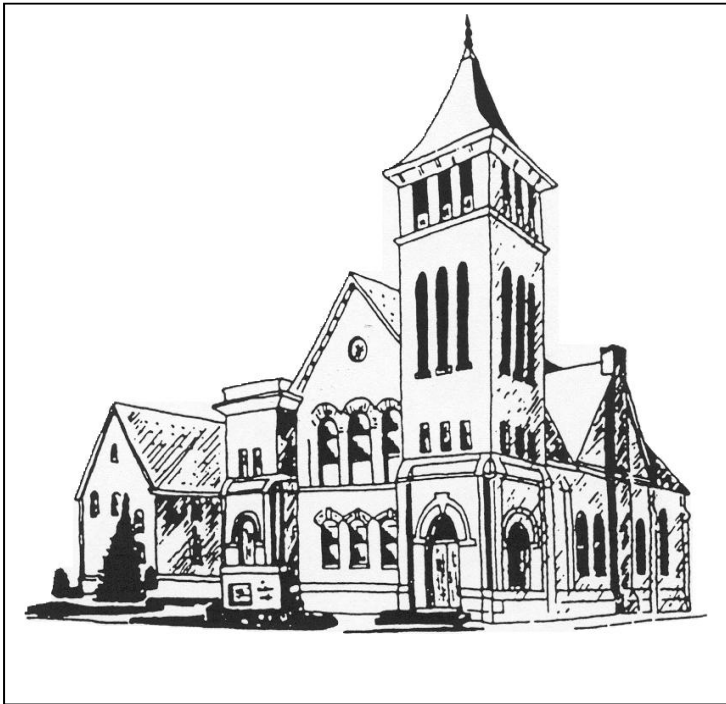


SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: saalemucchigginsville.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**

RALLY DAY

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. It is a genuine joy to welcome all who have come to praise our Lord. Let us begin this service as we should begin every day: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

MISSION MOMENT

Dennis Knipmeyer

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Baloche/ arr. Leonard

***CALL TO WORSHIP The Light Among Us**

Leader: The darkness does not overcome us. God's light breaks into our shadowed valleys and shines in our midst.

People: **We come seeking the guiding light of Christ.
Whoever we are, and wherever we are on life's
journey, God sees us in love.**

Leader: Open your hearts to joyful celebration. Walk in the light, and let your light shine before others.

All: **The light of Christ is alive in each of us. Come, let us
worship God together!**

*** HYMN**

“Send the Light”

No. 307

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Heavenly Father, even when darkness surrounds me, help me to follow Your light. Thank You for never leaving me and for guiding my steps. Lord Jesus, Light of the World, shine Your truth into every corner of my life. Illuminate the places where I need guidance, courage, and faith. May Your light flow through me to brighten the lives of others, bringing hope, love, and peace. Let my actions reflect Your glory and dispel darkness wherever I go. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE
WORD**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

HYMN

“Freely, Freely”

No. 447

(Please write your joys and concerns on the card and hand it to the usher during the hymn)

JOYS AND CONCERNS Preparation for prayer

PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

(“debts” and “debtors” words in hymn No. 426)

MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

No. 625

*Dedication Prayer

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle’s Creed

(Printed inside back cover of Hymnal)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Aaron Knipmeyer

Guitar & Vocal Solo

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 1:1-5 (N.T. p. 86)

Matthew 5:14-16 (N.T. p. 4)

SERMON

Youth on Mission Presentation

THE SENDING

* **HYMN** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” No. 381

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Shine, Jesus, Shine” Kendrick/ arr. Leonard

Offering plates are at the exits from the sanctuary.

The Worship Service is over and our Service begins.

**Indicates please stand if you are able to do so*

Leading Worship Today:

Youth on Mission

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

Youth on Mission – Acolytes

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Justin Salyer, had surgery Thursday, September 10 for blood clots. He has been hospitalized at Lee’s Summit Medical Center.

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, is at Meyer Care Center.

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...

Maddie Fiene, September 13
Jacob Vincent, September 14
Michael Shane Lettau, September 14
Tiger Fiene, September 15
Brandon Struchtemeyer, September 15
Traci Cameron, September 15
Andy Mockridge, September 17
Marilyn Davenport, September 17
Scott Homfeld, September 17
Tina Gibler, September 17
Layden Kirchhoff, September 18
Jessica Pressly, September 19
Desmond Williams, September 19

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

POTLUCK LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Please join us following the 10:00 a.m. Service for a Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the Service Committee for providing the fried chicken. Donations collected at the potluck will go to Youth On Mission and the Sunday School Department.

BEST CHOICE LABELS:

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

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

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

Hand Bell Choir Fall Schedules:

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

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.

LAMPLIGHTER: Articles for the October Lamplighter are due in the church office by Thursday, September 24. Thank you.

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!

PAPER COPIES OF THE LAMPLIGHTER AVAILABLE:

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

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.

LAFAYETTE AREA CROP HUNGER WALK:

The Lafayette Area CROP Hunger Walk will begin at 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 4, in the Confederate Park in Higginsville near the Chapel. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. Please read the full article in the September Lamplighter.

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

September 22 – First Day of Autumn

ATTENDANCE FOR September 6, 2026

No 8:00 a.m. worship service

10:00 a.m. worship service in-person attendance: 37

10:00 a.m. live-stream attendance on YouTube: 41

INCOME & EXPENSES FOR Sept. 4-Sept. 10, 2026

General Fund Income: \$2,367

General Fund Expense: \$2,287

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

September 13 thru September 20, 2026

- Sunday** - Rally Day
8:00 a.m. Early Worship (YOM)
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship (YOM) with Live-Stream
Worship on YouTube
Potluck Lunch Following Worship
Acolyte Practice Following Potluck
Homebound Communion
- Monday** - No Activities Scheduled
- Tuesday** - Food Pantry
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday** - 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday** - No Activities Scheduled
- Friday** - 7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday** - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday** - Festival of Sharing Offering Dedicated
Andy Mockridge, Pulpit Supply
8:00 a.m. Early Worship (Baptism)
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell
Rehearsal
9:10 a.m. Youth Choir
10:00 a.m. Worship and Live-Stream Worship on
YouTube

Jesus, the model of salt and light

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells his followers, “You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world.”

Through his example, our Savior showed us what that means.

“The remarkable thing is that Jesus brought it all into reality in his own person,” writes Bible scholar N.T. Wright in *Matthew for Everyone*. “He was the salt of the earth. He was the light of the world: set up on a hilltop, crucified for all the world to see, becoming a beacon of hope and new life for everybody, drawing people to worship his Father, embodying the way of self-giving love which is the deepest fulfillment of the law and the prophets.”



You're Invited to the Potluck Lunch

Today, September 13, 2026
following the 10:00 a.m. church service
in the Fellowship Hall

Donations collected at the potluck will go to Youth On Mission and the Sunday School