

The Lamplighter



June 2016 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, I attended the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta during one week in May. Homiletics is the technical/academic term to refer to preaching. Think of the word “homily,” which is simply another word for a religious discourse, or a sermon. I do not know, maybe the organizers of the Festival thought that “Festival of Preaching” was too prosaic a title. Whatever...

Anyway, one of the speakers at the most recent Festival of Homiletics that I attended was Dr. Anna Carter Florence, who is a professor of preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Dr. Florence has preached at each of the four Festivals I have attended, and is one of the most engaging preachers I have ever heard. I always find myself completely caught up in what she is saying. I can even remember the first sermon I heard her preach, which was at the Festival of Homiletics in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2013. In that sermon, Dr. Florence told a story about four girls in a town in Georgia that had had private, separate proms for black and white students for forty years, since desegregation began. These four young women, two black, two white, wanted to desegregate the proms, despite tremendous opposition from white parents. The four young women organized their own prom, to which they invited everyone.

Dr. Florence then brought up a biblical story that I would be willing to wager that almost none of us have read. The story, which we can read in Numbers 27.1-11, involves the five daughters of Zelophehad. During the Exodus, their father died. The daughters asserted to Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation in front of the tent of meeting, that Zelophehad had not been among those who had opposed God, but had died for his own sins and had no sons. The law at the time stated that Zelophehad’s inheritance should pass to his male relatives, but the daughters of Zelophehad argued that the law was not fair or right, that their father’s name should not pass away, and that they should receive his inheritance. Moses took their petition to God and God said that they were right, that they did indeed deserve their father’s inheritance. Not only that, but God changed the law so that all daughters could inherit when there were no sons.

The story of the daughters of Zelophehad is remarkable in so many ways, and I think it is inexcusable that we have allowed it to go so unnoticed. The text even gives us their names, which is more remarkable: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Still more remarkable is that the Bible authors and compilers give their names three other times: Numbers 26.33, Numbers 36.11, and Joshua 17.3. And a fourth time, in I Chronicles 7.15, the author refers to them collectively rather than individually. They were incredibly important in the history of Israel. God created new laws for them that changed life for many other women to follow. We were not to forget them or their names, but, sadly, we have.

The juxtaposition of these two stories, one from the ancient Exodus from Egypt and one from modern Georgia, was something that I doubt many of the preachers who heard the sermon had ever considered before, but that is the power of preaching. I still remember that sermon from three years ago. And most days I have trouble remembering at lunchtime what I had for breakfast. That sermon and the power of preaching are two of the main reasons I go to the Festival of Homiletics each year. I go to receive inspiration, refreshment, and challenge. I go to hear gifted preachers talk about the art and craft of preaching. I go to hear thoughtful sermons. Someone at this year’s Festival referred to the gathering as the “Woodstock of preaching.” That might be a bit hyperbolic, but not by much.

I am grateful to Salem Church for providing continuing education support to allow me to attend the Festival of Homiletics. Thank you all.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 GRADUATES!

Graduates from Lafayette Co. C-1 High School:

Graduation day May 15, 2016

Caitlin Marie Engle, daughter of Candy Engle, and granddaughter of Wayne and Eve Whitaker.

Joshua Gilkey, son of Eric Gilkey and great-grandson of Pat Pence.

Joshua Gilkey, is also the grandson of Venita Gilkey and great-grandson of Viola Meinershagen.

Graduate from Auburn, AL High School:

Kayla Augustine, daughter of Derek and Susan Augustine and granddaughter of Ray Don and Shirley Paul.

Graduate from Saint Steven Academy High School, Maryland Heights MO:

Jacob Steven Goring, son of Russell and Tracy (Erdman) Goring, and grandson of Harvey and Elva Dean Erdman.

Graduate from Mountain Grove, MO High School:

Tyler Allen Rensch, great-grandson of Clifford and Dorothy Peck.

Graduates from College:

Casey Marie Warren, granddaughter of Paul and Pat Warren. Casey graduated from the University of Central Missouri on Friday, May 6, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education.

Chase Dillon Berry, son of Kevin and Angie Berry and grandson of Ed and Alice Davis, Henry and Betty Berry, James Hursman and Mary Lindauer. Chase graduated from the University of Missouri on Saturday, May 14, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accountancy.

Women's Fellowship Circle

Schedules for June

Esther Circle – June 1, 10:00 a.m., Mary Kirchhoff's apartment, hostess Mary Kirchhoff, program Ginny Bertz.

Mary Martha Circle – June 2, 1:30 p.m., Magnolia Manor, hostess Shirley Wahn.

Ruth Circle – June 1, 2:00 p.m., at Pat Haston's apartment, hostess Fay Tilly, program Arlene Long.

Eve Circle – June 7, 6:00 p.m., at Mary Homfeld's home, hostess & program Mary Homfeld, bring a sack lunch.

Special Days in June

- June 4
YOM Garage Sale
- June 5
Summer Worship Schedule Begins
- June 8
Please remove Memorial Day Flowers from Salem Cemetery
- June 9-11
Conference Annual Gathering in Columbia MO
- June 12
Tommy leading vespers at Meyer Care Center
- June 14
Flag Day
- June 19
Father's Day
- June 20
Summer Begins
- June 26
YOM Commissioning during 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Logan Wayne Warren, baptized on Sunday, April 17, 2016. This was also Logan's confirmation day.

Logan's parents are Kyle and Jill Warren, his sister is Bailey. Logan's grandparents are Paul and Pat Warren, Ron and Marty Wood, Mike Wilson and Joyce Farrell, and great-grandfather is Joe Wood.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2015-2016

1 year Charlie Thaller
4 years Dixie Thaller
10 years Charles Grumke
10 years Lydia Grumke
12 years Dawson Goetz
13 years Paige Goetz

These six individuals were recognized Sunday, May 22, for their Sunday School perfect attendance.

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.



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family of Homer Knehans. Homer passed away on Monday, May 16. His visitation was Thursday, May 19 and funeral was Friday, May 20, here at Salem.

ALSO

The family of Margee Dryer. Margee passed away on Tuesday, May 17. Her visitation and funeral were held at Salem on Monday, May 23.

Best Birthday Wishes in June go to...

Kevin Hursman	2	Jocelyn Kirchhoff	11	Susan Jensen	22
Monica Vincent	2	Katie Lettau	12	Bill Davenport	23
Gabriel Short	3	Keaston Cooper	13	Janet Knehans	25
Elaine Adams	3	Sherry Kilpatrick	14	Jakob Long	25
Amanda Dobson	3	Angel Lamb	15	Jacob Baggs	25
Carys Brockman	3	Darcy Aversman	15	A.J. Engle	26
Clayton Berry	5	Lance Kays	16	Dakota Russell	26
Clint Wood	5	Casey Warren	16	Richard Schowengardt	27
Fay Tilly	6	Karen Fiegenbaum	17	Alfred Riekhof	27
Jeff Gash	7	Josh Baggs	19	Sue Starke	27
Grace Niemeier	10	Kathy Bodensstab-Wills	21	Amanda White	27
Sandy Thompson	10	Alvin Tilly	22	Lena Zeller	30



Seventh Annual Father's Day Tool Special:

We help provide shelter and warmth with our Mother's Day blankets donations, after the effects of disasters happen. Now its time for Dad to help with the tools for rebuilding.

What better way to honor your father or other influential male than by donating to purchase these tools.

Enclosed in this Lamplighter is a card inside an envelope. Above the inscription in the card write the name(s) of the "dad" you want to honor. Sign your name on the line below. Include a donation (checks can be made to "Salem UCC"). Place card in envelope and put in offering plate or bring to the church office.

The cards will be displayed in the sanctuary.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Youth on Mission Plans International Trip in 2017

For the past 27 years, Youth on Mission has traveled to a variety of sites around the US and Canada. Next summer, we will take up to fifty participants to Puerto Rico for a week-long trip to repair homes.

At this point, we have around thirty youth and adults who have committed to attend this camp. Since we have additional slots available, we now are inviting any youth to attend who will be a freshman or older next year, even if they have not attended a domestic workcamp before, IF their adult parent / guardian attends with them.

According to Robin Alm, representative of Lifetree Adventures (a cooperative agency of Group Workcamps), we will "spend the week serving either a disabled individual or elderly resident doing home repair projects." Unlike our familiar workcamps, we will work in crews of 6-8 people, *comprised of our own participants*. We will experience a new and different culture, language, and way of life. As we do so, we will live the adage, "To believe is to care; to care is to do."

Reminder: Those youth who are in eighth grade next year or who are not interested in an international trip will have the opportunity to travel to our regular workcamp in late July, 2017. Plans for that will begin in late summer, 2016. Please contact Judi Knipmeyer at jknipmeyer@hotmail.com or 584-2741 if you have questions.

"It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."

—Ethel Percy Andrus

From the Church Records

Financial Report:

General Fund Balance 4/01/16 \$ 3,754

Current deposits \$22,761

(Explanation of deposits: \$12,761 was member contributions and \$10,000 was a transfer of funds from the Corder Money Market to the General Fund to pay bills. \$12,761 + \$10,000 = \$22,761)

Current expenses \$15,525

Current Fund Balance 4/30/16 \$10,990

Building Fund:

Current Fund Balance 4/01/16 \$20,285

Current deposits \$ 270

Current expenses \$ 390

Current Fund Balance 4/30/16 \$20,165

O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for April) \$533

8:30 a.m.	April Attendance	10:30 a.m.
28	4-3-16	100
21	4-10-16 Testimony Sunday	166
21	4-17-16 Confirmation Sunday	202
21	4-24-16	89
23	Average Total Average 162	139

Fatherly guidance

Every man who desires to become a true father has to look continually to the Lord, that he might learn of him how to relate to his own children.

—Sunday Adelaja

**Community News****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 1, 8, 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.

HANDS AROUND THE WORLD
SAVE THE DATE

A celebration of God's People at Work in the World is being planned for August 15-25, 2016. It will be sponsored by these conferences of the United Church of Christ: Missouri Mid-South ... Illinois South ... Kansas-Oklahoma and by the Mid-America Region, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Saturday, August 20, 2016. Mission Festival Worship and Keynote Address (live-streamed to gatherings in various areas of the Conferences/Region). More details will follow.

**Running blind**

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn't supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. "I can't see!" I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. "It's okay!" he shouted back. "I can!"

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I'm running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2016 – 7:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Board Room. The members in attendance were Carleen Buchanan, Ronnie Bergsieker, David Starke, Angie Green, Peggy Pragman, Kyle Warren, Felicia Leonard, Delbert Goetz and Pastor Tommy Faris. Keri Borchers and Corey White were unable to attend. President Angie Green called the meeting to order and introduced guests. Joe Rolf and Wayne Nichols, Vox Box representative, gave an AV presentation to compare to the presentation by Darren MacDonald on April 18th in the sanctuary. Pastor Tommy led the members in a Psalms 148 devotion and prayer.

The minutes were reviewed and approved. President Angie gave the treasurers report with balances: General Fund-\$3,754 & Building Fund-\$20,285. Pastor Tommy turned in 230 miles for reimbursement and after review of other bills, a motion was made to pay bills and approve the treasurer's report. Motion was made and approved to transfer up to \$27,000 from the Corder Bank Money Market Account to the U.S. Bank General Fund to pay bills.

Pastor's report reflected on Holy Week, the completion of Souper Suppers, Confirmation, installation of Rev. Cathy Jurgens in Sedalia, restful days in New York City with his children, MO Mid-South Conference in New Franklin April 23, and Annual Gathering in Columbia June 9-11.

Angie presented a Thank you from Viola Meinershagen's family with a \$50.00 donation voted to the miscellaneous fund, a Thank you from Emmaus for our March donation, an update on Marie Carpenter's

estate and Dorothy Nieman's \$2540 memorial donation.

Pastor reported Christian Ed committee is looking for mentors for 2nd year confirmands and a meeting scheduled on May 2 to review June continuing her job. David reviewed Building and Grounds is working on steel vs. fiberglass door for the outside door of elevator, yard work and parking request for turning issues. Kyle reported \$3985.60 in the Memorial Fund for AV usage. There was no Cemetery report, Worship will be meeting May 11 and Stewardship continues to get greeters. Evangelism reported 140 total meals served at the last Souper Supper and the Lutheran Church will work with us next year. Mother's Day blankets and Father's Day tools are their present project. Ronnie and Peggy passed their Usher responsibility to Delbert and Felicia with May and June scheduled.

In unfinished business the AV project was discussed. After comparing the two presentations the council voted to pursue installation with Vox Box. Crystal asked for an introduction to use on the website and council discussed needing 6 to 8 persons with edit privileges. Western Assoc. Spring Meeting representatives are Tommy Faris, Angie Green, Carleen Buchanan and Mary Dieckmeier.

New Business started with State Elevator Inspector's concern on checking elevator brakes. Bread For The World letter writing event is posted on the bulletin board. Honorarium for substitute choir director, pianist or organist was tabled for more information. After the copy machine was such a problem, the Meinershagen donation was changed to a gift of thank you to the 2 ladies at the Methodist Church that helped Sarah. The President asked for representatives to attend the MO Mid-South Conference Annual Gathering June 9-11 in Columbia, MO.

The council then elected new officers for the coming year. Newly elected officers are: President-Angie Green, Vice President-David Starke, Secretary-Peggy Pragman, Treasurer-Keri Borchers and Financial Secretary-Ronnie Bergsieker.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:30 in the Board Room. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by praying "The Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Buchanan,
Council Secretary



PASTORAL VISITS OR PRAYERS

Anyone who would like a pastoral visit or are in need of prayers, please call the church office, (660) 584-3603.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Transportation is available to any worship service. Please call the church office to make arrangements, (660) 584-3603.

Church Information

Tommy's email: tlfaris@ctcis.net

Church Telephone:

660-584-3603

Church Email:

salemucc@ctcis.net

Church Website:

www.ctcis.net/~salemucc/

Fax number: 660-584-5666

Church Council President,
Angie Green

Cell phone: 816-956-1170

Home phone: 660-584-3614



Please join us if you are under the age of 10. Summer Sunday school begins June 5, when the Sunday worship service time changes to 10:00. We will meet in the sanctuary overflow, after the children's message.

Youth on Mission – Puerto Rico Garage Sale

On June 4th during the city-wide garage sale, Youth on Mission – Puerto Rico will hold their first fund-raiser. Of course, we would like you to shop with us, but before that, we need your donated items. If you have lots of 'stuff' you need to clean out, please bring it to the Fellowship Hall between May 29th and June 3rd (please not before). If you have no way to deliver your donations to church and/or need us to pick up items, text or call Judi Knipmeyer at 660-641-5834.

YOM participants will sort and display the items which will be offered for a free-will donation. All proceeds will support our Youth on Mission – Puerto Rico group. As we start on this new, exciting venture, as always, we appreciate your support!



Thank you for the beautiful flowers at Salem Cemetery celebrating Memorial

Day. If you would like to save your flowers please pick them up by Wednesday, June 8. Thank you. The Cemetery Committee



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!

Vacation Bible School 2016

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School is Egypt, Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace.



VBS will be July 31st – August 3rd. It will be a 2 hour event in the evening.

I need volunteers to help the kids experience Egypt. I have manuals for everyone. It is easy to read and explains every step. If you would like to volunteer please call or text my cell-phone (660) 441-8568 or you can reach me at the church (660) 584-3603.

Thanks,
June Thaller



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 or visit from a church family member would be a delightful surprise!

Meyer Care Center, 1201 W. 19th St., Higginsville, MO 64037

Wilma Hoefer

Glenn & Shirley Nowack

Pat Pence

Bob Tankesley

Roger Nolte

Grace Schemmer

Riverbend Heights Rehab & Health, Lexington Nursing Home, 1221 South Highway 13, Lexington, MO 64067

Alvin Tilly

Golden Living Center, New Haven, 609 Golf Street, Odessa, MO 64076

Myrna Fette

Robert "Cobb" Souder

Missouri Veterans Home, 1300 Veterans Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Wilbert Hilgedick

Lutheran Good Shepherd Home, 202 SW St., Concordia, MO 64020

Dorothy Bodenstab

Winnie Knehans

Jake Stoecklin

Ann Nuelle

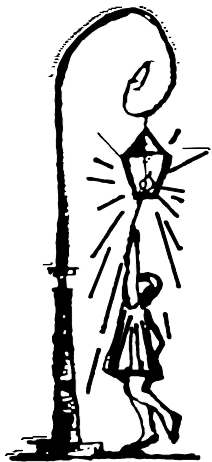
Country Oak Village, 101 Cross Creek Drive, Grain Valley, MO 64029

Viola Meinershagen

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 Main Street
Higginsville MO 64037

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Is a monthly newsletter of :

Salem United Church of Christ

1500 Main Street

Higginsville, MO 64037

(660) 584-3603

Fax: 584-5666

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Early Worship

8:30 a.m.

Worship with

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Tommy Faris

Pastor

Sarah J. Berry

Secretary

Doris Jane Stoner

Organist

Jamie Smith

Music Director

Anne Iles

Youth Music Director

Wayne Whitaker & Lowell Grumke

Custodians

Angie Green, President

Church Council

Dennis Knipmeyer, President

Board of Elders

Judi Knipmeyer, President

Board of Christian Education

June Thaller

Christian Education Coordinator

Lindsey Rolf, Volunteer

Assistant Church Secretary

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