

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1500 North Main**

**Higginsville, Missouri**

web page: [salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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Welcome to Salem United Church of Christ! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here in the United Church of Christ.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAISE SONG

### RESPONSIVE READING

**Reader 1:** The hand of the Lord is upon us, leading us even through dry places.

**Reader 2:** We will not fear the valley, for God is with us.

**Reader 1:** Where we see dryness, God sees possibility.

**Reader 2:** Where we see endings, God speaks new life.

**Reader 1:** Can these bones live?

**Reader 2:** O Lord God, You alone know.

**Reader 1:** Speak to the bones, and they shall hear.

**Reader 2:** Breathe on us, O Spirit, that we may live.

**Reader 1:** God has given us voices to declare His truth.

**Reader 2:** We will speak life, hope, and love.

**Both:** For the Lord is our Life-Giver, and in Him we are made whole. Amen.

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from  
Aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will

declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified  
and risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.  
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and  
renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding  
in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues,  
and races.  
You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his  
table, to join him in his passion and victory.  
You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no  
end.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **MESSAGE HYMN**

## **SCRIPTURE**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

## **SERMON**

“The Bones Are There”

Staci

## **BENEDICTION**

## **TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**

*\*Please stand if you are able to do so.*  
Worship is over and our Service begins.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leading Worship Today:  
Staci Cooper – Pulpit Supply

**Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...**

Sherrri 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](http://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**

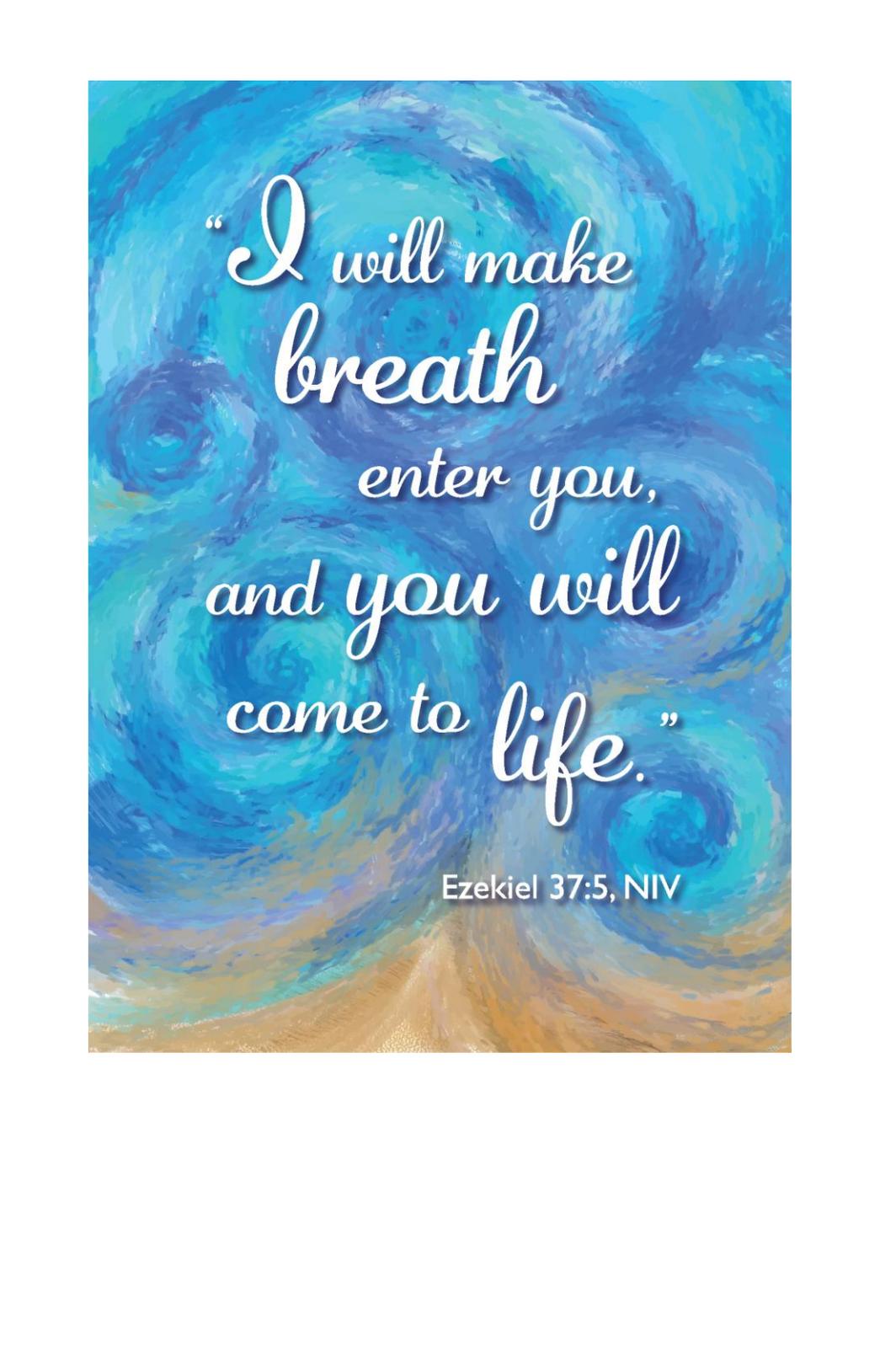


**All proceeds go toward our  
July 2026 workcamp trip to  
Barnesville, Minnesota**

**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](mailto:avknipmeyer@gmail.com)**



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

Ezekiel 37:5, NIV