

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

Photo by David Dibert

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL:

Week of April 3:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 10 (Palm Sunday):

(Liturgy of the Palms)

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

April 14 (Maundy Thursday):

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 15 (Good Friday):

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 16 (Holy Saturday):

Job 14:1-14

or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66

or John 19:38-42

REFLECTIONS FROM TOM...

Throughout all of my years in ministry and in the church, one of the most consistent and inspiring efforts of the Church has been an annual special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the impact that it has in our own country and around the world. It inspires me not only because of the help that is provided for people in need and in disaster situations, which is certainly wonderful, but also because it is a coordinated effort among a number of Christian denominations, doing something together in "one voice". The American Baptist Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Church World Service all work together to cast a vision of how we are one family of care, sharing, and love in this world.



For the United Church of Christ, our focus in this effort of sharing promotional materials and mission coordination "works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons and emergency relief and rehabilitation", and, "supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response."



This is the official language from the promotional materials. I would also add that I've seen personally how people-helping-people directly, with care, compassion, and involvement, is part of the offering's gift. We aren't just giving money to a cause. We are giving strength and love to those whose hands and feet, skill and dedication, are on-site to change the trajectory of people's broken lives. In a few words, it makes a true difference in the world.

continued on next page...

Week of April 24:

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

...continued

So, when we make our offering, when we dedicate it, and when we share the results of what OGHS does ... let's make it a devotional time for ourselves, giving thanks to God that we do have the will, awareness, and resources to bring a witness of hope and love to those whom otherwise would just feel forsaken. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful act of care!

Looking forward to seeing you on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday!

Peace and Joy,
Rev Tom

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church are invited to gather for dinner and fellowship on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30PM at Quivey's Grove.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - TENEBRAE READERS NEEDED

This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 14 @ 7pm. This service will include Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae, chronicling Jesus's final week. If you would like to participate as a reader during the Office of Tenebrae, please let Rev Tom (trobenson@salemchurchverona.org) or Cara Bahr (cbahr@salemchurchverona.org) know.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

UPDATE FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Vacant Choir Director Position

As you are all aware, this past December, our former Choir Director vacated her position after 4 years of service. At that time, the Personnel Committee met with our Music Director, Dawn Lingard, to discuss future plans to refill the vacant position and seek her guidance on recommendations moving forward. Dawn recommended that we temporarily suspend the search for a replacement for the Choir Director position for approximately 6 months due to COVID restrictions and to allow for the creation of the Search Committee for a settled pastor. Dawn also shared that she felt comfortable with overseeing and guiding the vocal and bell choirs during this interim time and was confident that she could support the needs of the current Salem music program during the interim time period.

We want to extend our appreciation to Dawn for her additional leadership efforts during this interim time for our Salem Music Department. We also want to acknowledge the efforts of the Salem Chancel Choir, BRC, and the Bell Choir for the ongoing music that they have created during in-person and virtual worship services over the last two years. In addition, we want to share our thanks to Julie Sundby and Jon Pundt for supporting Dawn in directing the vocal choirs, and Carrie Coenen, for leading the bell choir as well as providing additional special bell music for worship. We are so fortunate to have these dedicated members and employees as a part of our church family to provide beautiful worship music each week.

- George Adams, Kari Westphal and John Cashman

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Salem Women's Guild will hold a business meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 1:30 pm. We will have two major topics to discuss. First, Angela Quade and Krista Nechvatal, members of the search committee, will come to have a conversation with the ladies present at the meeting. They will be asking questions pertaining to: where Salem has been, where we are now, and where we think God is calling us to go. Our thoughts will be used for the search committee to develop a profile for Salem UCC. This will be an important tool to be used in Salem's search for a new Pastor.

Secondly, we will need to discuss the possibility of having our annual Spring Salad Luncheon. With the mask mandate lifted, we may be able to host this event. The officers will check with Pastor Tom and the Council to get their thoughts/approval prior to the meeting. If it is a "go," we can continue to make plans for this event.

As a reminder, Paying Hostesses for March are: Joyce Fredrickson, Becky Hagenston, Verlis Luchsinger, Pat McCarthy, and Ann Nelson. For April: Helen Hageman, Susan Hageman, Lisa Hart, and Judy Skupien.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

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



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

There will be two opportunities for worship on Easter Sunday this year. Will will bring the Sunrise Service back after a two year break due to Covid. This Service will be at 7am and no breakfast will be served following. Our traditional Easter Sunday service will be held at the usual time of 10:15am. The choir will sing at the 10:15 service. We hope that you will plan to worship with us on Easter Sunday.

From Your Salem Pastoral Search Committee

We need your input and help in completing a survey regarding Salem and the search for our next settled Pastor.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKGYH7H> (Click here to take the survey)

The Pastor Search Committee will use the answers received from this survey in the development of Salem's church profile. As a committee we acknowledge that we are inundated with requests to complete surveys after medical appointments, from schools, businesses and after making purchases. We hope that you will consider this as one of the most important surveys you choose to complete, as it will help insure a good match with our next settled pastor at Salem. This individual will guide Salem in the direction the congregation feels God is calling us to go.

Each household should complete one survey, which includes both demographic and open-ended questions. If members from your household have different responses or opinions, please include all replies. There are no wrong answers. The survey is anonymous so please be open and honest. It is important that an accurate church profile is created. There are under 20 questions so please allow yourself ample time to complete them. The survey should be completed in one session.

If you are uncomfortable filling out the survey online or would prefer a paper copy, please contact a member of the Search Committee. The survey will close end of day on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Thank you for your time, energy, and thoughtful responses in completing this very important survey.

Jon Pundt- chair
Brad Bergin
Kathy Hauser
Krista Nechvatal
Angela Quade
Karen Williams
Brian Winterle

This survey was e-mailed to those on our email list and a printed copy has been mailed to those without e-mail. If you still need a printed copy, please contact a member of the Pastoral Search Committee or Cara Bahr in the Office.

Annual Meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Association United Church of Christ

tending the soul of the beloved community

And a voice came from heaven,
'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'
Luke 3:22b

Saturday, April 30, 2022

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

(via Zoom)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have all had to pivot as individuals and as churches. The Wisconsin Conference UCC has responded by forming a "Supportive Ministries Task Force." The task force will provide the keynote and breakout sessions for our gathering.



Worship with Franz Rigert

Keynote: Supportive Ministries Team

Breakout Sessions

- Appreciative Inquiry (Cathy Wille)
- Coaching (Tim Perkins)
- Conflict Transformation (TBA)
- Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Leader Support (Lisa Hart)
- Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations and Readiness 360 (Bob Ullman and Bonnie Andrews)

Association Annual Business Meeting

Meet our New Associate Conference Minister, Amy Lunde-Whitler

Registration Deadline: April 24

In addition to conducting the business of the Association, participants will have the opportunity to hear a brief keynote and select two breakout sessions from a menu of Supportive Ministry offerings designed to support congregational leaders, and engage and empower congregations.

Lay delegates, ministers, and visitors are encouraged to attend!

To register, visit: <https://www.wcucc.org/associations/southwest-association/resources-2/annual-meeting/>

SPRING ETHICS CONVERSATION

What's All the Fuss About?

A Conversation about Critical Race Theory

This is an educational event only. There will be a respectful Q&A session, not a debate.

Wednesday, April 6 ■ 6:30-8 p.m.

Campus Center Event Space

Registration for this event is required to attend.

Please register online at Lakeland.edu/ethics

or contact Bonnie Ziegler at zieglerbl@lakeland.edu or 920-565-1021, ext. 2151.

If you would like to attend virtually, a link will be sent to you after you register.

Please check Lakeland.edu for weather-related cancellation notices.

Panelists

Anthony Sigismondi and
Roy Bradford Evans



Moderator

Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena

Hosted by



**LAKELAND
UNIVERSITY**

Ulrich Center

for Faith, Ethics & Justice



Masking and social distancing required on campus.

This free event will be held in-person and streamed for viewing off campus.

This is a convocation credit for students who attend in person.

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

*Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."
He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Luke 19:39-40*

This Bible passage causes me to also reflect on the words of Elie Wiesel, "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormenter, never the tormented." In the world we currently live in, so many oppressed people have no voice. It's easy for us to look away or shrug our shoulders in ambivalence. We do not see how our own singular small voice, can make a change. For fear of the personal cost, we often remain silent. But take courage! The message of Christ's arrival is undeniable. It is so strong that even the stones will cry out. What are the stones saying and how can you add your voice to that cry?

Christian Education helps give us the tools we need to stand up and speak, the courage to take sides, and the wisdom to know how we can further Christ's mission in the world. Throughout this program year, the adult Sunday school class has been exploring how we can take our message of Jesus beyond our church walls out into the community. The younger children and youth are learning the foundations of Jesus' message and how to take their faith with them into their daily lives. Please join us as we learn together how to use our voice and fight the silencers.

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

***We will not have Sunday school classes on Easter Sunday, April 17.**

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).

April 3	Dwelling in the Word- The Parables
April 10	Palm Sunday Intergenerational Program
April 17	Easter Sunday (no Sunday school classes)
April 24-May 22	Serving as the Hands and Feet of Jesus

Serving as the Hands and Feet Jesus (April 24-May 22)

During this last unit of our program year, we will explore how we can partner with the WI Conference UCC to take our Christian message beyond the walls of Salem. The conference offers many resources to support us in our efforts. Join us as we explore the ways we can gain momentum and strength by connecting to already existing ministries through the WI Conference.

Palm Sunday Program April 10 @ 9am

Join us as we commemorate Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem. We will have a brief outdoor procession with palms, followed by an interactive intergenerational* program in Fellowship Hall. The program is designed for ALL ages and will help us appreciate Palm Sunday through a more contemporary lens. The morning program will conclude before worship with hot cross buns, coffee, and juice.

(Please note: our traditional "donkey walk" will be a shorter processional than previous years. Meet in the church parking lot at 9am for full instructions).

*Intergenerational means it is a program for all ages, individuals, and families. Come with your children. Come if you don't have children. Come if you are married or single, old or young.

Intergenerational = Everyone!

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, and some of Salem's 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. This important church committee is mandated in the Salem church constitution.

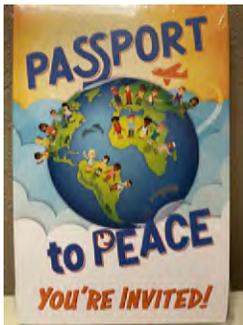
Thank you to Dave Triplett for recently joining this committee! We still need 3 more individuals from the church congregation to participate as BoCE members and we also need a Sunday School Superintendent. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in participating or have any questions.

Current BoCE Members:

Dave Triplett

Kelli Malueg, Church Council Representative

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries (ex-officio member)



VBS News!
Passport to Peace
July 10-12

*Intergenerational Community Meal
Music, Bible Stories, Games, & Crafts for Kids
Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group*

Mark your calendars and watch for more details soon!

SMALL GROUPS

Koinonia April 21 @ 7pm

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.

Parent's Promise April 28 @ 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.

SALEM 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 or bicycle lock. Child and youth sized helmets preferable. Locks should have a combination and not a lock/key. *Donation bin and station in fellowship hall.*

Donate funds to support the mission of FB4KMadison. Checks payable to FB4KMadison. (Use metal drop box outside church office)

Donate your time: FB4K is experiencing a volunteer shortage this year. Giving just 3 hours of time to prepare a bicycle for its new owner is probably the best way we can offer our support. Shifts are Mon-Thurs., 9am-12pm & 12pm-3pm. No experience necessary. Grab your friends and serve with a Salem team for a 3-hour shift.

Join the Salem Bike Giveaway Team

Bicycle Giveaway 4/30 @ 2-5pm: Team up with the Salem Youth to disburse bicycles and helmets to new recipients. Please contact Sarah Pundt to register.

Visit the FB4Kids website to volunteer (fb4kmadison.org) or contact Sarah Pundt spundt@salemchurchverona.org



Morning for Mission: FB4KMadison

On March 13, about 30 people gathered in fellowship hall to launch the Salem Lenten Mission project benefitting FB4Kmadison. Peter Cherkian, FB4K Board Chairperson, joined us to share more about the mission of this organization. Everyone in attendance, left feeling inspired and motivated for Salem to partner with FB4K to help local families gain access to bicycles. Bicycles allow for freedom, social development, physical fitness, self-esteem, and environmental justice.

SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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

April 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 April 8-9 (5pm-9am)

As promised, our postponed January youth overnight Lock-In has been rescheduled! Come enjoy food, games, a movie, spiritual nurture, and relaxed time together. Youth should bring a pillow, sleeping bag, and cot/air mattress. Please contact Sarah Pundt or check the Mighty Network for full details.

Pizza with Pastor Search Committee

April 2 @ 5:30-6:30 pm

The Pastor Search Committee will meet with the youth in fellowship hall to discuss the search process for our next pastor. The youth will be able to provide input about what they want and need from our new pastor. They will also learn about the search and call process and will be able to ask questions. All youth are encouraged to join us for pizza and to participate in this important conversation.

Youth Mission Work

Feed My Sheep April 2 @ 3:30-4:45pm

A small group of youth and adults are registered to help at this mission experience through the Catholic Multi-Cultural Center in Fitchburg. Our team will help package rice, beans, soy, and other healthy ingredients. The boxes we pack are headed to other parts of the world to help people struggling with hunger. There is still room to join our team if you are interested.

FB4K Bike Giveaway April 30 @ 2-5pm

The youth have been working with Free Bikes for Kids Madison throughout this program year. Last fall, the youth hosted a bike collection station at Salem and received 67 bikes from the surrounding community. On April 30, Salem youth and adults will experience their work with FB4K come full circle as they participate in the bike giveaway. We have room for more youth and adults from the congregation to join us.

Youth Sunday Recap



Our Youth Sunday Worship service on March 6 was a beautiful compilation of the spiritual gifts and Biblical interpretations of our young people. They faithfully and eloquently provided the visions of hope they have relied on during the pandemic and unsettled times in which we live. They

spent many hours as a group and on their own preparing their service titled "Never Lose Hope". This fantastic group of youth offers hope to all of us through their faith and intentions as they shine their light in the dark corners of our world. Thank you to all the participating youth: Blake Adams, Reid Adams, Katie Banaszak, Payton Corning, Tucker Malueg, Brianna Runnheim, Chase Runnheim, Blaise Westphal, Eden Westphal, and Lars Winterle. Thank you also to Cathy Kwilinski, Kari Westphal, Kelli Malueg, Kathy Hauser, Dawn Lingard, and the Salem Chancel Choir for their support during the planning and offering of this worship 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 deadline is May 22!

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Week Worship Schedule <i>Palm Sunday:</i> 9AM - Walk and Intergenerational Program 10:15AM - Worship <i>Maundy Thursday:</i> 7:30PM - Worship with Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae <i>Good Friday:</i> Musical Reflection from Dawn (available online) <i>Easter Sunday:</i> 7AM - Easter Sunrise Service 10:15AM - Traditional Easter Worship					1	2 3:30-4:45PM - Youth @ Feed My Sheep 5:30-6:30PM - Youth have Pizza with Pastor Search Committee
3 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	4 Eve - Boy Scouts	5	6 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	7 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	8 5PM - Youth Lock-In	9
10 PALM SUNDAY 9AM - Walk & Intergenerational Program 10:15AM - Worship	11 Eve - Boy Scouts	12 7PM - Council	13 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30PM - Maundy Thursday Worship Service 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	15 GOOD FRIDAY	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY 7AM - Easter Sunrise Service 10:15AM - Traditional Easter Worship	18 Eve - Boy Scouts	19 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship	20 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	21 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Koinonia (Women's Fellowship)	22 4-8PM - Piano Recital	23
24 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Afternoon - Piano Recital 6:30PM - Youth Gathering MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25 Eve - Boy Scouts	26 7PM - Board of Christian Education	27 4:45PM - Confirmation 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel Choir	28 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	29 8AM-5PM - Piano Auditions	30 8AM-5PM - Piano Auditions 2-5PM - Youth @ FB4K Bike Giveaway

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2022

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday:

9AM - Walk and Intergenerational Program

10:15AM - Worship

Maundy Thursday

*7:30PM - Worship with Holy Communion
and Office of Tenebrae*

Good Friday

Musical Reflection from Dawn (available online)

Easter Sunday

7AM - Easter Sunrise Service

10:15AM - Easter Worship

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

502 Mark Drive
PO Box 930125
Verona, WI 53593-0125

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

