



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1500 North Main

Higginsville, Missouri

web page: salemucchigginsville.org

November 27, 2022

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. Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ADDRESSING OURSELVES TO GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

Piano Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
French Traditional/ arr. Lindberg

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Spirit and the church cry out:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: All who await Christ's appearance pray:

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: The whole creation pleads:

People: Come, Lord Jesus! Renew the whole creation!

*** HYMN** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" No. 118

***INVOCATION (Unison)**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we would be open to your presence, O God. Free us from the seasonal sentimentality that turns our attention from the sometimes painful decision to pursue peace and justice. Through this time of worship, nudge us toward seeking reconciliation rather than revenge, the well-being of all rather than the

victory of the few. Speak to us of peace, O God, and hear us as we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Marc, Wendy, Brooke, and Timothy Jensen

Isaiah 2.1-5

Responsive Reading

Leader: Advent is a journey of preparation. Whether God feels near to us or far away; whether faith feels like a gift or a struggle; welcome to this journey.

People: Let us watch, let us rest, let us make space for love to be born again.

Leader: Many things have tried to overwhelm us – division, oppression, sickness, poverty and war.

People: We need the Spirit to surprise us this Advent season.

Leader: Today is a first step of turning toward God with expectation.

People: We have come here today eager for hope to overwhelm us.

Prayer

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 623

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

June

HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 141

(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

(“debtors” 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

Psalm 122 (O.T. p. 540)

SERMON

“I Will Seek Your Good”

Tommy

THE SENDING

***HYMN**

“Make Me a Blessing”

No. 452

***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

David Salyer – Liturgist

June Howell – Christian Education Coordinator

Jamie Smith – Music Director

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Are placed in loving memory of Mary Kirchhoff by her family.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Bird, has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Please keep Kathy and her family in prayer.

Clayton Lettau, we continue to say prayers of thankfulness as there is no evidence of disease progression.

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 Birthdays this week...

Cherri Wilson, November 27

Lynna Good, November 29

Rylee Gannon, November 29

Tim Bergsieker, December 1

Elva Dean Erdman, December 3

Charles Grumke, December 3

Patty Kroll, December 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 (660-584-3603) by Wednesday, December 14, 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 15, and before noon on Friday, December 16**, (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 18, both services for Christmas Eve, and Sunday December 25. You may collect your poinsettias after the December 25 worship service.

2023 ENVELOPES:

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

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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

It is not too late to turn in your Time/Talent Surveys. Please mail them or bring them to the church office by Wednesday, November 30. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee.

SALEM ANGEL TREE 2022:

The Angel Tree is up and decorated so you can choose the tag or tags you wish to buy for. Our committee would like to have your wrapped, tagged, new, unused gifts returned to the Angel Tree no later than Monday, December 12th, at Noon. Tags will be on the Sanctuary tree on Sundays and available to you on a tree next to the church office window during weekly business hours.

Angie Green, Chairman

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2022:

“Tree-Mendous Love” is the name of the Christmas Program this year! This year’s Christmas program will be December 11th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Program Practice will be November, 27th, and December 4th. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday December 10th - 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

STAGE SET UP:

Dads are invited to help set up the stage after 10:00 a.m. worship service on December the 4th. The Dads are also invited to hang around after the program to take the stage down on December 11th.

REQUEST FOR COOKIES:

If there are any parents or grandparents interested in bringing 1 or 2 dozen cookies for the reception after the Christmas Program. Please drop them off at the church office the week before the program or bring them the morning of the program.

Fields of Dreams Uganda Holiday Hygiene Drive:

It's hard to imagine, but a \$22 hygiene kit can change the life of a Ugandan student. Each year, Fields of Dreams Uganda provides every single mature girl at our partner schools (around 1500) a kit that helps her manage her monthly cycle. Each kit contains 5 washable pads/pad storage bag/large bar of soap/wash basin/drying peg/3 pair of underwear/sling bag/ comb & mirror/toothbrush & toothpaste/washcloth/nail clippers/Girl Talk book about their changing bodies/and most importantly, a new sense of dignity. All for \$22!

If you would like to support this program, you may do so in one of the following ways:

- Go to WWW.FIELDISOFDREAMSUGANDA.ORG/HHD
- Venmo your donation to @FoDUganda
- Send / give a check (made out to FoDU) or cash to Judi, Dennis, Aaron or Vicki Knipmeyer and PLEASE ask any of us questions you might have

We and the young women at our schools thank you VERY MUCH!

SALEM CHURCH APP:

If you would like to download the church app, please call the church office, 660-584-3603 or email salemucc@ctcis.net. We just need to verify your current email address. Then you will receive an invitation by email to download the Salem church app. All the instructions will be provided in the invitation email. The church app gives you access to several years of your financial contribution records, you have a directory of church members that have also downloaded the app and you can make an online contribution from the church app. You can download the church app even if you do not wish to give online.

NOVEMBER IS ANNUAL FOOD PANTRY MONTH:

The Food Pantry continues to serve those in our community who need assistance putting food on their tables. November is the month we dedicate toward restocking the shelves with food products. We have assigned specific foods or food types to each Sunday during the drive. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please mark a plain envelope “Food Pantry” and drop it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office. All donations will be used 100% for purchasing food items as they are needed.

Nov. 6 – Peanut butter, non-cream soups (chicken noodle, vegetable, etc.), ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, noodles, potatoes (canned or boxed)

Nov 13 – Canned meat (ravioli, canned spaghetti, stew, chili, tuna, chicken)

Nov 20 – Canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, applesauce)

Nov 27 – Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, carrots, mixed vegetables, tomatoes.)

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. The Bible Study is held every Wednesday, 10:15-10:45 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

UP COMING DATES:

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

December 12 – Please have Angel Tree gifts to church

December 14 – Please call Church Office with Poinsettia
Information

December 16 – Please have Poinsettias to church this day by noon

December 18 – 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.

FINANCIAL GIVING OPTIONS:

1. Check or Cash
 2. Salem Church website (salemucchigginsville.org) click on the Resources & Links tab then click the online giving link
 3. Text 73256 on your phone and use the code SalemHigg and then click on the link
 4. Download the Salem church app and under the giving tab is a link for online giving
- (A link on Facebook live is being planned for a later date.)

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT SALEM

November 27, thru December 4, 2022

- 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
11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- Monday - 6:00 p.m. Tiger Den
6:00 p.m. Lion's Den
- Tuesday - Food Pantry
- Wednesday - 10:30 a.m. Lafayette Area Pastors Meeting
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. Bear Pack
- Friday - 8:00 a.m. to Noon Youth Group
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 (Baptisms) (Representative from Growing Hope Globally) and Live-Stream Worship on Facebook
Set-up Stage
11:15 a.m. Confirmation

At home in our hearts

“All hearts come home for Christmas,” according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God’s word tells us. In fact, that’s why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make “his dwelling among us” (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God’s Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.

Hope

