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# THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

February 2015  
Volume 61, Issue 2

*We are God's children called to seek, share, teach, and continue to experience the Word of God.*

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What does it mean to worship God? That is a question that we as a society struggle with. The related question is: What does it mean to be an active member? In the "old days," the answer was you were in church every Sunday—period! The only excuse to miss church was death, but only if it was your own. There are many reasons for this understanding. The church used to be the focal point of all social activity. I am speaking about the days before the internet and cellphones. The only time when you spoke into a device on your wrist was in the Dick Tracy comics.

However, like it or not, things change. Socialization has moved from the church to the world via the internet. Also, days once held as sacred—Sundays and Wednesday nights—are now treated as any other day of the week. As a result, activities are regularly scheduled on days that were once designated for "church."

This troubles me because I have been doing a lot of reading focused on Sabbath. As you know, keeping the Sabbath is the fourth commandment. Some have observed that the commandment regarding the Sabbath is what connects the first three (focused on God) to the last six (which focus on humankind). Sabbath allows our souls to rest. "There was a time when the early church understood that *octium sanctum* (Latin for Holy leisure) lay at the core of human life. In fact, the Latin word for work is *negotium* which means non-leisure."<sup>1</sup>

The secular rhythm of work, work, work to vacation has replaced the ancient pattern of Sabbath time to vocation. As a society, we are slowly depriving ourselves of the opportunity to nurture our relationship with God. Not honoring the Sabbath, "fosters a mind-set of 'bringing in God's kingdom' through tireless personal effort, it readily becomes an expression of works-righteousness. The Sabbath command is a perfect antidote to works-righteousness."<sup>2</sup>

Simply put, we all need time in our busy lives to focus our attention on God. Some may say, "I don't need to come to church to be close to God." While on one level that might be true, the reality is we were meant to be in community. Jesus taught us, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20) Experiencing God is through community. Sabbath is to be celebrated in community.

So what does Sabbath and active membership have to do with each other? I believe Sabbath is a part of active membership. Maybe the rubric of membership has changed. However, one thing has not and that is the connectedness to the church. How are you staying connected to the church? Are you honoring the Sabbath? We all need to let our bodies rest and allow our souls to be renewed. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when He said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29)

May God bless you and keep you.

*Pastor Jerry*

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<sup>1</sup> *Soul Feast*, Thompson, Marjorie J., Pg. 72, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2014

<sup>2</sup> *Soul Feast*, Thompson, Marjorie J., Pg. 73, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2014

## DID YOU KNOW?

**We are currently using green cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern.**

**Do you know what this represents and when they will be used again in the liturgical church year?**

- The color green symbolizes growth and is used after Epiphany until the season of Lent. Green will be used again following Pentecost until the Advent season.
- The color purple symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ and penitence and is used during the Advent season and most of the Lenten season.

# **“One with the Over-Comer”**

*(Suggested Reading: Romans 8:31-39)*

In the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “You will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” I recognize there are temporal obstacles that I myself can overcome. The cold weather presents the complications of things becoming frozen to the ground or things becoming frozen together. The solution is normally a bigger bar or hammer, anything to deliver a greater force to help break what has become frozen. Whatever I move by my own power will one day be moved again by a power and a will that is not of my own design. Further introspection yields my inability to rightly affect the deep, real problems of life by my own power.

If we believe Jesus has overcome the world, overcoming victory is ever and always a surrender away. Oswald Chambers writes, “Will is the essential element in God's creation of mankind; the source of our will as born again Christians is almighty God.” As our will is surrendered to God, it is made one with God's will! In God's will, we are victorious, even when it may seem otherwise. We may not understand how we are overcoming; yet despite our senses, emotions, logic, and the well-intended commentary of others, we are ever and always victorious as we surrender our will to God.

The Lord invites each of us to be one with His will. In the acceptance of this gracious invitation, all things will lead to victory, and our everyday lives will have eternal significance. Life presents us with one great opportunity in which all other offers pale in comparison. The Lord, who is and ever will be everything, invites us to abide with Him now and forever!

God Bless You!

*Pastor John*

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## **MONDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS WITH PASTOR JERRY**

Come join us at Maedge's on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to have a cup of coffee, discuss the sermon, read scripture together, and talk about whatever is on your mind.

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## **EXHALE – YOUTH NEWS**

*Turn out the light say goodnight, no thinking for a little while. Let's not try to figure out everything at once.*

~ Fake Empire: The National

If you were to walk up to people and ask them to highlight the most talked about events over the past six months, the majority of them would highlight the negative things that have happened in our world. I do not need to list them. We all know what they are. For whatever reason, we tend to have a separate and almost better memory about the negative things that happen to us, while the positive, uplifting things tend to take a backseat. I'm sure there is a psychological reason for this, but someone much smarter than myself would have to answer that one. However, I do think we try to solve these issues at once by coming up with some grand scheme that will forever solve both our personal problems and the world's problems at large. We try mercilessly to find this answer or solution. When in reality, we know what the answer is.

The answer lies within each and every one of us—a conscious decision to be there for the person next year, to live a selfless life, and to love one another without limits. While this is much easier to say than it is to put into action, it is not impossible. My hope is that you will take a second in this crazy, ever-evolving world to disconnect. Take a few deep breathes and exhale. Look at what the issue at hand is. Know it is not impossible to fix—we just have to do it.

Love Wins,

Nick Atkins-Harris

Email: [hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com](mailto:hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com) / Cell: 812-589-1918 / Facebook: ExhaleSalemUCC

### **Important Dates for Exhale:**

- **February 1:** Mission Trip Meeting for HS/MS Exhale Youth following 10:00 a.m. Worship  
No Exhale
- **February 8:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **February 15:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **February 22:** Youth Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.  
Raya @ 4:00 p.m.  
Exhale following Raya Worship (until 5:30 p.m.)

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

January 8, 2015

The following members were present: Pastor Jerry Amiri, Dagmar Annable, Gary Boda, Scott Demkey, Bobby Frank, Shirley Gall, Krista Mansholt, Donita Prott, Dawn Reagan, Tim Stille, and Lisa Uhe. Guests present were Camie Ernst, Taylor Ernst, Denise Grandame, Ian Grandame, and Tyler Verson.

The meeting was called to order by President Bobby Frank. Pastor Jerry read the devotion, "Joy: Strength in the Lord," and led the group in prayer.

The Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report were approved.

Committee Reports were presented with the following highlights:

- **Evangelism/Worship:** Committee will host Random Acts of Kindness week & brunch in February.
- **Property:** The bathrooms in the Parish Hall have had plumbing repairs. The committee will monitor to see if the repairs address all the plumbing issues. The boiler will have a repair made. The repair will only last a year or two.

The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January, 25, following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

The meeting closed by reciting the Lord's Prayer. The next Church Council meeting will be on February 12 at 7:00 p.m.

**Note: The approved minutes of all Church Council meetings are available in the church office.**

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## LIVESTREAM

Have you ever had one of those days that for whatever reason you cannot make it to church? Fear not! Salem Church now uses Livestream to broadcast our worship services. Here are four easy steps to watch the worship service online:

1. Go to Livestream.com
2. Click on "Watch."
3. In the search box (top left), type "Salem UCC."
4. Click on the black and white picture of the church, and you will either see the live broadcast of the worship service or you can look for archived services.

This will enable people who live out of town (including college students) and people who are searching for a church to stay/be connected to the church. Of course, nothing replaces being in worship together; however, Livestream does provide the opportunity to be the church.

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*"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."  
Exodus 4:12.*

The Lord speaks to all of us in many different ways. Is your heart open to hear what is being said? We want all of you to listen and consider what your heart is saying. We are planning a Region 5 mission trip to Tosagua, which is on the coast of Ecuador, June 20-29, 2015. This is a different location than the February 2014 trip. The build site is located about 60 miles from the Pacific Ocean, southeast of Manta. We will be building a masonry and block home in the Manabi province in Ecuador. There will be an orientation meeting on May 5 and June 3 at Salem. No experience is required, just a valid passport. There may be many obstacles and challenges running through your mind, which may be deterring you from going. We encourage you to put those obstacles in God's hands.

*"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the **LORD** your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."  
Joshua 23:14*

There is no obstacle or challenge that cannot be overcome with God. Please contact the Mission/Stewardship Committee if you have obstacles and/or challenges keeping you from answering God's call. There is help available for anyone who has the desire to go. We want all who are willing to make this journey to have the chance to go.

Mission/Stewardship Committee

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## ON-THE-GO BOOKS

We have a limited number of On-the-Go Books (a mini-pictorial directory that easily fits in a purse or briefcase). These On-the-Go Books are for sale for \$5.00. The proceeds will support HACSM Food Pantry in Highland and the AHMA Bread of Life Food Pantry in Hamel. Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase one or two!

# Salem UCC Treasurer's Report

(Month Ending 12/31/2014)

	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<b>GENERAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>19,002.78</b>	<b>23,689.67</b>
Offering - Loose	9,082.67	85,834.95
Offering - Envelopes	11,412.00	118,921.95
Facility Use Donations	150.00	3,963.69
Miscellaneous Receipts	0.00	1,100.00
Interest Income - General Fund	3.24	44.68
Benevolence Received	1,489.00	16,602.45
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>22,136.91</b>	<b>226,467.72</b>
Salaries	9,690.51	112,587.03
Employee Benefits	6,154.69	30,803.25
Maintenance/Property Services	439.72	14,438.72
Insurance	3,356.00	14,717.00
Utilities	1,977.49	23,838.26
Supplies - General	796.12	8,937.71
Professional Expense	274.31	3,935.39
Miscellaneous	517.00	700.00
Worship	391.96	5,248.13
Christian Education	1,154.64	4,296.08
Evangelism	0.00	935.33
Stewardship	0.00	429.69
Stephen's Ministry	0.00	167.10
Benevolence Paid	3,866.00	16,602.45
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>28,618.44</b>	<b>237,636.14</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 12,521.25</b>	<b>\$ 12,521.25</b>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>73,904.37</b>	<b>73,216.21</b>
Memorials - Memorial Fund	150.00	11,452.50
Honorariums - Memorial Fund		45.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	(177.02)	0.00
<b>Memorial Fund Expenses:</b>		
Parsonage Steps & Landscaping	16.41	3,024.83
Worship - Music & Visual	0.00	6,405.89
Conference Table - Memorial Parlor	0.00	1,422.05
<b>MEMORIAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 73,860.94</b>	<b>\$ 73,860.94</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>5,735.65</b>	<b>2,215.65</b>
Building Fund Offering	2,345.00	8,485.00
Memorials - Building Fund	500.00	2,250.00
Building Fund Expense - Replace Aux. A/C		(4,370.00)
<b>BUILDING FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 8,580.65</b>	<b>\$ 8,580.65</b>
<b>SABBATICAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>11,896.12</b>	<b>10,896.12</b>
Contribution from Men's Fellowship		1,000.00
<b>SABBATICAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 11,896.12</b>	<b>\$ 11,896.12</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>60,678.30</b>	<b>58,386.75</b>
Interest Income - Endowment Fund	469.98	586.53
Memorials - Endowment Fund	600.00	2,775.00
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 61,748.28</b>	<b>\$ 61,748.28</b>
<b>INVESTMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>190,174.50</b>	<b>183,143.75</b>
Change in Market Value	(527.57)	9,503.18
Scholarships Paid	0.00	(3,000.00)
<b>INVESTMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 189,646.93</b>	<b>\$ 189,646.93</b>
<b>MISSION MATCHING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>128,690.64</b>	<b>133,049.51</b>
Change in Market Value	(1,438.77)	4,583.36
Mission Match Paid	0.00	(4,681.00)
Donations for Ecuador	500.00	2,988.00
Expenditures for Ecuador Mission Trip	0.00	(8,188.00)
<b>MISSION MATCHING FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$127,751.87</b>	<b>\$127,751.87</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>15,086.82</b>	<b>14,929.27</b>
Interest Income - Reserve Fund	15.74	173.29
<b>RESERVE FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$15,102.56</b>	<b>\$15,102.56</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>4,275.00</b>	<b>4,275.00</b>
Scholarships Paid	(4,275.00)	(4,275.00)
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>3,049.14</b>	<b>2,075.50</b>
Grant Received - Literacy	0.00	1,500.00
<b>Other Restricted Expense:</b>		
Grant Expense - 2012 Grant	200.00	726.36
Grant Expense - 2014 Literacy Grant	225.21	225.21
<b>OTHER RESTRICTED FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,623.93</b>	<b>\$2,623.93</b>



## FEBRUARY ROTATION: “ELIJAH”

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Gathering Room</b>	Opening 8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	Opening 8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	Opening 8:45 – 9:05 a.m.	Opening 8:45 – 9:05 a.m.
<b>God’s Oasis</b> (Puppets)	<b>Pre-K &amp; K</b>	<b>1st &amp; 2nd</b>	<b>3rd &amp; 4th</b>	<b>5th &amp; 6th</b>
<b>Gathering Room</b> (Media)	<b>1st &amp; 2nd</b>	<b>Pre-K &amp; K</b>	<b>5th &amp; 6th</b>	<b>3rd &amp; 4th</b>
<b>Scribe’s Den</b> (Arts/Crafts)	<b>3rd &amp; 4th</b>	<b>5th &amp; 6th</b>	<b>Pre-K &amp; K</b>	<b>1st &amp; 2nd</b>
<b>Disciples’ Dune</b> (Cooking)	<b>5th &amp; 6th</b>	<b>3rd &amp; 4th</b>	<b>1st &amp; 2nd</b>	<b>Pre-K &amp; K</b>
<b>Gathering Room</b>	Closing 9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	Closing 9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	Closing 9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	Closing 9:40 – 9:50 a.m.

**All children will start in the Gathering Room at 8:45 a.m.**  
 After the opening gathering, the children will be led to their specific workshop by their shepherds.  
**Please pick up your child in the Gathering Room at 9:50 a.m.**

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### ~ Kids For Christ (KFC) ~

In January, the KFC group had a *Frozen* themed party. The kids made edible snow ice cream using zip lock bags, built toilet paper snowmen indoors, and finished the evening by playing outside for a few minutes. On Sunday, February 8, from 4:00-5:00 p.m., we will make Valentine’s Day cards for Kindercottage and enjoy a Valentine’s Day treat. Please save the date for the KFC/Exhale roller skating event on Sunday, March 8. We will meet in the lobby of the Edwardsville YMCA and skate from 1:00-3:00 p.m. More information about the skating event will follow. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Luitjohan or Emily Uhe.

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## Read Aloud

On Saturday, February 14, at 10:00 a.m., children in grades K-5 and their parents are invited to Salem UCC for a book reading of “Love, Splat” by Rob Scott. Everyone who registers will receive a free copy of the book. Snacks will be served. Please call the church office at 488-3215 to register and receive your free book! This event is made possible by the Deaconess Foundation.



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### THANK YOU NOTES:

*We want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food, and best wishes after my hip replacement. A special thanks to Pastor Jerry and Pastor John for their support. We are thankful to be a part of Salem congregation.*

*Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt & Family*

*To my church family, thank you all for your most kind cards, calls, prayers, and well wishes. I really appreciate your many acts of kindness. The peace of Christ be with each of you.*

*Blessings,  
Betty Imboden*

*To my dear Salem family, thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers, visits, and food while I was recuperating from my hip replacement.*

*God bless you all,  
Laverne Korsmeyer*

**Child Sponsorship Program  
Global Ministries**

*Thanks Salem UCC for the donation of \$220.*

**Emmaus Homes**

*Thanks Salem UCC for the donation of \$195.*

**Hitz Memorial Home**

*Thanks Salem UCC for the donation of \$330.*

**Hoyleton Ministries**

*Thanks Salem UCC for the donation of \$550.*

**Kindercottage**

*Thanks Salem UCC for all the donated items making Christmas morning very special for the children.*

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# FROM THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & WOMEN'S GUILD

## Next Meeting of the Men's Fellowship & Women's Guild:

Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Jerry Amiri will have the devotion.

## 67th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper:

67th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper was on Saturday, January 31.  
There will be a report to follow in the March Messenger.

## Family Night:

Family Night will be on Saturday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.  
There will be more information to follow in the March Messenger.

## February Golden Agers Are:

**Elmer Frank** on February 13, **Anita Suhre** on February 18, & **Orlean Hosto** on February 22

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## *Random Acts of Kindness Week:*

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

You are invited to participate in Random Acts of Kindness Week by placing your name in the drawing (slips will be available in the bulletin and collected during the service on Sunday, February 8). After worship, participants will be able to pull a name from the basket when exiting the sanctuary to find out who they may bestow an act of kindness on in the upcoming week.

### **RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS BRUNCH**

You are invited to a potluck brunch with breakfast casseroles, pastries, fruit, and desserts, hosted by the Evangelism/Worship Committee, after worship on Sunday, February 15. There are two sign-up sheets on the table outside the office—one if you plan to bring a breakfast casserole to share and the other to let the committee know of your plans to attend the brunch.

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## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

We need volunteers to help serve communion at Hitz Memorial Home on the first Sunday of the month. Please sign up outside the church office if you would like to volunteer. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Cindy Henschen.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!!!**

### **March 2015 – August 2016 Greeters, Liturgists, & Ushers Needed!!!**

The Evangelism/Worship Committee needs your help! They are still in need of greeters, liturgists, and ushers (*especially ushers*) for the March 2015 – August 2016 Schedule. Please sign up on the table outside the church office if you can help with one, two, or all of these ministries.

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## *Please Share Your Music Talents...*

We would like to showcase all the different instruments and talents of our members during Salem's worship services! We could use young people who are just learning to play an instrument or adults who have been looking for an opportunity to get their instrument out of the case again. Please contact Dawn Reinhardt if you'd like to share your talent and let her know what instrument you play. We also are looking for more people to join our Salem Chancel Choir. Please come join us on Wednesday nights!

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## **DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Day of Discipleship will be on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. John Evangelical UCC in Collinsville, Illinois. The keynote speakers are Rev. Starsky Wilson, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, and Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell. If you would like to attend Day of Discipleship, please turn in a completed registration form to the church office by Sunday, February 11. A schedule of workshops offered is posted on the bulletin board in the passageway or may be viewed on the Illinois Conference website. Registration forms may be obtained from the church office or from the Illinois Conference website: [www.isucc.org](http://www.isucc.org).



## Worship Ministry Schedule



Date	Acolytes	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Recorder	Ushers
<b>Feb. 1 (10am)</b>	Shayden Hogg Sylar Hogg	Wilma Blom	Irving Gray	Ron Mindrup	Bill & Carol Reckman Laura Renken Dave & Ronna Renken
<b>Feb. 8 (10am)</b>	Riley Mansholt Bradey McKinley	Jim Annable	Dagmar Annable	Joe Bolyard	Jordan & Richelle Braundmeier Shirley Gall / Cindy Henschen Susi Miller
<b>Feb. 15 (10am)</b>	Taylor Ernst Tori Lynn	Shirley Collmann	Laura Muench	Patti Reckmann	Gale Bolen / Abby Buzick Ralph & Kandy Buzick Alice Stille
<b>Feb. 18 (7pm)</b>	_____	Shirley Collmann	_____	Patti Reckmann	Gale Bolen / Abby Buzick Ralph & Kandy Buzick Alice Stille
<b>Feb. 22 (10am)</b>	Wyatt Reckman Cameron Verson	Wilma Blom	Laura Muench	Patti Reckmann	Jerry & Ann Frank Bobby & Sherry Frank Cindy Price
<b>Feb. 25 (7pm)</b>	_____	Wilma Blom	_____	Patti Reckmann	Jerry & Ann Frank Bobby & Sherry Frank Cindy Price

### Nursery Schedule

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Richelle Ernst Jill Verson	Sarah Bolyard Tiffany Gillison	Heather Luitjohan Laura Renken	Ashley Prott Donita Prott

### Worship Schedule

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermon Title	Pastor
February 1 – 10 a.m. Worship with Pew Communion	1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	<i>What We Know</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
February 8 – 10 a.m. Worship	Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39	<i>Unfathomable Power, Infinite Love</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
February 15 – 10 a.m. Worship	2 Kings 2:1-12 Mark 9:2-9	<i>The Worst Kept Secret</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
February 18 – 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	<i>Who's Looking?</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
February 22 – 10 a.m. Praise Worship / Youth Sunday	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Youth Sunday
February 22 – 4 p.m. Raya	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Nick Atkins-Harris
February 25 – 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	<i>Acts 1-5</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri

### Lenten Series:

This year our Lenten series will be focused on the book of Acts.  
Each week you are invited to read the scripture prior to that week's sermon,  
Or you can just come and hear about the book of Acts.  
Hope you can join us!

The schedule is as follows:

- February 25: Acts 1:1-26, Acts 2:1-24, 37-47, Acts 3:1-26, Acts 4:1-31, Acts 4:32-5:11
- March 4: Acts 6:1-7, Acts 8:9-40, Acts 9:1-31, Acts 10:1-48
- March 11: Acts 12:1-24, Acts 15:1-41, Acts 16:16-40
- March 18: Acts 17:16-34, Acts 19:1-20, Acts 20:17-38
- March 25: Acts 25:1-12, 26



If you are sad or struggling inside, do not suffer alone. Ask for help. We have a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It is confidential too!) Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders listed below. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Rev. Jerry Amiri: (O) 618-488-3215 / (C) 636-328-3332  
Pastor John Mindrup: (C) 618-409-3941 / Betty Imboden: (C) 618-973-0572

## Prayer List

### Cancer Concerns:

Wayne Gentry / Richard Bunte / Sam Merkel

### Health Concerns:

Pastor Jerry Amiri / Quintin Byrne (Cousin of Lisa Reinhardt)

Vickie Conrad / Diana Donohoo

Betty Imboden / Thomas Kinnett

Laverne Korsmeyer / Marie Mindrup

Vernon Mindrup / Fred Monk (Son-in-Law of Bob Mindrup)

Freddie Riepshoff / Melvin Roberts

Carol Ruehrup

### Alhambra Care Center:

Velma Henkhaus

### Eden Village:

Hilbert & Verna Klenke

Lawrence & Hilda Ramach

### Faith Countryside Homes/Apartments:

Dorothy Knabel

### Highland Home:

Anita Suhre

### Hitz Memorial Home:

Orlean Hosto / Electa Leitch / Herb Schmidt

### Legacy Place:

Al & Betty Volz

### Our Servicemen & Servicewomen:

Lt. Col. Derek Bright / Thomas Eyman

Airman Dustin Garner / Jason Schlechte

Kenny Randle / Jared Thiems / Kyle Thornton

## February Anniversaries

02/04/2012 Phil & Betty Imboden

02/05/1994 Jeff & Sue Gibbons

02/10/2001 John & Joni Sanders

02/16/1991 Brent & Natalie Rinderer

02/25/1984 Kevin & Gena Stout

02/28/1976 Larry & Lorna McGee

## A Birth

### In Our Church Family:

#### **Logan Stanley Schlechte**

was born on Wednesday, January 14, 2015,  
to Zach & Erika Schlechte.

He weighed 7 pounds & 15 ounces,  
and he was 19 inches long.

Logan's proud older brother is Liam.

Proud grandparents are Jed & Brenda Schlechte.

Proud great-grandmothers are  
Helen Beshears and Wilma Sander.



## February Birthdays



### February 1

Vernon Demkey

Verna Gilley

Ann Frank

Peter Babic

### February 2

Kyle Gehrig

Dylan Galbiati

### February 3

Greg Semanisin

Kylie Ketcham

### February 4

Gene Templeman

Tom Collmann

Mark Nagel

Greg Lacey

Christopher Suhre

### February 5

Joan Kakac

Clara Doubet

### February 6

Delmar Korsmeyer

Ken Mindrup

Karen French

### February 7

Rolland Mansholt

Sayde Hogg

### February 8

Hailey Quade

### February 10

Patty Uhe

Jon Beshears

Barbara Whitworth

Amber Donohoo

### February 11

Linda Mriscin

Karol Galbiati

Coltin Payne

### February 12

Matt Westfall

Mindy Mindrup

Jeff Warnke

Dave Duffin

Nicholas Dugan

### February 13

Elmer Frank

Kris Lynn

### February 14

Tim Stumpf

### February 15

Jim Tillerson

### February 16

Vernon Uhe

Courtney Winet

### February 17

Carly Rakers

### February 18

Anita Suhre

Cindy Price

Phillip Henschen

Kara Braundmeier

### February 19

Dan Reinhardt

Devin Zobrist

Chris Lackey

Bradley Stumpf

### February 20

Annette Layher

### February 21

Laverne Korsmeyer

Janice Koehler

### February 22

Orlean Hosto

Gary Bloemker

Karolyn Cooperider

### February 23

Raenae Mansholt

Todd Reilson

Trevor Miller

### February 24

Emily Uhe

Haley Basler

### February 25

Heather Luitjohan

Rita Soens

Kyle Lentz

Jessica Riechmann

Madelynn Luitjohan

### February 26

Erika Schlechte

Wyatt Reckman

Bradley Doubet

### February 27

Abby Buzick

### February 28

Carsten Western

Derek Layher

### February 29

Delaney Rigney





# FEBRUARY CALENDAR



Sunday	Feb. 1	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers Worship with Communion Exhale Mission Meeting after Worship No Exhale
Monday	Feb. 2	10:00am 7:00pm	Monday Morning Reflection at Maedge's Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday	Feb. 3	6:30pm	Evangelism/Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Feb. 4	6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Salem Chimes Confirmation Salem Ringers Salem Chancel Choir
Thursday	Feb. 5	7:00pm	BOCE Meeting
Sunday	Feb. 8	8:45am 10:00am 4:00-5:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	Salem Seekers Worship – Random Acts of Kindness Week Mission/Stewardship Meeting after Worship KFC – Make Valentines for Kindercottage Exhale
Monday	Feb. 9	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	Feb. 10	1:00pm	Senior Citizens
Wednesday	Feb. 11	6:00pm 6:30pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Salem Chimes Confirmation Salem Ringers Salem Chancel Choir
Thursday	Feb. 12	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	Feb. 14	10:00am	Read Aloud
Sunday	Feb. 15	8:45am 10:00am 4:00-5:30pm	Salem Seekers Worship Random Acts of Kindness Brunch after Worship Exhale
Monday	Feb. 16	9:00am 10:00am	March Messenger Articles Due Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	Feb. 17	9:00am	Historical Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Feb. 18	6:00pm 7:00pm	No Bells or Choir Practices Confirmation Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday	Feb. 19	7:00pm	Guild & Brotherhood Meeting
Sunday	Feb. 22	8:45am 10:00am 4:00pm	Salem Seekers Praise Worship / Youth Sunday Raya Exhale following Raya (until 5:30 p.m.)
Monday	Feb. 23	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Feb. 25	5:30pm 6:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Salem Chimes Confirmation Salem Ringers Wednesday Night Lenten Worship Salem Chancel Choir after Worship

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### The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee (PPPRC) is always ready to hear ideas and suggestions. 2014 PPPRC members are: Dennis Conrad, Irving Gray, Susi Miller, Kathy Porter, Ken Suhre, and Linda Uhe.

### The Salem Wire

There is a lot that happens from Sunday to Sunday—deaths, births, weddings, etc. Wouldn't it be nice to know these things sooner than later? The *Salem Wire* is an email message delivery system where you would receive notice of events and happenings in the church. To sign up for the *Salem Wire*, please email the church office at [salemuccalh@gmail.com](mailto:salemuccalh@gmail.com).

### The Salem E-Messenger

Would you rather receive *The Messenger* by email? The *Salem E-Messenger* is a delivery system where you would receive *The Messenger* and all committee meeting minutes by email instead of regular mail. To sign up for the *Salem E-Messenger*, please email the church office at [salemuccalh@gmail.com](mailto:salemuccalh@gmail.com).

### 2014 SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL:

- President Bobby Frank
- Vice-President Joe Bolyard
- Secretary Donita Prott
- Treasurer Lisa Uhe
- Financial Secretary Dawn Reagan
- Dagmar Annable
- Gary Boda
- Scott Demkey
- Shirley Gall
- Krista Mansholt
- Mindy Mindrup
- Tim Stille

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**Pastor Jerry's Office Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
(Available for Walk-Ins and Appointments)

**Youth Director's Office Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Office Coordinator's Office Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



**Salem United Church of Christ**

1117 West North Street  
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Fax: 618-488-3212

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Rev. Jerry Amiri, Senior Pastor**

Pastor John Mindrup, Assistant Pastor  
Rev. Arnold A. Bizer, Pastor Emeritus  
Nick Atkins-Harris, Youth Director  
Jennifer Henschen, Office Coordinator  
Dawn Reinhardt, Music Director  
Patti Reckmann, Custodian



*THE MESSENGER*

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

Church's Email: salemuccalh@gmail.com  
Pastor's Email: jerryamiri@hotmail.com  
Web Address: www.salemuccalh.org



**Would You Like  
Home Communion or a Visit  
From Pastor Jerry?**

If you would like or know of someone who would like home communion or a visit from Pastor Jerry in your home for conversation and prayer, please contact him to schedule a time.

Church – 618-488-3215 / Cell – 636-328-3332  
Email – [jerryamiri@hotmail.com](mailto:jerryamiri@hotmail.com)