

The Lamplighter



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



Holy Week

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.

Pulpit supply schedule for April

April 5 Easter 7:00 a.m. Sunrise—Salem Youth

April 5 Easter 10:00 a.m. Worship—Andy Mockridge

April 12—Andy Mockridge

April 19—Andy Mockridge

April 26—Evelyn Elmore

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

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. At that time, a devotional service will be offered to commemorate Jesus' saving act on the Cross. The Cross Walk is open to all who want to participate. Those who feel uncomfortable carrying the cross can walk along and sing or meet us at Central Christian Church for devotion.



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.
Women's Fellowship

From the Church Records

Financial Report: February 2026

General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank

General Fund Balance 2/01/26	\$102,928
Current deposits	\$ 21,722
Current expenses	\$ 13,344
Current Fund Balance 2/28/26	\$111,306

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 2/01/26	\$5,543
Current deposits	\$7,273
Current expenses	\$6,168
Current Fund Balance 2/28/26	\$6,648

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Feb.) \$155

Views Live Stream	February Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
37	2-1-26	9	56
40	2-8-26	9	58
36	2-15-26	0	91
38	2-22-26	10	75
37	Average Total Average 116	9	70

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.)



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. Mary Biesemeyer (Ministerial Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of April. 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, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the Salem Board Room. Karen Homfeld will be the hostess and Mary Homfeld will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come. Mary Dickmeier, chairman

Yes, I can!

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying.

These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

Best Wishes for April Birthdays go to...

Paula Oelrichs	1	Megan Wood	11	Garrison Salyer	21
Sandy Starke	3	Will Knipmeyer	12	Lincoln Rauch	22
Jesse Cramer	3	Roger Russell	12	Karen Cole	23
Amy Walker	4	Kathie Wesley	12	Scott Bergsieker	24
Karley McCoy	5	Spencer Rauch	13	Peggy Garrett	24
Parson Stoner	5	Kristin Mullins	14	Alesia Emison	24
Jeremy Kirchhoff	7	Betty Rinne	16	Brynlee Kirchhoff	24
Brooke Harris	7	Harley Akin	18	Brent Kusgen	25
Kealy Drago	7	Hunter Zuehlsdorf	18	Paul Nolte	27
Claire Dobson	7	Addison Schloman	18	Dennis Kumm	27
Cory Starke	8	Elijah Fischer	19	David Salyer	28
Maggie Starke	9	Jamie Smith	20	Michael Kilpatrick	28
Michael Niemeier	10	Boone Berry	20	Mark Kays	28
Caulin Drago	10	Bailey Wilkinson	21	Cindy Nuelle	28



Confirmation Reception

April 12th in the Fellowship Hall
following the 10:00am worship service.

Cake and Punch will be served.

Confirmands

Brooklyn Bergsieker
Jaxson Cowherd
Emory Gash
Beau O'Dell
Garrison Salyer
Charles Thaller
Bailey Urfer

Recognition of Graduates:

The church will recognize all graduates on Sunday, May 3, 2026, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you have anyone graduating from high school or college this spring please call the church office (660) 584-3603 with the information by April 29, 2026, so they can be included in the bulletin.



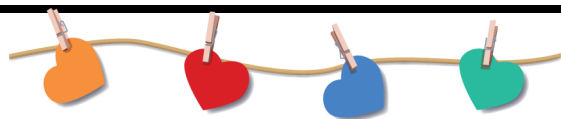
Evangelism Committee's

Up-Coming Events:

May – For Mothers, make a donation in honor of your mother or a mother figure that will go toward a worthy cause.

June – For Fathers, make a donation in honor of your father or other male influences in your life toward a worthy cause.

(Watch for further details in the May Lamplighter.)



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.



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:

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 (salemucchigginsville.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

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>



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Susan Jensen, Carleen Buchanan, Janice Johnson, Stanton Thompson, Judi Knipmeyer, and Corey Robinette. 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 January 31, 2026 were \$102,928 in the General Fund and \$5543 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 108 during January; this includes 12 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 61 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 35 live-stream views. Church services were cancelled due to inclement weather on the 4th Sunday, January 25th.

Correspondence: A thank you note from the Higginsville Heat and Hunger Fund was shared in response to the church's donation of half of the receipts from the Christmas Eve offering.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Stanton:** The Children's Sunday service on February 15th was very enjoyable. Proceeds from the noisy offering will go to support the lunch account shortfall at the local school district.
- **Building & Grounds/Bill:** No report
- **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** No report
- **Memorial/Susan:** No report
- **Stewardship/Judi:** No report
- **Evangelism/Carleen:** The January 25th Souper Supper was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next Souper Supper at Salem will be Monday, February 23.

- **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: A second interview of a candidate has occurred, and there will be a follow-up soon.
 - Carleen shared information regarding the suggested cabinetry and countertops for the Board Room. AA and Al-Anon have donated money to cover the cost. Council approved the purchase, and Council members will install them when they arrive.
 - Individuals have purchased pictures to decorate the Board Room, and they will be hung soon.
 - The pastor's study (also the room in which Al-Anon meets) has been cleared of excess furniture and decorative items to allow for more comfort and seating area.
 - Council members did a walk-through of the lower area of the church to identify items which are no longer useful to the church's programming. On Sunday, March 1, Council members will begin the cleaning out process. Membership will be notified when / if there are items they might wish to own.
 - The church's annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 22nd, following the worship service.
- **New Business:**
 - The church council was informed by the church secretary that 10 families use on-line giving for their financial contributions. Vanco provides the online service and their fee is approximately 2% of the monthly on-line income.

Example: \$2,300 was received in January in on-line donations and the Vanco fee was \$50.00.

- Ash Wednesday will be a combined service with the Presbyterian Church, 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.
- Council reviewed a 2021 rental / use facilities policy, noting we are currently charging significantly less than other similar sites. Janice Johnson will gather information from several local venue and church policies and report back at the next Council meeting for further consideration.
- A plaque honoring donations to the Salem Growth Fund will be hung next to the Endowment Fund plaque.
- To facilitate communication from staff to the Council, Stanton Thompson agreed to attend monthly staff meetings until a permanent pastor is in place.
- Based on discussion with the church secretary, a revised job description for that position was written and formally adopted by the Council.
- Stanton provided the list of pulpit supply individuals through June 2026.

Next Council meeting: March 17, 2026, at 7:30 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 April

- April 1—Please call church office with Easter Flower information
- April 2—7:00 p.m. Presbyterian, Central Christian, Salem Combined Maundy Thursday Service at Salem
- April 3—Good Friday/11:45 a.m. Community Cross Walk begins at Salem and ends at First Presbyterian Church with the Community Worship Service at Noon./ Please have Easter Flowers to church by noon
- April 5—Easter Sunday/7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service/ 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast/8:45 a.m. Sunday School with Easter Egg Hunt/10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- April 12 —Testimony Sunday with Two Baptisms Confirmation Reception following 10:00 a.m. Service **(No 8:00 a.m. Worship)**
- April 19—Confirmation Sunday **(No 8:00 a.m. Worship)**
- April 26—Installation of Officers at the 10:00 a.m. Service
- April 29—Please call church office with Graduates Information

The Lafayette Area

Women’s Fellowship Spring Meeting

will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at Ebenezer UCC in Levasy. The registration and fellowship time will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. Martha Hawthorne will have the presentation “Claiming our Heritage.” Each church is to give a 5-minute presentation sharing the history of their church and recognize past and present women in their church. All women (and men) are welcome. You do not have to be a part of a women’s group. There will be a salad luncheon.

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.



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.

WE EXTEND

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of Gina Cowan Zukel. Gina passed away Sunday, March 1, 2026. She had been battling cancer. Gina is a very close friend of Cindy Nuelle.



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 for April
Youth Group will meet once a month from 5:30pm - 6:30pm.
K - 5 April 14th
6-12 April 16th

Easter Sunday

April 5th

- 7:00am Sunrise Service
- 8:00am Breakfast
- 8:45am Sunday School with Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:00am Worship Service

February's Noisy Offering
\$424.51
Thank you Congregation!!

Confirmation

April 11th Testimony and Confirmation Practice at 1:00pm in the sanctuary

April 12th Testimony Sunday followed by a reception for the Confirmands in the Fellowship Hall

April 19th Confirmation Sunday, pictures at 8:30am. worship starts at 10:00am.

GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY SUCCESS STORY:

For the past 24 years, the Elders have asked for donations to Growing Hope Globally. This past year, we donated our proceeds, \$1,000. The following is a success story of this particular project.

THE SECRET TO GROWING ONIONS AT LAST!

After years of disappointment in her efforts at growing onions, Lidia experienced success when training on a variety of new farming skills included a unit on onion nurseries.

The mother of six said, “It was always heartbreaking to put in so much effort only to face disappointment every time.”

Last year, Lidia received instruction on growing vegetables and how to prepare them to improve her family’s nutritional intake and dietary complexity. The agriculture officer from local partner Pentecostal Assemblies of God Southwestern Uganda Pastorate demonstrated such practical skills as selecting the right sites for planting, preparing beds properly, applying manure as fertilizer, and spacing seeds correctly.

Lidia could immediately see that her previous attempts had failed because she hadn’t prepared nursery beds or used manure, instead relying on artificial fertilizers that didn’t work well for her crops. Putting the new knowledge into practice recently, she carefully prepared her beds, added well-composted manure, and spaced her seeds exactly as she was taught. Within days, her seedlings sprouted strong and healthy.

“It was a moment of pure joy—I couldn’t believe my eyes. For the first time, I felt I was truly succeeding as a farmer,” Lidia admitted.

She’s now making plans to transplant the healthy seedlings onto a half-acre of her land. She believes this will generate more income and improve her family’s life. “With the skills I’ve gained, I am confident this is just the beginning of my farming success,” she concluded.

Uganda Rubanda Program

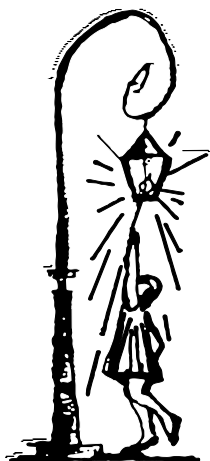
Led by World Renew and Local Partner Pentecostal Assemblies of God Southwestern Uganda Pastorate



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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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