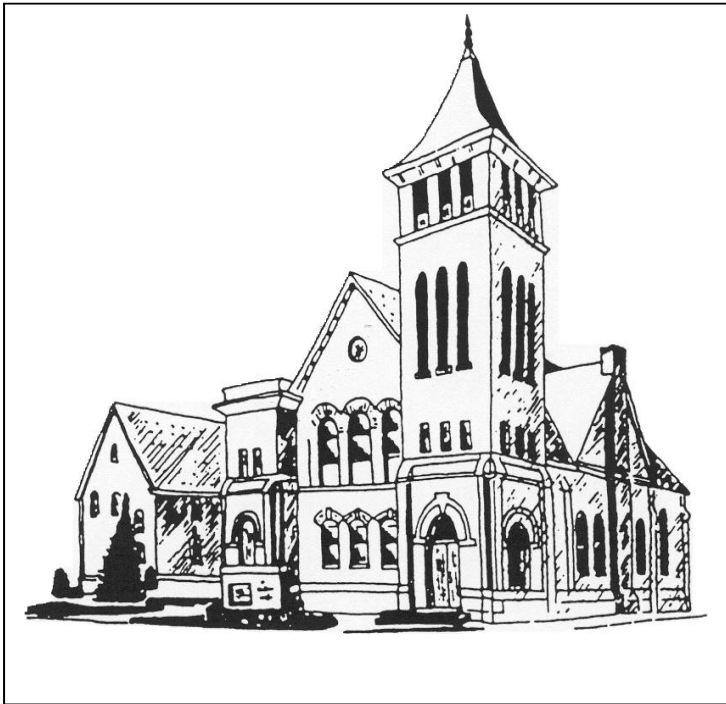


SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: 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**

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. Greetings! Whether this is your first Sunday with us or your five-hundredth, we're so glad you're here! Every time we gather to worship is worth celebrating. If you're visiting today, we extend an extra warm welcome and hope you'll stop by for coffee and conversation after the service — we'd love to meet you!

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

Spiritual/ Wolaver

(Joys and Concerns to be written down and brought forward during the prelude)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather today, not clinging to the past, but stepping into the promise of what is to come.

People: Our eyes are lifted to the horizon, where God's light breaks through the dawn.

Leader: The One who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it.

People: We trust in His timing, His leading, and His unfailing love.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who makes all things new.

People: With open hearts and expectant spirits, we worship the Lord of our future.

*** HYMN**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

No. 51

*** INVOCATION (Unison)**

Gracious and Loving God, as we stand at the threshold of what is yet to come, we open our hearts to the promise of new horizons. Grant us the courage to step forward with hope, the wisdom to learn from what has been, and the grace to embrace what will be. May our vision be clear, our purpose steadfast, and our spirits lifted by the possibilities ahead. Guide our steps so that each choice we make builds a future filled with kindness, growth, and light. We move forward not in fear, but in faith—trusting that the path before us is rich with meaning and opportunity. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE
WORD**

CHIME BELL CHOIR “Deep and Wide”

Spiritual

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

LITTLE NOTES

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” Traditional

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**

Statement of Faith
(Printed inside front cover of Hymnal)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:13-14 (N.T. p. 187)

SERMON SONG	“Come Jesus Come”	Evelyn
SERMON	“Looking Forward”	Evelyn
SERMON SONG	“Praise Him in Advance”	Evelyn

THE SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE	“Standing On the Promises”	Carter
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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:
Evelyn Elmore – Pulpit Supply
Tina Gibler – Liturgist

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

Jaxson Cowherd & Charlie Thaller - Acolytes

Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...

Denise Kirchhoff, January 18

Jim Stoner, January 18

Danny Long, January 19

Teri Graham, January 20

Joyce Gross, January 22

Conner Moore, January 23

Nikala Nevels, January 24

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:

Are placed in loving memory of Greg Berry by his family.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

John Koenig, had surgery on Friday, Jan 16th to remove his right kidney at St. Luke's East. His daughter Aren will keep us updated. Andy Mockridge, had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Warrensburg Hospital. She is now recovering at home.

Roger Erdman & Tillie Erdman, are at Meyer Care Center. Hubert Dickmeier, is hospitalized at Research Hospital. There are improvements, they are continuing to run tests. Prayers are appreciated.

Bobby Bergsieker, 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:

SLATE OF NOMINEES:

The nominating committee met Thursday, January 8, 2026. These are the nominees:

Nominees for Church Council: Courtney Bergsieker & Pete Thaller

Nominees for Board of Elders: Eric Kirchhoff & Dennis Knipmeyer

Nominees for Board of Christian Education: Tina Gibler & Tania Pessetto

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed Monday, January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

LAMPLIGHTER: Articles for the February Lamplighter are due in the church office by Monday, January 26. Thank you.

2026 ENVELOPES:

If you are using offering envelopes they are available outside the church office.

PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:

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

COMMUNITY NEWS:

COMMUNITY WIDE WORSHIP HONORING MLK JR

LEGACY: Will be held Sunday, January 18, in the West Gym, C-1 Schools at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Ivan James, UMC, Guest Preacher and David Pollard, Music Leader.

JANUARY SOUPER SUPPER 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)

Menu: Turkey Pot Pie, Banana, Dessert

Tuesday, January 27 First Baptist Church: 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

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.

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

ATTENDANCE FOR January 11, 2026

8:00 a.m. worship service attendance: 14

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 56

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 20

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR Jan. 9-Jan. 15, 2025

General Fund Income: \$2,213

General Fund Expense: \$2,907

UP COMING DATES:

January 26 – Souper Supper at Salem

February 7 – Bingo and Chili Cook-off

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 (salemuchhigginsville.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



**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

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

January 18 thru January 25, 2026

Sunday - Evelyn Elmore-Pulpit Supply
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
11:15 a.m. First Year Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Middle/High School Lock-in

Monday - 7:00 a.m. Middle/High School Lock-in Ends
Church Office Closed in observance of MLK Jr
Day

Tuesday - Food Pantry
6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday - 5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)
6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday - 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Staff Interviews
6:00 p.m. Wolf Cub

Friday - 5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)
7:00 p.m. A. A.

Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.

Sunday - Evelyn Elmore-Pulpit Supply
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
11:15 a.m. Second Year Confirmation