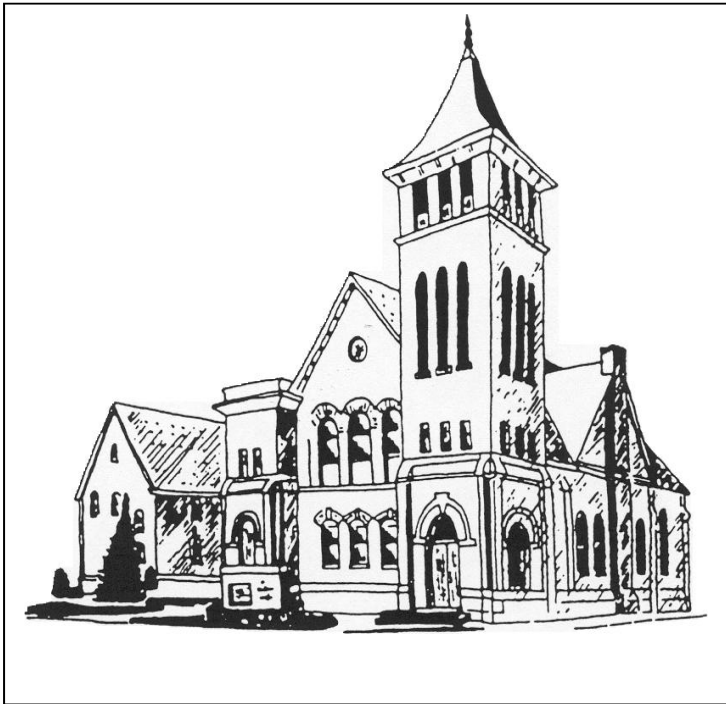


SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: salemucchigginsville.org



**We are a gathering church sent out
by God to bring the good news of
God's grace, justice, peace, and
love to the world**

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: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we gather today with hearts lifted toward the promise of God. Scripture tells us that there is *laid up for us the crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to all who have longed for His appearing.

Reader 2: We come with hope, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

Reader 1: The race is before us, the faith is our guide, and the reward is sure—not because of our strength, but because of His unfailing grace.

Reader 2: We will run with perseverance, clothed in His righteousness, trusting in His victory.

Reader 1: Come, let us worship the Lord who calls us, equips us, and crowns us with everlasting life.

All Together: We lift our voices in praise, for our Redeemer is faithful, and His reward is eternal!

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again

from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MESSAGE HYMN

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 4:8

SERMON

“The Golden Crown”

Evelyn

SERMON SONG

Evelyn

BENEDICTION

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

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

Leading Worship Today:
Evelyn Elmore – Pulpit Supply

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Elisha Stroupe, Teri Graham's best friend from New Franklin, is 43 years old and was diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers would be appreciated.

Maxine Schloman, continues to be hospitalized at St. Luke's Hospital on the Plaza. They are in the process of finding a Rehab facility to move Maxine to.

Reed Heimsoth, is at Riverbend in Lexington getting therapy following a car accident. Continued prayer is appreciated.

Charles & Evelyn Marcks, the family would appreciate prayers for both Charles and Evelyn.

Angie Erdman is taking treatments for breast cancer.

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.

Best Wishes for Birthdays this week...

Carolyn Rauch, August 30

Teagan Steinkuhler, August 30

Felicia Leonard, August 31

Michael Jordan, August 31

Darren Bergsieker, August 31

Joe Goetz, September 1

Ken Telgemeier, September 3

Kennedy Short, September 3

J.W. Starke, September 4

Nathan Salyer, September 4

Sara Vandiver, September 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

EVE CIRCLE:

Will meet September 1, 7:00 p.m. at Salem in the Board Room. B.J. Salyer will be the hostess and Shirley Paul will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come.

Mary Dickmeier, chairman

POTLUCK LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Please join us following the 10:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, September 13, for a Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the Service Committee for providing the fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Donations collected at the potluck will go to Youth On Mission and the Sunday School Department. **Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, September 8.**

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

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

CALL TO MEETING FOR THE LAFAYETTE AREA WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FALL MEETING:

The fall meeting of the Lafayette Area Women's Fellowship will be held at Trinity UCC on Thursday, September 24, 2026. Registration and fellowship will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will also be recognizing those who have died in the last year. The contributive meal will be pot luck. We look forward to seeing all on September 24th. Men are welcome too! PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If your child is most comfortable with you in worship, they are welcome. If you prefer, the nursery room is open and available for parents who would like to take their child there and stay with them. Our nursery has been recently updated!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Today is the last day for Summer Sunday School schedule. Next Sunday, September 6, there won't be any Sunday School.

PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:

Paper copies of the Lamplighter are available in the back of the Sanctuary and by the church office.

BEST CHOICE LABELS:

Please drop your Best Choice labels by the church office. We are collecting them for Festival of Sharing.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

HIGGINSVILLE COUNTRY FAIR REQUEST:

One highlight event at the Country Fair has been the FREE Community Ice Cream Social which will feature entertainment by Emmitt Rickey and Grandeur. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, September 18. The FREE Ice Cream Social is in need of pies, cakes, cookies, and desserts. If you can help, please bring your food donations to the MU Extension Office, 14 E. 19th St. Suite 102 by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18 or after 5:30 p.m. to the tables next to the Post Office. If you would like to contribute or need or more information, please contact Lafayette County Extension Office at 660-584-3658.

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. Terry Cook (Central Christian) will lead Bible Study during the month of September. 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:

September 7 – Labor Day (Church Office Closed)

September 13 – Sunday School Rally Day

YOM presenting their 2026 Group Mission trip at the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services/Potluck lunch to follow.

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 20 – Youth Choir/Little Notes & Chime Bell rehearsals resume/Dedication of Festival of Sharing gifts

September 22 – First Day of Autumn

ATTENDANCE FOR August 23, 2026

8:00 a.m. worship service attendance: 8

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 60

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: Technical Difficulty

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR August 21-August 27, 2026

General Fund Income: \$4,429

General Fund Expense: \$320

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



Western Association Fall Meeting September 19, 2026

Connection - Belonging - Community

Let us gather for a day of learning, sharing, worship and connecting with one another.

Local DOC clergy and lay persons will join us for worship, our program and lunch. We'll have two great speakers, who we will have the opportunity to chat with over a delicious lunch.

A variety of light breakfast items, snacks and beverages available throughout the day.

\$20 per person

In-Person or Zoom

- 9:30 am- Registration
- 10 am Program
- 12 pm- Lunch
- 1 pm-Ballot Initiative Discussion
- Closing worship

Click [here](#) to register or scan QR code with your camera phone and click the link.

Registration Deadline:
9/14/26



Questions? Contact Tim Fairley
660-888-3939
tim.fairley@yahoo.com



Keynote Speaker

Rev. Phil Hodson is the Intentional Interim Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference.

Phil comes from the Pacific Northwest Conference, where he served as Designated Conference Minister.

He has worked in both church planting and revitalization throughout his ministry, partnering with congregations in financial oversight, administrative reorganization, building campaigns, and community engagement.

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Michelle Scott-Huffman is the Campus Minister for Ekklesia, which is an ecumenical campus ministry affiliated with 5 denominations, including the UCC.

Ekklesia is the only progressive and inclusive campus ministry in the Springfield area, and is present at MSU, Drury and OTC. They have been voted #1 Campus Ministry at MSU for three years.



St. John's Chapel UCC
4344 S. Fremont, Springfield, MO 65802



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

August 30 thru September 6, 2026

- Sunday** - Evelyn Elmore, Pulpit Supply
8:00 a.m. Early Worship
8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship with Sunday School for children and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube
- Monday** - No Activities Scheduled
- Tuesday** - Food Pantry
7:00 p.m. Eve Circle
- Wednesday** - 6:15 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
- Thursday** - No Activities Scheduled
- Friday** - 7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday** - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday** - Dale Parson, Pulpit Supply
No 8:00 a.m. Early Worship
No Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship and Live-Stream Worship on YouTube

Parable of the pufflings

As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent puffins — black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks — stop bringing fish to their chicks. These “pufflings,” whose first few weeks were lived in burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, “fall out of the sky.” Because pufflings can’t yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during “puffling season” people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander’s help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: It’s being saved.

We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We’re misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we’re irredeemably trapped in the worst of circumstances. We can’t perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can’t sense it at this moment, you are held in God’s care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

