

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1500 North Main**

**Higginsville, Missouri**

web page: [salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Welcome to Salem United Church of Christ! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here in the United Church of Christ.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAISE SONG

**\* RESPONSIVE READING** Scripture Psalm 25.1-10

Reader 1: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Reader 2: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Reader 1: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let  
them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Reader 2: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your  
paths.

Reader 1: Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God  
of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Reader 2: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast  
love, for they have been from of old.

Reader 1: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my  
transgressions; according to your steadfast love  
remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Reader 2: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore the Lord  
instructs sinners in the way.

Reader 1: The Lord leads the humble in what is right, and teaches  
the humble the Lord's way.

Reader 2: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and  
faithfulness, for those who keep the Lord's covenant and  
the Lord's decrees.

## **LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE**

Leader: At last, the end of yet another year is near!

**People: It is amazing how quickly this year crept on; how slowly it sped by.**

Leader: In this hemisphere, the days are getting shorter,

**People: and the nights are growing colder.**

Leader: We are ready to receive the wisdom hidden in the darkest of nights.

**People: We are eager to experience the warm embrace of brand-new days.**

Leader: We long for the sustaining hope that will usher us into all that lies ahead.

**People: We await the arrival of the One who shows us new ways of being.**

Leader: New ways that draw us nearer to God and each other.

**People: New ways that illuminate God-with-us in every circumstance.**

Leader: Good news, great joy, all the people!

**People: We are hope-accepting and excited!**

## **Prayer**

## **SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)**

#### **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**MESSAGE HYMN**

**SCRIPTURE**

I Thessalonians 3.9-13

**SERMON**

“Direct Our Way”

Tommy

**BENEDICTION**

**TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**

*\*Please stand if you are able to do so.  
Worship is over and our Service begins.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Leading Worship Today:  
Rev. Dr. Tommy L. Faris – Pastor

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**

Ann Iles, is hospitalized at KU Hospital, 4000 Cambridge St., Kansas City, KS 66160, Room 6312. Prayers and cards would be appreciated.

Mary Kirchhoff, received a cancer diagnosis. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers as she makes this journey.

Clayton Lettau, we continue to say prayers of thankfulness as there is no new growth.

Brenda Homfeld, Brenda’s health has improved but she will still need a liver transplant. Continued prayer is appreciated.

Prayers, for anyone with a health issue, anyone grieving, and anyone that has a heavy burden on their heart, mind, and soul.

Prayers, for our world and nation.

### **Best Wishes for November Birthdays this week...**

Lynna Good, November 29  
Rylee Gannon, November 29  
Tim Bergsieker, December 1  
Elva Dean Erdman, December 3  
Charles Grumke, December 3  
Sonnie Renno, December 3  
Patty Kroll, December 3  
Will Cottrill, December 4  
Maclyn Rechterman, December 4

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **SALEM ANGEL TREE:**

Our Salem Angel Tree is in the sanctuary on Sundays and near the church office window during weekly business hours for you to select your tags. Our committee would like to have your new, unused, wrapped gifts, tags attached, number side up, returned to the Angel Tree no later than Monday, December 13th, at Noon. With fewer applications submitted this year, we have fewer tags to make available. Thank you for your generous support of this program for children of the Higginsville and Corder area.  
Angie Green, Chairman

#### **POINSETTIAS:**

We will appreciate having poinsettias in church again this Christmas. If you wish to place a plant in memory of someone, please notify the church secretary (584-3603) by Wednesday, December 15, so that she can print it in the church bulletin. Be sure your name is on the plant that you bring. Please leave it in the fellowship hall on the stage on **Thursday, December 16, and before noon on Friday, December 17,** (Please do not bring the poinsettias before these dates), the flower committee will place the plants in the sanctuary. We would like to enjoy the poinsettias for Sunday, December 19, both services for Christmas Eve, and Sunday December 26. You may collect your poinsettias after the December 26 worship service.

**MASK UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN**

**EDUCATION:** In keeping with the Lafayette County C-1 School decision on Covid response, masks are recommended but not required.

**Children's Christmas Program Practice:**

**Practice will be during Sunday School 8:45a.m.-9:45a.m on December 5th. There will also be a Saturday practice dress rehearsal on December 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30a.m.-11:00a.m.** The name of the Play is **"Just A Little Christmas"** The Christmas Program will be December 12th during the 10:00 worship Service.

**COOKIES NEEDED:**

Anyone willing to make a dozen or so cookies for the Children's Christmas Program Reception, please drop them off in the office during the week of December 6th through the 10th. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEERS:**

Everyone who is willing to help in setting up the stage for the Christmas Program, please meet in the sanctuary after the 10:00 worship service on December 5th. Any and all help is appreciated!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:** Are available in the back of the sanctuary and outside the church office.

**RIDES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** If you need a ride to the Christmas Eve Service please call the church office by Thursday, December 23. We will be happy to pick you up!

**TWO CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION AND CANDLE LIGHT SERVICES:** There will be two services for Christmas Eve, the first at 5:00 p.m. and the second one at 7:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:** If you will not be able to attend the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service or you do not have boxed envelopes with the Christmas Eve offering envelope, please use the red envelopes in the back of the sanctuary marked “Christmas Fund”. The Christmas Eve offering always goes to a mission. We always send a gift from us to the “Christmas Fund” (Formerly known as “Veterans of the Cross”).

**YEAR END CHURCH BUSINESS:** Please have all church financial contributions and business transactions to the church office by 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 31, 2021. Thank you for your consideration.

**YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT:**

All middle and high school youth are invited to join the YOM Team on Friday, December 10th starting at 3pm (or whenever you can arrive from school) at Salem. We will be helping sort the school food drive donations for the Food Pantry. Contact Vicki or Aaron Knipmeyer at [avknipmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:avknipmeyer@gmail.com) or 314-775-8887 with questions.

**2022 ENVELOPES:**

Are available in the Fellowship Hall until the end of the year.

**FACE MASKS:**

Anyone who would like to wear a face mask is encouraged to do so.

**CHURCH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:**

If you are not feeling well, please stay home and watch our service on Facebook live. Please take care of others by taking care of yourself.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

### **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. Liz Lindsey (Presbyterian) will be leading during the month of December. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

### **UP COMING DATES:**

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 Service Children's Christmas Program

December 13 – Please have Angel Tree gifts to church

December 15 – Please call Church Office with Poinsettia

Information

December 17 – Please have Poinsettias to church this day by noon

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 – 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light/  
Communion Services

### **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS:**

Anyone who is in need of prayers, please call the church office, (660) 584-3603.

### **CHURCH INFORMATION:**

Tommy's email: [tlfarris@ctcis.net](mailto:tlfarris@ctcis.net)

Tommy's cell phone: 816-352-2052

Church Telephone: 660-584-3603

Church Email: [salemucc@ctcis.net](mailto:salemucc@ctcis.net)

Church Website: [salemucchigginsville.org](http://salemucchigginsville.org)

Fax number: 660-584-5666

Wi-Fi Network Name: Salem UCC

Wi-Fi Password: Resurrection!1870



## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

November 28, thru December 5, 2021

- Sunday - First Sunday of Advent  
8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
8:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship and Live-Stream Worship on Facebook
- Monday - No Activities Scheduled
- Tuesday - Food Pantry
- Wednesday - 10:30 a.m. Lafayette Area Pastors Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday - W.I.C. All Day  
7:00 p.m. Tiger Den  
7:00 p.m. Wolf Pack
- Friday - 5:00 p.m. Lion's Den  
7:00 p.m. A. A.
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. A. A.
- Sunday - Second Sunday of Advent  
8:00 a.m. Early Worship  
8:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
8:50 a.m. Little Notes and Chime Bell Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship and Live-Stream Worship on Facebook  
11:15 a.m. Confirmation

## UCC MISSION MOMENT

“Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe’s album, “Things That Grow”, available at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com). On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy’s music, including a link to a video of this song, at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com).

We will march on, will fight on

‘Til love comes

If you cut into beauty and try to make it bleed

you only find a deeper hope and what makes a person free  
the depths of love

come from where we’ve been redeemed

So put down your guns and unlock the prison doors

You can keep all your money; give yourselves to the poor  
learn to love

Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on

‘Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon and build power out of fear

But it’s your own self breaking and fading away in the mirror

Because love

Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life that comes from pain

And the hope we share holds it - gives it a name

All in love

We carry on

We will march on, will fight on

‘Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight, we gave our lives

If we fall it will be alright, if we fall it will be alright

Our bodies wrapped in dust, will tell the tale of both of us

I who heard your cry for help, and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on

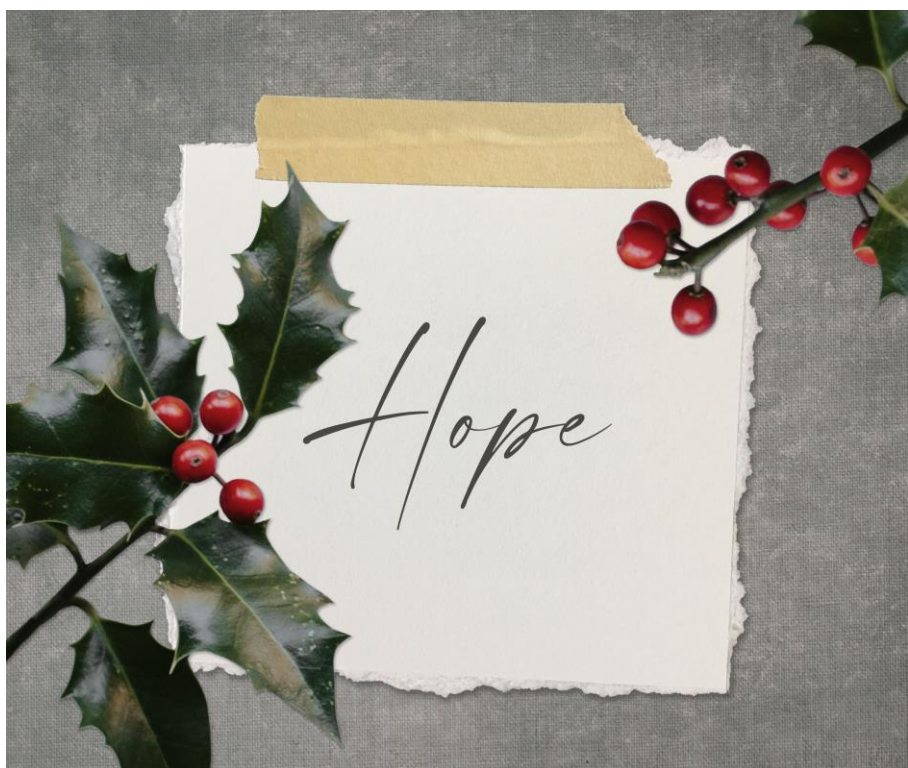
‘Til love comes

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## The journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

“Like a great waterwheel,” writes Joan Chittister, “the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime.”



Hope