



THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

March 2016
Volume 62, Issue 3

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

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).

John 20:11b-16

Easter is astonishing. It is astonishing that Jesus sacrificed His life so that we may live. Despite the beating and torture He endured—something we do not acknowledge near enough—as He hung on the cross, He asked God to forgive us of our sins. It is astonishing that Jesus asked that sins be forgiven for those who not only put Him to death, but for future generations. When we are in pain, we are thinking of only ourselves (not that our papercuts are the same as Jesus' crucifixion).

It is astonishing that God sent His only Son to save the world, God's creation. I can't imagine sending any of my children to save the world knowing that more than likely he or she would end up hanging from a cross. It is astonishing the profound love it took to do that. God loves us so much that God was willing to sacrifice His only Son.

It is astonishing that Mary did not recognize Jesus and mistook Him for the gardener. After all, she had spent hours and hours with Him and still she did not recognize Him. I think it is astonishing that we often do not recognize Jesus. How many times have we sought Jesus only to not recognize Him? Is it because we have a preconceived notion of where we will find Jesus or how Jesus will look? The key to finding anything is to believe that you will find it. If you do not believe that you will find it (or Him), it is a fool's errand. No great discovery was made without belief.

We are Easter people, which means we believe that Jesus rose from the tomb. It also means that we are committed to living with Jesus' teachings at the heart of everything we say and everything we do. If we live as Easter people, we will be astonishing too.

Blessings,
Pastor Jerry



Don't Forget that Time Changes on Sunday, March 13!



DID YOU KNOW?

Which Pastor lived the greatest distance from Alhambra, Illinois, when he was chosen as Pastor of Salem?

- Rev. Guy J. Moyer was Pastor of Mountain View Church in Burbank, California. He served at Salem's Pastor from 1948 to 1958. Burbank, California, is 1,895 miles from Alhambra, Illinois.

“The Artistry of Love”

(Suggested Readings: 1 John 4:7-21 & 1 Corinthians 13)

After nearly six decades of living, one defining truth is paramount in my present understanding. The greatest thing we can do is to love and let ourselves be loved. It would not be possible to fulfill the greatest command of Jesus apart from this simple way of loving. It may seem that loving is more difficult than letting ourselves be loved, but I am unsure if that is true. We know too much about ourselves and our brokenness to let ourselves be loved in great depth. That is precisely why we need Christ, who loves the broken, seeks the lost, and invites us to be loved despite our brokenness. How can we love others in the way we are called to love, unless we first receive love? This call to love is a creative power and the highest of all powers.

Love flows from God in the artistry of life. God creates through love, and God invites us to be a part of that continuing creation story. Maybe you have never thought of yourself as an artist, but if you receive and give love, you are creating God's dream. God made all of us to be artists! I don't know if we are the canvas, brush, paint, lyrics, melody, rhyme, verse, or whatever, but we are creating God's dream when we love. If we read the suggested readings listed above and let the truth of God's love in both giving and receiving take precedence over everything in our life, we will begin to see God's wonder revealed. May we pace ourselves with the stride of our Lord in this endeavor. Love is not hurried or forced. Love is gently and gratefully received—generously and fervently bestowed on God and our brothers and sisters.

I have walked several kinds of dogs in varying dispositions. Some dogs pull ahead; the leash is taut forward, ever straining. Some dogs resist, locking their feet behind; the leash is taut behind, ever straining. Some dogs walk so rightly with their master that after several minutes the master looks down to see if they are still on the leash. To the master's delight, they meet the master's stride for stride. There is no strain, only God's love.

What beauty and wonder will God create through us? Perhaps we best see God's dream as we are God's dream. Though we will not see the dream fully in this world, may the glimpses sate us until the day we see the fullness of God's glory.

God Bless You!
Pastor John



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.

Salem UCC Scholarship
Deadline: Sunday, May 1, 2016
Salem UCC scholarship applications may be picked up in the church office or on the table outside the church office.

DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Day of Discipleship will be on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Godfrey Evangelical UCC in Godfrey, Illinois. The keynote speaker is Rev. Ivy Beckwith. If you would like to attend Day of Discipleship, please turn in a completed registration form to the church office as soon as possible. A schedule of offered workshops 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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON MARCH 6

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, March 6.

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the Church Council recommendation to use the Building Fund to finance the replacement of the passageway windows project up to \$20,000. This includes the original bid of \$13,000 and anticipates unforeseeable expenses related to the project.

EXHALE – YOUTH NEWS

“Stories? We all spend our lives telling them, about this, about that, about people ... But some? Some stories are so good we wish they'd never end. They're so gripping that we'll go without sleep just to see a little bit more. Some stories bring us laughter and sometimes they bring us tears ... but isn't that what a great story does? Makes you feel? Stories that are so powerful ... they really are with us forever.” ~ Dustin Hoffman

When I first addressed you as the new Youth Director almost 4 years ago, I provided a definition of what Exhale is and what we were going to try to be. At the time, I believe the idea was a bit foreign to some and wanted by many. We call ourselves Exhale because instead of taking a deep breath in when things are rough and stressful, we take a moment, center ourselves, and Exhale. I ask you do that now before reading on.

We all have chapters in our lives and this includes the church. Events come and go, people come and go, but the church will always be here. Chapters will continue to be written about the church for much longer than any of us will be here to see it. Exhale is the same way; at least this is the hope. The first chapter has been written and a new one is about to begin. After many Exhales (literal ones) to count, thought, consideration, and prayer, I have decided that at the conclusion of our senior high mission trip this summer, I will be stepping down as Youth Director here at Salem. Like Exhale, like the church, I have a new chapter starting. While this decision was not an easy one, I feel it is the best decision for the continuation of Exhale. It is important to know that my decision to leave is nothing but for the best of reasons.

It always was my goal to lay the groundwork, provide a foundation, and set the first of what are hopefully many events into place for the youth program here at Salem. I believe this has happened. With the continued support from the congregation, I was given the opportunity to start something that has the potential to be a mainstay of this church and will continue to be for a long time.

Of course, this chapter doesn't happen without the help of many people, and I owe so many thanks to have them be a part of it. First, I would like to thank Jenn Henschen for correcting my many errors and being one of the hardest working people I have ever met. Thanks to Patti Reckmann for constantly cleaning up after myself and the youth, and thanks to Lewis Knackstedt for being the wise old sage that he is. I especially would like to thank Pastor Jerry for providing me the opportunity to make a thought into reality along with being a consistent source of guidance. I would like to thank all of the Church Councils that served during my time here, the Women's Guild & Brotherhood for their relentless support, and the BOCE for always being open to new ideas even if they were a tad scary. I also would like to thank the parents for remaining committed to Exhale and providing various car rides, food, drinks, and anything else that has been needed. You all are a foundation to this group, and I simply cannot thank you enough.

Lastly, I would like to thank the youth of Exhale both present and those of you who have “grown up.” Without you, there is no Exhale; you make us who we are. In your amazingly busy schedules, you still managed to come, hangout, and buy into the idea that this place is something bigger than just Sunday mornings. With every game we created, every silly conversation we had, and every time we ventured outside of our comfort zones, we were creating a culture. A culture promoting the idea, “love wins.” I will undoubtedly miss you guys the most. I hope this culture continues, and you write an even better chapter for Exhale.

While I may be going, Exhale's story is far from over. Salem's story is far from over. Both will continue and I am beyond privileged just to be a part of it. I won't be a stranger, and I cannot wait to see the amazing places that are in store for Exhale and Salem.

Love Wins,

Nick Atkins-Harris

Email: hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com / Cell: 812-589-1918 / Facebook: ExhaleSalemUCC

IMPORTANT DATES FOR EXHALE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Wednesday, March 2: | Hangout & Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sunday, March 6: | Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. |
| ▪ Wednesday, March 9: | Hangout & Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sunday, March 13: | Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. |
| ▪ Wednesday, March 16: | Hangout & Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sunday, March 20: | Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. |
| ▪ Wednesday, March 23: | Hangout & Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| ▪ Sunday, March 27: | No Exhale (Easter Sunday) |
| ▪ Wednesday, March 30: | Hangout & Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |

EXHALE YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT:

The Exhale Youth Trivia Night will be on Saturday, April 2. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and trivia will start at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per table, and each table can have up to 10 players. We also will have heads or tails, 50/50 drawing, and a silent auction. All proceeds raised from our trivia night will help support our mission trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This trivia night will be centered on youth oriented questions. Youth are encouraged to invite their friends and family to join in on the fun. Water will be provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring snacks to share with their table.

If you are interested in reserving your table or providing a basket for the silent auction, please contact Nick Atkins-Harris via email at hoosierdrummer60@gmail.com or with a call or text at 812-589-1918.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 11, 2016

2016 Church Council Officers were chosen following the Annual Meeting on January 31:

- President: Steve Stille
- Vice President: Gary Boda
- Treasurer: Scott Demkey
- Secretary: Ronna Renken
- Financial Secretary: Christopher Uhe

The February 11, 2016, meeting was called to order by Church Council President Steve Stille with eleven Church Council members, Pastor Jerry Amiri, and three confirmand guests present. Pastor Jerry shared the sacrament of communion with the Church Council, and Steve welcomed the new Church Council members.

Secretary's Report:

- The minutes from both the January Church Council meeting and the Salem Annual Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Leuscher Estate funds were transferred from the Memorial Fund to the Reserve Fund.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved.
- A motion to pay the bills was made and approved.
- Scott Demkey noted that the spousal insurance rate has been increased by 11.5%.

Committee Reports:

- **BOCE** –
 - No major events coming up; quick meeting last month.
- **Evangelism/Worship** –
 - When there is a member phone/address change, we'll ask permission to post the change in *The Messenger*, so members may keep their phone directories updated.
 - Salem is hosting a meet-and-greet on Saturday, April 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the new Conference Minister.
- **Mission/Stewardship** –
 - Winter BBQ will be on February 20, 2016. The Ecuador mission trip will be in early July.
- **Property** –
 - There will be a congregational meeting on March 6 to recommend funding for the passageway window replacement project from the Building Fund, including projected overages.
 - The pews in the choir loft were discussed.
 - The Parish Hall doors are hitting the trim if they are opened all the way and denting it. This will be looked into.
 - A new mower will be needed soon.
- **Personnel** – Pastor John Mindrup has had his evaluation.

President's Report:

- We received the Wicks Organ contract for organ maintenance.

Pastor's Report:

- Our attendance is up so far this year. Even though our numbers were down last year, we were within \$2,500 of our budget, so giving is not down. People may not be coming to church, but they are still financially supporting it.

Church Council Representatives for the committees were chosen:

- BOCE – Ron Mindrup, Richelle Ernst, Jill Verson
- Mission/Stewardship – Christopher Uhe
- Evangelism/Worship – Donita Prott (Jill Verson backup)
- Long Range Planning – Kris Lynn
- Property – Patrick Stille
- Personnel – Dagmar Annable
- Substitute – Patrick Stille

New Business:

- Nick Atkins-Harris tendered his resignation effective July following the Exhale Mission Trip. A motion was made and approved to accept the resignation.
- A motion was made and approved for Pastor Jerry to form a search committee for a new Youth Director.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Salem UCC Treasurer's Report

(Month Ending 01/31/2016)

	Current Activity	YTD Activity
GENERAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	14,948.86	14,948.86
Offering – Loose	9,851.75	9,851.75
Offering – Envelopes	10,975.00	10,975.00
Interest Income – General Fund	2.77	2.77
Benevolence Received	1,487.00	1,487.00
Total General Fund Income	22,316.52	22,316.52
Salaries	9,167.83	9,167.83
Employee Benefits	447.54	447.54
Maintenance/Property Services	627.69	627.69
Insurance	143.00	143.00
Utilities	2,096.94	2,096.94
Supplies – General	590.00	590.00
Professional Expense	33.51	33.51
Worship	246.41	246.41
Christian Education	112.68	112.68
Total General Fund Expenses	13,465.60	13,465.60
GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 23,799.78	\$ 23,799.78
MEMORIAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	83,466.78	83,466.78
Memorials Received	175.00	175.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	20.00	20.00
Memorial Fund Expenses:		
Transfer to Building Fund	(40,852.27)	(40,852.27)
Transfer to Reserve Fund	(20,425.00)	(20,425.00)
MEMORIAL FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 22,384.51	\$ 22,384.51
BUILDING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	13,465.65	13,465.65
Building Fund Offering	595.00	595.00
Memorials – Building Fund	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Memorial Fund	40,852.27	40,852.27
BUILDING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 54,912.92	\$ 54,912.92
SABBATICAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 12,896.12	\$ 12,896.12
<i>(No Activity)</i>		
ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE	\$ 61,173.76	\$ 61,173.76
<i>(No Activity)</i>		
INVESTMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	174,008.22	174,008.22
Change in Market Value	(7,585.72)	(7,585.72)
Scholarships Paid		
INVESTMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 166,422.50	\$ 166,422.50
MISSION MATCHING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	106,836.61	106,836.61
Change in Market Value	(5,767.07)	(5,767.07)
MISSION MATCHING FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 101,069.54	\$ 101,069.54
RESERVE FUND BEGINNING BALANCE	10,307.70	10,307.70
Interest Income – Reserve Fund	15.45	15.45
Transfer from Memorial Fund	20,425.00	20,425.00
RESERVE FUND ENDING BALANCE	\$ 30,748.15	\$ 30,748.15
OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,554.11	\$ 1,554.11
<i>(No Activity)</i>		



EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

The special envelope offering for Easter is designated for Kindercottage.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing special offering channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster emergencies. One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected on Sunday, March 6. The offering envelopes for this special offering may be found in the Sunday, March 6, bulletin.



Salem Seekers

<i>Easter Rotation</i>	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 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.
	ALL CHILDREN Pre-K – 6th Faith Island (Drama)	3rd & 4th 5th & 6th Disciples Dunes (Science)	Pre-K & K 1st & 2nd Disciples Dunes (Cooking)	No Sunday School Easter Sunday
		Pre-K & K 1st & 2nd Gathering Room (Music)	3rd & 4th 5th & 6th Faith Island (Music)	
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) ~

Save the Date for the Easter Egg Hunt!!!

Mark your calendar for the 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt!!! The 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at Salem UCC rain or shine on Saturday, March 26, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. All youth from newborns to those in the 5th grade are invited to come hunt for eggs! The youth will search for eggs in age appropriate groups. We will have donuts, muffins, and fruit afterwards. Please bring an item for the food pantry to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a special prize! Hope to see you there!



Your Help Is Needed to Fill the Easter Eggs!!!

We need your help with filling the Easter eggs. Plastic Easter eggs are available on the table in the passageway. Please pick some up and fill them up with Easter goodies and return them by Friday, March 25. Suggested items to fill the eggs are individual wrapped candy, mini bottles of bubbles, stickers, coins, and any other Easter goodies. We appreciate your support!!!

Thank You Notes...

Dear Salem,

So sorry I am late with this thank you, but I want to thank everyone who helped with the "Hanging and Removing of the Greens" at Salem. I always love the Christmas season and those who helped just made it even more special. Salem congregation ROCKS! I am so blessed to have you all in my life.

Cindy Henschen
Evangelism/Worship Chair

Dear Salem Friends & Family,

Thank you for all your encouraging words, prayers, and gifts for Averi and our family following her trip to the emergency room. We are happy to say that Averi is back to her usual self and is doing well. Thanks again for all the love and support you have showed her and our family. We are truly grateful!

The Henschen Family

Church World Service
thanks Salem UCC for all 2015 donations.

Highland Area Christian Service Ministry
(HACSM) Food Pantry
thanks Salem UCC for the \$857.50 donation.

Hoyleton Ministries
thanks Salem UCC for the 20 Christmas gifts,
6 McDonald's giftcards,
\$395.00 donation,
and for all the 2015 donations.

Shannondale UCC & Community Center
thanks Salem UCC for the \$120.00 donation.

FROM THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & WOMEN'S GUILD

~ FAMILY NIGHT ~



We will have many feathered visitors here at Salem for Family Night on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Come meet the birds "up close and personal" from Tree House Wildlife Center in Dow, Illinois. We will learn all about how the workers rescue, rehabilitate, and release (if possible) eagles, hawks, owls, and many other types of birds. (At the wildlife center, they also care for foxes and coyotes, but we only will be meeting their feathered friends.)

We'd love for your whole family to enjoy an evening of great food and a wonderful educational experience. Please sign up for Family Night outside the church office or in the Narthex. Tickets are \$7.00 for ages 5 & up (ages 4 & under are free). Please see Lorene Knackstedt or Lorene Uhe for a ticket.

Tree House Wildlife Center doesn't receive government funding. If you'd like to donate unwanted clean, used towels, dry dog food, and/or laundry soap (liquid or powdered), they would surely appreciate it!

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

There will be no meeting in March due to Family Night.

68th Annual Whole Hog Sausage Supper Report:

The week began on Monday, January 25, 2016, at Korte Meat Processors when we slaughtered 50 hogs (12,870 lbs. live weight at 44.28 cents/lb → 9,373 lbs. dressed weight). On Wednesday, January 27, 24 men cut up 28 hogs and made sausage for the meat sales on Thursday. On Thursday, January 28, 26 men cut up the remaining hogs—making a combined total of 7,520 pounds of sausage. On Saturday, January 30, the weather was warm at 60 degrees most of the day for the Sausage Supper. We served a total of 2,200 dinners with 1,038 of them being carry-outs. We had another successful year!

Thanks again to all who helped in any way!!!

March Golden Agers Are:

Vernon Blom on March 4, Helen Dugan on March 18, & Ginny Schuerman on March 19

FROM THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Historical Committee welcomes Steve Stille as a new member to this committee. Thank you, Steve!

Copies of the History of Salem are now on sale for \$20.00 and available in the church office. This hardcover book contains 124 pages and includes over 300 photos. Proceeds from sales of the history book are designated to the Memorial Committee for use in various church projects.

Please check out the display on Hitz Memorial Home's History in the historical cabinet in the passageway.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Salem is hosting a "Meet and Greet" with our new Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, on Saturday, April 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Salem is one of three churches hosting a "Meet and Greet." Regions 3, 4, and 5 are invited to come, but everyone is welcome. Let us show the conference what "Extravagant Welcome" truly means. More information to follow on how you can help welcome our new Conference Minister.



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

~ 2016 CONFIRMATION ~



Confirmation will be on
Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

This year's Confirmands are:
Anna Brase, Kara Braundmeier, & Ian Grandame

They will take their first communion at the
Maundy Thursday Worship Service on March 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday, March 27. Serving will begin in the Parish Hall following the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise worship and will continue until 7:45 a.m. The breakfast will open again at 9:00 a.m. and will continue until 9:45 a.m. The menu will include breakfast casseroles, breakfast pastries, fresh fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. Please sign up outside the church office if can bring a breakfast casserole or pastry dish to share.

PASSION WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

*Sunday, March 20:	Palm/Confirmation Sunday
8:45 a.m.	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
10:00 a.m.	Worship
*Thursday, March 24:	Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship with Altar Communion
*Friday, March 25:	Good Friday
7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship / Tenebrae Service
*Saturday, March 26:	Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt with Donuts, Muffins, & Fruit to Follow
*Sunday, March 27:	Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
7:00 – 7:45 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Easter Worship with Pew Communion
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
	No Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
10:00 a.m.	Easter Worship with Altar Communion

Ecuador Mission Trip 2016

The next mission trip to Ecuador will be Friday, July 1, through Monday, July 11. This year the trip will be to Catamayo in the Province of Loja which is north of Peru. The cost is \$2,100.00 per person. The Mission/Stewardship Committee is sponsoring fundraisers to assist with the cost of the trip. If you are interested or have questions, please see a member of the Mission/Stewardship Committee or contact Pastor Jerry.

BIRTHS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Jaxson Alexander Faires was born on February 9, 2016, to Alex & Kiley Faires. He weighed 6 pounds, and he was 18 inches long. Proud big sister is Elyza Faires. Proud grandparents are Ron & Gale Bolen.

Estella Mae Stumpf was born on February 23, 2016, to Justin & Jessie Stumpf. She weighed 3 pounds & 14 ounces, and she was 16.5 inches long. Proud big brother is Carter Stumpf. Proud grandparents are Mike & Mary Stumpf.

ADDRESS UPDATE FOR YOUR SALEM PHONE DIRECTORY:

Jennifer Follwell's New Address:
17311 Baumann Road
Pocahontas, IL 62275



Worship Ministry Schedule



Date	Acolytes	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Recorder	Ushers
Mar. 2 (7pm)	_____	Shirley Collmann	_____	Patti Reckmann	Scott Demkey / Brett Henschen Jessie Ketcham Krista Mansholt / Lisa Uhe
Mar. 6 (10am)	Anna Brase Kara Braundmeier	Jim Annable	Dagmar Annable	Patti Reckmann	Paige Basler / Judy Blom Justin Bonnell / Laverne Korsmeyer Laura Muench
Mar. 9 (7pm)	_____	Jim Annable	_____	Patti Reckmann	Paige Basler / Judy Blom Justin Bonnell / Laverne Korsmeyer Laura Muench
Mar. 13 (10am)	Brienna Bowers Tessa Renken	Verna Gilley	Patty Uhe	Ron Mindrup	Amy Henschen /Gena Hodapp Krista Miller Chad & Tara Schuster
Mar. 16 (7pm)	_____	Verna Gilley	_____	Ron Mindrup	Amy Henschen /Gena Hodapp Krista Miller Chad & Tara Schuster
Mar. 20 (10am)	Shayden Hogg Sayde Hogg	Ronna Renken	Laura Muench	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
Mar. 24 (7pm)	_____	Ronna Renken	_____	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
Mar. 25 (7pm)	_____	Ronna Renken	_____	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
Mar. 27 (8am)	Need Volunteers	Gale Bolen	Irving Gray	Patti Reckmann	Ken Gehrig Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt Steve Stille / Ken Suhre
Mar. 27 (10am)	Need Volunteers	Anita Cain	Anita Cain	Larry McGee	Gale Bolen / Richelle Braundmeier Cindy Henschen Susi Miller / Kathy Porter

Nursery Schedule

March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Richelle Ernst Jill Verson	Kristin Payne Danielle Porter	Laura Renken Ronna Renken	Need Volunteers

Worship Schedule

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermon Title	Pastor
March 2 – 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	Matthew 27:15-26	<i>Pilate</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 6 – 10 a.m. Worship with Communion	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21	<i>Which Son is the Prodigal?</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 9 – 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	Luke 8:1-3	<i>Mary Magdalene</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 13 – 10 a.m. Confirmation Presentation Sunday	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14	<i>To Be Found in Christ</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
March 16 – 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Lenten Worship	Mark 15:16-24	<i>Simon the Cyrene</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 20 – 10 a.m. Confirmation/Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	<i>Shouting Stones</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 24 – 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	John 13:1-7, 31b-35 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	<i>Where Are You Going?</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 25 – 7 p.m. Good Friday Worship	To Be Determined	<i>Tenebrae Service</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 27 – 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Easter Worship	Luke 24:1-12	<i>Sharing the Good News</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
March 27 – 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Easter Worship with Communion	John 20:1-18 1 Corinthians 15:19-26	<i>Not a Time for Tears</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri

Communion Schedule for Hitz Home

March 6 – 10 a.m.	Susi Miller
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Prayer List

Cancer Concerns:

Vickie Conrad / Elmer Frank / Jack Frandsen
Wayne Gentry / Pat Hinton

Health Concerns:

Connie Abert (Niece-in-Law of Fern Scheller)
Quintin Byrne (Cousin of Lisa Reinhardt) / Diana Donohoo
Helen Dugan / Ginny Gehrig / Lester Gentry
Hilbert Klenke / Marie Mindrup
Melvin Roberts / Steve Stille

Alhambra Care Center:

Velma Henkhaus

Eden Village:

Hilbert & Verna Klenke

Faith Countryside Homes/Apartments:

Dorothy Knabel

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



March Anniversaries

03/01/1980	Mike & Carol Henschen
03/05/1994	Mike & Sandy Ahlmeyer
03/11/1989	Leon & Patty Uhe
03/13/1981	Bill & Karen French
03/14/1986	Jerry & Ann Frank
03/20/1981	Lonnie & Jeanne Reckmann
03/21/1992	Bobby & Sherry Frank
03/24/2012	Zach & Erika Schlechte
03/29/2008	Carsten & Casey Western

Our Sympathies to the Family of:

Doris Mayfield

(Sister of Bob Mindrup)

Who died on Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

Carol Ruehrup

(Mother of Brenda Ruehrup, Lois Simpson, Bobby Ruehrup)

Who died on Saturday, February 20, 2016.



March Birthdays



March 1

Tom Glassmaker

March 2

Sharon Hanes

March 3

Sarah Bolyard
Ryan Reckmann
Allison Snider
Beckett Ash

March 4

Vernon Blom
Katelyn Stewart

March 5

Nathan Mettler
Noah Karpan

March 6

Devon Reckman
Damien Bolen
Dillon Diesselhorst

March 7

Marcus Korsmeyer
Michelle Warford
Janeice White

March 9

Larry Kaufman

March 10

Brenda Schlechte

March 11

Piper Duffin

March 12

Verdella Brink

March 13

Faye Brown
Justin Bonnell
April Becker
Tyler Verson
Austin Reinhardt
Grace Quart
Tenley Henkhaus

March 14

Dagmar Annable
Todd Hunsche
Taylor Ernst

March 15

Terry Jakel

March 16

Nicole Hosto

March 17

Kelsey Reding

March 18

Helen Dugan
Stacey McDonough
Shannon Suhre

March 19

Virginia Schuerman
Marjorie Glassmaker
Beau Hodapp
Morgan Hackethal

March 20

Alicia McGee

March 21

Dennis Reckmann
Amy Henschen

March 22

Trent Rakers

March 25

Donna Yates

March 26

Donna Merkle
Wanda Bruhn
Rhett Reckmann
Tyson Bruhn
Cameron Verson

March 27

Aimee Goodwin
Megan Frank
Alexander Price

March 28

Becky Froman
Jayne Roper

March 29

Don Price
Jerri Riechmann
Amanda Mize

March 30

Berlyn Fitterer

March 31

Jennifer Hunsche
Derik Payne
Krista Miller
Katie Frank
Nolan Luitjohan

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.



MARCH CALENDAR



Tuesday	Mar. 1	6:30pm	Evangelism/Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	Mar. 2	5:45pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:15pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:00pm	Lenten Worship
Thursday	Mar. 3	7:00pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice following Worship
Saturday	Mar. 5	6:30pm	BOCE Meeting
Sunday	Mar. 6	8:45am	Guild & Brotherhood's Annual Family Night
		10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
			Worship with Pew Communion
			Congregational Meeting after Worship
			Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
Monday	Mar. 7	6:30pm	Praise Team Practice
		10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Mar. 9	7:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
		5:45pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		7:00pm	Lenten Worship
			Salem Ringers Practice following Worship
			No Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Mar. 10	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	Mar. 12	9:30-2:00pm	Day of Discipleship at Godfrey Evangelical UCC
Sunday	Mar. 13	8:45am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		10:00am	Worship / Confirmation Essays Presentation
			Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
Monday	Mar. 14	6:30pm	Praise Team Practice
Tuesday	Mar. 15	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
		9:00am	April Messenger Articles Due
		1:00pm	Senior Citizens
Wednesday	Mar. 16		No Salem Chimes or Salem Ringers Practice
		6:00pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
		6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		7:00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	Mar. 20	8:45am	Salem Chancel Choir Practice after Worship
		10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
			Worship / Confirmation Sunday
			No Children's Choir or Praise Team Practice
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
Monday	Mar. 21	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Mar. 23	6:00pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	Mar. 24	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship with Altar Communion
Friday	Mar. 25	7:00pm	Confirmants' First Communion
Saturday	Mar. 26	10:00am	Good Friday Worship / Tenebrae Service
Sunday	Mar. 27	6:30am	KFC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt
		7:00-7:45am	Sunrise Easter Worship
		8:00am	Easter Breakfast
			Easter Worship with Pew Communion
			No Salem Seekers (Sunday School)
		9:00-9:45am	Easter Breakfast
		10:00am	Easter Worship with Altar Communion
			No Children's Choir or Praise Team Practice
			No Exhale
Monday	Mar. 28	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	Mar. 30	6:00pm	Salem Chimes Practice
		6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
		7:30pm	Salem Chancel Choir Practice

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee

The Pastor/Parish/Personnel Relations Committee (PPPRC) is always ready to hear ideas and suggestions. 2016 PPPRC members are: Dennis Conrad, Krista Mansholt, Kathy Porter, Jerri Riechmann, Ken Suhre, 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 salemucalh@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 salemucalh@gmail.com.

2016 SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL:

President Steve Stille
 Vice-President Gary Boda
 Secretary Ronna Renken
 Treasurer Scott Demkey
 Financial Secretary Chris Uhe
 Dagmar Annable
 Richelle Ernst
 Kris Lynn
 Ron Mindrup
 Donita Prott
 Patrick Stille
 Jill Verson

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:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Monday – Thursday: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 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

1117 West North Street
Alhambra, Illinois 62001
Phone: 618-488-3215
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