

The Lamplighter



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

From Gratitude to Faithful Praise

Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.



Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

Pulpit supply schedule for June

June 7—Andy Mockridge

June 14—Evelyn Elmore

June 21—Andy Mockridge

June 28—Evelyn Elmore

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

A REMINDER:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers at Salem Cemetery celebrating Memorial Day. If you would like to save your flowers please pick them up by Saturday, June 6, 6:00 p.m.

Thank you.

The Cemetery Committee

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises."

—Leo Buscaglia

From the Church Records

Financial Report: April 2026

General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank

General Fund Balance 4/01/26	\$126,823
Current deposits	\$ 17,443
Current expenses	\$ 13,634
Current Fund Balance 4/30/26	\$130,632

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 4/01/26	\$8,756
Current deposits	\$2,080
Current expenses	\$2,447
Current Fund Balance 4/30/26	\$8,389

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for April) \$65

Views Live Stream	April Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
28	Easter 4-5-26	83	60
44	Testimony 4-12-26	0	122
37	Confirmation 4-19-26	0	181
19	4-26-26	10	78
32	Average Total Average 188	46	110

A Child's Favorite Word

A 6-year-old boy attended a church conference with his parents. After listening for a short while, he began to fidget in his seat.

To help him settle down, his mother handed him a notepad and pencil and suggested he make a mark every time the speaker said the word "and."

Before long, the boy grew restless again. "Would you like to listen for a different word?" his mother whispered.

"Yes," he replied. "I'd like to listen for 'Amen.'"

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:

There won't be any Bible Study during the Summer months: June, July, and August. Bible Study will resume in September.

EVE CIRCLE NEWS:

Eve Circle will meet June 2, 7:00 p.m. at Salem in the Board Room. Rita Wallpe will be the hostess and Sharon Hoefer will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come. Mary Dickmeier, chairman

THANK YOU!

To Courtney Bergsieker & Deanna Gash for agreeing to co-chair the service committee. You both are greatly appreciated.

**FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS
RECEIVING BIBLES:**

- Dillon Bergsieker
- Kamryn Cowherd
- Claire Dobson
- Rylinn Hinton



Best Wishes for June Birthdays go to...

Kyle Williams	1	Kamryn Cowherd	9	Josh Baggs	19
Kevin Hursman	2	Sandy Thompson	10	Haiden Jensen	20
Monica Vincent	2	Jocelyn Kirchhoff	11	Kendall Rinne	20
Gabriel Short	3	Katie Lettau	12	Corey Robinette	21
Elaine Adams	3	Clara Thirkield	12	Kathy Bodenstab-Wills	21
Amanda Dobson	3	Keaston Cooper	13	Susan Jensen	22
Carys Brockman	3	Angel Lamb	15	Lawson Kirchhoff	23
Jameson Kilpatrick	5	Darcy Aversman	15	Jakob Long	25
Clayton Berry	5	Lance Kays	16	Jacob Baggs	25
Clint Wood	5	Casey Warren	16	A.J. Engle	26
Jeff Gash	7	Karen Fiegenbaum	17	Dakota Russell	26
Addison Clark	8	Whitney Jensen	17	Amanda White	27
Tenley Pessetto	8	Koe Wilkinson	18	Hailey Pessetto	30



Bristol Diane Lindstedt, was baptized Sunday, May 17, 2026. Bristol is the daughter of Gen Dodds and Jeremy Fisher; Grandparents are Allen and Mary Fisher.

Cast away

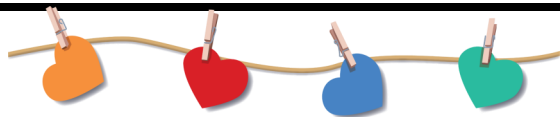
God has cast our confessed sins into the depths of the sea, and he's even put a "No Fishing" sign over the spot.

—D.L. Moody

Your Gifts Are Making a Grand Entrance Possible!

The Council thanks all of you who have made donations to replace the Main Street doors of the education wing. As we have noted before, after 50+ years of use, they are wicking moisture and have become very difficult to open. Currently, we are within \$4000 of our goal, and the Council would very much like to complete the work through congregational donations. If you would be willing to assist, please drop your gift by the church office or place it in the offering plate by Monday, June 15, with a notation that it is to go to the door replacement fund. We appreciate your support of our church and our facilities. If you have questions, please contact Stanton Thompson, Council President at 816-225-9515.





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
Kenneth Rinne, Rosa Lee Starke, Roger & Tillie Erdman, and Mary Ann Vorwerk

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Memorial Committee is asking for volunteers to water the flower pots at the front doors of the church. If you are interested please call Mary Homfeld, 660-584-3060.

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
April 21, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Susan Jensen, Carleen Buchanan, Janice Johnson, Stanton Thompson, Judi Knipmeyer, Bill Oelrichs, and Corey Robiette. Newly elected Council members, Courtney Bergsicker and Peter Thaller, also were in attendance. 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 March 31, 2026 were \$126,823 in the General Fund and \$8756 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 105 during March; this includes 9 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 69 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 27 live-stream views.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Stanton:** With Easter, Testimony Sunday, and Confirmation completed, discussion focused on VBS
- **Building & Grounds/Bill:** Stanton Thompson shared that the elevator call button does not work if one tries to call it to the basement from another floor. Bill will follow up.
- **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** If weather is suitable, the first Saturday in May will be the cemetery clean-up day.
- **Memorial/Susan:** No report
- **Stewardship/Judi:** No report
- **Evangelism/Carleen:** The next meeting will be in the fall.

- **Worship/Janice:** The committee met, but Janice was unable to attend due to a Council commitment.

- **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:** The Council determined the candidate who was interviewed was not a good fit for the congregation. An additional potential candidate has been contacted.
- The Board Room work has been completed. Many thanks to all who donated time and resources to make it much more attractive and usable!
- Work continues to clean out, donate, and share the many items that were stored in the closet across from the church office. Several of these have been placed on a table in the sanctuary where they may be 'adopted' or purchased. Items from the initial church clean-out netted \$68 and the remaining items were donated to Lafayette County Enterprises. The room will soon be repainted and set-up with the donated file cabinets to create an accessible storage area.
- Council reviewed a listing of the rental prices for various locations around the area and created a revised schedule, effective immediately, for use of the building:
 - o A cleaning fee will be charged for each event. Members - \$50; Non-Members - \$150. This amount will be paid directly to the custodians and will not be considered part of their regular salary.
 - o Sanctuary rental will remain \$150.

- o Dining Room or Fellowship Hall - Members - No charge. Non-Members - \$100.

- o Board Room - \$25

- o A damage deposit of \$200 will be collected for each event via a separate check that will be returned or destroyed if there is no damage.

- o Non-profit organizations will be exempt from charges at the discretion of the Church Council. Any questions about fees should be directed to the Church Council.

New Business:

- The Food Pantry requested donations for a special July 4th bag for its clientele. It was discussed and decided we will not participate in this specific event.
 - Baccalaureate will be held at Salem on Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Elders will usher and Council volunteers will be available to direct individuals to restrooms, etc.
 - Youth on Mission adults need to have background checks in preparation for their trip this summer; it was discussed and decided fees for those will be paid from the Stu Starke fund.
 - After discussion with the custodians, it was decided to retain all the existing folding chairs.
 - Election of officers: Stanton Thompson, president; Bill Oelrichs, Vice-President; Corey Robiette, secretary; Courtney Bergsicker, Treasurer; Carleen Buchanan, Financial Secretary.
- Committee Assignments for 2026-2027: Board of Christian Education - Delbert Goetz; Building and Grounds - Pete Thaller;
- (Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Worship - Janice Johnson; Memorial Committee - Courtney Bergsieker; Cemetery Committee - Bill Oelrichs; Stewardship - Janice Johnson

- Corey Robinette will continue as Council Representative on the Search Committee, and Courtney Bergsieker volunteered to serve on that committee as well.

Susan Jensen and Judi Knipmeyer will be retiring from the Church Council at this time.

Next Council meeting: May 19, 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,

Special Days in June

- June 6
Please remove Memorial Day Flowers from Salem Cemetery
- June 14
Flag Day
Homebound Communion
- June 19
Juneteenth
- June 21
Father's Day-Summer Begins
- June 25
July Lamplighter Articles Due

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 Bill Davenport. Bill passed away, Saturday, May 2, 2026. His visitation was held at Salem Monday, May 11, and his funeral was held Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Salem.



"The Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor."
—Dorothy Day

Summer
Sunday School!
May 31st -August 30th
During the 10:00am Worship Service



Vacation Bible School
 Sunday, August 2nd, through
 Wednesday, August 5th, 2026
 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Use the QR code to sign up!

Child's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

School grade entering: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions

Parents Name: _____

Parent phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Emergency Contact relation to child: _____

Alternate Pickup Name: _____

Alternate Pickup Phone: _____

Home church: _____



Salem's Youth Corner

Summer
Sunday School
May 31st-Aug 30th
during 10:00am
worship service

Wild West VBS

Volunteers NEEDED!!!

Aug 2nd - Aug 5th
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Dates to remember

August 23rd - School Staff & Student Appreciation

September 13th - Rally Day & Youth On Mission Sunday

October 18th - Children's Sunday

December 19th - Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 20th - Children's Christmas Program

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES!

Graduates from Lafayette Co. C-1 High School: Graduation day May 10, 2026

Blair Marie Bergsieker, daughter of Tim and Courtney Bergsieker.

Blair will be attending the University of Missouri in Columbia and plans to major in Agricultural Policy and minor in Political Science. Her goal is to be a voice for agriculture, and one day run for political office.

Jacob Trae Engle, grandson of Eva and the late Wayne Whitaker. Jacob will be attending automotive classes at Pitt State, in Kansas.

Atticus John Kerivan, son of Clara and Jordan Salyer and Tyson and Lindsey Kerivan. Atticus will be attending a Community College with the A+ Program.

Nora Marie Knipmeyer, daughter of Aaron and Vicki Knipmeyer, granddaughter of Dennis and Judi Knipmeyer and David and Robin Rogers. Nora will be attending Truman State University in

Kirkville and plans to study Classics and Art History. Her goal is to someday work as a museum curator.

Graduate from Liberty North High School: Graduation day May 12, 2026

Parker Drecktrah, son of Denise and Brian Drecktrah, grandson of Kenneth and Carleen Buchanan and Carolyn and the late Raymond Drecktrah. Parker will be attending MU and plans to study Engineering.

Graduate from Odessa High School: Graduation day May 7, 2026

Morgann Lorenz, great-niece of Peggy Pragman. Morgann will be attending MU in Columbia, Missouri this fall.

Graduate from Harlan High School in San Antonio, Texas: Graduation day May 31, 2026

Jonathan Golt, great-great-nephew of Peggy Pragman. Jonathan will be attending UTSA (University of Texas San Antonio.) He is going for his Bachelors in Biology with hopes of applying after that for a P.A. Program.

Graduates from College:

Sara Maschmeier, daughter of Shawn and Stephanie Maschmeier, granddaughter of Kenneth and Carleen Buchanan and the late Gary and Ann Maschmeier. Sara graduated May 1, 2026, from NFU (North Florida University) with a B.S. in Finance.

Jordan Michelle Smith, daughter of Kirk and Jamie Smith, graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science Business Administration Degree in Marketing on Saturday, May 9, 2026. She has accepted a position with the Missouri Department of Social Services as a Benefit Program Technician.

TOOLS FOR FATHER'S DAY:

The Evangelism Committee is still doing the Tools for Father's Day. The cards are on the stand with the Lamplighters. You may take a card and list the names on the inside of the card that you are honoring for Father's day. Put the card and your monetary donation in the envelope and either put it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office. You may also use the Salem Church website or text 73256 on your phone to make a monetary donation. If you have any questions, you may contact a member of the committee.

Thank you,
The Evangelism Committee:



SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT

ATTENDANCE 2025-2026

- 3 years Anna Howell
- 4 years Claire Dobson
- 4 years Lincoln Dobson
- 4 years Micah Gibler
- 9 years Stella Barnes
- 10 years Charlie Thaller
- 13 years Dixie Thaller

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**INFORMATION:**

Summer Sunday School will meet May 31 through August 30. The Adult Sunday School will meet at 8:45 a.m. in the Board Room and the Children's Sunday School will meet during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

The children will leave for Sunday School during the ringing of the bell.

The children's Sunday School will be held in the Multi-purpose room.

**IT IS TIME FOR ...SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC!**

The choirs are taking their summer break from June - August which provides an opportunity for special music to be shared! If you play an instrument or enjoy singing and would like to share your musical talent during the summer worship service, please call Jamie Smith at 660-232-4470. Thank you in advance!

Jamie Smith, Music Director

**Reflecting the Father's Name**

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.

A Safe Haven in the Storm

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley penned the beloved hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" in 1739. According to tradition, Wesley wrote the words after surviving a violent storm at sea. During the chaos, a frightened bird is said to have flown through a window and sought shelter in the folds of Wesley's coat, a small but powerful image of refuge in the midst of danger.

The opening stanza of the hymn echoes that sense of protection and trust:

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

These words call to mind the frightened disciples in Matthew 8:23–27. Tossed by wind and waves, they feared for their lives and cried out to Jesus for rescue. With a word, he calmed the storm and reminded them of his power and presence.

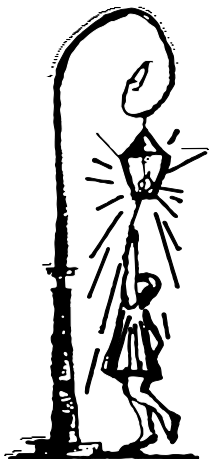
We, too, face seasons when life feels overwhelming. In those moments, we can take refuge in our Savior, trusting that he is our safe haven and that, no matter the storm, our destination is secure.



Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
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

Stanton Thompson, 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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