

The Lamplighter



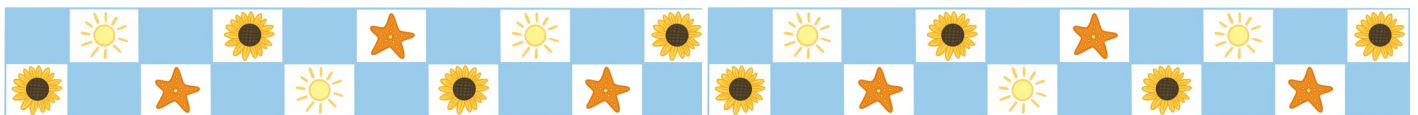
August 2026 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri

FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS FESTIVAL OF SHARING NEWS:

For many years, Salem has participated in the Festival of Sharing, a cooperative response to hunger, poverty, and injustice. Through our faith, we are called to share our resources and support with those who are struggling. The Festival of Sharing promotes and supports projects and programs, providing funding and resource goods. The agencies with which Festival of Sharing partner continuously express how much the various kits/packs make a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

The Board of Elders are asking for monetary donations only this year that will go to “The Missouri Family Food Box” and “The Missouri Products Pack.” When making a monetary donation, please note in the memo line of your check “Festival of Sharing” and have your monetary donations to Salem by September 20. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Mark Gross, Board of Elders President



Pulpit supply schedule for August

August 2—Evelyn Elmore

August 9—Andy Mockridge

August 16—Evelyn Elmore

August 23—Evelyn Elmore

August 30—Evelyn Elmore

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

SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God’s presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

From the Church Records

Financial Report: June 2026**General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank**

General Fund Balance 6/01/26	\$143,402
Current deposits	\$ 26,363
Current expenses	\$ 29,757
Current Fund Balance 6/30/26	\$140,008

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 6/01/26	\$3,698
Current deposits	\$2,238
Current expenses	\$3,486
Current Fund Balance 6/30/26	\$2,450

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for June) \$125

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 August. Bible Study will resume in September.

EVE CIRCLE: Will meet August 4, 6:00 p.m. Mary Homfeld will be hosting at her home. Bring a sack lunch. If anyone wants a ride, meet in the church parking lot at 5:45 p.m. Joyce Gross will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come.

Mary Dickmeier, chairman

In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment?
Worship God.

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



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.



Say Happy Birthday in August to...

Linda Amor	2	Derek Augustine	12	Judi Knipmeyer	23
Amron Good	2	Frank Riekhof	12	J. J. Brockman	23
Jessica Fette	3	Susan Augustine	13	Suellen Rinne	24
Janice Williams	3	Kai Rechterman	13	Miranda Fiene	25
Ruth Baker	4	Dixie Thaller	13	Ethan McCabe	25
Kyla Fisher	4	John Koenig	13	Natalie Fiene	26
Amber Thomas	5	Teresa Alberswerth	14	Rickie Goring	26
Abby Fiene	5	Mark Gross	15	Brent Fette II	26
B.J. Salyer	6	Elsie Robinette	15	Tania Pessetto	27
Charlie Bargfrede	7	Jana Nowack	15	Jadan Thirkield	27
Paxten Salyer	7	Brooklyn Bergsieker	15	Jill Warren	27
Anthony Thaller	7	Courtney Bergsieker	15	Blake Carminucci	27
Roger Erdman	8	Jadyn Swartz	16	Brandon Wentland	28
Bessie Begemann	8	Easton Dull	17	Blayne Baxter	28
Shawn Davenport	8	Peggy Pragman	17	Dru Iles	28
Alivia Thirkield	9	Bob Rauch	18	Amanda Wentland	29
George Lefman	9	Julia Gillie	18	Scott Cretzmeyer	29
Danny Lefman	9	Jamie Nichols	19	Carolyn Rauch	30
Tracy Fiene	10	Kimberly Nevels	22	Teagan Steinkuhler	30
Emily Moore	10	Lowell Dickmeier	22	Felicia Leonard	31
Mark Dryer	11	Harold Hoflander	23	Michael Jordan	31
				Darren Bergsieker	31

A Repair for Brokenness

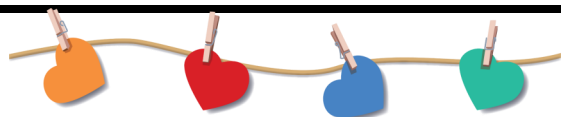
Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.





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
Betty Rinne, 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.



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.



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 June 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Peter Thaller, Courtney Bergsieker, Carleen Buchanan, Janice Johnson, Stanton Thompson, Bill Oelrichs, and Corey Robinette. President Stanton Thompson called the regular meeting to order, and lead with an Opening Devotion and prayer. The minutes were read and approved as presented. The financial report was presented, discussed, and approved. The balances as of May 31, 2026 were \$143,403 in the General Fund and \$3,697 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 116 during May; this includes 9 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 67 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 40 live-stream views.

Correspondence: The council received a Message from the Missouri Baptist Children's Home regarding connecting with our church to further support families in Lafayette County. It was discussed and decided to be researched further and revisited during the July meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Delbert:** VBS was discussed which will be Aug. 2,3,4,5 with ongoing preparations. Furthermore, Discussions are underway to prepare finding Volunteers for Confirmation, and important dates are being planned for the upcoming fall including 8/23 (student and staff appreciation), 9/13 (rally day), 12/20 (Christmas Program).

- **Building & Grounds/Pete:**

Pete has put together a list of projects inside and out of the church which he is working on.

- **Cemetery Committee/**

Bill: Work has been done setting Stones which were recovered during the Clean-up day

- **Memorial/Courtney:** No report

- **Stewardship/Janice:** No report

- **Evangelism/Carleen:** No report

- **Worship/Janice:** No report

- **Ushers/Pete and Courtney:** Council members will continue ushering.

Financial Stability Committee/ Janice Johnson, Delbert Goetz, Stanton Thompson: No report- the committee will plan on functioning as soundboard/support for New pastor when that time comes as well.

Review of Committee memberships for 2026 was completed to accuracy of memberships.

Unfinished Business:

- **Clarification of Facility Rental Policy:** The Updated Facility Rental Policy was further discussed with work to clarify cleaning fees and costs. Ultimately, Council clarified policies for future use.

The Door replacement Bid from Integrated Opening Solutions, LLC was reviewed a final time and approved to move forward with funds generously donated. Search Committee update: Unfortunately, a prior candidate did not accept the presented offer, though expressed gratitude for the opportunity and noted that they felt it was a fair offer. The committee is resuming with searching and meeting with new candidates as they are presented.

New Business:

- Renovation of June's Office space and new chair for June and Sarah were discussed and approved utilizing available funds having already been donated.

- Project listings were reviewed with focus on pest control, paint, outdoor clean-up, and seeding grass was discussed and approved where necessary.

- Plans were made as there will be No acolytes at services May 24-Sept7

YOM Potluck Luncheon will be held July 12.

Next Council meeting: July 14, 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,

Corey Robinette,
Council Secretary



COUNTRY FAIR SINGSPARATION:

Will be held Wednesday, September 16, 6 p.m. at Fairground Park. It is a time for praising God through band / vocal-any genre, poetry, dance, and storytelling. If you are interested in participating there are forms outside the church office. Return date for these forms are September 1. All are welcome to attend.



Chancel and Hand Bell Choir

Fall Schedules

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will sing during our worship service on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays of each month. The Hand Bell Choir will start rehearsals on Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. They will play during our worship service on the 4th Sunday of October, December, February, and April. Come and make a joyful noise with our Choirs! See you soon!

Jamie Smith, Director

Youth Choir, Little Notes, and

Chime Bell Choir Fall Schedules

The Youth Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and will sing during our worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Little Notes and Chime Bell Choir will also begin rehearsals this same day at 8:50 a.m. in the sanctuary. They will play and sing during our worship service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Come join the music fun! See you there!

Jamie Smith, Director

Accept forgiveness
from God
and put your sin
behind you.

It is not our business to
remember what God has
forgotten.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Provided By:

Three Rivers Hospice
Bereavement Counselor
660.864.0806

Grief should not be faced alone. Joining a support group provides a safe space to share experiences, learn coping strategies, and receive understanding from those who live similar realities.

Join Us August 26, 2026
@ 3:00 pm
In the Meyer Care
Center Gathering Room

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:



**John Knox
Village East**



660.584.7111



1201 W. 19th St. - Higginsville



Discussion Points:

- Healthy Healing
- Survivor's Guilt

GROUP BENEFITS:

- ✦ Professional, compassionate grief counseling
- ✦ Supportive Group Discussions
- ✦ Practical Tools for coping & healing
- ✦ A welcoming, confidential environment.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

INFORMATION:

Summer Sunday School will meet 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.

Salem's youth corner

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

**Student & Staff
Appreciation Sunday
August 23rd 10:00am**

**Rally Day
September 13th**

**Youth On Mission
leading both services**

**Pot Luck following the
service!**

**Meat provided. Bring a
side and join us!**

**Confirmation
information meeting
August 23rd after the
10am service.**

**Wild West VBS
Aug 2nd - Aug 5th
6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Dates to remember

October 18th - Children's Sunday

December 19th - Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 20th - Children's Christmas Program

**WE EXTEND OUR
SYMPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of Marshall Stewart. Marshall passed away Sunday, July 5, 2026. His funeral was held July 11, 2026 at First Baptist Church.

ALSO

The family and friends of Misty Begemann. Misty passed away Friday, July 10, 2026. Her funeral in Higginsville will be held Friday, August 28, 2026, at Salem UCC. More details to follow.

ALSO

Allan and Mary Fisher and family. Allan's mother, Mary Lorene Fisher passed away Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Her funeral and visitation were held at First Baptist Church, Saturday, August 1, 2026.



Special Days in August

- August 2-5
Vacation Bible School
- August 9
Celebrating Salem's 156th Anniversary
- August 23
School Staff and Student Appreciation Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. Service
Confirmation Orientation following the 10:00 a.m. Service
- August 24
September Lamplighter Articles Due

Rally Day
September 13

8:00am Worship Service
8:45am Sunday School
10:00am Worship Service
with Potluck in the Fellowship Hall after the service!
Meat will be provided!

Youth On Mission will be leading both services

BRING A FRIEND TO SUNDAY SCHOOL/ AND RECIEVE A FREE SUNDAY

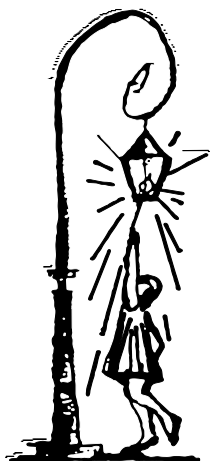
PERFECT ATTENDANCE BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

BRING A SIDE DISH FOR THE POTLUCK!

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

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

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