

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: salemucchigginsville.org

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. Even amid Lent we live in the light of Easter, and every Sabbath celebrates salvation! Welcome to worship, to forgiveness, to everlasting life.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude “Sweet Hour of Prayer” Bradbury/ arr. Kohlmann

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God of life, You call us out of dry places.

People: We come, trusting You to breathe life into us again.

Leader: Where there is weariness, You bring renewal.

People: Where there is silence, You give us a voice.

Leader: You have given us words that carry life.

People: We will speak hope, love, and truth.

Leader: Come, Spirit of the Living God.

People: Breathe on us, and we shall live.

All: We worship You, O God, our Life-Giver and Redeemer. Amen.

*** HYMN**

“Be Thou My Vision”

No. 382

*** INVOCATION (Unison)**

Gracious and life-giving God, we come before You today from many places—some full, some weary, some feeling dry.

Breathe on us again, O God. Fill this space with Your Spirit and awaken our hearts to Your presence. Open our ears to

hear Your Word, and give us courage to speak life where You send us. Let this time of worship honor You, and let Your power bring renewal to every soul gathered here. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE
WORD**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

No. 259

(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

("debtors" 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)

CHANCEL CHOIR "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Medema/ arr. Schrader

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (O.T. p. 759)

SERMON

"The Bones Are There"

Staci

THE SENDING

***HYMN**

"Rise Up, O Church of God"

No. 293

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Power in the Blood”

Jones

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:

Staci Cooper – Pulpit Supply

Delbert Goetz – Liturgist

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

Jaxson Cowherd & Beau O’Dell – Acolytes

Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...

- Sherri Siegfried, March 22
- Robert Aversman, March 22
- Blair Bergsieker, March 22
- Dylan Akin, March 23
- Betty Nieman, March 24
- Lester Homfeld, March 24
- Jeremy Nevels, March 24
- Emily Bergsieker, March 25
- Cassidy Brunkhorst, March 25
- Bailey Urfer, March 26
- Mary Homfeld, March 27
- Craig Homfeld, March 27
- Renee Fiene, March 27
- Carol Lefman, March 28
- Ellynore Salyer, March 28

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Angie Erdman, has breast cancer. She is taking treatments and doing very well. Prayers are appreciated.

Roger Erdman & Tillie Erdman, are at Meyer Care Center. Roger has greatly improved!

Bobby Bergsieker, has completed his chemotherapy, continued prayer is appreciated.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Jordan Smith and Carter Smith were united in marriage Saturday, March 21, 2026. We wish them a blessed marriage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BALLOT RESULTS:

Ballots for the Council, Board of Elders, and Board of Christian Education representatives were counted. The slate of officers was approved. 88 Votes: Yes: 87 No: 1

Church Council: Courtney Bergsieker & Pete Thaller

Board of Elders: Eric Kirchhoff & Dennis Knipmeyer

Board of Christian Education: Tina Gibler & Tania Pessetto

Thank you for your responses.

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.)

EASTER BREAKFAST:

Easter Breakfast will be on April 5, at 8:00 a.m. following the 7:00 a.m. Easter Morning Sunrise Service. We are asking for donations of breakfast casseroles, sweet rolls/pastries, muffins, or fruit. Coffee and juices will be furnished. You may drop off your items at the church on Saturday, April 4, between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or bring them with you to the 7:00 a.m. Easter Morning Sunrise Service. Thank you for your cooperation.
Women's Fellowship

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.

AVAILABLE FOR 'ADOPTION'

It's the time of year when some of us are doing our spring cleaning, and the Church Council is doing the same. Like our own basements at times, we have accumulated a wide variety of items over the years; some need to be sorted, others discarded, but many things still are useful for donation. Toward that end, we are putting silent auction bid sheets on several items in the room next door to June's office and a few other items in the Sunday School room adjoining the Fellowship Hall. Between now and Sunday, March 29, please indicate your interest by writing your name and phone number on the sheet(s). If you are the winner, you will be contacted on Monday the 30th and will need to pick up the item by the 31st. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Knipmeyer at (660) 641-5834. Thanks! PS. There are also FREE items available.

LAMPLIGHTER: Articles for the April Lamplighter are due in the church office by Tuesday, March 24. Thank you.

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.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: are available in the back of the Sanctuary and 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:

MARCH SOUPER SUPPER SCHEDULE:

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)

Menu: Ham Chowder, Cornbread, Banana, Dessert

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

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.

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.

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.

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

UP COMING DATES:

March 22—Fifth Sunday in Lent

YOM Pie and Cake Auction

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

April 2—Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Service of Light at Salem in the Fellowship Hall

April 3—Good Friday-Community Service begins at Salem and ends at Frist Presbyterian Church

April 5—Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Easter Service

ATTENDANCE FOR March 15, 2026

8:00 a.m. worship service attendance: 12

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 68

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 28

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR March 13 -March 19, 2026

General Fund Income: \$5,612

General Fund Expense: \$4,345

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

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

March 22 thru March 29, 2026

- Sunday - Fifth Sunday in Lent
Staci Cooper-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
YOM Pie & Cake Auction
- Monday - 5:30 p.m. Salem Souper Supper
- Tuesday - Food Pantry
April Lamplighter Articles Due
- Wednesday – 5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Lessons
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- Thursday - No Activities Scheduled
- Friday - 5:00 p.m. A. A. (One on One)
7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday - Palm 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 & Second Year Confirmation

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**

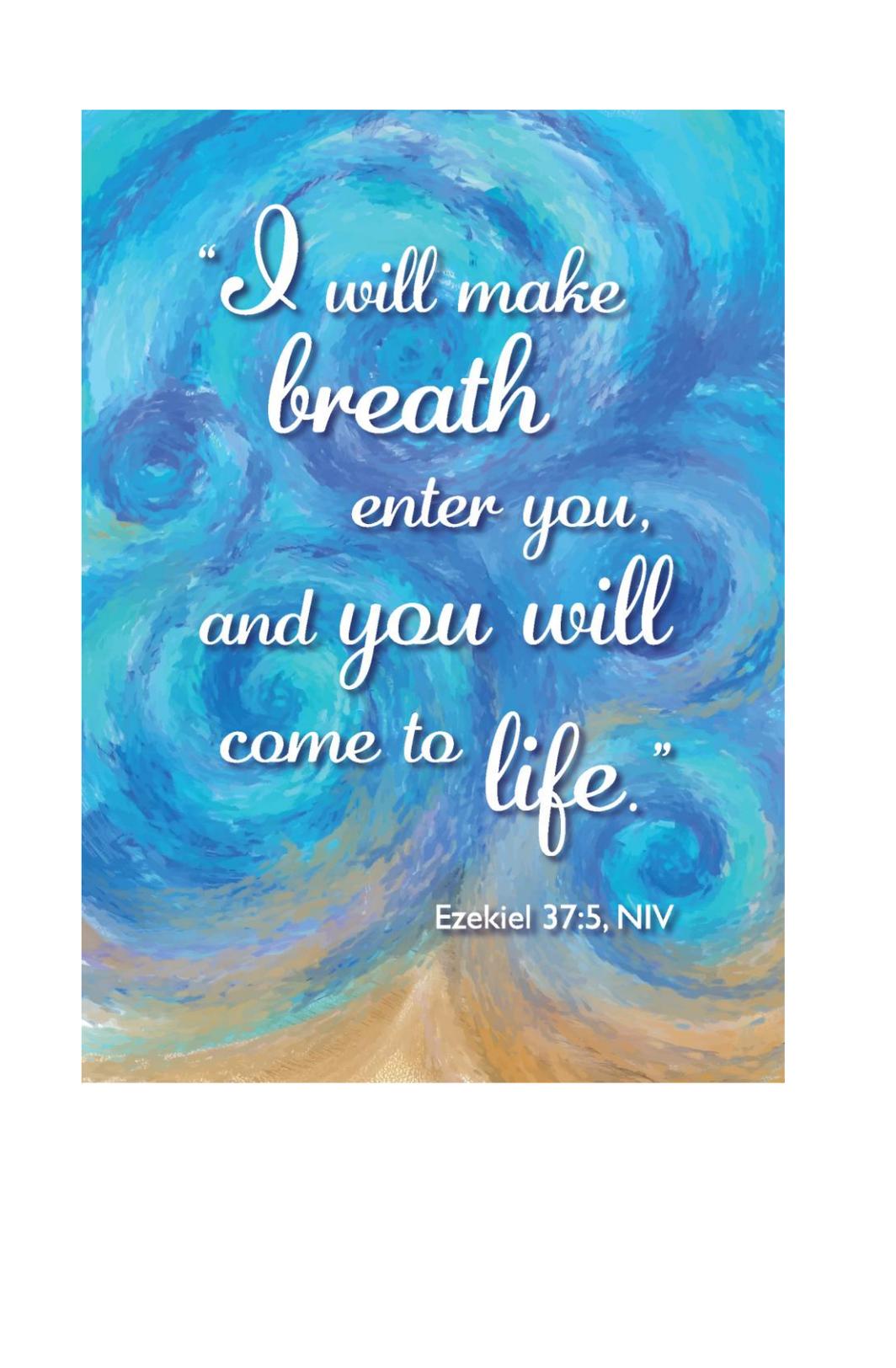


**All proceeds go toward our
July 2026 workcamp trip to
Barnesville, Minnesota**

**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**



*“I will make
breath
enter you,
and you will
come to life.”*

Ezekiel 37:5, NIV