



THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

December 2015
Volume 61, Issue 12



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

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. ~ Psalm 121:1-2*

Have you ever noticed that Christmas seems to keep getting earlier and earlier each year? Judging by the retail stores, it starts around Halloween. We complain about how “commercialized” Christmas has become and vilify the retailers. We are upset that more and more stores are open on Thanksgiving. And yet, we shop and buy and feed into the greed that we complain about. There is a word for that—it’s called hypocrisy. Unfortunately, Christmas reveals hypocrisy more than any other time of the year.

I am not denigrating Christmas, just our hypocrisy. For instance, we talk about peace and love, and yet we argue with our neighbors. We talk about a calm that comes over the world, but actually it’s that we have averted our eyes to see reality. As Christians, we claim Christmas as the most important day of the year, perhaps only second to Easter. Yet we have protests about what Starbucks puts on its cups—or doesn’t put—and claim they are anti-Christmas. People get upset about the most trivial things while ignoring the call that God places on each of us—to usher in the kingdom of God.

Often we hear this time of year, “Do not forget the reason for the season.” I often wonder if those making that statement understand the reason for the season. I want to share my “reason for the season.” Hope. That is what Christmas means to me. Advent is about the hope for a Savior. Christmas Day is about hope born as a baby. It is hope with which we begin each day knowing that we have another chance to answer God’s call. It is hope that encourages people to set aside agendas and anger to come together as God’s people.

When our children were growing up, my wife insisted that we create memories. I now understand what she meant. The memories I have of my childhood Christmases and my children’s Christmases are times when I truly felt peace and hope.

I pray this year, as you prepare for God’s greatest gift to us, that you experience the peace and hope of the season. Remember that feeling and work to foster that feeling all year round.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jerry



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.

LIVESTREAM

Have you ever had one of those days that for whatever reason you cannot make it to church? Fear not! Salem Church 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

"A play will be given by ? of Salem Church at Alhambra Friday and Saturday evenings, December 13 and 14, at Harmonie Hall. The public is invited." Who gave the play and what year was it given?

- The play was given by the Choir of the Salem Church in 1929. Salem Chancel Choir, are you ready to tackle this project?

“The Place of Power”

(Suggested Readings: Luke 22:39-46)

Imagine a child playing, running, and climbing on a playground, and then suddenly something happens to change the demeanor of the otherwise happy child. Perhaps someone wouldn't share or the child fell and skinned a knee or someone called the child a name. No matter what happened, the child is troubled by hurt, anger, or disappointment and runs to the mother. Words are not even necessary, though they may come forth in whimpers between the sighs. Above all the child melts into the bosom of the mother; and in the mystery of a mother's love, things are put right. In some short time, the child resumes playing. The child chooses wisely to go to the place of power, where restoration happens.

As we come to this time of Christmas celebration, we do well to remember to go to the place of power. In the Christmas story, it was Bethlehem. Later it was Nazareth, and then Calvary. In the Pentecost story, it is the Holy Spirit poured out on all who seek Him.

The place of power is simply us one-on-one with God in a way so beautifully relational, as to shut out all the world. In that precious moment of restoration, all the noise of our playground ceases. Our ability to go on in life is strengthened, as we again can approach the world knowing we are loved and to whom we belong. The world can be beautiful, yet it also can be noisy, pushy, full of self, and further impacted by muttering, rejection, criticism and despairing woe, violence, hatred, misunderstanding, and more.

We, as the child on the playground, need to come to that place of our self and the Lord. A place where the Lord in the mystery of love marshals our power, only to send us forth again to be His witnesses of love, goodness, and hope in the world. As we surely want to give the best of ourselves, this Christmas and all year long we must have renewed power and strength to bring it. In beauty and love, the Lord has what we need. It's another beautiful gift He is waiting to give us.

Go to the place of power and be blessed! A joyous Christmas to all!

Pastor John

EXHALE – YOUTH NEWS

*Till you came along and you saved me, you saved me, with that good love.
~ Gary Clark Jr.*

Sometimes it is hard to imagine what the first Christmas looked like. Of course, we know the story of Christmas, and we know about the star, Mary, Joseph, the manger, three wise men, and so on. Outside of the Christmas story, it is a hard to imagine a world with a broken compass, a world with no direction, and a world searching for something substantial to hold on to. On that night, the world was given its something substantial to hold on to. While we wouldn't know for a little while longer what was actually given to us and to the world on that faithful night, that night still changed everything.

One of the many things I love about Christmas is what we are actually celebrating is not something we can physically hold on to. We celebrate love, hope, peace, and grace, which in most scenarios are exactly opposite of what we as a civilization so badly wanted on that night long ago. We may not be able to hold most of those gifts, but we know they are there. We know we have received them. We know we are all called to show the rest of the world the gifts we received. Just like the gift we got so long ago in the manger.

I wish you and your family a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!

Love Wins,
Nick Atkins-Harris
Email: hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com / Cell: 812-589-1918 / Facebook: ExhaleSalemUCC

Important Dates for Exhale:

- **December 6:** Exhale @ 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Christmas Caroling at Nursing Homes)
- **December 13:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **December 20:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Christmas Party)
- **December 27:** No Exhale

Thank You:

The Exhale youth would like to give a huge thank-you to the Men's Fellowship for providing the food for our TurkeyFest, to all who helped prepare the meal and clean dishes, and to everyone who came and supported the youth. Without your continued support, this event would not be nearly as successful! Thank you!!!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

November 12, 2015

President Bobby Frank called the meeting to order with 10 Church Council members present.

Pastor Jerry read the devotion, *How the Light Gets In: And Other Headlong Epiphanies*, "The Window Through Which to Whisper."

Secretary's Report: The previous month's minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The budget is seeing a little deficit, but tithes are above last year's. The budget is stable. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **BOCE:** No Comments.
- **Evangelism/Worship:** No Comments.
- **Long Range Planning:** No Report.
- **Mission/Stewardship:** No Comments.
- **Property:** The Property Committee is investigating a sink hole in the courtyard and is considering looking into bids for the passageway windows.
- **Safe Church:** No Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reviewed the spending limitation with the Church Council (Bylaws Section / Members handout). Pastor will be on vacation November 23, 2015, to December 3, 2015. Pastor got a tax exempt card at Sam's (\$45). This card is available for groups to use (check it in and out through the church office). This is NOT a credit card, just a Sam's access card.

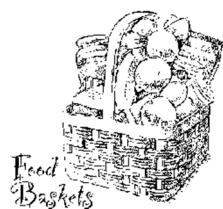
A motion to adjourn was made and accepted. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next Church Council meeting will be on December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Friends of the Conference

Friends of the Conference is a second-mile giving program offering individuals, groups, and congregations the opportunity to make special gifts, over and above their regular OCWM giving, in support of the mission and ministries of the Illinois South Conference. Gifts received will become part of the Conference Operating Fund. They will NOT be reserved for special projects, nor will they be apportioned to DuBois Center, as DuBois has its own fund-raising programs.

Despite efforts to move to a balanced budget, the Conference has continued to run a deficit. It is hoped that *Friends of the Conference* will help offset these operating losses. Please consider contributing to *Friends of the Conference*. Please make your check payable to "Salem UCC" and write "Friends of the Conference" on the memo line. The Men's Fellowship will match the first \$500.00 donated. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jerry.



From the Food Basket Committee

The Food Basket Committee would like to thank all who gave gifts of food, time, and money for the food baskets that we did at Thanksgiving. All of the food was greatly appreciated, and the recipients thank everyone for thinking of them at this time.

~ The Giving Tree ~

The Giving Tree is in the passageway with paper ribbons hanging on the tree displaying the needed items, so please pick out one or more ribbons to help give someone a special Christmas. Monetary donations also are appreciated. We will need the gifts back at the church no later than Sunday morning, December 13. Please do not wrap the items. Thanks for your help in making this a special time.

Giving Tree Committee
Paige Basler & Mary Reinhardt



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 6. We will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. and will sing Christmas Carols to both nursing homes, Alhambra Care and Hitz Memorial Home. We will return to the church around 4:30 p.m. There will be chili and hot chocolate waiting for us. All are invited, so please join us!

Salem UCC Treasurer's Report

(Month Ending 10/31/2015)

	Current Activity	YTD Activity
GENERAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	11,118.87	12,521.25
Offering – Loose	8,018.00	75,326.53
Offering – Envelopes	8,455.00	94,754.00
Facility Use Donations	0.00	3,495.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	48.00	2,375.05
Interest Income – General Fund	1.34	30.95
Benevolence Received	755.00	12,716.25
Total General Fund Income	17,277.34	188,697.78
Salaries	9,420.88	94,664.29
Employee Benefits	2,026.86	25,629.63
Maintenance/Property Services	845.33	10,816.94
Insurance	0.00	10,977.00
Utilities	3,583.89	20,922.16
Supplies – General	1,288.13	7,354.06
Professional Expense	462.04	2,912.33
Miscellaneous	0.00	232.95
Worship	357.10	2,241.87
Christian Education	603.51	3,645.09
Evangelism	285.07	950.19
Stewardship	0.00	386.87
Benevolence Paid	0.00	10,962.25
Total General Fund Expenses	18,872.81	191,695.63
GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 9,523.40	\$ 9,523.40
MEMORIAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	83,616.32	73,860.94
Memorials Received	50.00	4,340.00
Honorariums Received		2,780.00
Miscellaneous Receipts		10,175.00
Memorial Fund Expenses:		
Worship – Music & Visual	(805.00)	(3,607.62)
Other Memorial Projects	(136.00)	(4,823.00)
MEMORIAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 82,725.32	\$ 82,725.32
BUILDING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	11,305.65	8,580.65
Building Fund Offering	460.00	6,385.00
Memorials - Building Fund	0.00	600.00
Building Fund Expense:		
Educational Building A/C	0.00	(3,800.00)
BUILDING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 11,765.65	\$ 11,765.65
SABBATICAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	12,896.12	11,896.12
Contribution from Men's Fellowship		1,000.00
SABBATICAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 12,896.12	\$ 12,896.12
ENDOWMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	59,619.77	61,748.28
Memorials – Endowment Fund	0.00	110.00
Endowment Fund Disbursements:		
Interest Distribution – General Fund		(1,118.53)
Interest Distribution – Benevolence		(1,119.98)
ENDOWMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 59,619.77	\$ 59,619.77
INVESTMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	172,195.42	189,646.93
Change in Market Value	7,552.81	(5,898.70)
Scholarships Paid	0.00	(4,000.00)
INVESTMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 179,748.23	\$ 179,748.23
MISSION MATCHING FUND BEGINNING BLANCE	101,341.22	127,751.87
Change in Market Value	5,372.37	(1,831.17)
Donations for Ecuador	479.00	10,995.89
Mission Fund Disbursements:		
Mission Match Paid		(3,524.00)
Expenditures for Ecuador Mission Trip		(26,200.00)
MISSION MATCHING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 107,192.59	\$ 107,192.59
RESERVE FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	15,258.52	15,102.56
Interest Income – Reserve Fund	15.97	171.93
RESERVE FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 15,274.49	\$ 15,274.49
OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	1,607.77	2,623.93
Other Restricted Expenses:		
Grant Expense – 2012 Wellness Grant		(296.00)
Grant Expense – 2014 Literacy Grant		(720.16)
OTHER RESTRICTED FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1,607.77	\$ 1,607.77

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Be sure to check the passageway for your 2016 offering envelopes. Please contact the church office: If there are no envelopes with your name on them, and you wish to receive the envelopes; if you would like your envelopes mailed out to you; if you no longer wish to receive the envelopes. Thank you!



Salem Seekers

"Christmas"	November 29	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Gathering Room	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.	No Sunday School
Gathering Room	All Children: Pre-K – 6th	All Children: Pre-K – 6th	All Children: Pre-K – 6th (Bible Buck Store)	_____	
Parish Hall <small>(Christmas Eve Program Practice)</small>	_____	_____	_____	All Children: Pre-K – 6th	
Gathering Room	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.

~ Kids For Christ (KFC) ~

For our November activity, we met at the Korte Rec Center in Highland for a couple hours of swimming. We had thirteen kids and six adults participate! All had a great time.

On December 13, we will have our KFC Christmas party from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Salem. We will make Christmas cards to send to servicemen and servicewomen for a service project. We also will play some games and have pizza and treats to celebrate the holiday. Instead of a gift exchange, kids may bring in a hat or pair of gloves to donate to those in need. Please sign-up outside the church office if you can come to the Christmas party, so we can make sure to have enough pizza. The kids are always welcome to bring friends to KFC activities, the more the merrier!

NEW DISPLAY IN THE HISTORICAL CABINET!!!

Check out the new "Christmas" display in the historical cabinet in the passageway!

Thank You Notes...

Highland Area Christian Service Ministry
thanks Salem UCC for the \$406.00 donation received for the food pantry.

We want to thank everyone for your support in our Highland Food Pantry mission project. Our class delivered the donated items, and we also got a tour of the Food Pantry. We had 228 pounds of items, along with 59 coats and numerous gloves, hats, and scarves. The Food Pantry was extremely grateful, and we know that it will be put to good use. Thanks again for all your support!


Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers in our time of sorrow at the loss of our Dad. Special thanks to Pastor Jerry Amiri, Pastor John Mindrup, Dawn Reinhardt, and Anita Cain for the beautiful service of remembrance. Also, thank you to all those who prepared food and gave memorials. Your caring and kindness is greatly appreciated.

The 7th Grade Confirmation Class

The Family of Herb Schmidt

*Thank you for all the support in helping me get through after my husband passed away so suddenly.
 Thank you for the cards, food for luncheon, and all the help I have had.
 All the kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless!*

Laurie Vosholler



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

FROM THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & WOMEN'S GUILD

Next Meeting of the Men's Fellowship & Women's Guild:
Thursday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. (Christmas Potluck & Christmas Bells)

December Golden Agers:
Jack Frandsen on December 13, Alice Stille on December 13,
Edith Kaufman on December 18, Carol Dauderman on December 18, Bob Hosto on December 18,
Joan Henschen on December 23, & Irene Soens on December 31

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 6, 2015, after Worship Service

Bring 6 dozen tasty treats, we will share one dozen and you will return home with five dozen new treats!
Light refreshments also will be served.

If you haven't already, please email or drop off a copy of your recipe to the church office.

Copies of the recipes will be available at the Christmas Cookie Exchange.

REMINDER: ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ARE DUE SOON!!!

I would like to remind everyone (especially all committees) that Salem's Annual Meeting is coming up soon, so please start preparing your committee's summary and treasurer's report (if your committee has one) for the past year. **Annual Reports are due on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, by 9:00 a.m.** I understand the treasurer's reports will not be ready by this date, so please give me these reports as soon as you have them done. I would like to thank everyone in advance for helping me with this.

SALEM U.C.C.'s 2016 PHONE DIRECTORY:

Starting on Sunday, December 13, there will be "2016 Salem Phone Directory – PROOF" copies in binders on the table outside the church office. Please look over all of your information and anyone else in your family to make sure everything is correct. Please mark any changes, deletions, and/or additions on at least one of the copies. If we do not have your cell phone or email, please consider adding it to the proof. **The deadline for all changes is Sunday, January 3.** The new phone directory will be ready for distribution by the Annual Meeting. Thank you in advance for helping Salem UCC maintain accurate records!

Jennifer Henschen

HERE WE GROW!

The Bread of Life Food Pantry located on the campus of the New Life Christian Fellowship in Hamel, Illinois, became part of the ministry of the Alhambra-Hamel Ministerial Alliance (AHMA) in 2012. It serves Alhambra, Hamel, and Worden, plus other small, local communities in northeastern Madison County, Illinois. Member congregations of the Alliance, community organizations, and individuals support the pantry with food drives and volunteers. Since 2012, the number of families served has grown by 40%. With this increase, it has become necessary to expand our storage space. Bread of Life Food Pantry needs to raise \$7,000 to purchase a new building to continue to serve the community.

Please consider making a cash donation in order to raise the funds necessary. Bread of Life Food Pantry is a non-profit organization. Therefore, all donations are considered tax deductible. Please make your check payable to either Bread of Life Food Pantry or AHMA. On the check's memo line, please write "Building Fund." Please mail all contributions to: **AHMA, 1117 W. North Street, Alhambra, IL 62001.**

The pantry is open every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It is closed on holidays and when schools are closed due to weather. If you need help or would like to volunteer, please contact Sharilyn Moehle at 618-633-2413 or Dave Kalish at 618-656-4828. For emergency help, please contact Charlie Martin at 618-444-6747.

Deer Meat Needed:

Bread of Life Food Pantry supporters: If you know of anyone wanting to donate deer meat to the pantry, Grantfork Meat Market will process the meat for the food pantry at no charge. You will need to contact Kirby Knackstedt at the meat market. If you need assistance reaching him, please contact Dave Kalish.

68th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper



SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016

SERVING FROM 2:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

MENU:

FRESH HOMEMADE PORK SAUSAGE

Sauerkraut Potatoes Gravy Green Beans Applesauce Bread Dessert Coffee Milk

Sausage Supper Committee Chairs:

Purchasing:	Vernon Uhe	Advertising & Ticket Sales:	
Processing:	Lawrence Henschen		Laverne Korsmeyer
	Lewis Knackstedt		Ron Schmidt
Kitchen:	Joe Bolyard	Seating:	Justin Bonnell
	Rhet Mansholt		Michael Dauderman
	Dave Renken		Jerry Frank
Dishwashing:	Laura Muench	Public Relations:	Pastor Jerry Amiri
Fryers & Setup:	Ron Bolen	Carrier (Thursday):	Gene Templeman
	Dennis Conrad	Sausage Carriers:	Donal Reagan
	Jim Reagan		Christopher Uhe
	Greg Reinhardt	Elevator:	Delmar Korsmeyer
	Leon Uhe		Ron Mindrup
Sausage Sales:	Charlie Brown		Mark Vassier
	Dave Frueh	Parking:	Boy Scouts
	Michael Hackethal		Caine Kelso
	Vernon & Linda Uhe		Joe Reinhardt
Carry-Out:	Jim & Dagmar Annable	Butchering Date:	January 25, 2016
	Bill & Carol Reckman	Processing Dates:	January 27, 2016
Tables:	Joe Dauderman		January 28, 2016
	Dean Korsmeyer	Supper Date:	January 30, 2016

NATIONAL U.C.C. CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is one of the four special mission offerings of the National United Church of Christ. This special offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency grants to clergy families in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards. Envelopes for this offering will be in the December 6 bulletin.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In December, funds received in the "Christmas" envelopes will be donated to Hoyleton Ministries. The Hoyleton Ministries are dedicated to helping all people realize the quality of life that God intends. Their staff provides compassionate care to thousands of children who have, through no fault of their own, entered the child welfare system. Your donation helps to provide the resources necessary for the Hoyleton Ministries to care for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

For over 14 years, Stephen Ministry has served Salem. It has been there to walk with people who have endured loss, suffered from difficult situations, etc. To ensure its viability, we are seeking out those who have heard God's calling on their lives to serve those in need. We will have an informational meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2016, following worship. We hope you will consider coming and getting more information on how you can become a Stephen Minister as we continue this meaningful ministry.

S.U.V. UPDATE

Responses from S.U.V. have been forwarded to the appropriate committees. They have begun to assimilate the information and will be reporting back to the congregation. Here are answers to questions you may have:

- **WHY IS THIS TAKING SO LONG?** There were a lot of responses covering a wide spectrum of opinions and suggestions. We are giving the attention that all deserve rather than trying to rush through the process.
- **WAS S.U.V. WORTH IT?** Absolutely! There are many things that committees had previously been working on which is an indication that we are on the right track.

In the coming months, you will see responses to S.U.V. Be sure to watch for them!

Totenfest: A Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 22, we celebrated Totenfest at our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Totenfest is the day on which we pause to remember those who have died in the past year.

Salem remembered these friends and family:

Roger E. Stumpf (11/09/2014 – 11/09/2014)	Michael J. Follwell (02/26/1977 – 06/22/2015)	Donald "Butch" R. Litton (09/11/1944 – 10/01/2015)
MSGT. Earl H. Schuerman (11/21/1930 – 02/19/2015)	Betty A. Volz (07/13/1926 – 08/08/2015)	Elnora "Eleanor" M. Hamann (07/24/1934 – 10/09/2015)
Hilda M. Ramach (01/30/1924 – 04/09/2015)	Alfred "Al" L. Volz (03/15/1922 – 08/15/2015)	Keith T. Vosholler (05/05/1962 – 10/19/2015)
Kenneth "Ken" E. Mindrup (02/06/1961 – 05/23/2015)	Lawrence Ramach (08/26/1919 – 08/15/2015)	Herbert "Herb" H. Schmidt (11/24/1917 – 10/30/2015)
	Maxine M. Wernle (04/17/1938 – 08/17/2015)	

Acknowledgment of Honorariums

December 2014 – November 2015

Confirmation Class of 1955	Salem Endowment Fund
Bill & Carol Reckman's 50th Wedding Anniversary	New Parish Hall Doors & Rekey Doors
Electa Leitch	Salem Memorial Fund
Suhre Centennial Farm	Salem Building Fund

Acknowledgment of Gifts & Memorials

December 2014 – November 2015

Ed & Martha Abert	Salem Memorial Fund
Frieda Amiri	Rocking Chair
	Water Fountain
Don Beshears	Salem Building Fund
Chuck Bloemker	Salem Memorial Fund
Delmar Blom	Landscape Rock for Parsonage
Luella Boedicker	Salem Memorial Fund
Esther Faulker	Salem Memorial Fund
Michael Follwell	Salem Memorial Fund
Elnora Hamann	Salem Memorial Fund
Vernette Hunsche	Salem Memorial Fund
Elmer Klenke	Salem Mission Fund
Donald Litton	Salem Memorial Fund
Don Merkle	Bench Honoring Veterans Ecuador Mission
Ken Mindrup	Church Advent Banners
Louise Noeth	Christmas Music
Betty Olive	Salem Memorial Fund
Barbara Otto	Salem Memorial Fund
Florence Otto	Salem Memorial Fund
Fred Otto	Salem Memorial Fund
Hilda Ramach	Salem Memorial Fund
Lawrence Ramach	Salem Memorial Fund
Danny Lee Reinhardt	Salem Memorial Fund
Dexter Riechmann	Salem Building Fund
Leroy Sander	Salem Building Fund
Elda Schmidt	Salem Endowment Fund
Herbert Schmidt	Salem Endowment Fund
Earl Schuerman	Salem Memorial Fund
Toby Suhre	Salem Memorial Fund
Al Volz	Salem Cemetery Fund
	Salem Memorial Fund
Betty Volz	Salem Cemetery Fund
	Salem Memorial Fund
Maxine Wernle	Salem Memorial Fund
Salem Memorial Fund (Undesignated)	Kristal Bell Music Parish Hall Sound System Tech Equipment for Sanctuary



Worship Ministry Schedule



Date	Acolytes	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Recorder	Ushers
Dec. 6 (10am)	Syler Hogg Bradey McKinley	Jim Annable	Dagmar Annable	Patti Reckmann	Amy Henschen /Gena Hodapp Krista Miller Chad & Tara Schuster
Dec. 13 (10am)	Kylie Ketcham Riley Mansholt	Kathy Porter	Kathy Porter	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
Dec. 20 (10am)	Ian Grandame Kody Ouart	Fern Scheller	Anita Cain	Ron Mindrup	Ken Gehrig Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt Steve Stille / Ken Suhre
Dec. 24 (9pm)	Need Volunteers	Faye Brown	Patti Reckmann	Need A Volunteer	Ken Gehrig Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt Steve Stille / Ken Suhre
Dec. 24 (11pm)	Need Volunteers	Gale Bolen	Irving Gray	Need A Volunteer	Gale Bolen / Richelle Braundmeier Cindy Henschen Susi Miller / Kathy Porter
Dec. 25 (9am)	Need Volunteers	Carol Amiri	Carol Amiri	Need A Volunteer	Larry & Lorna McGee Alice Stille / Jeff Warnke
Dec. 27 (10am)	Sydney Basler Barbara Meguire	Elinor Stille	Laura Muench	Larry McGee	Bill & Carol Reckman Laura Renken / Tessa Renken Dave & Ronna Renken

Nursery Schedule

December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Sarah Bolyard Tiffany Gillison	Tori Lynn Kelsey Quade	Ashley Prott Donita Prott	Richelle Ernst Jill Verson

Worship Schedule

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermon Title	Pastor
November 29 – 10 a.m. Praise Worship / First Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36	<i>The Coming of the Lord</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
December 6 – 10 a.m. Worship with Pew Communion Second Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 1:68-79	<i>Waiting for Good News</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
December 13 – 10 a.m. Worship / Third Sunday of Advent	Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	<i>Good Fruit</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
December 20 – 10 a.m. Worship / Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55	<i>Choir Cantata</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
December 24 – 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Altar Communion	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	<i>Looking for Signs</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
December 24 – 11 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Pew Communion	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	<i>Looking for Signs</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
December 25 – 9 a.m. Christmas Day Worship with Pew Communion	Psalms 96 Titus 2:11-14	<i>"Special" People</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
December 27 – 10 a.m. Praise Worship	Luke 2:41-52 Colossians 3:12-17	<i>Looking for the Found</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri

Communion Schedule for Hitz Home

December 6 – 10 a.m.	Ron & Rhonda Schmidt
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Baptisms

Maci Jean Thornton was baptized at Salem U.C.C. on Sunday, November 8, 2015, by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Maci was born on December 14, 2013, to Kyle & Molly Thornton. Maci is the younger sister of Liam Thornton. Her grandparents are Mike & Doris Driscoll, Rosemary Thornton, and the late Terry Thornton. Her great-grandparents are Velma Henkhaus and Donald & Leatta Thornton. Her godparents are Ryan & Valerie Driscoll.

Grayson Lee Mollet was baptized at Salem U.C.C. on Sunday, November 15, 2015, by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Grayson was born on August 17, 2015, to Adam & Megan Mollet. Grayson is the younger brother of Logan Mollet and Briley Mollet. His grandparents are Dale & Karen Mollet and Gayle Cruthis & the late Danny Cruthis. His great-grandparents are Connie & Velda Armes and Glen Riechmann. His godfathers are Matt Fitterer and Jason Suhre.



Prayer List

Cancer Concerns:

Vickie Conrad / Elmer Frank / Jack Frandsen
Wayne Gentry / Pat Hinton
Sam Merkel / Ginger Krieshof

Health Concerns:

Connie Abert (Niece-in-Law of Fern Scheller)
Quintin Byrne (Cousin of Lisa Reinhardt) / Diana Donohoo
Helen Dugan / Ginny Gehrig / Lester Gentry
Gloria Henschen / Thomas Kinnett
Marie Mindrup / Melvin Roberts

Alhambra Care Center:

Velma Henkhaus

Eden Village:

Hilbert & Verna Klenke

Faith Countryside Homes/Apartments:

Dorothy Knabel

Four Fountains:

Carol Ruehrup

Highland Home:

Anita Suhre

Hitz Memorial Home:

Orlean Hosto / Electa Leitch

Our Servicemen & Servicewomen:

Lt. Col. Derek Bright / Thomas Eyman
Airman Dustin Garner / Jason Schlechte
Kenny Randle / Jared Thiems / Kyle Thornton

Our Sympathies to the Family of:

Herbert "Herb" Schmidt
(Father of Ron, James, & Lee Schmidt)
Who died on Friday, October 30, 2015



December Anniversaries

12/01/1984	Pastor John & Merilee Mindrup
12/01/2012	Chad & Tara Schuster
12/05/1986	Steve & Brenda Sander
12/06/1952	Bob & Joan Henschen
12/11/2011	Richard & Bev Gibson
12/14/1974	Howie & Marilyn Eyman
12/18/1979	Irving & Lorena Gray
12/22/1975	Kendall & Kathy Brink
12/29/2012	Ryan & Valerie Driscoll
12/29/2012	Tim & Kathy Stille

Congratulations To The Newlyweds

Kyle Joseph Griffith & Ronnelle Marie Mindrup
were married by Rev. Jerry Amiri on November 7, 2015,
at First Congregational Church in Highland, Illinois.
Ronnelle is the daughter of Ronald & Aminda Mindrup.

Births In Our Church Family...

Naya Irene Ferch was born on Friday, November 6,
2015, to John & Katie Ferch. She weighed 9 pounds &
5 ounces, and she was 21 inches long. Naya is the little
sister of Elijah & Eva Ferch. Proud grandparents are
Pastor Jerry & Carol Amiri.

Beatrice Danielle Reinhardt was born on November
12, 2015, to Russ & Amanda Reinhardt. She weighed 7
pounds & 5 ounces, and she was 20 inches long. Proud
grandparents are Dan & Mary Reinhardt. Proud great-
grandpa is Vernon Otto.

Cradle Roll

Annabelle Marie Doubet received her cradle roll at
Salem U.C.C. on Sunday, November 15, 2015.
Annabelle is the daughter of Marcus & Sarah Doubet.



December Birthdays



December 1

Chad Ernst
Sara Bolen
Bobby Dauderman
Max Schneider

December 2

Shirley Collmann

December 3

Betty Zweck

December 4

Maci Thornton

December 5

Ethel Hosto
Anna Renken
Alex Schneider
Tori Lynn
Adam Gillison

December 6

Katie Quade

December 7

Mike Henschen

December 8

Carter Stumpf

December 11

Angel Tillerson

December 13

Jack Frandsen
Alice Stille
Erin Sander
Tyler Hunsche

December 14

Laura Muench

December 15

Sharon Kaufman
Mike Stumpf
Doris Driscoll
Brenda Henschen

December 16

Gary Henschen
Jim Reagan Jr.

December 17

Dacoda Riechmann

December 18

Edith Kaufman
Carol Dauderman
Bob Hosto
Brent Suhre
Monica Cruthis
Lexi Gibbons
Liam Thornton

December 19

Ron Schmidt

December 20

Gena Stout
Barbara Meguire

December 21

Carol Lacey

December 22

Kaleb Brink

December 23

Joan Henschen
Bruce Henschen

December 24

Melissa Snider
Talia Rex

December 25

Ron Hunsche
Tim Gehrig
Cassidy Eyman

December 26

Cindy Henschen

December 27

Marilyn Korsmeyer
Paige Basler
James Sumner

December 28

Lorie Kaufman

December 29

Carol Gibbons
Ruth Hamann
Ben Newman Jr.
Randy Koch

December 30

Patti Snider
Courtney Wright
Faith Lackey
Bayla Fitterer

December 31

Irene Soens
Eric Ross
Kody Ouart
Bryce Knackstedt



DECEMBER CALENDAR



Tuesday	Dec. 1	6:30pm	Evangelism/Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Dec. 2	6:00pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Dec. 3	7:00pm	BOCE Meeting
Sunday	Dec. 6	8:45am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		10:00am	Worship with Communion (Second Sunday of Advent)
			Children's Choir Practice after Worship
			Christmas Cookie Exchange following Worship
		2:30pm	Christmas Caroling at the Nursing Homes
		2:30pm	Exhale (Caroling at the Nursing Homes)
			No Praise Team Practice
Monday	Dec. 7	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
		7:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Dec. 9	6:00pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Dec. 10	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	Dec. 13	8:45am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		10:00am	Worship (Third Sunday of Advent)
			Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Kids For Christ Christmas Party
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
		6:30pm	Praise Team Practice
Monday	Dec. 14	9:00am	January Messenger Articles Due
		10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	Dec. 15	9:00am	Annual Report Articles Due
		12:00pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Potluck
Wednesday	Dec. 16	6:00pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Dec. 17	6:30pm	Guild & Brotherhood Christmas Potluck
Sunday	Dec. 20	8:45am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		10:00am	Worship (Fourth Sunday of Advent)
			No Children's Choir Practice
			No Historical Committee Meeting
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale Christmas Party
			No Praise Team Practice
Monday	Dec. 21	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	Dec. 22	6:00pm	Children's Christmas Eve Program Practice
Wednesday	Dec. 23		No Salem Chimes Practice
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Dec. 24	7:00pm	Children's Christmas Eve Program
		9:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship with Altar Communion
		11:00pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Pew Communion
Friday	Dec. 25	9:00am	Christmas Day Worship with Altar Communion
Sunday	Dec. 27		No Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		10:00am	Praise Worship
			No Children's Choir Practice
			No Exhale
			No Praise Team Practice
Monday	Dec. 28	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections
Wednesday	Dec. 30		No Bells or Choir Practices

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee (PPPRC) is always ready to hear ideas and suggestions. 2015 PPPRC members are: Dennis Conrad, Krista Mansholt, Kathy Porter, Ken Suhre, Linda Uhe, and Lisa 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.

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.

2015 SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL:

President Bobby Frank
Vice-President Gary Boda
Secretary Donita Prott
Treasurer Scott Demkey
Financial Secretary Dawn Reagan
Dagmar Annable
Shirley Gall
Ron Mindrup
Ronna Renken
Steve Stille
Tim Stille
Christopher Uhe

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: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 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.

Custodian's Hours:

Sunday: 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



Salem United Church of Christ

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Alhambra, Illinois 62001
Phone: 618-488-3215
Fax: 618-488-3212

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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