

# THE MESSENGER

~ A Communication Ministry of Salem United Church of Christ ~

May 2016

Volume 62, Issue 5

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

**Teddy Roosevelt (the 26th President of the United States of America)  
offered these ten reasons for going to church in the Ladies' Home Journal in 1917:**

## *Ten Reasons for Going to Church*

- (1) *In this actual world a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid downgrade.*
- (2) *Church work and church attendance mean the cultivation of the habit of feeling some responsibility for others and the sense of braced moral strength which prevents a relaxation of one's own moral fiber.*
- (3) *There are enough holidays for most of us which can quite properly be devoted to pure holiday making...Sunday's different from other holidays—among other ways—in the fact that there are fifty-two of them every year...On Sunday, go to church.*
- (4) *Yes, I know all the excuses. I know that one can worship the Creator and dedicate oneself to good living in a grove of trees, or by a running brook, or in one's own house, just as well as in church. But I also know as a matter of cold fact the average man does not thus worship or thus dedicate himself. If he stays away from church he does not spend his time in good works or in lofty meditation. He looks over the colored supplement of the newspaper.*
- (5) *He may not hear a good sermon at church. But unless he is very unfortunate he will hear a sermon by a good man who, with his good wife, is engaged all the week in a long series of wearing and humdrum and important tasks for making hard lives a little easier.*
- (6) *He will listen to and take part in reading some beautiful passages from the Bible. And if he is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss...*
- (7) *He will probably take part in singing some good hymns.*
- (8) *He will meet and nod to, or speak to, good, quiet neighbors...He will come away feeling a little more charitably toward all the world, even toward those excessively foolish young men who regard church going as rather a soft performance.*
- (9) *I advocate a man's joining in church works for the sake of showing his faith by his works.*
- (10) *The man who does not in some way, active or not, connect himself with some active, working church misses many opportunities for helping his neighbors, and therefore, incidentally, for helping himself.*

It is serendipitous that I came across this article recently. I just had a "theological" conversation in which the question was asked (and I am paraphrasing), "If you are baptized, and a believer, does it really make any difference to be in Sunday worship?" I replied, "It's like getting a fancy sports car that can get you where you want to go really quickly. You spend your whole life driving this car—you really like this car. Now, the end of your life is near and your family gathers around your bedside. They all know how much you loved your car. Finally, someone asks, 'How did you like that stereo system?' You respond with, 'What? I did not know it had a stereo system!'" It is then you realize that all your life, you loved that car that got you to wherever you wanted to go really fast and now you know you missed out on an important part of your journey in the car.

Not attending church is like this: you are missing an important part of the journey. As I have often said, "I am not the worship police." When I see someone in public who has not been to church for a while, he/she almost always begins a conversation of why he/she has not been able to come to worship.

Life happens. I get it. However, it does not take away from the fact that one is missing an important part of a journey. Everyone works hard; getting up early on a Sunday morning can be difficult. Let me ask you this, do you really think that dying on the cross is more difficult than getting up early on a Sunday morning? I have heard it said, "I work six days a week, and Sunday is the one day I can sleep in!" Have you ever stopped to consider you might want to be thanking God you have a job? They are millions of people in the world who would love to have your employment.

Churches lament Sunday School attendance is down and youth groups are not as robust as we would like. We need to only look at Sunday worship attendance to see the reason. Kids and youth are going to do what their parents model. If the parents are not attending, why should we be surprised when their children do not? If parents are not involved in the church, why should we be surprised their children are not? (Continues on Next Page)

Modeling for our children what it means to be the church is like teaching a child how to ride a bicycle. You start out with training wheels (this is the parent if you are following this metaphor) until the day he/she can ride on his/her own without training wheels (to further the metaphor, this is confirmation). Too often, following confirmation, the training wheels are off and the confirmand chooses to no longer ride the bike (or drive the car, whatever metaphor you prefer). They are merely reflecting what their parents have modeled.

Church is not the same as it was 20 years ago or even five years ago. When it comes to church, the millennial generation has its own preferences and its own ideas. There is nothing wrong with that. However, in order for the church to be relative and have meaning, the millennial voice needs to be heard.

If I have made you feel uncomfortable...so be it. I am not telling you anything you do not already know. Do not kill the messenger, we did that once already.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Jerry*



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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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**“Rightly Related”**

*(Suggested Readings: Psalm 93-100)*

I recently closed the door on a machine shed when the lights were not turned on. As the last bit of sunlight was cutoff, seeing was not a possibility. Believing I knew my way around the equipment in the shed, I slowly and clumsily made my way back to the door, closing my hands to prevent my fingers from jamming in the obstacles all around me. Moments like this one remind me how much we have the gift of sight and depend upon our vision to understand our relationship to the things around us. There was no trouble with my ability to walk; I simply could not understand how I was related to my surroundings.

It is rare for us to find ourselves in complete darkness in our physical world, as we do all we can to be assured light is available. In truth, life is a shrouded mystery. Our way is ever the walk through the unknown. However, there is one relationship we are called to understand by faith, not sight. Simply, *“My Lord is above all, and I greatly exalt my Lord.”* Our problems, our pain, our trials, our bent on obeying the Lord, and even our blessings are profoundly affected by one simple thing, *“How greatly do we exalt our Lord?”* It doesn't remove the darkness. Instead, it is the childlike trust of taking the Lord's hand in the unknown of life with absolute assurance that the Lord is bringing us home, despite all we perceive through our senses.

May we continually seek to put the Lord not only a bit higher than us, but rather to the highest edge of our intellect and imagination, while still knowing even that is woefully short of God's greatness! Even the darkness is light to God! The Lord is unbreakable, resilient, victorious, graceful, loving, and wonderful beyond all we can say! May we all find hope, peace, purpose, and love in the exaltation of the Lord. Thanks be to God! We are rightly related to our Lord! It is our profound pleasure to live out the truth of that relationship!

God Bless You!  
*Pastor John*

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**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING**

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.” Strengthen the Church offering envelopes will be in the Sunday, May 22, bulletins. This offering will be collected on Sunday, May 29.

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**New Display in Historical Cabinet:**

Please check out the new display in the historical cabinet featuring baptisms at Salem. Included are the handwritten records of the first baptisms in 1860 and the church bulletin and a photo of the latest baptism at Salem in April 2016.

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**Did You Know?**

**Which Pastor of Salem married a “local girl” according to his obituary?**

- Rev. Eduard Jakob Hosto, the founding Pastor of Salem, married Clara Elizabeth Kamphoeffner in Alhambra in March 1860. Clara was the daughter of Kasper and Klara (Koch) Kamphoeffner.

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# EXHALE – YOUTH NEWS

*“Built to Roam” ~ Shakey Graves*

I have always loved music. Most people would accept some of my music choices. Without a doubt, my favorite type of music is live music. I love getting the tickets and figuring out who is going to join me at the concert. I love getting to know the songs of the artist or band I am going to see. Even more so than live music, I love intimate small shows of bands who are hardly known by the public. I was lucky enough to see one such show earlier this month by a performer known as Shakey Graves. I got to see him perform with about 200 other people, 11 of whom were friends of mine, and I could not have loved it any more.

Shakey was someone with more talent than I will ever have with an instrument. While I stood a few feet away from Shakey, I listened to his stories about his songs, and I watched him lead the crowd in singing certain lyrics to his songs or actions he wanted the crowd to do. He treated the crowd as one, as an equal part of his show, and he did so with the ease and confidence of someone who had seen the road tour for much longer than he had. Then it hit me, this was worship. People gathered together for the same cause to sing and enjoy each other’s company without a care in the world of what each person’s past was or what their future held for them. Shakey accepted us for exactly who we were, and each person in the crowd did the same for each other. We were just there to enjoy good music.

I have always thought the idea of worship can come from anywhere; we just have to find it. The best part about worship is that we can dictate when and where we want to be in praise for everything we believe in. As spring creeps up on us and slowly passes for the dog days of summer, keep an eye out for a chance to give thanks in every moment. You never know when it might turn up.

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

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR EXHALE:**

- **Sunday, May 1:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 4:** Exhale Bible Study & Hangout @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 8:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 11:** Exhale Bible Study & Hangout @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 15:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 18:** Exhale Bible Study & Hangout @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 22:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 25:** Exhale Bible Study & Hangout @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 29:** Exhale @ 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## **TRIVIA NIGHT THANK YOU:**

*Thank you to everyone who came out to support Exhale at the Trivia Night in April. We had 4 ½ tables of competitors and tons of fun and fellowship. Special thanks to all who provided baskets for our silent auction. We also want to thank all the parents who showed up to help judge, collect 50-50, and everything else. You all made the night go extremely smooth, and we cannot thank you enough. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us; without you, there would be no mission trip!*

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

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

The next Men’s Fellowship & Women’s Guild meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.

## **May Golden Agers Are:**

Lorene Knackstedt on May 6, Vernon Otto on May 18, & Hilbert Klenke on May 22

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## *“Thank You” Notes*

Thank you to Pastor Jerry and to those who visited, those who sent cards, and importantly, those who prayed for Lorena and me during my hospitalization and home stay. I had excellent physicians and the power of a church community to help me convalesce. Thanks again.  
~ Irving Gray

I apologize for this being late, but I would like very much to thank all of you for your prayers, phone calls, all the beautiful cards, the flowers, and especially to Pastor Jerry for visiting me at the hospital and to Pastor John and Anita Cain for visiting me at home. Thanks also for all the food that was brought in after I came home. I truly appreciated everything that was done throughout my illness. You are all so wonderful.  
~ Pat Hinton

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

April 14, 2016

The April 14, 2016, meeting was called to order by Church Council President Steve Stille with nine Church Council members and one guest, Ben Hoeft, present.

## **GUEST – BEN HOEFT (CHURCH FINANCIAL ADVISOR)**

- Switched from LPL Financial to Money Concepts (group out of Florida – privately held company)
- Needed signatures from Chris Uhe, Scott Demkey, Ronna Renken, & Steve Stille following this change.
- Signatures were given at the meeting.

## **SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

- A motion was made to approve both the March Church Council Meeting Minutes and the Congregational Meeting Minutes (04/03/16). The motion passed.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

- A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made. The motion passed.
- A motion to pay the bills was made. The motion passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **BOCE** –
  - Vacation Bible School will be June 5-9, 2016.
- **Evangelism/Worship** –
  - No report.
- **Mission/Stewardship** –
  - Gideons International will be here to do a presentation on Mission Fest Sunday, May 1.
- **Property** –
  - Coffee Maker: Lewis talked further to the man from Farmers Coffee. We would have to spend \$150/month on coffee (this is a change in policy on their part). We will continue using our current coffeemaker until it stops working.
  - Stained Glass Windows/Passageway Windows: Will be started very soon.
  - Some shingles have blown off of the roof in the recent high winds; had some repairs done.
  - Choir Pews: Still no action on this.
  - Parish Hall siding (spray painting): We have one bid and plan to get a second bid.
  - Need to consider replacing the Parish Hall south west door in the future; it’s in poor condition.
- **Long Range Planning** –
  - Meeting on April 18.
- **Personnel** –
  - Met on March 30. No report.
- **Safe Church** –
  - Committee has met twice in the last month and is close to finalizing plans; Will need Church Council approval once it’s finalized.
  - We may want to do some level of emergency training in the future.
- **Youth Director Search** –
  - Committee has not received any applications yet.
  - Committee is still open to any applications or interest.

## **PASTOR’S REPORT:**

- Pastor Jerry is on vacation; no report.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Donita Prott asked if Salem members could use the upper Parish Hall for the Alhambra yard sales on May 5-7. There were no objections.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

- The next meeting will be Thursday, May 12, 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.**

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## **OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!!!**

**September 2016 – August 2017  
Acolytes, Greeters, Liturgists, Nursery Attendants, & Ushers Needed!!!**

Salem UCC needs your help! We are in need of acolytes, greeters, liturgists, nursery attendants, and ushers for the September 2016 – August 2017 Schedule. Please sign up on the table outside the church office if you can help with one, two, or more of these ministries.

# Salem UCC Treasurer's Report

(Month Ending 03/31/2016)

	Current Activity	YTD Activity
<b>GENERAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>26,545.07</b>	<b>14,948.86</b>
Offering – Loose	9,357.50	26,507.25
Offering – Envelopes	10,586.00	30,653.00
Facility Use Donations	0.00	3,350.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	758.00	758.00
Interest Income – General Fund	4.48	10.90
Benevolence Received	1,186.00	3,101.55
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>21,891.98</b>	<b>64,380.70</b>
Salaries	9,731.95	29,122.40
Employee Benefits	4,957.40	7,664.42
Maintenance/Property Services	0.00	1,363.04
Insurance	2,964.25	3,107.25
Utilities	2,079.69	6,337.82
Supplies – General	488.15	1,892.01
Professional Expense	228.78	519.43
Miscellaneous	57.50	77.50
Worship	41.99	368.67
Christian Education	240.80	811.56
Evangelism	0.00	45.67
Stewardship	0.00	373.25
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>20,790.51</b>	<b>51,683.02</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 27,646.54</b>	<b>\$ 27,646.54</b>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>22,904.51</b>	<b>83,466.78</b>
Memorials Received	1,135.00	1,680.00
Honorariums Received	-	150.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	-	20.00
<b>Memorial Fund Expenses:</b>		
Transfer to Building Fund		(40,852.27)
Transfer to Reserve Fund		(20,425.00)
Choir Folders; Book Lights	(354.71)	(354.71)
<b>MEMORIAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 23,684.80</b>	<b>\$ 23,684.80</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>55,532.92</b>	<b>13,465.65</b>
Building Fund Offering	1,020.00	2,235.00
Transfer from Memorial Fund		40,852.27
<b>BUILDING FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 56,552.92</b>	<b>\$ 56,552.92</b>
<b>SABBATICAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>13,896.12</b>	<b>12,896.12</b>
Contribution from Men's Fellowship	0.00	1,000.00
<b>SABBATICAL FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 13,896.12</b>	<b>\$ 13,896.12</b>
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>61,173.76</b>	<b>61,173.76</b>
<b>Endowment Fund Disbursements:</b>		
Interest Distribution – General Fund	(158.00)	(158.00)
Interest Distribution – Benevolence	(158.00)	(158.00)
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 60,857.76</b>	<b>\$ 60,857.76</b>
<b>INVESTMENT FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>167,847.28</b>	<b>174,008.22</b>
Change in Market Value	10,704.72	4,543.78
<b>INVESTMENT FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 178,552.00</b>	<b>\$ 178,552.00</b>
<b>MISSION MATCHING FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>102,368.73</b>	<b>106,836.61</b>
Change in Market Value	5,946.32	(1.18)
Donations for Ecuador 2016	25.00	1,504.62
<b>MISSION MATCHING FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 108,340.05</b>	<b>\$ 108,340.05</b>
<b>RESERVE FUND BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>30,764.80</b>	<b>10,307.70</b>
Interest Income – Reserve Fund	17.22	49.32
Transfer from Memorial Fund		20,425.00
<b>RESERVE FUND ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 30,782.02</b>	<b>\$ 30,782.02</b>
<b>OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE</b> (No Activity)	<b>\$ 1,554.11</b>	<b>\$ 1,554.11</b>

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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.



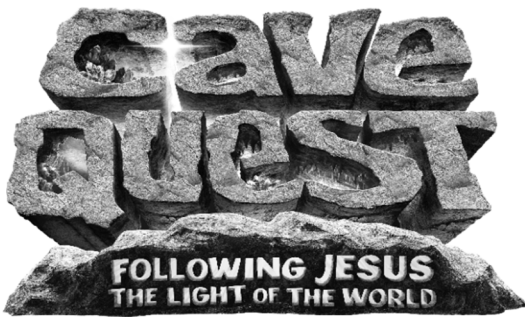
# Salem Seekers

## "Beatitudes" Rotation

May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
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>ALL CHILDREN &amp; PARENTS WILL MEET IN THE PARISH HALL FOR A CELEBRATION</b>	<b>3rd – 6th GOD'S OASIS</b> (Storytelling)	<b>Pre-K – 2nd GOD'S OASIS</b> (Storytelling)	<b>ALL CHILDREN WILL MEET IN THE GATHERING ROOM FOR THE BIBLE BUCK STORE</b>	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
	<b>Pre-K – 2nd GATHERING ROOM</b> (Media)	<b>3rd – 6th GATHERING ROOM</b> (Media)		<b>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND</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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## DuBois Center Camp Funding Policy

If a parent selects *Actual Cost* as described in the *2016 Summer Schedule Tiered Pricing*, then the Board of Christian Education will pay 1/3 of the *Actual Cost*, the Men's Fellowship will pay 1/3 of the *Actual Cost*, and the parent will be responsible for 1/3 of the *Actual Cost*.

If the parent has a concern with their portion of the *Actual Cost*, then they should see Pastor Jerry Amiri in confidence. Please provide a copy of the registration to the Salem UCC church office for processing, so that the Board of Christian Education knows how many children are going to camp at DuBois Center.

Thanks,  
Board of Christian Education

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At Cave Quest VBS, kids will explore what it means to follow Jesus through dark times. Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life.

The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Sing & Play Rock and ends at 8:30 p.m. with Cave Quest Closing, which gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. We invite parents to come around 8:10 p.m. to share in this special nightly closing. So mark these dates on your calendar: June 5 to June 9, 2016!

Registration forms are available on the table outside the church office. We would appreciate you submitting these in a timely manner so that we can plan accordingly. Also, check out the display in the hallway with items needed for VBS. We appreciate all your help and support and look forward to another successful year!

Cave Quest VBS is for children ages 3 years old to 5th grade.

Children ages 6th grade to high school are encouraged to join our Crew—please contact Nick Atkins-Harris.

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## ~ Kids For Christ (KFC) ~

In April, KFC joined Exhale for roller-skating at the YMCA. Everyone present had a great time. There will be no KFC meeting in May. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

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## Salem UCC Is Searching for a Part-Time Youth Director.

Salem is seeking a Youth Director to be a spiritual role model who encourages and supports Salem youth in their personal faith journeys. Candidates who have a background in education and previous guidance and leadership roles are preferred. For a full job description please contact Rev. Jerry Amiri at [jerryamiri@hotmail.com](mailto:jerryamiri@hotmail.com) or via cell phone at (636) 328-3332. Serving on the search committee are Justin Bonnell, Richelle Ernst, Tori Lynn, Krista Miller, Bill Prott, and Patrick Stille. Please reach out to a committee member with ideas and/or concerns. It is the search committee's decision to not discuss details about the search or individual candidate applications until it is time to present information to the congregation.

Currently, the job has been posted on Salem UCC's website, in the Illinois South Conference's Weekly Connection, and at various universities and colleges in the area.

God Bless,  
Patrick Stille

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## Congratulations to Sam Ahlmeyer!!!

On Sunday, April 3, Sam Ahlmeyer received his Eagle Scout Award at a Scout Court of Honor. Sam has held the positions of Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Sam has earned 33 merit badges. His Eagle Project was installing a Goose Nesting Box and refinishing & relocating beaches around the Lake at Alhambra Township Park this past summer. Sam is the son of Mike & Sandy Ahlmeyer, brother of Derek Ahlmeyer, and grandson of Vernon & Judy Blom.

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## 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 contact a member of the Mission/Stewardship Committee or Pastor Jerry.

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## LOOKING FOR ALL GRADUATES...

If you are or know someone who is graduating from high school, college, trade school, or graduate school this year, please contact the church office at 488-3215 or [salemuccalh@gmail.com](mailto:salemuccalh@gmail.com) by Sunday, May 1. Graduates will be recognized at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 22. There will be a reception honoring the graduates following the worship service in the upstairs Parish Hall.

The church office also would like a picture of graduate and a short paragraph on graduate consisting of full name (including middle), name of parents, name of school graduating from, date of graduation (at least month and year), if from college the degree graduating with, and future plans such as further education or career. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

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## *The Legend of the Dogwood...*

*There is a legend, that at the time of the Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber of the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it: "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross...two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."* (Thanks to Elinor Stille for sharing!)

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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 EASTER FLOWERS ~

- ❖ *Tulip in memory of our mom by Susi, Cindy, Joe, & families.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of my beloved wife by Bob.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of mom by Kenny, Susi, Krista, Gena, Ryan, & Beau.  
Mom, we miss you every day!*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Don Merkle by his grandchildren, Danielle, Bianca, & Darren.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of LeRoy & Luella Hosto, Larry Hosto, and Kathie Loyet  
by John & Gail VanWinkle and Donna Merkle.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Great-Grandpa Norman & Great-Grandma Gloria by Tyler, Cameron, Jayden, & Averi.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Harold & Evelyn Krueger, Nancy Krueger, and Frieda Amiri by Pastor Jerry & Carol Amiri.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Nathan, Timothy, Joseph, Lukas, & Elizabeth Amiri and Elijah, Evangeline, & Naya Ferch  
by Pastor Jerry & Carol Amiri.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Earl Hall & Mary Lou Hall by Elinor Stille.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Marvin Stille by Elinor Stille.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Sonny Cain, Fern & Vern Johnson, and Howard & Bonnie Cain by Anita K. Cain.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Jim & Melanie Tillerson and Angel, Jordan, Michaela, & Amaya by Mom/Grandma AK.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Justin Guesewelle by Donna Yates.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Mark & Velda Yates by Don & Donna Yates.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Louise Noeth by Don & Donna Yates.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Henry & Louise Schuette by Donna Yates.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Ian Grandame by Bill & Carol Reckman.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Bill & Carol Reckman.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Herb & Elda Schmidt by Ron & Rhonda Schmidt & family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Karen Geschwend by Ron & Rhonda Schmidt.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Lisa Stille by Patrick, Emily, & Isla Stille.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Rosemary Schreier by the Reagan Family.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of our dear Uncle Danny  
by Steve & Jayne, Dean, Sherri, Addison, & Amanda, and Justin & Melanie.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of our dear Danny by Laverne & Marilyn.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Lorie, Larry, & Barbara.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Denny D. Harris by Barbara Meguire.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in honor of Kara Braundmeier by Mom, Dad, Becca, Jeremy, Jordan, & Lia.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Megan Frank for her 26th Birthday (03/27) by Jerry, Ann, & Madison.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of loved ones by Vernon & Judy Blom.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Donald Beshears by his family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Denny Dean Harri by Lisa Schuetz.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Lucas Lee Schlechte's 1st Easter by Grandpa & Grandma Schlechte.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in honor of our moms, Helen Beshears & Wilma Sander, by Jed & Brenda Schlechte.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Elmer Klenke by his family.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Keith Klenke by his family.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Delmar Blom by Wilma Blom & family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Charles & Vernetta Hunsche by Ron & Janet Hunsche.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Vernon Otto.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Jim Collmann by Shirley Collmann & family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Perry Knackstedt by Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Nicole & Hannah Knackstedt by Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Anna Brase by Dawn Reinhardt.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of M. Elaine Suhre by Kenneth Suhre.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Tice and Mr. & Mrs. George Suhre by Kenneth Suhre.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Richard Scheller by Fern, Dawn, Bruce, & Shane.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Edward & Martha Abert, Russell Abert, Charles & Vernetta Hunsche, Joe Olsen, Betty Olive,  
Gary Olive, Rollin Abert, Don Beshears, Dick Scheller, and Richard Boeker by the Abert families.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of Wayne & Alice Stille by their children.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Larry & Sharon Kaufman.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Nancy Jakel and William Kaufman by Edith Kaufman.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Ken & Ginger Gehrig.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Karol Reckmann, Danny Reckmann, Kevin Reckmann, Wm. & Clara Koenig,  
and Edwin & Lydia Reckmann by Lorman Reckmann.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Alfred & Betty Volz by Nancy Taylor, Derrick Taylor & Family, and Deb Volz & Family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Greg & Paige Basler & family.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of Roger Stumpf and Roseann Lackey by Gene & Ethel Hosto.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in memory of Nina Hosto and Emmet & Viola Hosto by Gene & Ethel Hosto.*
- ❖ *Tulip in memory of loved ones by Wayne & Alice Stille.*
- ❖ *Tulip in honor of the love of my life, Carol, by Pastor Jerry Amiri.*
- ❖ *Easter Lily in honor of the Salem Staff by Pastor Jerry Amiri.*





## Worship Ministry Schedule



Date	Acolytes	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Recorder	Ushers
<b>May 1 (10am)</b>	Elizabeth Brown Grace Quart	Jim Annable	Dagmar Annable	Patti Reckmann	Amy Henschen /Gena Hodapp Krista Miller Chad & Tara Schuster
<b>May 8 (10am)</b>	Anna Brase Kara Braundmeier	Jerry & Ann Frank	Laura Muench	Ron Mindrup	Brian & Connie Duncan Emily Duncan / Katelyn Duncan Gene & Terri Templeman
<b>May 15 (10am)</b>	Brienna Bowers Tessa Renken	Anita Cain	Anita Cain	Ron Mindrup	Ken Gehrig Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt Steve Stille / Ken Suhre
<b>May 22 (10am)</b>	Shayden Hogg Sayde Hogg	Lewis & Lorene Knackstedt	Laura Muench	Larry McGee	Gale Bolen / Richelle Braundmeier Cindy Henschen Susi Miller / Kathy Porter
<b>May 29 (10am)</b>	Syler Hogg <b>Need 1 Volunteer</b>	Donna Merkle	Irving Gray	Larry McGee	Larry & Lorna McGee Alice Stille / Jeff Warnke

### Nursery Schedule

May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Sarah Bolyard Tiffany Gillison	Tori Lynn Kelsey Quade	Ashley Prott Donita Prott	Richelle Ernst Jill Verson	Kristin Payne Danielle Porter

### Worship Schedule

Date	Scripture Readings	Sermon Title	Pastor
May 1 – 10 a.m. Mission Fest Sunday Worship with Communion	John 14:23-29 Acts 16:9-15	<i>Mission Fest Sunday</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
May 8 – 10 a.m. Mother's Day / Worship	Acts 16:16-34 John 17:20-26	<i>My Chains Are Gone</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
May 15 – 10 a.m. Pentecost / Worship	Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, 25-27	<i>Embracing the Spirit</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri
May 22 – 10 a.m. Graduation Sunday / Worship	Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-11	<i>Reconciled to God</i>	Pastor John Mindrup
May 29 – 10 a.m. Praise Worship	1 Kings 18:20-39 Luke 7:1-10	<i>Unshakeable Faith</i>	Rev. Jerry Amiri

### Communion Schedule for Hitz Home

May 1 – 10 a.m.	Lisa Uhe
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### Looking for Volunteers For Special Music This Summer!!!

We can use people of all ages as well as various instruments and vocal talents.  
Please see Dawn Reinhardt or sign up on the calendar in the choir room.

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### Mission Fest Sunday

On Mission Fest Sunday, May 1, a representative from Gideons International will be here to give us updates of the ministry of the Gideons. The Gideons International is an Association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments. A potluck luncheon will immediately follow worship. Please bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share for the potluck luncheon. Meat will be provided by the Men's Fellowship.

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### Recent Baptisms at Salem...

**Kira Ray Conrad** was baptized on Sunday, March 13, 2016, by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Kira was born on August 26, 2015, to Clinton & Jenna Conrad. Kira is the younger sister of Krystal Lynn Conrad. Her grandparents are Dennis, the late Vickie Conrad, and Dale & Candy Rapien. Her godparents are Corey Steinkoenig and Patricia Sachtleben.

**Bradley Joseph Dauderman** was baptized on Sunday, April 10, 2016, by Rev. Jerry Amiri. Bradley was born on September 3, 2015, to Michael Dauderman & Denise Davidson. Bradley is the younger brother of Adalynn Davidson & Landon Krauss. His grandparents are Joseph & Deanna Dauderman, Shelly Shafer, and Ronnie Davidson. His great-grandparents are Robert M. Dauderman, Mary Richardson, and Fred Shafer. His godparents are Paige Davidson and Robert J. Dauderman.



# Prayer List

### Cancer Concerns:

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  
Irving Gray / Hilbert Klenke / Marie Mindrup  
Dawn Schmidt / Melvin Roberts

### 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



# May Anniversaries

05/01/1965	Jim & Carol Gibbons
05/01/1976	Peter & Eva Babic
05/03/2003	Charlie & Davina Brown III
05/04/2002	Brien & Tonia Bowers
05/06/2006	Scott & Michelle Warford
05/07/1993	Brian & Denise Grandame
05/08/1993	David & Tina Poggemoeller
05/08/2010	Dave & Lindsey Duffin
05/09/1959	Vernon & Marie Mindrup
05/09/2015	Bobby & Kelsey Dauderman
05/14/1994	Mark & April Korsmeyer
05/18/1984	Kenneth & Barb Randle
05/18/1985	Larry & Laura Muench
05/20/2006	Bryan & Nicole Wernle
05/21/1999	Tony & Sheryl Cecco
05/23/1981	Jed & Brenda Schlechte
05/24/2008	Richard & Danielle Porter Jr.
05/27/1988	Todd & Keri Reilson
05/28/1960	Roger & Janelle Reilson

# Our Sympathies to the Family of:

### **Elmer Frank**

*(Husband of Joan Frank)*

Who died on Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

### **Vickie Conrad**

*(Wife of Dennis Conrad)*

Who died on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.



# May Birthdays



### May 1

Steve Price  
Jayden Henschen  
Leighton Buzick

### May 2

Dawna Mize  
Gus Townzen Jr.  
Sam Ahlmeyer

### May 3

Russ Reinhardt  
Jennifer Henschen

### May 4

Tiffany Gillison

### May 5

Megan Henschen

### May 6

Lorene Knackstedt  
Charley Vassier  
Tyson Rakers

### May 7

Presley Reeves

### May 8

Kory Brink

### May 9

Ashlie Mindrup

### May 10

Merilee Mindrup

### May 11

Ronald Debatin  
Lawrence Henschen

Ronnelle Griffith

Carrie Gibbons

Travis Porter

### May 12

Becca Braundmeier

### May 13

Judy Henschen

### May 14

Bonadell Litton

### May 15

Lori Horner  
Colton Prott  
Alison Brase

### May 16

Brienna Bowers

### May 17

Anna Brase

### May 18

Vernon Otto  
Sandra Reckmann

### May 18

Seth Schlechte  
Laura Renken

### May 20

Dawn Schmidt

### May 22

Hilbert Klenke  
Tessa Renken

### May 23

Shirley Gall  
Sydney Basler  
Shayden Hogg

### May 24

Emily Take

### May 25

James Schmidt  
Leonard Suhre  
Connie Duncan

### May 26

Leroy Engelke  
Karen Landolt  
Marcus Doubet

### May 26

Ryan Hodapp  
Molly Thornton

### May 27

Wanda Knackstedt  
Pastor Jerry Amiri  
Kelsey Quade

### May 28

Ed Noeth

### May 29

Dean Reckmann  
Emma Otto

### May 30

Macie Becker

### May 31

Debra Reckmann  
Nancy Heidbrink  
Sharyn Giesecking

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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 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.



# MAY CALENDAR



Sunday	May 1	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship with Communion / Mission Fest Sunday Potluck following Worship Children's Choir Practice after Worship Salem UCC Scholarships Due
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
Monday	May 2	6:30pm 10:00am	Praise Team Practice Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
		7:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday	May 3	6:30pm	Evangelism/Worship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	May 4	6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
Thursday	May 5	7:00pm	BOCE Meeting
Sunday	May 8	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship / Mother's Day No Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
		6:30pm	Praise Team Practice
Monday	May 9	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	May 11	6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
Thursday	May 12	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday	May 15	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship No Children's Choir Practice after Worship Historical Committee Meeting after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
			No Praise Team Practice
Monday	May 16	9:00am 10:00am	June Messenger Articles Due Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Tuesday	May 17	1:00pm	Senior Citizens
Wednesday	May 18	6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
		6:30pm	Salem Ringers Practice
Thursday	May 19	7:00pm	Guild & Brotherhood Meeting
Sunday	May 22	8:45am 10:00am	Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Worship / Graduation Sunday Reception Honoring Graduates after Worship No Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
		6:30pm	Praise Team Practice
Monday	May 23	10:00am	Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's
Wednesday	May 25	6:00-8:00pm	Exhale Bible Study & Hangout
Sunday	May 29	10:00am	No Salem Seekers (Sunday School) Praise Worship No Children's Choir Practice after Worship
		4:00-5:30pm	Exhale
			No Praise Team Practice
Monday	May 30	10:00am	No Monday Morning Reflections at Maedge's Memorial Day Worship at Salem Cemetery

### 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 [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).

### 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](mailto:jerryamiri@hotmail.com)