

The Lamplighter



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



Will be Sunday, October 4, 2026. Communion will be served at both the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services.



Pulpit supply schedule for October

October 4—Andy Mockridge

October 11—Andy Mockridge

October 18—Children's Sunday (No Pastor)

October 25—Evelyn Elmore

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

LAFAYETTE AREA CROP HUNGER WALK SUNDAY, October 4, 2026 AT THE CONFEDERATE PARK IN HIGGINSVILLE

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.. This CROP Hunger Walk helps stop hunger both locally and around the world as a part of the CHURCH WORLD SERVICE and is sponsored by the Lafayette County Cluster of UCC Churches. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. All individuals and churches are welcomed and encouraged to participate by joining this effort. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised can be designated for the local food pantry. If you aren't able to participate and a walker from Salem asks for your support, please give generously. Come and join us to raise awareness and help stop hunger in our world.



From the Church Records

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

General Fund Balance 8/01/26	\$142,628
Current deposits	\$ 14,589
Current expenses	\$ 13,116
Current Fund Balance 8/31/26	\$144,101

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 8/01/26	\$ 3,906
Current deposits	\$ 7,096
Current expenses	\$ 225
Current Fund Balance 8/31/26	\$10,777

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Aug.) \$140

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 October 6, 7:00 p.m. at Salem in the Board Room. Keri Borchers will be the hostess and Joyce Gross will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come.

Views Live Stream	August Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
27	8-2-26	0	60
40	8-9-26	10	52
Technical Difficulty	8-16-26	8	52
Technical Difficulty	8-23-26	8	60
28	8-30-26	8	47
31	Average Total Average 93	8	54

thank
you

THANK YOU:

The family of Roger Erdman would like to thank all who attended his funeral and made memorial contributions in his memory. Special thanks to ladies who served lunch that day and to Pastor Betty Thaller who presided at the funeral.



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 October!

Tori Kopp	1	Athena Akin	8	Jaxon Barnes	19
Sadie Kumm	2	Dennis Stewart	9	Fred Jungerman III	20
Johnny Marth	3	Laith Kirchhoff	9	Joe Rolf	20
Sarah Short	3	Crystal Schloman	10	Greg Soendker	20
Nathan Rinne	4	Hanni Herriott	10	Kenneth Buchanan	21
Skyler Robinson	6	Logan Bellenger	11	Joe Steinkuhler	22
Bob Jarman	6	Gail Kirchhoff	11	Chase Berry	24
Alice Davis	6	Joey Hoflander	11	Robbie Alberswerth	25
Mary Dickmeier	6	Briana Conner	12	Susan Shier	27
Carla Starke	6	Cole Harris	13	Jonathan Hoflander	27
Tish Stoner	6	Owen Wood	13	Matthew Leonard	27
Paul Howell	6	Wyatt Wilkinson	14	David Starke	28
Trace Alberswerth	7	Billy Mackie	16	Quinn Jensen	28
Ada Kay Stoner	7	David Rogers	17	Chris Homfeld	29
Abby Cramer	8	Caleb Romans	18	Ava Jo Brown	29
Autumn White	8				

WAVE OF LIGHT REMEMBRANCE WALK

HOSTED BY:



**OCTOBER 15TH
HIGGINSVILLE FAIRGROUND PARK**

Hope in the Healing

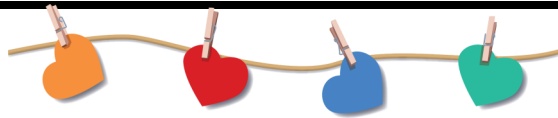
**WE HONOR AND REMEMBER THE PRECIOUS BABIES
LOST THROUGH PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS**

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

FOR FULL DETAILS VISIT:

WWW.HOPEINTHEHEALING.ORG





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

Tillie Erdman, Betty Rinne, Kenneth Rinne, Maxine Schloman, Rosa Lee Starke, 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:

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.



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.

A Peas-ful Departure

A funeral director once shared a lighthearted epitaph he found on an old tombstone. It read:
Here lies the body of Solomon Peas,
Under the sod and under the trees.
Peas is not here, 'tis only the pod;
Peas has shelled out and gone to God.

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

August 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, in the Board Room. Members present were Peter Thaller, Carleen Buchanan, Janice Johnson, Stanton Thompson, Bill Oelrichs, and Courtney Bergsieker. President Stanton Thompson called the regular meeting to order, and led 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 July 31, 2026 were \$142,628 in the General Fund and \$3,906 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 101 during July; this includes 7 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 59 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 35 live-stream views.

Correspondence: Conference is asking for OCWM funds with discussion of a 5% increase to total \$3,848

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed/Delbert: No report

Building & Grounds/Pete: The Parsonage will be assessed for needed projects

Cemetery Committee/Bill: No report

Memorial/Courtney: No report

Stewardship/Janice: No report

Evangelism/Carleen: No report

Worship/Janice: No report

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

Financial Stability Committee/Janice Johnson, Delbert Goetz, Stanton

Thompson: No report

Search Committee/Corey: The search committee continues to meet and interview candidates as they come available.

Unfinished Business:

The East door project is moving forward with sweeps for doors costing \$150 a set and Judi moving forward with getting paint for the doors.

The formal rental policy has been finalized with Corey typing it up.

New Business:

Plans for moving the blue spruce at the parsonage with a plan to offer it to the city.

Further plans for repairs with Pete planning to clean the gutters at the parsonage.

Through generous donations from both AA and Jeanne Fleischmann \$1294 was collected with a plan to replace all 16 chairs in the board room voted at this time requiring an addition \$700.

Property insurance and workman's Comp insurance policy was discussed with less costly premiums this year.

Other Stuff:

Sarah will be on vacation September 14-21, 2026 with her finding subs.

Next Council meeting: September 15, 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

CHAIR-ITY STARTS AT CHURCH!

The church has twelve used office chairs available for \$10 each. First come, first choice! As simple as this...they are in the room next to June's office. Pick out your favorite and provide Sarah with cash or check and take it to your home or office. All proceeds will go into the Building and Grounds fund for use in future projects. Thanks!

You're made for faith

Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there."

Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."



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!**

For only \$15.00

FROM 11AM TO 1PM OR WHEN ALL IS GONE
SEE YA!

Hand Bell Choir Fall

Schedule

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

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. Dale Felder (Ministerial Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of October. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.

—A.B. Simpson



Salem UCC Hayride and Wiener Roast



TIME FOR A HAYRIDE!

Will be Sunday, October 18. We will eat at 6:00 p.m., with Hayride to follow. The festivities will be held at the Oelrichs's home: 12138 Salem Cemetery Road. Please bring a covered dish and lawn chairs. Hot dogs, buns, drinks and table service will be provided.

Salem's Youth Corner



Confirmation

We will meet October 4th for
Crop Walk at Confederate
Park Chapel at 2:45pm
October 18th after church at
11:00am

Sunday School
8:45-9:45

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 12th - Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 13th - Children's Christmas Program



We Are All Children
of God!

Come be a kid!

We will have fun activities planned for the service to bring the kid out in everyone!

Noisy Offering & Household Items

We will be collecting Noisy Offering and Household Items for Baby Grace's "Harvest Blessings"

Harvest Blessings helps service families registered with Baby Grace in Lafayette County.

Items needed

Any household necessity. Here are some examples -

*Ziplock baggies*Trash bags*Hygiene products*Pads*Tampons*Laundry detergent*Fabric softener*Paper plates*Lotions and body wash*Toilet paper*Paper towels*Razors *Deodorant*Bath towels*Dryer sheets*Dish soap *Sponges*Tin foil*Tupperware

While We Wait, Let's Prepare

During the past several months, you may have read about ongoing projects around the church: cleaning, painting, purging, etc. If you haven't made it to the downstairs Board Room, please take a few minutes to check it out. Thanks to many hands and generous individual and group donations, it again is a beautiful, functional room for all who use it. Also, June's office has been painted and 'prettied up,' and a cluttered room has been converted to a record storage room for the office and all the groups of the church. So why have we done this?

For all of us, this interim time without a pastor has been hard. We are so fortunate to have individuals who have stepped in to fill many of our needs, but in many ways, it is as if we are in our own personal season of Advent, a season of waiting and preparation. As much as we would like to move through this quickly, the waiting is something over which we have only measured control. The preparation, however, is something we can actively address.

During the liturgical season of Advent, in our homes, we prepare for Christmas by cleaning, baking, decorating, just generally 'sprucing things up,' so for Salem, we have been working to do the same. We all know this is a beautiful facility, but we believe it needs some TLC as we prepare for the next chapter of our history. The Building and Grounds Committee invites each of you to join us as we make that happen.

Things for which we currently need help...

- We need individuals who have lawn care expertise and energy to work on the lawns in front of the church and the parsonage. It would be great if we could identify a couple of individuals who would guide this effort. We simply don't have the 'know how.'

The shrubs at both places also need to be trimmed, and brush needs to be cleared out and hauled off. The fence on the south side of the parsonage has lots of poison ivy that needs to be sprayed and cleared.

- There are several small handyman repairs at the parsonage which need to be addressed including:
 - o Garage door threshold and roof
 - o Front porch light needs wiring and a new fixture
 - o The front door lock is not working properly
 - o The connector waterline to the refrigerator needs to be replaced
 - o The dishwasher is loose from the counter

Laundry room faucet is leaking

A huge thank you to the Vandivers who did COUNTLESS minor repairs while they lived in the parsonage and who provided this list for us.

- If you would be willing to assist with any of these tasks, please contact Judi Knipmeyer at 660-641-5834 or Pete Thaller at 660-553-8554.

Finally, it is important to note that all the projects that have been done to date, including office equipment, paint, lighting fixtures, decorations, etc. has only used \$1000 from our Building and Grounds budget, thanks to many people's donations of time and talents. Current and upcoming projects will have additional associated costs - grass seed, fertilizer, hardware, etc. so we would appreciate your financial support as well. Simply indicate 'Building and Grounds' on your check.

While we wait, let's prepare! More things are coming in future months, so please join us in our efforts!



This year, congregations across the United Church of Christ will come together to collect the Neighbors in Need offering.

Neighbors in Need enables ministries of justice and compassion, with two-thirds of the offering supporting the justice and witness ministries of the UCC and one-third supporting the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). This offering also seeds Neighbors in Need grants, which fund direct service projects, community organizing, and advocacy campaigns.

The Neighbors in Need offering will be received at Salem on Sunday, October 25. You may place your offering in the offering plate, bring it to the church office or give online. Please make checks payable to Salem UCC with NIN in memo line.

**EQUIPPING
ADVOCACY
AND JUSTICE
MINISTRIES.**



Special Days in October

- October 4:
World Communion Sunday
Crop Walk
- October 18:
10:00 a.m. Service Youth Sunday
No 8:00 a.m. service
6:00 p.m. Church Weiner Roast and Hayride at the Oelrichs Farm
- October 25:
NIN Offering dedicated

Taking awe breaks

Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God.

What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.

—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

Luther and the Bible

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

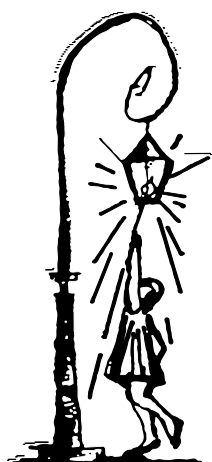
Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville MO 64037

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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

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