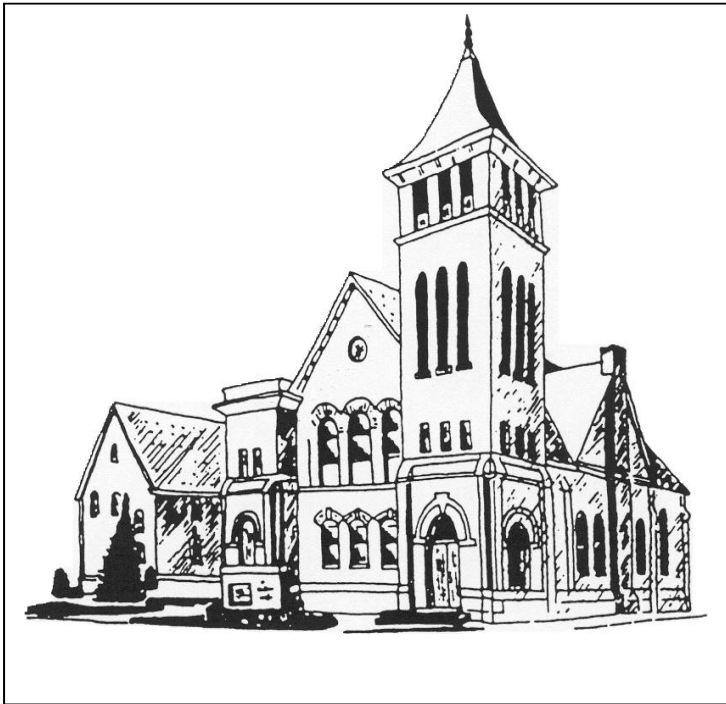


# **SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1500 North Main**

**Higginsville, Missouri**

web page: [salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)



**We are a gathering church sent out  
by God to bring the good news of  
God's grace, justice, peace, and  
love to the world**

December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

## **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

### **THE GATHERING**

#### **MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP**

**WELCOME:** No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. We're so glad you're here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love — shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what our church is all about.

#### **NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION**

### **ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD**

#### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

**Piano Prelude** “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”

Spiritual/ arr. Schrader

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** We come to worship the living Christ, agent of God's perfection.

**People:** We come to worship the pioneer of God's redemption.

**Leader:** God revealed God's own self to us through the life of Christ.

**All:** In Christ we see the love of God shining on all Creation. The light of Christ lights the Way of true life. We come to worship God's perfect gift!

**\* HYMN** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” No. 151

#### **\*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

God, lover of creation and all humankind, we praise you and voice our adoration for your love that has no end. You first appeared to us as the infant Jesus. He is the fruit of your love and light of all hope, joy, and peace. He is your eternal presence with us and our everlasting reminder of what human

life can be when lived in absolute trust in you. And so, as we worship you this morning, fill us with an overwhelming desire to know you better and love you more fully. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

## **REFLECTION**

Jaxson Cowherd and Aaron Knipmeyer– Confirmand & Mentor

### **PRAYER (ALL)**

We thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE possible for every person ...of every race ...in every nation. Encourage and strengthen us to birth your Goodwill and PEACE into our own lives and into that of our families, our church, our neighborhoods, and our world. May our hearts always be opened to you, the Living God, and to the gracious gift of your Son, the Word made flesh, in whose name we pray. Amen

### **HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

Andy

**HYMN** “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light” No. 129  
*(Please write your joys and concerns on the card and hand it to the usher during the hymn)*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** Preparation for prayer

**PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(“debts” and “debtors” words in hymn No. 426)

### **MORNING OFFERING**

\*Doxology

No. 625

\*Dedication Prayer

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle's Creed  
*(Printed inside back cover of Hymnal)*

**CHANCEL CHOIR** “Heard About a Newborn King” Lantz

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2:13-23 (N.T. p. 2)

**SERMON**

“Unholy Power vs. Holy Love”

Andy

**THE SENDING**

**\*HYMN**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

No. 133

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Spiritual/ arr. Hayes

**Offering plates are at the exits from the sanctuary.**

The Worship Service is over and our Service begins.

*\*Indicates please stand if you are able to do so*

\*\*\*\*\*

Leading Worship Today:

Andy Mockridge – Pulpit Supply

Delbert Goetz – Liturgist

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

**Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...**

Mike Mockridge, December 28

Bryce Pessetto, December 28

Dennis Knipmeyer, December 28

Paul Heimsoth, December 28

Andrew Nevels, December 28

Denise Schowengerdt, December 29

Kenzie Rinne, December 29

Jennifer Cole, December 31

Chance Alberswerth, December 31

Judy Struchtemeyer, January 3

Delbert Goetz, January 3

Kali Rechterman, January 3

Kristen Argotsinger, January 3

### **IN OUR PRAYERS:**

A.J. Golt, nephew of Peggy Pragman, is recovering at home following surgery for kidney cancer. He is doing well and working on getting his strength back. He is also enjoying his two daughters. Roger & Tillie Erdman, are at Meyer Care Center. Roger fell and fractured some vertebrae in his neck and Tillie will be staying at Meyer as well while Roger recovers.

Kathleen Begemann, was recovering at Meyer Care Center following aortic valve replacement surgery. She was able to return home on Monday, December 22.

Bobby Bergsicker, as he receives chemotherapy treatments for lymphoma.

Prayers, for anyone with a health issue, anyone grieving, and anyone that has a heavy burden on their heart, mind, and soul.

Prayers, for our world and nation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are due in the church office by January 6, 2026. Thank you.

### **GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY:**

For 25 years Salem Church has supported Growing Hope Globally Projects. The organization addresses food shortages, poverty, and health challenges that lead to hunger. The goal of each program is to help families have enough to eat throughout the entire year and to produce a surplus they can sell to pay for school supplies, medical care, and modest home improvements. The Board of Elders will continue supporting this worthwhile program. If you care to support the Elders in this mission, please leave your donation by the church office no later than December 31, 2025. Checks should be made out to Salem Church with Growing Hope Globally on the memo line or give to the church online.

You can learn more about Growing Hope Globally at

[www.growinghopeglobally.org](http://www.growinghopeglobally.org)

Thank you for your continued support

### **2026 ENVELOPES:**

If you are using offering envelopes they are available in the Fellowship Hall.

### **YEAR END CHURCH BUSINESS:**

Please have all church financial contributions and business transactions to the church office by 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 5, 2026. Thank you for your consideration.

### **PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:**

Paper copies of the Lamplighter are available in the back of the Sanctuary and by the church office.

### **EVE CIRCLE NEWS:**

Eve Circle will meet January 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Joyce Gross will be the hostess and Keri Borchers will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come. Mary Dickmeier, chairman

### **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

#### **JKV AND MEYER CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY:**

John Knox Village and Meyer Care Center have a weekly Bible Study that is led, on a rotational schedule, by the Ministerial Fellowship. Terry Cook (Christian) will lead Bible Study during the month of December. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

### **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:**

Anyone who is in need of prayers, please call the church office, (660) 584-3603.

### **ATTENDANCE FOR December 21, 2025**

No 8:00 a.m. worship service

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 157

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 67

### **INCOME & EXPENSES FOR Dec. 19-Dec. 25, 2025**

General Fund Income: \$5,964

General Fund Expense: \$6,245

### **UP COMING DATES:**

January 1 – New Year's Day-Church Office Closed

January 6 – Annual Reports due in the church office

January 26 – Souper Supper at Salem

### **FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS:**

1. Check or Cash is always accepted. You may place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Offering plates are placed in the back of the Sanctuary at the 10:00 a.m. service or by the bulletins at the 8:00 a.m. service. On special occasions the offering plate will be passed at the 10:00 a.m. service. You may also mail your contribution to Salem, 1500 Main, Higginsville, MO 64037.
2. Salem Church website ([salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)). Click on the Resources & Links tab then click the online giving link
3. Text 73256 on your phone and use the code SalemHigg and then click on the link
4. Download the Salem church app and under the giving tab is a link for online giving

## **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM**

**December 28, 2025 thru January 4, 2026**

- Sunday** - First Sunday After Christmas  
Andy Mockridge-Pulpit Supply  
No 8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
10:00 a.m. Worship Live-Stream Worship  
/YouTube
- Monday** - No Activities Scheduled
- Tuesday** - Food Pantry
- Wednesday** - New Year's Eve  
5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)  
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
- Thursday** - New Year's Day/Church Office Closed
- Friday** - Youth on Mission Work Day at Church  
5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)  
7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday** - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday** - Andy Mockridge-Pulpit Supply  
No 8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Live-Stream Worship  
/YouTube  
First Year Confirmation