



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: salemucchigginsville.org

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GATHERING

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME: No matter who you are or where you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. Happy Advent! We direct our hearts and our worship now toward the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time. Welcome.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude "Gesu Bambino" Yon / arr. Roed

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

People: As we gather to pray and sing and listen, a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.

Leader: The days are surely coming, says Our God, when justice and righteousness will prevail.

People: May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds, freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 123

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love, that we may come to know your ways and follow your paths. Help us grow in love for one another, and

for all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the one who calls us to turn from our false gods to you, Holy One, the true source of our hope and healing. Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Johnny & Amy Walker and Nick Catron

Psalm 25.1-10

Responsive Reading

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

JOYS AND CONCERNS Preparation for prayer
PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER,
("debts" and "debtors" words in hymn No. 426)

MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology No. 625
*Dedication Prayer

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostle's Creed
(Printed inside back cover of Hymnal)

CHANCEL CHOIR "Light the Advent Candle"
Davenport/ arr. Wagner

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING I Thessalonians 3.9-13 (N.T. p. 192)

SERMON "Direct Our Way" Tommy

THE SENDING

***HYMN** "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 160

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful" arr. Thompson

Offering plates are at the exits from the sanctuary.

The Worship Service is over and our Service begins.

**Indicates please stand if you are able to do so*

Leading Worship Today:

Rev. Dr. Tommy L. Faris – Pastor

Abby Cramer – Liturgist

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

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 Kirchoff, 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 11th 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 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

Tommy's cell phone: 816-352-2052

Church Telephone: 660-584-3603

Church Email: salemucc@ctcis.net

Church Website: 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. 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.

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.”

