

The Lamplighter



January 2026 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri

Pulpit supply schedule for January is as follows:

January 4—Andy Mockridge

January 11—Staci Cooper

January 18—Evelyn Elmore

January 25—Evelyn Elmore

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

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

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

Worship Committee-Chairperson

Financial Stability Committee

Search Committee

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities
(Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans
6:11,16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols



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.

From the Church Records

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

General Fund Balance 11/01/25	\$72,773
Current deposits	\$31,615
Current expenses	\$13,623
Current Fund Balance 11/30/25	\$90,765

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 11/01/25	\$8,894
Current deposits	\$1,475
Current expenses	\$7,004
Current Fund Balance 11/30/25	\$3,365

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Nov.) \$185

Views Live Stream	November Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
39	11-1-25	13	88
40	11-9-25	15	74
43	11-16-25	16	77
27	11-23-25	14	74
34	11-30-25	7	106
36	Average Total Average 132	13	83

Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.

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.

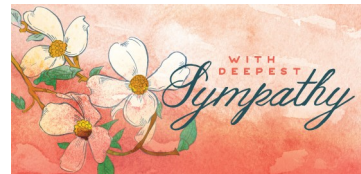
JKV AND MEYER CARE CENTER**BIBLE STUDY:**

John Knox Village and Meyer Care Center have a weekly Bible Study that is led, on a rotational schedule, by the Ministerial Fellowship. Father Justin Hoyer (St. Mary's Catholic) will lead Bible Study during the month of January. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

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

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

The family and friends of David Arndt. David passed away Tuesday, December 2, 2025. He is the uncle of Sarah and Mark Berry.

ALSO

Paul, June, Anna Sue Howell and family. Paul's dad, Woodrow "Woody" Howell, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, December 16. There was a service Tuesday, December 23, 2025 in Independence. The burial was at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville, Missouri.

Best Birthday Wishes in January go to...

Judy Struchtemeyer	3	Bill Oelrichs	7	Teri Graham	20
Delbert Goetz	3	Linda Dickmeier	10	Joyce Gross	22
Kali Rechterman	3	Barbara Bottemuller	11	Conner Moore	23
Kristen Argotsinger	3	Kyle Dobson	11	Nikala Nevels	24
Dana Cox	4	Tara Dull	11	Jackson Leonard	25
Cooper Fisher	4	Kendra LaRue	11	Marilyn Cole	26
Keri Borchers	4	Regan Wood	11	Keaton Tracy	26
Hope Siegworth	4	Ryan Cole	12	Alice Jarman	27
Kevin Alumbaugh	5	Shelby Long	15	Angie Erdman	27
Kelsey Bredehoeft	5	Becky Bergsieker	16	Earl Fiene	28
Kayla Augustine	5	Danielle Bergsieker	16	Amber Wesche	28
Kacey Moore	5	Denise Kirchhoff	18	Norma Gadt	29
Glenda Riekhof	6	Jim Stoner	18	Gabriel Nevels	31
Brenda Goring	7	Danny Long	19	R.J. Nowling	31

“Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.”

—Joseph Fort Newton

OCWM “OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION”

In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God’s call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God’s extravagant love for all. We share resources to bring our vision to life. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in mission well beyond our community.

Most of our OCWM Basic Support dollars remain in our Conferences to help local congregations thrive.

Direct support in Conferences comes through leadership initiatives, such as communities of practice, committees on ministry, and one-on-one mentoring. Conferences also share in congregational vitality work. This includes conflict transformation, resourcing leaders as they reimagine ministry, and grants to churches.

The National Ministries of the UCC, a crucial partner of our Conference and each congregation, helps us put love into action, especially through ministry that no one congregation could do alone.

The Salem Church council would like to encourage members of Salem to consider giving to OCWM.



When All Else Fails—God Reigns

When we deliberate, God reigns;
 When we decide wisely, God reigns;
 When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
 When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
 When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
 When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns —
 The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

— William Temple
 at the Lamberth Conference, 1930



2026 ENVELOPES

If you are using offering envelopes they are by the church office

OPTIONS FOR THE CHURCH BULLETIN:

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

saalemucchigginsville.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 (saalemucchigginsville.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: saalemucchigginsville.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

November 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Susan Jensen, Judi Knipmeyer, Bill Oelrichs, Carleen Buchanan, Corey Robinette, and Janice Johnson. President Delbert Goetz called the regular meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved. The financial report was presented, discussed, and approved. The balances as of October 31, 2025 were \$72,773 in the General Fund and \$8894 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 106 during October; this includes 13 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 67 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 26 live-stream views.

Correspondence: None

• **Committee Reports: Christian Ed/Stanton:** No report

• **Building & Grounds/Bill:** One of the toilets in the women's restroom by the office was leaking; thank you to Gash Plumbing who handled the repair at no cost.

• **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** No report

• **Memorial/Susan:** No report

• **Stewardship/Judi:** The budget ballot and Time and Talent sheets will be mailed to all active members on Monday, November 24. The return date for both is Sunday, December 14.

• **Evangelism/Carleen:** The committee received \$1300 in donations for Thanksgiving turkeys

• **Worship/Janice:** No report

• **Ushers/Carleen and Janice:** Council members will continue ushering.

Financial Stability Committee/Judi Knipmeyer, Janice Johnson, Delbert Goetz: No report

• **Unfinished Business:**

• Search Committee update: Salem's profile is active. Corey is in contact with Damien Lake, Associate Conference Minister, and the entire committee will be meeting with him virtually in the next few weeks to continue the search process.

• Books from the Board Room were donated to Lafayette County Enterprises to be recycled. Thank you to Bill Oelrichs and Carleen Buchanan for painting the Board Room. The carpeting will be cleaned on Monday, November 24th, and the Council will then assess its condition for further consideration. Carleen is checking on the cost of cabinetry.

• Annual staff interviews will be held on January 22nd, starting at 5:30 p.m.

• The Great Salem Food Fight has been highly successful. Over \$3000 in groceries have been donated. Plans are to move the food to the basement on November 29. [Note: After the meeting, Delbert and June arranged for the wrestling team members to move the food following their practice on November 24. In just 15 minutes, they moved all the food. A huge thanks for the kids' and coaches' efforts.]

New Business:

• December's Council meeting will be on December 16th instead of the 18th.

• Fall Congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 23rd, following the 10:00 service. Main business is to introduce the

proposed 2026 budget.

• The Advent Chorale will be December 7th at 4:00 p.m. Council members will usher.

• A \$166 credit was received from Church Mutual following the Workman's Comp audit. The credit was applied to the property insurance quarterly payment in November.

• In February, there will be a clean out of items in the church that are no longer useful to our ministries. An article in the January Lamplighter will provide further details.

• Sarah provided information to the Council regarding scheduled withdrawals from the Stu Starke fund that were provided in the 2025 budget. Susan will work with Sarah and Edward Jones to get the current issues corrected.

• Council discussed, voted, and approved that the parsonage rental payment will start December 1, and the Vandiver family will pay half of the November utilities.

Next Council meeting: December 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Knipmeyer

Council Secretary



Special Days in January

- **January 1**
New Year's Day/Church Office Closed
- **January 6**
Annual Reports due in the Church Office
Epiphany
- **January 11**
The Baptism of Christ
- **January 18 & 19**
Middle School/High School Lock-in
- **January 19**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed, Church Office Closed
- **January 26**
Souper Supper at Salem

THANK YOU TO
MEALS ON WHEELS
VOLUNTEERS:

The following Salem Church members were volunteers for Meals on Wheels deliveries during 2025: Pearle Alumbaugh, Linda Amor, Keri Borchers, Carleen Buchanan, Jeanne Fleischmann, Deanna Gash, Brenda & Ricky Going, Joyce & Mark Gross, Janice & Roy Johnson, Gail & Eric Kirchhoff, Dennis Knipmeyer, Angie Lefman, Cheryl Lettau, Paul Nolte, Tania & Hailey Pessetto, Peggy Pragman, and Sandy Riekhof. Salem was responsible for 8 weeks of deliveries throughout the year. We always welcome new participants in this project. It takes about 1 hour of your week. It is a needed service to help the Senior Center provide a warm meal to homebound residents in our community. Your rewards of helping are many. If you would like to join us for 2026, please call Sharon Hoefer at 660-537-5934.

A BIG
Thanks!

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 cancelation notices: KMBC 9, KCWE 29, Fox 4, KCTV 5, 41 Action News, KMMO, KMZU, KOKO. Thank you to June Howell for coordinating this!

**Souper Suppers****JANUARY SCHEDULE:**

All suppers are 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 25

First Presbyterian Church:
Phone: 660-584-3372

Monday, January 26

Salem UCC: Phone:
660-584-3603

(Immanuel Lutheran Church partnering)

Tuesday, January 27

First Baptist: Phone:
660-584-7165

Wednesday, January 28

St. Mary's Catholic Church:
Phone: 660-584-3038

(New Beginnings partnering)

Thursday, January 29

Grace United Methodist Church:
Phone: 660-584-2211

LET YOUR
FAITH
BE **bigger** THAN
YOUR FEAR



Salem's Youth Corner

Sunday School

8:45am to 9:45am

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.

Youth Groups November

Youth Group will meet once a month from

5:30pm - 6:30pm.

K - 2 January 12th

3-5 January 13th

6-8 January 18th-19th

9-12 January 18th-19th

Middle and High School Lock-In

January 18th - 19th

7:00p.m. to 7:00a.m.

We will have a great night of games and food!

Confirmation

January 4th - 1st year class

January 11th - 2nd year class

January 18th - 1st year class

January 25th - 2nd year class

Dates to remember!

February 7th Bingo and Chilli Cook off

February 15th Childrens Sunday

April 12th Testimony Sunday

April 19th Confirmation Sunday



**4th Annual
Bingo and Chili Cookoff!**
February 7th at 5:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your best Chili and your best "Bingo" voice and plan to have a great time!

Prizes for Bingo and 1st place prize for the best Chili!

You don't have to bring Chili to attend.
If you don't want to make Chili and still want to bring something, June has a whole list of other things you can bring.
Please call the church office to find out what the list of items are!
(660) 584-3603

THANK YOU

We would like to say "THANK YOU" to the citizens of Higginsville and Corder for their generous monetary donations that we collected on November 8, to purchase turkeys for the Higginsville/Corder Food Pantry.

We would also like to say "THANK YOU" to the Grace United Methodist Church, Little Tabo Farms, and the Corder Lions Club for their generous monetary donations to help purchase turkeys for the Food Pantry.

We would also like to say "THANK YOU" to confirmands Brooklyn Bergsieker and Emory Gash for volunteering their time to help collect monetary donations at Moose's Market.

We would like to say "THANK YOU" to those who dropped off their monetary donations to the Salem Church Office.

Sincerely,
Salem UCC Evangelism Committee

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

The Foundation of Our Faith

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God: "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours."



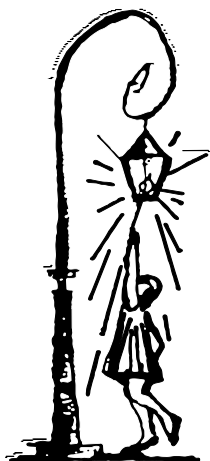
"You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in a lifetime without him."

—Author unknown

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville MO 64037

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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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