trip will share their experiences. Different youth will speak each week during worship, and we will have a poster display in fellowship hall. Stop by during coffee hour to look at our photos and ask questions. We had a wonderful experience and look forward to sharing it with the congregation.

Youth Garden

The Youth Garden is still producing! The youth will share their harvest with members of the Salem congregation and with BPNN. Watch for their produce table in fellowship hall.



Youth & Parent Fall Kickoff Meeting

Sept. 11 @ 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall

We will discuss the upcoming program year including gatherings, activities, mission opportunities, Youth Sunday, and the next S.A.L.T Trip experience!

August mini-golf outing



SEPTEMBER 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | 1 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9AM - Worship | 5 LABOR DAY | 6 | 7 6PM - BRC 7PM - Chancel Choir | 8 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Kickoff Meeting | 12 Eve - Boy Scouts | 13 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council | 14 6PM - BRC 7PM - Chancel Choir | 15 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship) | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9AM - Celebration Potluck Breakfast 10:15AM - Worship 6:30PM - Youth Gathering | 19 Eve - Boy Scouts | 20 | 21 6PM - BRC 7PM - Chancel Choir | 22 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Harlan Hall's | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE | 26 Eve - Boy Scouts 7PM -BoCE | 27 | 28 6PM - BRC 7PM - Chancel Choir 6:30-7:15PM - Family Story Time | 29 | 30 | |

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

YOUTH S.A.L.T. SHARING TIME

September 18 & 25 and October 2
Hear from the youth and
chaperones about their experiences.

CELEBRATION POTLUCK BREAKFAST

September 18, 9am
Bring a dish to share
Welcome Back! Welcome Forward!

FALL WORSHIP HOURS

Begin on Sunday, September 11
10:15am worship
Sunday School begins on September 25 at 9am

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

PH: 608-845-7315
www.salemchurchverona.org

Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson
trobinson@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

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

