

The Lamplighter



December 2025 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri

Pulpit supply schedule for December is as follows:

December 7—Evelyn Elmore

December 14—Andy Mockridge

December 21— Children's Christmas Program (No Supply Pastor or 8:00 Worship)

Christmas Eve, December 24—
Andy Mockridge

December 28— Andy Mockridge

Check out Salem's Facebook page as June Howell will highlight each pulpit supply on Facebook.



THE GREAT SALEM FOOD FIGHT 2025

When the Church Council dreamed up the Great Salem Food Fight, we had no idea how generously you would respond! You brought in bags and cases of food, made financial donations that purchased thousands of dollars of food items and strengthened the Food Pantry's bank balance for the future. Because of the variety of donation methods, we don't know EXACTLY how many dollars of food were donated, but it's very safe to say it totaled over \$5000. Thanks to the coaches and members of the Lafayette County C-1 Wrestling Team who moved all that food into the basement in just 15 minutes and to the many volunteers who sorted and stored it.

And millions of thanks to all of you - so many people will be blessed by your generosity! And the winner of the food fight? We're pretty sure it was an EXACT tie...



From the Church Records

Financial Report: October 2025**General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank**

General Fund Balance 10/01/25	\$77,021
Current deposits	\$12,961
Current expenses	\$17,209
Current Fund Balance 10/31/25	\$72,773

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 10/01/25	\$7,500
Current deposits	\$2,051
Current expenses	\$ 657
Current Fund Balance 10/31/25	\$8 894

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Oct.) \$150

HARVESTERS SCHEDULE

First Assembly of God Church of Higginsville hosts a Harvesters Community Food Network distribution of food on the third Thursday of every month. The work day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends approximately at Noon. After the food is distributed, volunteers are asked to stay and help clean up the area. Anyone willing to help is asked to call 660-584-3372, (First Presbyterian Church), and leave your name, phone number, and mailing address. Wear comfortable clothes.

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.

Views Live Stream	October Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
19	10-5-25	16	56
19	10-12-25	14	49
27	10-19-25	0	94
42	10-26-25	10	70
26	Average Total Average 107	13	67

Eve Circle: Eve Circle will meet December 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will have a Pot Luck meal, meat provided. The program will be a Christmas memory or article to share or a reading that is special to you. All women of the church are welcome to attend our meeting. Please join us.

**ANGEL TREE NEWS:**

The Gifts will need to be returned to the church by Friday, December 12th.



Rollie Barlow was baptized Sunday, November 30, 2025. Rollie is the son of Blake and Haylee Barlow, and the Grandson of Bruce and Susan Barlow, and Kevin and Melanie Schreier. His Godparents are: Abby & Holden Bargfrede.

Best Birthday Wishes in December go to...

Tim Bergsieker	1	Annerose Wood	14	Nolan Stoner	21
Charles Grumke	3	Mark Nolte	14	Drew Lefman	23
Patty Kroll	3	Sandy Akin	15	DeShaun Thirkield	23
Will Cottrill	4	Camden Russell	16	Perry Wentland	24
Maclyn Rechterman	4	Bryan Nolte	16	Tina Bergsieker	25
Rita Wallpe	5	Marie Robinson	17	Dorothy Peck	25
Alex Starke	6	Eva Whitaker	18	Mike Siegfried	27
Gabriel Iles	6	Nick Morris	18	Maria LaRue	27
Amy Goetz	8	Logan Warren	19	Mike Mockridge	28
Pete Thaller	8	Randy Amor	19	Bryce Pessetto	28
Bryan Wesley	9	Chris Catron	19	Dennis Knipmeyer	28
Carson Starke	9	Lowell Grumke	20	Paul Heimsoth	28
Pat Warren	10	Atticus Kerivan	20	Andrew Nevels	28
Wayne Lieser	10	Wynn Bredehoeft	20	Denise Schowengerdt	29
Stacy Barnes	11	Jordan Smith	21	Kenzie Rinne	29
Barbara Swigart	13	Robin Rogers	21	Jennifer Cole	31
Parker Rauch	14	Brayton Stoner	21	Chance Alberswerth	31



POINSETTIAS:

We will appreciate having poinsettias in church again this Christmas. If you wish to place a plant in memory of someone, please notify the church secretary (660-584-3603) by Wednesday, December 17, so that she can print it in the church bulletin. Be sure your name is on the plant that you bring. Please leave it in the fellowship hall on the stage on **Thursday, December 18, and before noon on Friday, December 19,** (Please do not bring the poinsettias before these dates), the flower committee will place the plants in the sanctuary. You may collect your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service.

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

Thank you for your continued support

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

Are available in the back of the sanctuary and outside the church office.



**GROWING
HOPE**
G L O B A L L Y

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all who expressed congratulations on our 60th Anniversary. We will keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers forever.

God Bless You.

Thank you,

Hubert and Mary Dickmeier

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.

**OUR FRIENDS AND CHURCH FAMILY
IN CARE FACILITIES**

Listed below are our members and friends (at the time of printing of the Lamplighter) now residing or recovering at our local and surrounding community nursing homes and care facilities. A card from a church family member would be a delightful surprise!

**Meyer Care Center, 1201 W. 19th St., Higginsville, MO**

Bill & Marilyn Davenport, Kenneth Rinne, Rosa Lee Starke, Roger & Tillie Erdman, and Mary Ann Vorwerk

OPTIONS FOR THE CHURCH BULLETIN:

You have a couple of options for the church bulletin. The church bulletin is on the Salem website:

salemucchigginsville.org/home/church-news/
If you would prefer to view the bulletin on your phone or tablet during worship instead of using a paper copy, please feel free to use that option. If you like the paper copy that is available as well.

**A TIP IF WATCHING LIVE
STREAM:**

You can also join us every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with Live Stream on YouTube. If you encounter technical difficulty while watching Live Stream, you will be able to watch the entire service later without any interference.

**SALEM CHURCH APP:**

If you would like to download the church app, please call the church office, 660-584-3603 or email salemucc@ctcis.net. We just need to verify your current email address. Then you will receive an invitation by email to download the Salem church app. All the instructions will be provided in the invitation email. The church app gives you access to several years of your financial contribution records, you have a directory of church members that have also downloaded the app and you can make an online contribution from the church app. You can download the church app even if you do not wish to give online.

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) 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

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Telephone: 660-584-3603

Church Email: salemucc@ctcis.net

Church Website: salemucchigginsville.org

Salem's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemucc64037>

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Paper copies will always be available at the church office or in the back of the sanctuary.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2025, in the Board Room. Members present were Susan Jensen, Judi Knipmeyer, Bill Oelrichs, Stanton Thompson, Carleen Buchanan, Corey Robinette, and Janice Johnson. Vice-President Bill Oelrichs called the regular meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved. The financial report was presented, discussed, and approved. The balances as of September 30, 2025 were \$77,021 in the General Fund and \$7500 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 107 during September; this includes 16 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 64 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 27 live-stream views.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Stanton:** Children's Sunday will be October 19; the theme will be "Uniquely You." June has been working on a variety of artwork with the children that will be displayed in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The offering collected will help with updating the nursery.
- **Building & Grounds/Bill:** The electrical inspection was completed by Shippy Electric. He noted that as he was scanning the roof for lighting rods, he saw some shingles were missing. The church roof was installed in August of 2016 by CCR Roofing. Bill will contact them.
- **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** No report
- **Memorial/Susan:** No report

- **Stewardship/Judi:** Judi will meet with Sarah early next week to review and revise our upcoming stewardship mailing.
 - **Evangelism/Carleen:** On November 8, from 10:00-2:00, committee members and confirmands will once again have a table at Moose's where they will collect money to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving distribution through the Food Pantry.
 - **Worship/Janice:** The committee met and approved the 5th Sunday pot-luck suggested as an alternative to recent 5th Sunday services.
 - **Ushers/Carleen and Janice:** Council members will continue ushering.
 - **Financial Stability Committee/Judi Knipmeyer, Janice Johnson, Delbert Goetz:** No report
- Unfinished Business:**
- Corey Robinette updated the Council regarding the Search Committee's progress. There is still one reference outstanding that is keeping our profile from being posted. During the past month, books were removed from the Board Room and the bookcases were moved to other areas of the church. Water damage to the carpet and paneling was discovered; it was noted there had been 'flooding' in the area several years ago prior to drainage repairs to the front of the education wing. Plans are to paint the Board Room in early December then attempt to clean the carpeting.
- New Business:**
- Stanton reported that Andy Mockridge will be having knee replacement in January and be unavailable for a while. Stacy Cooper will go into our pastoral rotation near that time.

- The Budget Committee met prior to the Council meeting, and Susan Jensen presented the proposed budget. After discussion, the draft budget was approved for presentation to the congregation at the budget meeting on November 23, following the 10:00 worship.
- Staff interviews will be scheduled in early 2026.
- Questions about whether our church is currently an "Open and Affirming" church have come to the office staff; we are not currently ONA. The Council was provided information about the process to become ONA, but it was determined we would need to wait until we have a called pastor before broaching this further.
- Discussion was held about safety and security during church services. It was decided no changes would be made at this time. A list of things that need attention in the church, cleaning and repairs, was presented to the Council for planning purposes. These and additional items will be prioritized and addressed in the coming months.
- Council discussed an expressed concern about the time it takes for Council minutes to appear in the Lamplighter. Since the minutes are approved at the following Council meeting, there is no clear way to change that timeline. Tabled for further discussion.
- Two new computers were recently purchased, a desktop for Sarah's office and a laptop for June, both with Windows 11 software. Cost was \$2240 which will come from the General Fund.

(continued on page 6)

(Council Minutes continued from page 5)

- There will be a push for more participation in the November / Thanksgiving food drive as there is an increasing need in the community for food assistance. [Addendum: Following the meeting, via text messages, the Council decided it will have a North Side vs. South Side competition to encourage strong participation in the food drive. Judi will write a Lamplighter article that explains the process. It also was noted that since the 5th Sunday is on Thanksgiving weekend, it would be a better choice to have a gathering in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour to culminate the drive rather than a potluck as earlier discussed.]

Next Council meeting: November 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the parsonage.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the "Lord's Prayer."

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Knipmeyer,
Council Secretary

INCLEMENT

WEATHER


CANCELLATIONS:

If the church council makes the decision to close church because of inclement weather, these are the stations that will have the cancellation notices: KMBC 9, KCWE 29, Fox 4, KCTV 5, 41 Action News, KMMO, KMZU, KOKO. Thank you to June Howell for coordinating this!



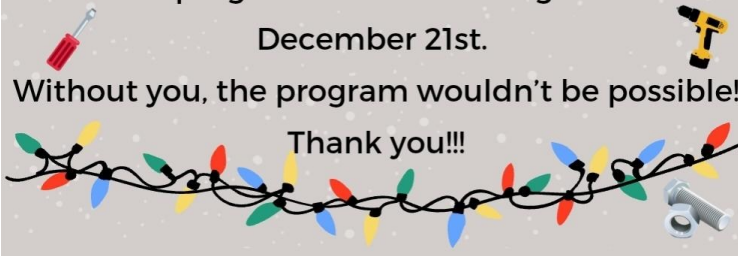
Special Days in December

- **December 7:**
Second Sunday of Advent
2:00 p.m. Advent Chorale Practice
4:00 p.m. Advent Chorale
- **December 12:**
Please have Angel Tree gifts to church.
- **December 14:**
Third Sunday of Advent
Dedicate Time & Talent Sheets/Return Budget Ballots
Set-up stage
Homebound Communion
- **December 17:**
Please call church office with poinsettia information for the bulletin
- **December 19:**
Please have poinsettias to church by noon
- Fourth Sunday of Advent
No 8:00 a.m. service
Children's Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m.
Service/Reception
- **December 21:**
First Day Of Winter
- **December 24:**
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion/Candle Light Service
- **December 25:**
Church Office Closed for Holiday
- **December 28:**
One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



Christmas Program Stage Set Up

Dads or anyone able and willing are invited to help set up the stage after **the December 14th 10:00am worship service**. The Dads or anyone able and willing are also invited to hang around after the program to take the stage down on December 21st.



Without you, the program wouldn't be possible!

Thank you!!!





Salem's Youth Corner

Little Notes and Chime Bells

practice every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. They play/sing the 3rd Sunday of each month during the 10:00am worship service.

Noisy Offering

Thank you to everyone who donated to the nursery remodel! We raised \$315.04. I have reached out to Youth On Mission on helping get the nursery painted this winter!

Sunday School

8:45am to 9:45am

Youth Groups November

Youth Group will meet **once a month** from **5:30pm - 6:30pm**.

K - 2 December 4th

3-5 December 8th

6-8 December 9th

9-12 December 9th

Confirmation

December 7th - 1st year class

December 14th - 2nd year class

December 21st - Christmas Program

December 28th - No Class



Christmas Program info.

This years program is "Merry Christ-mess".

All the parts have been given out!

We will practice our parts and find costumes during Sunday School

November 30th through December 14th 8:45am - 9:45am.

Important dates!

December 20th - Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 9:00am

December 21st - Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 8:30am - Christmas Program during the 10:00 Worship service.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:

If you will not be able to attend the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service or you do not have boxed envelopes with the Christmas Eve offering envelope, please use the purple envelopes in the back of the sanctuary marked "Christmas Fund." The Christmas Eve offering always goes to a mission. We always send a gift from us to the "Christmas Fund" (Formerly known as "Veterans of the Cross".)

RIDES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:

If you need a ride to the Christmas Eve Service please call the church office by Wednesday, December 23. We will be happy to pick you up!



2025 Annual Reports Are Due in the Church Office by January 6, 2026. Please have them typed or email them to:

salemucc@ctcis.net

Please note your responsibility for the report.

Church Council Report-President

Board of Elders Report-President

Christian Education Coordinator's Report

Board of Christian Education-President

Board of Christian Education—

(Financial Report) -Treasurer

Salem Cemetery-Lot Superintendent

Memorial Committee-Chairperson

Memorial Committee-

(Financial Report) - Treasurer

Women's Fellowship-President

Women's Fellowship -

(Financial Report) - Treasurer

Endowment Fund-Report and

Financial Report-Chairperson

Youth on Mission Report and

Financial Report-Chairperson

Stewardship Committee-Chairperson

Evangelism Committee-Chairperson

Chancel Choir-Director

Handbell Choir-Director

Youth Choir-Director

Little Notes-Director

Chime Bells-Director

Worship Committee-Chairperson

Financial Stability Committee

Search Committee

"Thank You"

To the Christmas decorating committee, the church is glowing with the light of Christmas!

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES/SPECIAL MEETING

November 2, 2025

On Friday, October 31, 2025, president Delbert Goetz received a phone call from a church member inquiring about the possibility of offering the Vandiver family use of the parsonage following their recent, devastating fire. President Goetz contacted Council members via text message to inform them and also to start the conversation regarding this possibility. After a lengthy exchange, it was determined the Council members were generally in favor of the suggestion but needed to have a face-to-face meeting to discuss it more completely, formalize a lease agreement, and vote in person.

On Sunday, November 2, 2025, following the worship service, Janice Johnson, Susan Jensen, Judi Knipmeyer, Delbert Goetz, Bill Oelrichs, Carleen Buchanan, and Stanton Thompson met. Susan Jensen had prepared a draft lease for the group to peruse. In reviewing the draft, the following points ultimately were decided prior to the vote:

- Lease and rental amount acknowledge this is temporary housing following a disaster.
- Rent will be \$500 / month to be paid on the first day of each calendar month.
- The lease will be for one year unless:
 - o Salem calls a permanent pastor who wishes to live in the parsonage
 - o Tenants find permanent housing. Tenants should notify the Council president of their intent to vacate
 - o at least 30 days before the next rent is due.
- At the end of one year, if the Vandiver family wants to remain in the parsonage, a new rental rate will be negotiated
- Tenants will retain / maintain renter's insurance on the property
- Utilities will remain in the church's name. Tenants will pay Salem UCC for the cost of those utilities by the 5th of each month.
- Tenants have sole responsibility for access and cost of phone and internet.
- If repairs of plumbing, electrical, heating or air conditioning systems or appliances are required, tenants should contact the church secretary who will contact the Building and Grounds Council representative. Unauthorized repairs will be the tenant's financial responsibility.

Other points regarding the rental:

- All rental income will be deposited into the Building Fund
 - Utility income will be deposited into and bills paid out of the General Fund
- Bill Oelrich moved and Stanton Thompson seconded the motion to approve the lease and offer tenancy to the Vandiver family. Passed unanimously.

Judi Knipmeyer shared that a church member had volunteered to fund professional cleaning of the parsonage prior to the Vandiver's move. She will contact that person so that may proceed. She also shared that after November 9th, the remaining library books will be donated to Lafayette County Enterprises so they may recycle them.

With no further business, the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Knipmeyer

Church Council Secretary



Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM SALEM UCC**

A mailing from Salem was sent to active members following the all congregational meeting. You will find a ballot and Time and Talent Sheet, and proposed budget. Please complete your ballot and Time and Talent Sheet and bring them back to church by Sunday, December 14, 2025. The ballots will be tallied on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at the Church Council meeting.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

Stewardship "Time & Talent" sheets were mailed to your homes after the Fall Congregational meeting, November 23. Please fill them out and bring them back to church by Sunday, December 14. If you didn't receive one in the mail, there will be Time & Talent sheets available in the back of the sanctuary or by the church office.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Committee.

**2026 ENVELOPES**

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

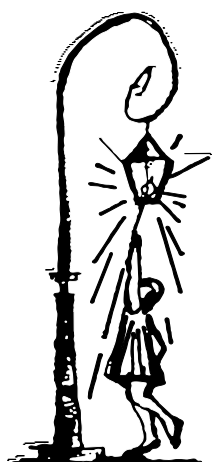
**WE EXTEND****OUR SYMPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of James Gale "Jimmy" Shier. Jim passed away on November 26, 2025. He was the son of the late R.J. Shier and Ruth Baker. The family will receive friends from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM at Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home with Rev. Andy Mockridge officiating. Burial will be in the Higginsville City Cemetery.

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville MO 64037

Non-Profit Organization
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The Lamplighter



The Lamplighter is a monthly newsletter of :

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville, MO 64037
(660) 584-3603

E-Mail: salemucc@ctcis.net

Early Worship

8:00 a.m.

Sunday School

8:45 a.m.

Worship

10:00 a.m. with Live Stream Worship

Delbert Goetz, President

Church Council

Sarah J. Berry

Secretary

Jamie Smith

Music Director

Lowell Grumke

Custodian

Mark Gross, President

Board of Elders

Lydia Grumke, President

Board of Christian Education

June Howell

Christian Education Coordinator

Charles Grumke

Custodian

Lindsey Rolf, Volunteer

Assistant Church Secretary

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