The Lamplighter

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

THE SECOND GENERATION GREAT SALEM FOOD FIGHT…MEN VS. WOMEN!

Last year, we took the first Salem Food Fight Challenge, and **together we collected over $5000 worth of groceries for our food pantry**! That's right - over **FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS** in food! We proved that when God's people come together, we can do some pretty amazing things!

SO, we are back for **ROUND TWO of our food fight**, and this year, we're changing things up. We're splitting the church down the middle again, but this year **IT'S THE MEN AGAINST THE WOMEN!**

Ladies, we know you're organized, determined, and likely have shopped for groceries more than a few times. Gentlemen, we know you're strong, competitive, and capable of carrying two cases of green beans at once. This year, however, we are going to find out who has the **POWER OF THE PANTRY**!

The battle will begin on Sunday, November 1 and run through the entire month. Women, please place your food on the south side of the altar; men on the north. Like last year, we will grow those towers of tuna, mountains of mac and cheese, and piles of peaches!

Will it be the men who win? The women? Either way, we're all on the same team when it comes to serving our community. **LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE…FOR GROCERIES**!

Church Council

NEEDED items for food pantry: Canned meats, large cans of spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned fruit, applesauce, corn, green beans, macaroni and cheese, chicken / beef vegetable soup. Cash donations are always helpful.

NOT needed / helpful: Peanut butter (workers have to open every donated jar to see if it's been used), paper goods, beans (dry or canned), Ramen noodles

Pulpit supply schedule for November

November 1—Dennis Knipmeyer

November 8—Andy Mockridge

November 15— Evelyn Elmore

November 22—Pastoral Candidate

November 29—Andy Mockridge

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

THANK YOU!

To the Oelrichs family for hosting the annual Salem Hayride and Weiner Roast at your farm. Your hospitality is truly appreciated!



From the Church Records

Financial Report: September 2026

General Fund: Wood & Huston Bank

General Fund Balance 9/01/26	$144,101
Current deposits	$ 17,411
Current expenses	$ 15,196
Current Fund Balance 9/30/26	$146,316

Building Fund: Central Bank

Current Fund Balance 9/01/26	$10,778
Current deposits	$ 975
Current expenses	$ 7,776
Current Fund Balance 9/30/26	$ 3,977

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Sept.) $90

Views Live Stream	September Attendance	8:00 a.m. In-Person	10:00 a.m. In-Person
41	9-6-26	0	37
44	9-13-26	18	75
36	9-20-26	24	56
20	9-27-26	12	64
35	Average Total Average 111	18	58



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.

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 November 3, 7:00 p.m. at Salem in the Board Room. Sharon Hoefer will be the hostess and B.J. Salyer will have the program. All women of the church are welcome to come.

Mary Dickmeier, chairman

Youth on Mission 2027- travel to Nashville with us!

Youth on Mission will be traveling to a Week of Hope camp with Group Mission Trips in Nashville, TN July 24-30, 2027. Any youth currently in 6th grade or older can travel with us. If you missed our info meeting and are interested, reach out to Vicki and Aaron at avknipmeyer@gmail.com or grab information from the table under the Sunday school bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Forms are due by November 15 if you want to be registered in our initial group. We can add campers later in the year as long as the camp has space, but getting it to us by 11/15 will guarantee your spot. We would love for you to travel with us and grow in your faith through serving others!



Best Birthday Wishes in November go to...

Tricia Dierking	2	Mark Emison	9	Lachlan Conner	17
Mary Ann Fisher	3	Paula Kopp	11	Rosa Lee Starke	19
Dawson Goetz	3	Lincoln Dobson	13	Justin Salyer	22
Charlie Thaller	4	Wes Homfeld	13	Sharon Knehans	23
Roger Homfeld	6	Doug Short	14	Michelle Alumbaugh	23
Megan Leonard	6	Nicholas Catron	14	Sandy Riekhof	24
Harvey Erdman	7	Don Nieman	15	Mary Ann Vorwark	25
Karla Morris	7	Nicole Vowels	15	Loren Dickmeier	25
Anna Sue Howell	7	Stanton Thompson	16	Cherri Wilson	27
Bob Schroer	7	Nick Camp	16	Lynna Good	29
Arlene Long	8	Kirstie Fiene	17	Rylee Ganon	29
Weston Ventura	9	Allison Starke	17		

THANK YOU!

The board of Elders sponsors several opportunities for the Salem Family to support throughout the year. Recently we asked you to support the water mission project. We are pleased to report that this year Salem **(YOU)** donated $1.675.00 to Global Ministries. The following is the first paragraph from Global Ministries' acknowledgement of our gift.

"On behalf of Global Ministries, thank you for your recent gift of $1,675. As indicated, your gift will be used in its entirety for the Women's to Women's Water Project in Kenya. Gifts like yours help manifest the bold vision that all God's people and creation share in God's abundant life. Global Ministries partners with more than **250 international organizations in over 90 countries** to strengthen and empower communities around the world."

We want to thank Salem for your continued support of our projects.

The Board of Elders

ADVENT CHORALE:

The 41st annual Advent Chorale will be held at Salem United Church of Christ on December 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. The director will be Jamie Smith. The first three rehearsals will be November 8, 15, and 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The fourth rehearsal will be December 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. All who enjoy singing and fellowship are invited to participate!



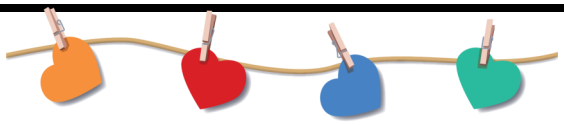
ANGEL TREE HELP NEEDED:

We will soon be receiving requests from the school for Angel Tree gifts this year. If you would like to help with putting up the tree, filling our Angel Tree tags, extra shopping, wrapping and organization of gifts for delivery to the school, please let me know by calling or texting (Sharon -660-537-5934.) This will be done November-early December. Thank you.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

Church Women of Higginsville/Corder will meet at Grace United Methodist Church November 6, 2026. Hospitality and refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY



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

Tillie Erdman, Betty Rinne, Kenneth Rinne, 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: salemucchigginsville.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, 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

THE LAMPLIGHTER:

Paper copies are available at the church office or in the back of the sanctuary.

2027 ENVELOPES:

Will be available in the back of the sanctuary November 1-22, and then they will move into the Fellowship Hall until the end of the year.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church Telephone: 660-584-3603
Church Email: salemucc@ctcis.net
Church Website: salemucchigginsville.org
Salem's YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@salemucc64037

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 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 (motion by Bill, Pete second). The financial report was presented, discussed, and approved (Delbert moved, Pete Second). The balances as of August 31, 2026 were $144,101 in the General Fund and $10,777 in the Building & Grounds Fund. The total average attendance was 93 during August; this includes 8 in-person (8 a.m. Service), 54 in-person (10 a.m. Service), and 31 live-stream views.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

· **Christian Ed/Delbert:** Christmas program preparations are underway, 10/18 is Children's Sunday with offering going to Baby Grace

· **Building & Grounds/Pete:** Pete has been addressing the gutters and outdoor electrical covers

· **Cemetery Committee/Bill:** No report

· **Memorial/Courtney:** Noted need to replace sound mixer

· **Stewardship/Janice:** No report

· **Evangelism/Carleen:** Committee will be doing the Turkey collection at Moose's on Nov. 7TH

·**Worship/Janice:** No report

· **Ushers/Pete and 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 will be done in Late September/October. plans were made to do sweeps for $165 per door with Delbert moving and Bill second. Doors will be painted after sweeps. Plan to ask the Congregation for help with a cleanup day with Judi Organizing.

The Rental Policy still needs to be completed by Corey for Sarah to have.

New Business:

· Parsonage- The City does not want the Blue spruce in front; a motion was made to remove the blue spruce from the parsonage Delbert moved and Pete Second passed.

· Board room Thermostat move was tabled with plans to discuss next meeting

· The Council Meeting time will be changing to 6:00 PM in November and will run through February with everyone agreeing.

· June is looking to purchase 4 new acolyte robes with a $500 budget with the council passing.

· Pulpit supply has been arranged through December

· Steve's pest control is scheduled .

· Snow removal was discussed with plans to hire out removal of snow with plan for Lowell to keep clean there after motion made by Courtney Delbert second, passed.

Other Stuff:

· Sarah will be on vacation September 14-21, 2026 June and Rhonda will be subs. Rev. Phil Hobson, Interim Conference Minister will be visiting February 28, 2027 with plans for a pot lunch and Q and A to follow.

· Next Council meeting: October 20, 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



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family and friends of Ruth Willimann. Ruth passed away Monday, September 28, 2026. A private celebration of life and remembrances is planned for 2027.

ALSO

The family and friends of Jackie Meinershagen. Jackie passed away Friday, October 16, 2026.

ALSO

The family and friends of Earl Elmore. Earl passed away Friday, October 16, 2026. His funeral was held at Salem Saturday, October 24, 2026.

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Will be held Sunday, December 6, 2026 in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The church council will be presenting the 2027 budget.

Thank you,

The Salem Church Council





ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

Will be available in the back of the sanctuary and outside the church office beginning Sunday, November 1.

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. Glenn Elmore (New Beginnings Fellowship) will lead Bible Study during the month of November. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

Stewardship "Time & Talent" sheets will be emailed and available in the back of the sanctuary and by the church office beginning November 23, 2026. Please fill them out and bring them back to church by Sunday, December 20.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Committee.

Don't Let It Get Under Your Skin

Holidays are meant to bring joy, yet they can easily become stressful. A careless comment, an unmet expectation or a simple misunderstanding may lead to hurt feelings and family tension. Before long, a small disagreement can grow into an argument that overshadows the celebration.

In moments like these, remember the wise teacher who chose to let slights and insults pass. He explained, "I have only one skin, and it covers me very well. I don't let anyone else get under it."

This holiday season, choose patience, extend grace and protect the peace around your table.





Daylight Saving Time Ends,
Sunday, November 1.



God is as much the Creator today as 15 billion years ago. God is the God of all times and places.
—John Polkinghorne

FESTIVAL OF SHARING UPDATE

Thank you to Salem Church members that donated to Festival of Sharing 2026. Through your generosity, Salem Church was able to send a check for $845 for donations from Mother's Day and Father's Day donations, designated for Church World Service blankets/tools program, also a check was sent for $429 "MO Family Food Box," and $429 "MO Product Pack" and 1,468 best choice labels which had a non cash value of $44.04. Salem's total donation to Festival of Sharing 2026, cash gifts and non cash gifts is $1,747.04

Festival of Sharing

Helping our Neighbors!



FUNDRAISER FOR
FOOD PANTRY & SENIOR CENTER
to continue to fight hunger
& keep bowls filled in our community!

@Senior Center on Walnut
November 7, 2026
4-6pm
Dessert Auction begins at 4:30pm
Tickets: $20 for a handmade bowl
$12 for soup, stew, chili

CareConnection for Aging Services

Salem's Youth Corner

Sunday School
8:45-9:45

Little Notes, Chime Bells & Youth Choir

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

Confirmation

November 1st and 15 after church at 11:00am in the Board Room.

Youth Group

Pre K - 5th grade
November 20th 6pm-8pm
December 18th 6pm-8pm

S.T.U
(Middle & High School)
November 22nd 6pm-8pm
Food Scavenger Hunt!

Its that time for Christmas Program!

We will be picking parts and practicing parts **every Sunday in November** during the Sunday School hour! **8:45 - 9:45**



The Light Before Christmas!

Dates to remember

November Sundays - Christmas Program Practice
December 12th - Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 13th - Children's Christmas Program

- **Special Days in November**
- November 1
  Harvest Ingathering
  Daylight Saving Time ends
- November 7
  Evangelism Committee collecting money for turkeys at Moose's
- November 8:
  Veteran Recognition
  Advent Chorale Practice
- November 11:
  Veteran's Day
- November 15:
  Thank Offering Dedicated
  Advent Chorale Practice
- November 22:
  Pastoral Candidate Trial Sermon at 10:00 a.m. service
  Memorial Sunday
  Advent Chorale Practice
  6:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service at Presbyterian Church
- November 23
  December Lamplighter Articles Due
- November 26:
  Thanksgiving Day/Church Office closed
- November 27:
  Church Office closed for Holiday
- November 30:
  First Sunday of Advent

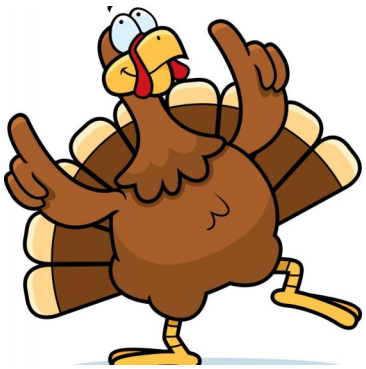








TURKEYS FOR HIGGINSVILLE/CORDER FOOD PANTRY: The Evangelism Committee is having their Annual Turkeys for Higginsville/Corder Food Pantry project to purchase turkeys for the Food Pantry. This is to benefit families in need in the Lafayette County C-1 School District. The committee is accepting monetary donations on:



November 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Moose's Market. There will also be a turkey box in the church's sanctuary October 31 thru November 22, to take monetary donations. You may also give a monetary donation by bringing it to the church office. Please have donations to the church by November 13, checks may be made out to Salem UCC and in the memo line please write "Turkeys."



Thank Offering

Thank Offering will be dedicated on Sunday, November 15. The collection will be divided evenly between the Higginsville Heat and Hunger Fund and the Food Pantry.

Contributions may be made with cash, a check made to Salem UCC with the notation "Thank Offering", or online. You may put your contribution in the collection plate, mail them, or drop them by the Church office.

This annual collection benefits area families through the Heat and Hunger Fund and Food Pantry. Both chosen recipients are managed by volunteers providing their talent to sustain the charity.

When deciding whether to contribute, please consider the positive impact you will have on your local community with your donation.

Honoring Faithful Service

Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.

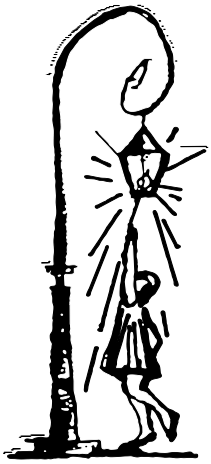


Salem United Church of Christ
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Higginsville MO 64037

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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