Dear Friends,

I recently read an article that I found fascinating. The author writes about a theoretical physicist whose primary study is time. The physicist, Carlo Rovelli, states that there is no variable for time in the equations that describe the world. On the quantum level, which is extremely small, time is meaningless because events occur so rapidly. The same is true on a cosmic level; time is meaningless because our “now” is never the same “now” at any other point in the universe.

Rather than being a universal concept, quite literally, time is a perspective or a perception. There are events in our lives in which we experience time passing in different ways. One event may seem to pass more slowly than another, or more quickly. We may feel time as something that gets away from us, that we can never get or have enough of, or that we have too much of on our hands. We spend time, we waste time, we find time, we gain time, we make up time. My dad used to say, “Tempus fugit,” which is Latin for “time flies,” and he was not wrong. Our physicist friend tells us, however, that it is all a matter of perspective, and that beyond our little blue marble in space, our perspective does not hold.

In fact, while human beings have perceived and marked the passage of time for millennia, there was no standardized measure of time around the world until the nineteenth century and the growth of the railroad industry. Before the railroads, every town kept its own time according to whatever measure it adopted. Railroads needed to be able to print schedules and keep them, so we came up with the twenty-four time zones around the world. The creation of the time zones and the standardization of time was a business decision. Thank goodness for it! Even so, at a theoretical level, this too is meaningless.

Rovelli offers this rather poetic interpretation of time: He says that time is a story that we tell ourselves in order to make sense of our lives and of our world. The story is always in the present tense, and there are many of them, both individual and collective. Time is the persistence of memory. Without memory, we would not even perceive the passage of time. Time is a mental process that happens in the space between memory and anticipation.

Of course, this is all abstract. We experience time and therefore it is real for us. And yet people of spiritual wisdom tell us that we should always strive to live in the present, to be mindful of each moment, each second, and that our lives will be more satisfying if we can do that. To dwell too much on the past is to live with regret and questions about things we have done and said that we might have done and said differently. To dwell too much on the future is to live with anxiety because we none of us know what the future will bring.

What we are left with is this moment, the present. Each second of our lives, if we may actually speak of seconds, is a gift. Each “now” is a gift from God for us to use wisely and well.

As we approach Easter, which is one of those great moments in our memories, let us be aware of the presence of God in every breath we take, in everything we do, in everything we say. Let us live now giving praise and glory to the God who raised Jesus from death and who fills our lives with abundance. We have all the time in the world to do good, and it is all…right…now!

Grace and Peace
Tommy

PS, If you are interested, here is a link to the article: https://getpocket.com/explore/item/this-physicist-s-ideas-of-time-will-blow-your-mind?utm_source=pocket-newtab
From the Church Records

Financial Report: February 2021

General Fund Wood & Huston Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Balance 2/01/21</td>
<td>$22,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current deposits</td>
<td>$11,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current expenses</td>
<td>$14,836</td>
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<td>Current Fund Balance 2/28/21</td>
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Building Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Current Fund Balance 2/01/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current deposits</td>
<td>$1,684</td>
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<td>Current expenses</td>
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<td>Current Fund Balance 2/28/21</td>
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O.C.W.M. (Member Contributions for Feb.) $100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Views Live Stream</th>
<th>February Attendance</th>
<th>10:00 a.m. In-Person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>2-7-21</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>2-14-21</td>
<td>-0- (Snow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>2-21-21</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>2-28-21</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Average</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SALEM CEMETERY WORK DAY

The Salem Cemetery Committee is tentatively planning a work day (morning) at the cemetery on Saturday, April 17. Men, women, and youth all are invited. A suggested tool list would include weed-eater, shovel, spade, hand shears, chainsaw, trash bags and pry bar, but bring anything you think might be helpful or appropriate. If for some reason this event needs to be canceled, due to the weather, an email blast will be sent out. Please call the church office 660-584-3603 if you have questions.

Evangelism Committee’s Up-Coming Events:

May – For Mothers, make a donation in honor of your mother or special lady toward the purchase of an all weather blanket.

June – For Fathers, make a donation in honor of your father or other male influences in your life toward the purchase of tools.

(Donations provide help to people in need. Watch for further details in the May Lamplighter.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT:

In-Person Sunday School Pre-K through 12th grade started in January. Please register if you plan to have your child attend in-person Sunday School. This is to ensure there are enough teachers and helpers for Sunday School. The Guidelines for Sunday School are posted on the Church Website under “Christian Education” Contact June at 660-441-8568 via text or phone call. Or you can contact the Church office to register for Sunday School. Virtual “Zoom Sunday School” will still continue every Sunday at 11a.m. In-Person Sunday School will depend on the opening and closing of Lafayette Co. C-1 School district due to COVID-19.

Special Days in April

- April 1
  7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service In-Person and on Facebook Live.
- April 2
  Please have Easter Flowers to church by noon.
  Noon, Good Friday Community Worship Service at St. Mary’s Catholic Church.
- April 4
  Easter Sunday
  7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
  10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- April 17
  Salem Cemetery Work Day (Tentative)
- April 18
  Testimony/Confirmation Sunday
- April 25
  Installation of Church Officers during the 10:00 a.m. service
Best Wishes for April Birthdays go to...

Paula Oelrichs  1  Michael Niemeier  10  Boone Berry  20  
Roy Johnson  3  Caulin Drago  10  Bailey Warren  21  
Sandy Starke  3  Megan Wood  11  Garrison Salyer  21  
Jesse Cramer  3  Bryan Starke  11  Karen Cole  23  
Amy Catron  4  Will Knipmeyer  12  Scott Bergsicker  24  
Karley Alumbaugh  5  Roger Russell  12  Peggy Garrett  24  
Parson Stoner  5  Kathie Wesley  12  Alesia Emison  24  
Jeremy Kirchhoff  7  Kristin Mullins  14  Brynlee Kirchhoff  24  
Brooke Harris  7  Betty Rinne  16  Brent Kusgen  25  
Kealy Drago  7  Harley Akin  18  Paul Nolte  27  
Claire Dobson  7  Hunter Zuehlsdorf  18  David Salyer  28  
Cory Starke  8  Addison Schloman  18  Michael Kilpatrick  28  
Maggie Starke  9  Elijah Fischer  19  Mark Kays  28  
                Jamie Smith  20  Cindy Nuelle  28  

EASTER FLOWERS:

We will appreciate having spring flowers in church again this Easter. If you wish to place a flower in memory of someone, please notify the church secretary (584-3603) by March 31, so she can print it in the church bulletin. Be sure your name is on the flower that you bring. Please leave it in the Fellowship Hall on the stage by Noon on Good Friday, April 2.

Suggestions of spring flowers are: Tulips, Daffodils, Hydrangea, Azaleas, Lilies or check with your florist. Thanks! (The flower committee will place the flowers in the sanctuary.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

Maundy Thursday service with communion will be April 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and on Facebook Live.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

There will not be a Cross/Walk event for Good Friday. St. Mary’s Catholic Church will host a community Good Friday service on April 2. The community service will begin at Noon. Masks and social distancing are required.

Recognition of Graduates:

The church will recognize all graduates on May 9, 2021, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you have anyone graduating from high school or college this spring please call the church office (660) 584-3603 with the information by May 6, 2021, so they can be included in the bulletin.
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 de-
gligent surprise!

Meyer Care Center, 1201 W. 19th St., Higginsville, MO
64037
Al Dieckhoff
Mary Kirchhoff
Hayes and Grace Niemeier
Anna Marie Rinne
Kenneth Schemmer
Earl Struchtemeyer
Bob Tankesley
Mary Ann Vorwark

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

Barb Siegfried:
1001 Quincy Dr.
Warrensburg, MO 64093

OPTIONS FOR THE CHURCH BULLETIN:
You have a couple options for the church bulletin. The
church bulletin is on the Salem website:
salemuchhigginsville.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.

- John Knox Village and Meyer Care Center Bible Study
  has been cancelled until further notice.

Living It Day by Day
She sat alone in an old people’s home,
Lonely and old and gray;
She wished that someone, just anyone,
Would call on her that day.
Did you?

He lay for days on his hospital bed;
The hours were long and hard.
He wished someone, just anyone,
Would send him a cheery card.
Did you?

He was far from home on foreign soil,
Feeling homesick, lonely, and blue.
He wished that someone, just anyone,
Would write him a letter.
Did you?

She felt a stranger, that little bride;
No husband with her to church came.
She wished that someone, just anyone,
Would stop and call her name.
Did you?

Her loved one died a few weeks ago;
All sad and brokenhearted she sat.
She wished that someone, just anyone,
Would come to her house and chat.
Did you?

That matter of Christian service—
We are living it day by day,
When we help someone, just anyone,
As we walk along life’s way.

—Author Unknown
(Submitted to the church office by a Salem Member)

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS
Anyone who is in need of prayers, please call the church of-

office, (660) 584-3603.

Women’s Fellowship Circle News:
Women’s Fellowship Circles will not be meeting until further
notice. The Women’s Fellowship Board will not be meeting
until further notice as well.

For God
so loved the world,
that he gave
his only son,
that whoever
believes in him
should not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3:16
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 18th, 2021 – 7:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Salem Church Council was held on Thursday, February 18th, 2021 at 7:30 pm in the downstairs dining hall. Members present were Stacy Barnes, Bobby Bergsieker, Kevin Berry, Keill Borchers, Sharon Hoefer, Mark Hook, Marc Jensen, Barb Nolte, and Pastor Tommy. President Marc Jensen called the meeting to order, Pastor Tommy opened with the devotion of Psalm 25, and prayer. Minutes were read, amended, and approved. The financial report was given by Sharon, discussed, and approved with balances of $22,967 in the General Fund and $22,838 in the Building and Grounds Fund. The total average attendance of 288 includes in-person (24) and live stream views (264).

Pastor Tommy shared the Elders are suggesting the purchase of specific devices to be used during our live streaming, so as not to use personal ones. A letter was shared from Roger and Tillie Erdman expressing their wishes to support the live-streaming of worship services. The Council has unanimously accepted this gracious offer. Joe Rolf continues to assist with the sound mixer board that is providing an excellent sound quality during our live streaming. Tommy and Crystal had a relaxing vacation in Texas and during their absence were able to view the worship services on February 7th conducted by the Rev. Andy Mockridge. Rev. Andy and husband Mike will be officially joining Salem UCC during the worship service on February 28th.

Correspondence: A thank you was received from the Western Association for the donation of our 2021 dues.

Committee Reports: Christian Ed:
Mark Hook shared the in-person Sunday school continues to increase in numbers. An Easter program is being planned and will be shared during our live stream on Easter Sunday.

Building & Grounds: Keill shared with the board the third-floor furnace was repaired on Friday, February 12th. The Elevator repair company made a return visit on Tuesday, February 16th to fix the floor level issue and have made the recommendation to replace the 30-year-old brakes, and they will be providing an estimate.

Cemetery: Barb reported no meeting

Memorial: Sharon reported no meeting. Stewardship: Kevin reported no meeting. Evangelism: Stacy shared Souper Suppers will be hosted by Salem on Monday, January 25th, with desserts provided by the Lutheran Church. Meals will be carry-out only.

Worship: Bobby reported no meeting. Ushers: Council members will continue to usher Sunday services through April.

Unfinished Business: Re-leathering the organ bellows will begin tentatively after Easter. Marvin A. Rinne Estate’s donation has kindly been received to be used for this repair and the remaining monies will be placed in the Endowment fund.

New Business: A welcoming message will be shared during Sunday services as well as the Lamplighter, reiterating the welcome of in-person attendance. We continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the Health Department. All are welcome here. The Board of Elders has recommended due to COVID health issues, to not host Men’s Breakfast on Good Friday (April 2nd). Council is also in agreement with their recommendation. Higginsville Chamber of Commerce will be allowed to use Salem for a planning meeting in March with the following recommendations: No more than 15 people in attendance, social distancing must be maintained, a mask will be worn by all attendees, and the area used sanitized following their meeting. Council approved Alumbaugh Heating and Cooling annual service agreement.

Next council meeting Date: March 18th, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the “Lord’s Prayer”.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nolte, Council Secretary

Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it’s more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn’t have to know the precise roads to Grandma’s house; he only needs to believe in his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief in the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L’Engle (The Rock That Is Higher): “The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.”
TA TRUCK STOP-CONCORDIA COUNTRY PRIDE:
Travel Centers of America-Concordia, MO-Country Pride Restaurant has a Church Program! We are offering 10% of your ticket price to be donated back to your local church. All you have to do is come in to dine with us, eat, and inform your server that you would like to participate in the program, give your church’s name, your name, and we will take care of the rest!

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.

ALSO
Bridge to Hope Ministries in conjunction with Harvesters, offers food pick-up on the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-2:00 p.m., 203 W. 16th St. Higginsville, MO.

WE WELCOME
Mike and Andy Mockridge as new members to Salem on Sunday, February 28, 2021. Mike and Andy Mockridge moved here from Dover 6 years ago and love calling Higginsville their home. They have been married for 43 years. Mike’s daughter and family live in Blue Springs. Andy’s son and family live in St. Charles. Together they have six beautiful grandchildren. Mike retired from the USPS as a Maintenance Superintendent and held various other maintenance positions until he fully retired in 2010. Mike loves to ride his motorcycle, build and fly RC airplanes and read. He is on the board of Robertson Memorial Library, and a board member of the Lafayette County Habitat for Humanity. Andy has had numerous careers but being a UCC pastor for 10 years has been the most fulfilling. She retired this year, and loves gardening, quilting, and antiques.

WE ALSO WELCOME
Aaron and Vicki Knipmeyer as new members to Salem on Sunday, March 7, 2021. Vicki and Aaron Knipmeyer moved to Higginsville from the St. Louis area about 10 years ago. Vicki grew up in O’Fallon, Illinois, and attended a United Methodist church, while Aaron grew up in Higginsville as a member of Salem church. They met in college and have been married for almost 18 years. Aaron works as an administrator in the Lafayette County C-1 school district and Vicki works as a mental health therapist, both in private practice and with the Concordia R2 school District. They have three children. Drake is 26 and became a part of their family in in 2012. He is now out of the house and has his own family with his wife Tasha, and daughter Zona. Nora, is 13, in seventh grade, and enjoys running and anything art related. William, almost 10 and in fourth grade, is a Lego enthusiast and pretty dangerous with a Nerf gun. They are transferring membership from Grace UMC in Higginsville.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO:
The family of Jake Stoecklin. Jake passed away Thursday, February 25, 2021. His service was held at the Veteran’s Cemetery in the Chapel on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

ALSO
The family of Arthur Thaller. Arthur passed away Monday, March 1, 2021. His funeral was held at Salem on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

We welcomed Mike and Andy Mockridge as new members to Salem on Sunday, February 28, 2021. Mike and Andy Mockridge moved here from Dover 6 years ago and love calling Higginsville their home. They have been married for 43 years. Mike’s daughter and family live in Blue Springs. Andy’s son and family live in St. Charles. Together they have six beautiful grandchildren. Mike retired from the USPS as a Maintenance Superintendent and held various other maintenance positions until he fully retired in 2010. Mike loves to ride his motorcycle, build and fly RC airplanes and read. He is on the board of Robertson Memorial Library, and a board member of the Lafayette County Habitat for Humanity. Andy has had numerous careers but being a UCC pastor for 10 years has been the most fulfilling. She retired this year, and loves gardening, quilting, and antiques.

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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
Fax: 584-5666
E-Mail: salemucc@ctcis.net

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Worship
10:00 a.m.
Live Stream Worship Also
10:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Tommy Faris
Pastor
Sarah J. Berry
Secretary
Jamie Smith
Music Director
June Howell
Christian Education Coordinator
Anne Iles
Youth Music Director

Marc Jensen, President
Church Council
Dennis Knipmeyer, President
Board of Elders
Tina Gibler, President
Board of Christian Education
Lowell Grumke
Custodian
Lindsey Rolf, Volunteer
Assistant Church Secretary

April 2021 • Salem United Church of Christ • Higginsville, Missouri