

# The Lamplighter



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

## **“SALEM’S WATER MISSION”**

This will be the tenth year, the Board of Elders is asking you to consider generously supporting our “Water Mission”.

In 2024, \$1,409 was donated & in 2025 \$1,745. We hope to reach or exceed these amounts this year! What a blessing, and speaks to our church’s willingness to share with those less fortunate. In many parts of the world, clean safe drinking water is a luxury. Whether due to drought, pollution, or destroyed infrastructure, the search for water is a chore that often removes children from classrooms and parents from their work.

When water flows freely, residents are healthier and communities are stronger.

In partnership with Global Ministries, Salem’s congregation can help provide clean, safe drinking water with systems that utilize local talent and equipment so that the water solutions can be sustainably maintained.

In early August a check will be sent to Global Ministries with Salem’s total contributions, so July is the month we are asking you to consider a donation. Please make your checks payable to “Salem UCC” with a notation in the lower left corner of your check “Water Mission”.

Thank you for your continued support,  
The Board of Elders



## **Pulpit supply schedule for July**

July 5—Andy Mockridge

July 12—Andy Mockridge

July 19—Dale Parson

July 26—Evelyn Elmore

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

## **DOES ANYONE KNOW THE FAMILY OF CPL. CALVIN A. RUFFNER?**

As nooks and crannies of the church are being cleaned out, a lot of historical items are being found. One item is a bulletin from the funeral of CPL. Calvin A. Ruffner. He died serving his country in 1944.

We would like to contact a member of the Ruffner family and see if this bulletin is something they would like. If anyone has information on this family please call the church office at 660-584-3603. Thanks.

**From the Church Records**

**Financial Report: May 2026**

**General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank**

General Fund Balance 5/01/26	\$130,632
Current deposits	\$ 23,908
Current expenses	\$ 11,137
Current Fund Balance 5/31/26	\$143,403

**Building Fund: Central Bank**

Current Fund Balance 5/01/26	\$8,389
Current deposits	\$1,176
Current expenses	\$5,868
Current Fund Balance 5/31/26	\$3,697

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

Views Live Stream	May Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
62	5-3-26	0	84
25	5-10-26	9	64
36	5-17-26	12	70
39	5-24-26	0	62
39	5-31-26	6	58
40	Average Total Average 116	9	67

**Your Gifts MADE a Grand Entrance Possible!**

The Council thanks all of you who made donations to replace the Main Street doors of the education wing! We have met our goal, and once the purchase is officially approved at our meeting, they will be ordered. Since they are custom-made, it will be approximately twelve - fifteen weeks before they are received and installed. Watch for the announcement of their arrival, and thank you each and all who contributed!



**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: July and August. Bible Study will resume in September.

**Eve Circle:** Will not meet in July.

**Youth on Mission Updates**

After almost a year of preparing, our 2026 trip is almost here! Our team of 11 will be traveling to Barnesville, Minnesota July 18-25. We appreciate your prayers and support while we are there! If you would like to follow our trip and are not added to the Salem YOM Facebook page, please reach out to Vicki. Team members this year are Aaron Knipmeyer, Vicki Knipmeyer, Will Knipmeyer, Dixie Thaller, Charlie Thaller, Lydia Grumke, Charles Grumke, Abby Cramer, Giannelisa Ceja, Micah Gibler, and Tina Gibler. We are thrilled to have both new campers and workcamp veterans on this trip!

We invite the congregation to help send off the team on Sunday, July 12. There will be a short commissioning during 10:00am worship. Following worship, we invite everyone to join us for lunch. Vicki and Aaron will provide pulled pork and rolls- please bring a side or dessert and join us for fellowship! We will also be collecting donations in our gas cans that day to support our transportation costs for the trip. We hope to see you there, and appreciate your prayerful support during our travels!

**Best Wishes for July Birthdays go to...**

Kevin Rinne	1	Gina Gampper	10	Rhonda Grumke	24
Julianna Mae Stiles	1	Alex Lettau	11	Jeanne Fleischmann	24
Mark Hook	2	Nolan Salyer	11	Alice Kennedy	24
Evelyn Sander	3	Shirley Paul	12	Ginny Baggs	24
Graham Padley	3	Scott LaRue	12	Micah Gibler	25
Ella Wesche	3	Caleb Kirchhoff	14	Eric Kirchhoff	26
Teresa Button	4	Korbin Thaller	15	Cheryl Lettau	26
Angie Lefman	5	Jami Homfeld	16	Pam Homfeld	26
Jackie Meinershagen	6	Seth Harris	16	Blake Kilpatrick	26
Donald Knehans	6	Richelle Erdman	17	Justin Cramer	27
Diana Meinershagen	7	Ty Harris	17	Larry Homfeld	29
Blayne Homfeld	7	Sharon Telgemeier	19	Lynette Nevels	29
Julie Davenport	8	Rita Jean Vahrenberg	19	Charlotte Robinette	30
Gary Riekhof	9	Camille Meyer	19	Deanna Gash	30
Donald Abbott	10	Richard Niemeier	21	Linda Grindley	30
Candi Engle	10	Rhonda Boedeker	22	Darrel Opfer	30
Aren Koenig	10	Nathan White	22	Ronnie Bergsieker	30
		Tillie Erdman	24	Mark Berry	31



**Special Days in July**

- **July 3**  
Church Office closed for the 4th of July Holiday
- **July 4**  
Independence Day
- **July 12**  
YOM Commissioning at the 10:00 a.m. service/YOM Potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service.
- **July 18-25**  
YOM Trip to Barnesville, MN

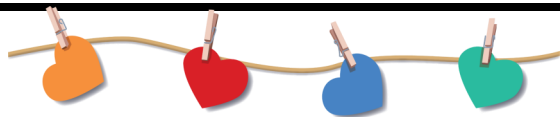
**WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO:**

The family and friends of Howard Fisher. Howard passed away Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The visitation and funeral for Howard were held Monday, June 15, at Salem.

**ALSO**

Our sympathy is with the family of Scott Romans; Sara Vandiver family, Caleb Romans family, and Carolgene Zvacek family. Scott passed away June 20, 2026. Visitation, Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 6-8 p.m. at Kaiser-Wiegers Funeral Home. Private funeral services will be held.





*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:

[salemuchigginsville.org/home/church-news/](http://salemuchigginsville.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](mailto: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 ([salemuchigginsville.org](http://salemuchigginsville.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](mailto:salemucc@ctcis.net)  
Church Website: [salemuchigginsville.org](http://salemuchigginsville.org)  
Salem’s YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemucc64037>



**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
May 19, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 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 April 30, 2026 were \$130,362 in the General Fund and \$8,389 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 188 during April; this includes 46 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 110 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 32 live-stream views.

**Correspondence:** The council received a request for a donation from the Higginsville Senior Center, which was discussed. The last donation was in December 2025, and upon discussion the motion was made and passed to give a one-time \$100 donation at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Christian Ed/Delbert:** Discussions were focused on VBS which will be Aug. 2,3,4,5. Furthermore, Easter and confirmation were recapped with positive feedback and further discussion was focused on potential changes to confirmation, new books for the Nursery, and beginning work on the Christmas program.
- **Building & Grounds/Pete:** Pete has been checking sump pumps and seals with the wet weather to ensure operation.

- **Cemetery Committee/ Bill:** Cemetery clean-up was held and was a success. Memorial Day Flags will be placed at 10:00 am Friday 5/21

- **Memorial/Courtney:** No report
- **Stewardship/Janice:** No report
- **Evangelism/Carleen:** No report
- **Worship/Janice:** No report
- **Ushers/Carleen and Janice:** 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.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Clarification of Facility Rental Policy:** The Updated Facility Rental Policy was further discussed with work to clarify further rates, cleaning fees, damage deposits, and uses. Discussion was tabled with a plan to further discuss at next month's meeting with further context to be provided at that time.

- o Miss Higginsville Pageant was discussed and moved to go ahead with allowing use with no charge for practice June 22-26 as has already been planned.

- The Door Replacement Bid from Integrated Opening Solutions, LLC was discussed as well as funding with a plan put forward to discuss funding and donations and revisit at Next meeting to evaluate where the funding sits prior to next steps.

**New Business:**

- The Meeting with Pastoral Candidate was discussed and reviewed

- o Anonymous feedback was reviewed and discussed  
A decision was made to progress forward with this Candidate by the Council

- Employment package and contents were discussed and reviewed utilizing best available information, and an initial offer was constructed as a council to be presented to the Candidate.

- The Candidate was contacted and presented with the initial employment package to be taken into consideration. At this time the council awaits response.

- Plans were made as there will be No acolytes at services May 24-Sept 7.

Council members planned to be able to unlock and lock the church Sunday May, 24 with the custodians out of town

Next Council meeting: June 16, 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.

**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.



**Freedom**

Each one of us is born most free  
And we alone can choose  
To do what God would have us do,  
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek  
The proud and selfish way —  
A life where other gods come first  
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,  
We find that freedom’s place  
Is really in God’s Will for us,  
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

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.



**John Knox Village East-Meyer Care Center**

**Wednesday, July 22nd  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

John Knox Village East Activity Room  
1201 W. 19th Street

**Prepare to donate**

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [savealifenow.org/eligibility](https://savealifenow.org/eligibility).



**Sign up** at [savealifenow.org/group](https://savealifenow.org/group) and use **group code ED13**. For additional details, contact Paula Kopp at (660) 584-7111 or [paulakopp@johnknoxvillageeast.com](mailto:paulakopp@johnknoxvillageeast.com).

877.468.6844 · [savealifenow.org](https://savealifenow.org)



**Summer  
Sunday School!  
May 31<sup>st</sup> -August 30<sup>th</sup>  
During the 10:00am Worship Service**



**Emoji  
Prayers**

# Salem's Youth Corner

## Wild West VBS Volunteers

### NEEDED!!!

Volunteers will get a VBS  
Crew shirt and supper every  
night 4:45pm-5:45pm

Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> - Aug 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm - 8:00pm

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

Sign up for  
VBS on the  
next page!!



## Dates to remember

July 12th - Youth on Mission commissioning service  
with pot luck lunch.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> - School Staff & Student Appreciation

September 13<sup>th</sup> - Rally Day & Youth On Mission Sunday

October 18<sup>th</sup> - Children's Sunday

December 19<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program Rehearsal

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Program

# 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 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](mailto: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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