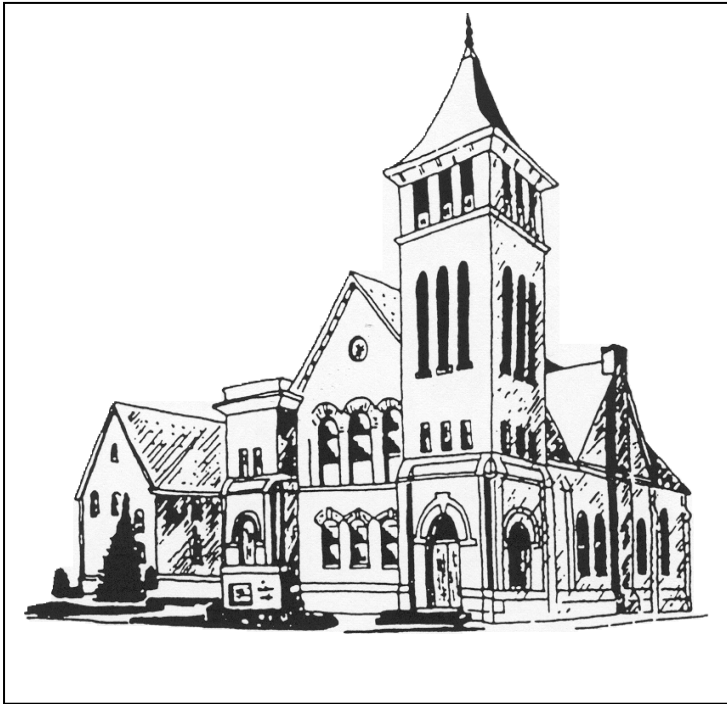


SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: www.ctcis.net/~salemucc/



**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**

June 12, 2016

10:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. Welcome to worship and Christian fellowship. Please greet one another with words of peace.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Organ Prelude "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" arr. Lowe

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down in awe of God's steadfast love for us.

People: For God gives ear to our words; God listens to the sound of our cries.

Leader: Come, let us take refuge in the God of our salvation.

People: For God is our shield, our protection in times of trouble.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice and sing for joy!

People: For God is surely in this place! Let us worship God!

* **HYMN** "God of Grace and God of Glory" No. 292

* INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving God, we come to you eager to experience the tender warmth of your embrace. Help us to set aside any distractions that would keep us from resting in your presence. Open our ears to hear what you have to say to us. Open our eyes to see how you are at work among us. Open our hearts to feel your

inspiration and guidance. Give us the courage to follow you wherever you may lead us. We offer this prayer in the name of our guide and friend, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE
WORD**

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

No. 381

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS Preparation for prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

MORNING OFFERING

Offertory “He Leadeth Me”

arr. Spong

*Doxology

No. 625

*Dedication Prayer

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle’s Creed

(Printed inside back cover of Hymnal)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 2: 15-21 (N.T. p. 177)

SERMON

“Spiritual, but Not Religious”

Tommy

THE SENDING

***HYMN**

“I Am His, and He Is Mine”

No. 490

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** “Prelude and Fugue in A Minor”

J. S. Bach

The Worship Service is over and our Service begins.
**Indicates please stand if you are able to do so*
Please join us for Fellowship time on the front lawn.

Leading Worship Today:
Rev. Dr. Tommy L. Faris – Pastor
Stanton Thompson – Liturgist
June Thaller – Christian Education Coordinator
Doris Jane Stoner – Organist

GREETING YOU TODAY ARE:

North Door: Rita Wallpe
South Door: Delbert and Amy Goetz

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Brooke Cramer, recovering at home following out-patient surgery.
Grace Schemmer, recovering at Meyer Care Center.
Myrna Fette, Golden Living Center, Odessa.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO:

To the family and friends of Sara (Tuttle) Inman. Sara was a member of Grace United Methodist Church; she touched the lives and hearts of many Salem members. Her visitation will be held this evening from 4-6:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church and her funeral will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Are placed in celebration of Shawn and Julie Davenport's 10th Year Wedding Anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS! Kamryn Esther Royal Cowherd was born on Thursday, June 9, 2016; she weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. She is the daughter of Robert and Sara Cowherd, her big brothers are Jaxson and Kolten. Her grandparents are Chris and Pam Homfeld, and Delmar and Patty Cowherd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VESPERS AT MEYER CARE CENTER: Tommy will be leading Vespers at Meyer Care Center this afternoon at 3:45 p.m. Our Salem members at Meyer really enjoy the fellowship you bring when you join them in this service. Please consider sharing your time.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Please join us if you are under the age of 10. We will meet in the sanctuary overflow, after the children's message.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Memorial Committee is asking for volunteers to water the flower pots at the front doors of the church. If you are interested please call Mary Homfeld, 584-3060.

7th ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY TOOL SPECIAL

Your donation in the name of a male influence in your life will help supply tools to rebuild after a disaster. What a great way to remember someone on Father's Day. An article and envelope are in the June Lamplighter. (Extra cards are available in the back of the sanctuary and outside the church office.)

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC: It is time again for **Summer Special Music!** If you play an instrument or enjoy singing and would like to share your musical talent during the summer worship service, please call the Church Office and leave your name and phone number. Jamie Smith will then contact you to schedule a Sunday for you to share your music. You may also contact Jamie directly at 660-259-4470 or 660-232-4470 to schedule a time to share. Thank you for considering sharing your talent!

LAMPLIGHTER: Articles for the July Lamplighter are due in the church office by Tuesday, June 21. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

BLOOD MOBILE (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE): Will be held at Salem tomorrow from 1:30-7:00 p.m. Originally Grace United Methodist was hosting the Blood Mobile but the Methodist Church will have the funeral for Sara Tuttle Inman tomorrow. When Salem was asked if we could help out by hosting the Blood Mobile, we said "most definitely."

JOHN KNOX VILLAGE 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. Marcus Jauss (Lutheran) will be leading Bible Study June 15 and 22, Matt Limback (Central Christian) June 29, July 6 and 13, Terry Cook (Methodist) July 20 and 27. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room at Meyer Care Center.

15TH ANNUAL CANNON BALL 5K RUN/WALK:

Will be held in Lexington, Saturday, June 18. This will benefit Lafayette County Habitat for Humanity. For information: lafcofh@yahoo.com, Don @ 660-584-3842, Juanita @ 816-633-8818, Shirley @ 816-529-2847.

82ND MEINERSHAGEN FAMILY REUNION: The Reunion will be held on the last Sunday of June, June 26, 2016. Enjoy a basket lunch beginning at 12:30 p.m. followed by a program and fellowship in the Salem Dining Room.

UP COMING DATES:

June 14 – Flag Day

June 19 – Father’s Day

June 20 – Summer Begins

June 26 – Youth on Mission Commissioning Service (10:00 a.m.)

July 1-10 – Youth on Mission Work Camp in Scranton, PA

July 4 – Independence Day (church office closed)

NOTE: The nursery room is open and available for parents who would like to take their child there and stay with them.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE: Transportation is available to any worship service. Please call the church office (584-3603) to make arrangements.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

June 12, thru June 19, 2016

- Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Early Worship
10:00 a.m. Worship with Sunday School
3:45 p.m. Tommy Leading Vespers at Meyer
Care Center
- Monday - 1:30-7:00 p.m. Blood Mobile
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous
- Tuesday - Food Pantry
Afternoon Quilting
6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School Planning
Meeting
- Wednesday - 10:30 a.m. Lafayette Area Pastors Meeting
1-5:00 p.m. House of Hope Classes
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous
- Thursday - W.I.C. All Day
Afternoon Quilting
3:00 p.m. W.I.C. Nursing Mother's Support
Group
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (Women's
Group)
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- Friday - No Activities Scheduled
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
Noon-8:00 p.m. Green Family Dinner (In case
of rain)
- Sunday- Father's Day
8:30 a.m. Early Worship
10:00 a.m. Worship with Sunday School

Choose Justice

What a terrible tale the Bible tells in the scripture I Kings 21:1-10 (11-14) 15-21a. It has a weak King (Ahab), who wants what isn't his, and an evil Queen (Jezebel) who murders a man to satisfy Ahab's greed. Elijah, that great troubler of Ahab and prophet of Israel, calls Ahab out, and accuses him of evil. Elijah, Ahab and Jezebel could be characters on a fantasy TV show about ancient Kings, evil Queens and scraggly prophets. In this episode we'd see a tale of a prophet speaking a word of justice to the unjust.

We know how the prophets of Israel behaved. They marched right up to the rulers, knocked on the castle door and spoke their truth. Our denomination believes that God has called us to be a prophetic church. That means we believe in knocking on the doors of power and speaking a word of truth in order to liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

When the actions of the powerful hurt our communities and use resources in ways that put lives in peril and causes permanent damage to children, then the voice of a prophet is urgently needed. Such was the need in Flint, Michigan, in the ongoing water crisis there. And such was the response by Woodside Church, a shared ministry of the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Churches. Under the leadership of Rev. Deborah Conrad, Woodside has been partnering with other UCC congregations, the UCC Michigan Conference, and the Disciples of Christ to find ways to distribute water, offer filters and find solutions to the vast amount of plastic from water bottles the residents now have to discard.

But the current danger and devastation that has visited one of our great cities is not simply another place for charity. It is a key episode in this storied work we share for justice. Like Elijah and all the prophets, let's knock on the doors of the powerful and claim God's word as a word of hope for all people.

This crisis in our heartland exposed more than decrepit lead-filled pipes. It also exposed the devastating truth that in our country today, a poor and predominately African-American community can be disenfranchised by its own government. The suffering of Flint is more than a water issue, and the United Church of Christ is there knocking on the palace doors.