

The Lamplighter



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

OCWM “OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION”

In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God’s call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God’s extravagant love for all. We share resources to bring our vision to life. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in mission well beyond our community.

Most of our OCWM Basic Support dollars remain in our Conferences to help local congregations thrive. Direct support in Conferences comes through leadership initiatives, such as communities of practice, committees on ministry, and one-on-one mentoring. Conferences also share in congregational vitality work. This includes conflict transformation, resourcing leaders as they reimagine ministry, and grants to churches.

The National Ministries of the UCC, a crucial partner of our Conference and each congregation, helps us put love into action, especially through ministry that no one congregation could do alone.

The Salem Church council would like to encourage members of Salem to consider giving to OCWM.



Thank You!

To all the volunteers who watered the flowers at the front doors to the church this summer. You are very much appreciated.



Pulpit supply schedule for September

September 6—Dale Parson

September 13—YOM

September 20—Andy Mockridge

September 27—Evelyn Elmore

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



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

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

From the Church Records

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

General Fund Balance 7/01/26	\$140,008
Current deposits	\$ 16,934
Current expenses	\$ 14,314
Current Fund Balance 7/31/26	\$142,628

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 7/01/26	\$2,450
Current deposits	\$1,851
Current expenses	\$ 395
Current Fund Balance 7/31/26	\$3,906

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

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

Views Live Stream	July Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
Technical Difficulty	7-5-26	7	50
37	7-12-26	9	65
41	7-19-26	7	62
27	7-26-26	7	61
35	Average Total Average 101	7	59

Lessons That Last

Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest.

One man recalled his high school Sunday school teacher, a businessman named Mr. Homan, who shared this advice with the boys in his class: "Don't ever go anywhere you would not want your mother or sister to go. Don't ever do anything you would not want your mother or sister to do."

Years later, the man reflected on those words and said, "That advice has served me well. I have always remembered it."

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come.

Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.



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.

Look Who's Having a Birthday in September!

Joe Goetz	1	Jacob Vincent	14	Clara Salyer	21
Ken Telgemeier	3	Michael Shane Lettau	14	Dillon Bergsieker	21
Kennedy Short	3	Tiger Fiene	15	Karen Fiene	21
J.W. Starke	4	Brandon Struchtemeyer	15	Brittlian Shaul	22
Nathan Salyer	4	Traci Cameron	15	Cheryl LaRue	23
Sara Vandiver	4	Andy Mockridge	17	Shane Siegfried	24
Kolten Cowherd	6	Marilyn Davenport	17	Palmer Schloman	24
Wendell Busch	6	Scott Homfeld	17	Adelynn Schloman	24
Adam Augustine	7	Tina Gibler	17	Tim Morris	27
Brent Fette	8	Layden Kirchhoff	18	Beau O'Dell	27
Brooke Cramer	10	Jessica Pressly	19	Jared Siegfried	28
Paige Stark	10	Desmond Williams	19	Caleb Russell	29
Mike Lettau	11	Kathleen Begemann	20	June Ann Howell	29
Maddie Fiene	13	Max Bergsieker	20	Cameron Zuehlsdorf	30
		Jeff Kirchhoff	20	Emory Gash	30



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



BEST CHOICE LABELS:

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

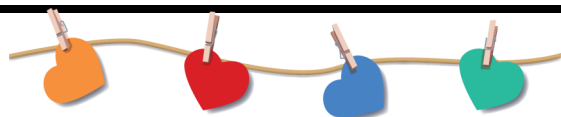


HIGGINSVILLE COUNTRY FAIR

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.





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.,
Higginville, MO**

Betty Rinne, Kenneth Rinne, Rosa Lee Starke,
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:

salemucchigginville.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.



A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

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, Higginville, MO 64037.
2. Salem Church website (salemucchigginville.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: salemucchigginville.org

Salem's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemucc64037>

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING July 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Delbert Goetz, Peter Thaller, 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 June 30, 2026 were \$140,008 in the General Fund and \$2,450 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 79 during June; this includes 8 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 49 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 22 live-stream views.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

•**Christian Ed/Delbert:** VBS continues to be the topic of discussion which will be Aug. 2,3,4,5 with ongoing preparations. Furthermore, planning and prep work for Confirmation and mentors is underway, 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:** 1 round of spraying has been completed for bugs with plan to more convenient timing for staff for future spraying.

•**Cemetery Committee/Bill:** 2 further headstones that were recently found are being repaired.

•**Memorial/Courtney:** No report

•**Stewardship/Janice:** No report

•**Evangelism/Carleen:** No report

•**Worship/Janice:** Rally day and potluck planning is underway and Stanton continues coordinating Pulpit supply.

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

•**Financial Stability Committee/Janice Johnson, Delbert Goetz, Stanton Thompson:** No report

Unfinished Business:

•Committee memberships for 2026/2027 have been reviewed and updated.

•The formal rental policy is being finalized with Corey typing it up.

An updated project list around the building were provided by Judy Knipmeyer and reviewed by the Council including projects that have been completed, are in progress, and being planned with timing. The council is grateful for the work Judy has put in and continues to put in.

New Business:

•Extensive discussion was completed regarding recent candidates for the called Pastor position with the Council discussing the path forward.

Other Stuff:

•Sarah will be on vacation July 20-24 with June and Rhonda providing coverage

•Next Council meeting: August 18, 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



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, 660-584-3603, by Tuesday, September 8.

Thank you to everyone who shared their talents for special music this summer! We were blessed with music from: Kevin Berry, Sarah Berry, Delbert Goetz, Teri Graham, Mary Kempfe, Aaron Knipmeyer, Nora Knipmeyer, Vicki Knipmeyer, Will Knipmeyer, David Rogers, David Salyer, and Garrison Salyer. Your willingness to share your music added much joy to our worship services!



With much appreciation,
Jamie Smith, Music Director

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.

HEY, LOOK WHAT'S COMING
to the HIGGINSVILLE FOOD PANTRY

FUND RAISER
 ★ 1ST ANNUAL ★

ON OCTOBER 11TH 2026

AT THE 4H BARN (WEST SIDE)

DRIVE THROUGH

Chef LEONARD GOETZ and his crew
 WILL BE FRYING UP FISH, MAKING HOMEMADE CHIPS, ALONG WITH COLESLAW AND COOKIES

COME JOIN US TO HELP RAISE FUNDS TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY UP AND RUNNING!

FROM 11AM TO 1PM OR WHEN ALL IS GONE

SEE YA!



Prayer of Remembrance
for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a
 writing God,
 who is sending a love letter to
 the world.”
 —Mother Teresa

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

Little Notes and Chime Bell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 20 at 8:50 a.m. in the sanctuary. They will play and sing during our worship service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The Youth Choir will also begin rehearsals on this same day at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary and will sing during our worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Come join the music fun! See you there!

Jamie Smith, Director

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.



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



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.


September


Our 2026 Youth on Mission team traveled this past July to Barnesville, MN to participate in another fantastic workcamp with Group Mission Trips. This year we had 11 team members- 6 youth campers (Dixie Thaller, Charlie Thaller, Will Knipmeyer, Micah Gibler, Abby Cramer, and Giannelisa Ceja), 3 adult campers (Tina Gibler, Lydia Grumke, and Charles Grumke), and 2 adults that served on the camp staff as “Red Shirt” volunteers (Vicki and Aaron Knipmeyer). This was the largest camp we have attended in recent years, with almost 300 campers and staff staying together at the high school in Barnesville, MN. Our YOM campers served on 9 different crews, who worked mostly at homes in Barnesville and Moorhead, and completed projects including interior & exterior painting and constructing several decks and wheelchair ramps. We also enjoyed fellowship time in Sioux Falls, SD on our way to camp (many thanks to Spirit of Peace UCC in Sioux Falls for hosting us overnight), as well as in Fargo, ND on our free afternoon/evening mid-week. Our camp theme this year was “Illuminate,” and programs and devotions focused on the light of God’s presence in our lives, and how we bring this light to those around us. It was a powerful week, with lots of connections made with our faith, our residents, other crew members, and each other.

Once again, we want to express how grateful we are to our congregation for your ongoing generosity, which allows any youth who wants to attend camp to participate without having to worry about cost. We would like to invite the congregation to attend either the 8:00 or 10:00am services on Rally Day, September 13, to hear our team members share more details about their experiences on the trip. You can also join us for the potluck meal immediately following the 10:00am service!

We are already excited to start planning our summer of 2027 trip, and will be looking for input from interested youth on where we will be traveling! If you are interested in getting more information, contact Vicki at 314-775-8887 or avknipmeyer@gmail.com to make sure you are on our contact list!



Salem's Youth Corner

Sunday School
8:45-9:45

Rally Day
September 13th
Sunday School and
perfect attendance
begins this day.

8:45-9:45

We will begin our
year talking about
the creation story.
Come join us!

Confirmation

We will meet September
13th and 27th after church
at 11:00am

Little Notes, Chime Bells **& Youth Chior**

Practice every Sunday
during Sunday School.

They play/sing the 3rd
Sunday of each month
during the 10:00am
worship service.

Youth Group

We are still working on
dates for Youth Group.

If there are any
volunteers that would
like to help please let
June know!

Dates to remember

October 4th - Crop Walk 2:45 Confederate Chapel

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 Robert Lee “Bobby” Gibler. Bobby passed away Sunday, August 9, 2026. He was the forever father-in-law of Tina Gibler and grandfather to Micah Gibler. His visitation and funeral were held at Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Monday, August 17, 2026.

ALSO

The family and friends of Roger Erdman. Roger passed away Friday, August 14. Roger’s funeral was held at Salem UCC, Monday, August 24, 2026

**Special Days in September**

- September 7-
Labor Day, Church Office Closed
- September 13-
Rally Day-YOM presentations at both worship services with a Pot-Luck Lunch after the 10:00 a.m. service.
Confirmation-Acolyte Practice
Homebound Communion
National Grandparents Day
- September 9-
Chancel Choir rehearsals resume
- September 11-
Patriot Day
- September 15 -
Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2026*
- September 20-
Youth Choir/Little Notes & Chime Bell rehearsals resume.
Dedication of Festival of Sharing gifts
- September 22-
First Day of Autumn

Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled “The Hug”: “The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them.”

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

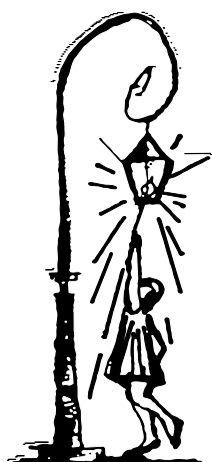
PERFECT ATTENDANCE BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

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

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