

The Lamplighter



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

Faith That Blooms Anew

“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, *“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”*

(Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus’ words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter’s gray. God’s reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote: *God does not send strange flowers every year, When the Spring wind blows o’er the pleasant places, The same dear things lift up the same fair faces, The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.



YOUTH ON MISSION PIE & CAKE AUCTION SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND



Grab and Go items available starting at 9am

Live auction starts
immediately following
10:00am worship service



All proceeds go toward our
July 2026 workcamp trip to
Barnesville, Minnesota

Please plan to attend to meet
and support our 2026 YOM team!



If you would like to donate baked goods for the auction or grab and go table, please reach out to Vicki or Aaron at avknipmeyer@gmail.com

Pulpit supply schedule for March is as follows:

March 1—Dale Parson

March 8—Staci Cooper

March 15—Evelyn Elmore

March 22—Staci Cooper

March 29—Evelyn Elmore

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

From the Church Records

Financial Report: January 2026

General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank

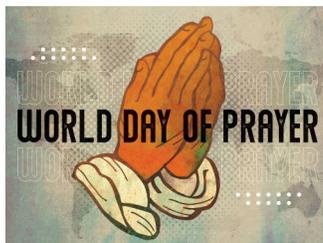
General Fund Balance 1/01/26	\$107,719
Current deposits	\$ 8,105
Current expenses	\$ 12,896
Current Fund Balance 1/31/26	\$102,928

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 1/01/26	\$5,118
Current deposits	\$ 730
Current expenses	\$ 305
Current Fund Balance 1/31/26	\$5,543

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Jan.) \$15

Views Live Stream	January Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
30	1-4-26	0	71
20	1-11-26	14	56
55	1-18-26	11	58
0	1-25-26 Church Cancelled	0	0
35	Average Total Average 108	12	61



Church Women of Higginsville and Corder invite you to join them for "World Day of Prayer." This event will be held Friday, March 6, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and 10:00 a.m. meeting, at First Baptist Church.

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.

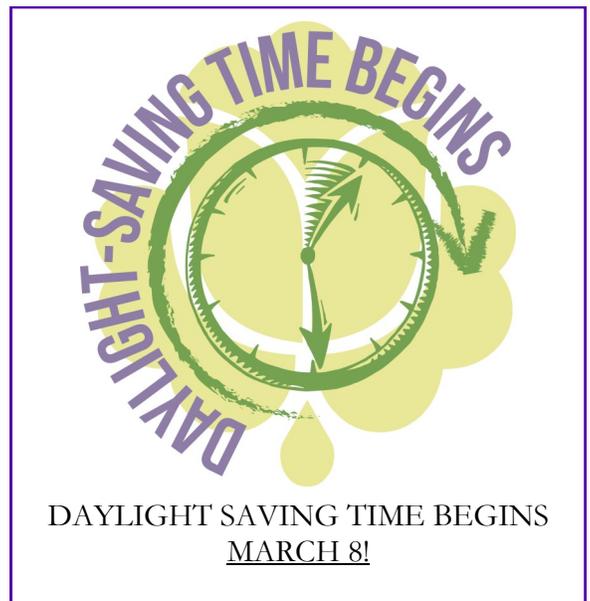
JKV AND MEYER CARE CENTER

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. Dale Felder (Ministerial Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of March. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

EVE CIRCLE NEWS:

Eve Circle will meet Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Salem Board Room. Mary Homfeld will be the hostess and Karen Homfeld will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come. Mary Dickmeier, chairman



Say Happy Birthday in March to...

Tyler Kaiser	1	Gary Schroer	14	Jeremy Nevels	24
Karen Luehrman	1	Emma McCabe	16	Emily Bergsieker	25
Marissa Nowling	2	Jacob Bartlett	17	Cassidy Brunkhorst	25
Baylee Lou Thomas	2	Derek Cole	18	Mary Homfeld	27
Kevin Berry	3	Wayne Miller	18	Craig Homfeld	27
Taylor Collier	5	Janice Johnson	20	Renee Fiene	27
Gloria Gash	10	John Baggs	20	Bailey Urfer	26
Nora Knipmeyer	11	Gracie Augustine	20	Carol Lefman	28
Tiffany Short	11	Aubrey Homfeld	20	Ellynore Salyer	28
Adam Rauch	11	Sherry Siegfried	22	Maddy McDowell	29
Chloe Fischer	11	Robert Aversman	22	Clayton Lettau	29
Samuel Benne	12	Blair Bergsieker	22	Stella Barnes	29
Brian Wiley	12	Dylan Akin	23	Corey White	30
Kay Hoflander	13	Betty Nieman	24	Carolgene Zvacek	30
Wanda Niemeier	13	Lester Homfeld	24	Emmalee Thaller	31



EASTER FLOWERS:

We will appreciate having spring flowers in church again this Easter. If you wish to place a flower in memory of someone, please notify the church secretary (660-584-3603) by **April 1**, so she can print it in the church bulletin. Be sure your name is on the flower that you bring. Please leave it in the Fellowship Hall on the stage by

Noon on Good Friday, April 3.

Suggestions of spring flowers are: Tulips, Daffodils, Hydrangea, Azaleas, Lilies or check with your florist. Thanks!

(The flower committee will place the flowers in the sanctuary.)



MEN'S HOLY WEEK

BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, March 31 – First Presbyterian Church 6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 1 – Central Christian Church 6:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 2 – Assembly of God Church 6:30 a.m.

Friday, April 3 – Grace United Methodist Church 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 4 – St. Mary's Catholic Church 7:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S HOLY WEEK BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

Friday, April 3 – Assembly of God Church 7:00 a.m.

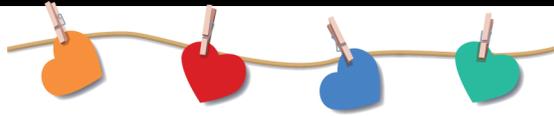
Saturday, April 4 – Immanuel Lutheran Church 8:30 a.m.

Salem UCC to Host Maundy Thursday Service of Light

Salem United Church of Christ is hosting the Maundy Thursday Service of Light. This is a combined service with the Christian Church, Presbyterian Church, and Salem UCC. It will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY CROSS-WALK SERVICE

Friday, April 3, the community service will begin at 11:45 a.m. by gathering at Salem with a short prayer. At Noon the cross will be carried down Main Street and end at the Presbyterian Church with a devotional service.



Thinking of our church family!

**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 Vorwark

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.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

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

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.



What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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.

FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS:

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.

THE LAMPLIGHTER:
Paper copies are available at the church office or in the back of the sanctuary.

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>

Lessons From A Little Voice
A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say." The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Susan Jensen, Bill Oelrichs, Carleen Buchanan, Janice Johnson, Stanton Thompson, Judi Knipmeyer, and Corey Robiette.

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 December 31, 2025 were \$107,719 in the General Fund and \$5118 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 131 during December; this includes 13 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 85 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 33 live-stream views. Christmas Eve, 154 attended in person and 41 live-stream

Correspondence: Thank you notes from staff members for their Christmas bonuses were read.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Stanton:** No report
- **Building & Grounds/Bill:** A clean-out of items no longer relevant to the church’s ministries located in the basement area will occur this spring. Council members will do a walk-through of the area after the next Council meeting. Robert Nolte has assessed the condition of the front doors of the education wing and will be in touch with the Council soon with an estimate. Purchase and installation costs will be covered by a member’s donation.

- **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** No report
- **Memorial/Susan:** No report
- **Stewardship/Judi:** Time and Talent sheets have been recorded and returned to Sarah.
- **Evangelism/Carleen:** Our first Souper Supper will be held on January 25.
- **Worship/Janice:** On the Sundays when Evelyn Elmore is our supply pastor, there will be only two hymns sung since Evelyn sings for our services.
- **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: A first interview of a candidate has occurred. Council has approved moving forward with the purchase and installation of cabinetry on the east wall of the Board Room.

New Business:

- Al-Anon donated \$100 for the ‘use of room’ which was deposited in the Building and Grounds fund.
- Gash Plumbing provided maintenance on the water station; there was no charge.
- The church’s annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 22nd, following the worship service.

The nominees for Church Council are Courtney Bergsieker and Pete Thaller; Board of Elders, Eric Kirchoff and Dennis Knipmeyer; Board of Christian Education, Tina Gibler and Tania Passetto. Additional individuals may be added to this slate if

they wish to voluntarily add their name. Ballots will be mailed out to active members for approval voting after the in-person meeting.

- Salem was asked to host the Western Association meeting this year, but since it falls on the weekend of Confirmation, the invitation was declined.

Next Council meeting: February 17, 2026, 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



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



WEDNESDAY LENTEN LESSONS:

Wednesday Lenten Lessons will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday during lent. Dennis Knipmeyer will be the leader. It will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., refreshments will be served. Please plan to join us.

Special Days in March

- March 1—Second Sunday in Lent
- March 4—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Lessons
- March 6—World Day of Prayer
- March 8—Third Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 11—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Lessons
- March 15—Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Dedicated
- March 17—St. Patrick’s Day
- March 18—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Lessons
- March 20—Spring Begins
- March 22—Fifth Sunday in Lent
- March 23—Souper Supper at Salem
- March 24—April Lamplighter Articles Due
- March 25—6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Lessons
- March 29—Palm Sunday



We would like to thank our Church family for all the prayers and love extended to us due to Hubert’s passing. We appreciate all the little things done to make this time easier. A special thank you to Sarah, Betty Thaller, Jamie, Joe, the Prayer Chain, and the condolence committee. God bless you for all each has done.

Thank you,
Mary Dickmeier, Lowell, Loren and Lynette & their families

ALSO

Thank you so much for the outpouring of Kindness we all received when our loved one, Greg Berry, passed away. Thank you to everyone that worked behind the scenes for Greg’s funeral, your work is a ministry. The funeral luncheon ladies provided a loving atmosphere to spend time with family & friends to begin healing. Thank you to Joe Rolf for going above and beyond as the sound technician. Your talent and kindness touched our hearts. Our hearts are broken, we are grieving, we also know, “God is Good, All the Time, and All the time, God is Good!”

Thank you,
The family of Greg Berry

ALSO

I would like to say “Thank You” for all the prayers, phone calls, text messages, before and after my heart procedure. I feel so blessed from all your support!

Thank you,
Sarah J. Berry

ALSO

Tillie and Roger Erdman celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on February 18, 2026. They would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and good wishes that they received.



Communion for the Homebound

If you would like to receive homebound communion please call the church office, 660-584-3603 and you will be added to the list. Members of the Board of Elders and the Minister would like to visit with you and bring communion to your home. If you are already receiving homebound communion you don’t need to respond, you are already on the list.

APPROVAL BALLOTS MAILED OUT:

The approval ballots with the nominees for Church Council, Board of Elders, and Board of Christian Education were mailed this past week. Instructions are on the lower half of the ballot. Please return your ballots by March 10, 2026. You may return them by mail, dropping them by the church office, or placing them in the offering plate.



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.

Dates to remember!

March 29th Palm Sunday

April 5th Easter Sunday

April 12th Testimony Sunday

April 19th Confirmation Sunday

Youth Groups November

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

K - 5 March 10th

6-12 March 12th

Confirmation

March 1st - 1st year class

March 8th - 2nd year class

March 15th - 1st year class

March 22nd - 2nd year class

March 29th - 1st & 2nd year class

Thank you to everyone who came to the Silly Socks and Slippers Children's Sunday! Our noisy offering is going to the Lafayette Co. C-1 school district for overdrawn Lunch accounts. I will post the amount in the next Lamplighter.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our youth and their missions!



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. Please make your check to "Salem UCC" and write "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line of your check. We will dedicate OGHS donations on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

MARCH SOUPER SUPPERS:

All suppers are 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22 First Presbyterian Church:
Phone: 660-584-3372

Monday, March 23 Salem UCC: Phone: 660-584-3603
(Immanuel Lutheran Church partnering)

Tuesday, March 24 First Baptist Church:
Phone: 660-584-7165

Wednesday, March 25 St. Mary's Catholic Church:
Phone: 660-584-3038 (New Beginnings partnering)

Thursday, March 26
Grace United Methodist Church:
Phone: 660-584-2211



When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.



Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville MO 64037

Non-Profit Organization
POSTAGE PAID
Permit NO. 104
Higginsville MO 64037
Return Service Requested

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

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