



LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2025

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH:

Week of March 2

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Week of March 9

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Week of March 16

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

*Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36,
(37-43a)*

Week of March 23

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

FROM PASTOR PHIL

Dear Members and Friends,

We recently switched our internet provider at home. It was not as difficult as it has sometimes been in the past. They shipped us the modem and router.

We did hit a few snags. Finding where the ethernet lines are in the various rooms, as the old one used coaxial cable. Finding the right wires to hook it up to. And then we had to go about switching over TVs, computers, phones, tablets, and possibly even one of the cats, to the new Wi-Fi and password.

Strangely, my wife spent more time on the phone with the old provider than with the new. The new provider just had to walk us through one or two minor things. The old provider (when called to end service with them) kept trying to talk her into a different deal, or another tier, or anything at all to keep us from switching over. But we had made our decision, and that was it.

I tell you that story to tell you this one. On March 5, we enter Lent with Ash Wednesday.

Many of the roots of Lent go back to the Jewish preparation for Passover. No surprise, as the story of Easter takes place in the midst of the story of Passover in the New Testament.

Ash Wednesday was a later addition to Lent. It may go back to the 6th century, when clergy would go and sit with those doing public penance or serving sentences of being in stocks. It was the reminder that God's grace is for all, including those who are looked down upon by society or the law.

Lent is not just about preparation for Easter. It is about switching over our service provider. Rather than being plugged into the anxiety of the world, we connect with prayer to the source of loving-kindness.

continued on next page...

Week of March 30

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



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
- 17: Anna Pundt
- 21: Kevin Booth
- 22: John Bass, Heather Thoma
- 26: Clarice Dassow
- 27: Diane Triplett

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 17

Salem will host another blood drive on Monday, March 17 from 1:30-5:30PM. You can register beforehand to donate at redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: **VeronaWI**.

Rather than our hearts beating to the rhythm of the news cycle, we let them settle into the rhythm of our hymns. Instead of reacting to the intentional chaos of our nation,

We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.

(-from the hymn *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*)

Of course, the world and its anxiety want us to plug back in to them. Fear does not release us easily. Nor do we ignore the world or hide from reality. By the grace of God, we meet the world with the love we know in Jesus Christ.

This Lent, let's gather for worship and study and prayer and service, and plug into what the Holy Spirit is speaking to the churches.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Phil

BPNN COMMUNITY MEAL

Salem's leadership is looking for ways to be more connected with the community and to be more visible. As you may know, we have a growing number of people volunteering at Badger Prairie Needs Network, and we are trying to support BPNN regularly with donations. The next step the Mission Committee would like to take is to attend BPNN's Community Meal as a group. BPNN has a free lunch on the first and third Saturday of the month in the Kasieta Center. The purpose of the meal is to create a more cohesive and resilient community and to build support for BPNN's mission to end hunger and poverty on a local level. Everyone is welcome to attend these meals, and no reservation is required. The meal usually includes soup and salad, pasta or rice, a chicken, pork or beef dish, a vegetarian option, dessert, and beverages. Leftovers are available to be taken home depending on availability. The meal takes place 11:30 - 12:45.

The Mission Committee would like to invite everyone at Salem to attend the March 15 meal. We would aim to arrive at 11:15. The Mission Committee would like to arrange rides for anyone who needs a ride and also to arrange car pooling for anyone who doesn't want to arrive at the meal on their own. A sign up sheet for rides or car pooling will be in the back of the sanctuary, and the Mission Committee will make arrangements. We especially invite anyone who was involved in the start of the food pantry when it was housed in a closet at Salem.

See a Mission Committee member with any questions:
JoAnn Aebly, Karen Williams, Kathy Hauser, Mary Cutler

YOUTH SUNDAY - APRIL 13

Save the date for this year's Youth Sunday. Join us on April 13th (Palm Sunday) as the Salem Youth lead worship.

Upcoming Youth Gatherings:

March 8 (5PM) - Pizza and Game Night

March 16 (5PM) - Youth Sunday Planning and Taco Ba

April 12 (9AM)- Youth Sunday Run-though

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 May 1, 2025. Contact the church office (office@salemchurchverona.org) 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.

SPECIAL OFFERING - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 5PM - Eagle Scout Court of Honor	3 Eve - Scouts	4 Eve - Scouts	5 7PM - Ash Wednesday Service	6	7 10AM-2PM - Serve at Meals for Madison	8 5PM - Youth Pizza and Game Night
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	10 Eve - Scouts	11 Eve - Scouts 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	12 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel	13	14	15 11:30AM-12:45PM - BPNN Community Meal (plan for 11:15 arrival)
16 9AM - Sunday School 9AM - Youth Choir 10:15AM - Worship 5PM - Youth Sunday Planning and Taco Bar	17 Eve - Scouts	18 Eve - Scouts	19 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel	20 5PM - Scout Crossover Ceremony	21	22
23 9AM - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	24 Eve - Scouts APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25 Eve - Scouts	26 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Handbells 6:45PM - Chancel	27	28	29
30 9AM - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship	31 Eve - Scouts					

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5 at 7PM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on March 8th

SALEM CHURCH STAFF and CONTACT:

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Cari Bass

An Open
and Affirming
Congregation

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

