



Salem News is published by
Salem United Church of Christ
114 Morgan Street Tonawanda, NY
716-692-3429
www.salemchurchucc.org

SALEM NEWS

March/April 2025

Lent and Easter Services

For our Lenten Services we will be having a Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm and Service will start at 7:00 pm

- **Ash Wednesday:** March 5th
- **Lenten Services:** March 12
March 19
March 26
April 2
April 9
April 16
- **Palm Sunday:** April 13
- **Maundy Thursday:** April 17
- **Good Friday:** April 18
- **Easter Sunday:** April 20

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: **Dawn Chase**
Vice President: **Debbie Whais**
Secretary: **Patti Kidder**
Treasurer: **Gretchen Librock**



For Pastoral Care:

Call: (716) 692-3429 Office
Call: (716)433-0976 Rev. Patricia Ludwig
Email: salemtona@verizon.net

To Support Salem Church

Electronic Giving:
salemchurchucc.org.
Mail check to:
114 Morgan Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Ponderings from Pastor Pat:

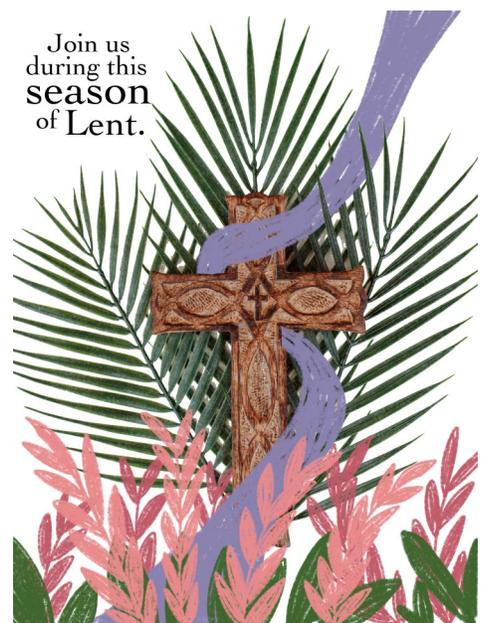
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. You are invited to our annual Ash Wednesday service, beginning with a potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. Service will start at 7pm with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. The season of Lent has changed over the centuries. At one time, it was a very serious, penitential, grief-bearing time to honor Jesus' 40 days of temptation. People used to observe it in a variety of ways: fasting, giving up pleasures, physical endurance; yet over the years, observances have evolved. Now we emphasize ways we can grow closer to God through honoring our Savior Jesus; like more regular church attendance, going to special services the Church offers, reading The Bible more regularly, doing service projects, "taking on" something rather than giving up something, praying every day for our church, our country, our world, visiting people who can't come often to worship or just need a friendly visit, doing any number of things during this 40 day observance.

I want to challenge all of you, in your own special way, to do what we now call "practice random acts of kindness" by doing a "big" act of kindness once a week during Lent. Something like:

- Pay anonymously for someone's meal at a restaurant (consult with your server)
- Pay for the person behind you at the Tim Hortons drive through
- Send flowers to someone you haven't seen in a while who doesn't have family around but needs to know someone cares
- Volunteer at a "helping hands" agency
- Play a game with a little one in your life whose parents don't always have the time to do so
- Practice your own random acts of kindness and let's see what happens to our souls and our lives during Lent so we can carry that into the Easter Season and beyond!

When we do acts of kindness to "the least of these" and we love our neighbors as ourselves, we are doing the work of our Lord here on earth. Let's spread it around and let God do the rest.

Happy Lent,
Pastor Pat



FROM OUR RECORDS....The following information is according to the records we have to the present date. We ask your assistance in notifying us of items to be included in this section of the Newsletter. We hope this information will keep you up to date on your friends at Salem.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations and best wishes to the following people who will become 80 years of age or older in March and April:

Janet Berent - March 1

Edward Trosin - March 13

Helga Stevenson - March 18

John Krupp - March 21

Eugene Demler - March 23

Jack Staffen - March 30

Bette Joyce Smith - April 11

Betty Fisher - April 16

Alice McDermott - April 17

Judith McConnaughey - April 23

John Sherman - April 26



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

...Congratulations and best wishes to...

Dennis & Karen Hoyer - 55th, March 20

Lewis & Mary-Beth McCaw - 42nd, March 25

Mick & Kelly Utzig - 10th, March 28

Joshua & Kristine Stewart - 8th, April 8

Jeffrey & Debbie Fritzke - 52nd, April 14

James & Cindy Kerr - 39th, April 19

IN SYMPATHY

...WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF...

...Shirley Ceder Beloved wife of the late John D. "Jack" Ceder; devoted mother of John D. Ceder, Jr. and Amy (Scott) Hummel; cherished grandmother of Jack Ceder, Cody Ceder, L. Bailey Hummel and Bryan Hummel; loving daughter of the late Walter and Laura (nee Wolf) Peters.

MEMORIALS TO SALEM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Olive Elliott

FROM: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hurley

Jeff Librock

FROM: Charles and Gail Wildt

John and Sally Sherman

Dorothy Gross

FROM: John and Sally Sherman

IN HONOR OF

Leslie Librock

FROM: John and Sally Sherman



SALEM CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

As Salem's council, boards, and committees begin planning for the upcoming year, there are many ways you can get involved. Several committees have openings for members. We are also planning to organize our Communication Committee for the first time. If you are interested in volunteering or finding more information, please talk to any Council member. We look forward to working with you.

Salem UCC Church Council

Dawn Chase	Board of Ministry - president
Debbie Whais	Personnel Board - Vice President
Gretchen Librock	Finance Board - Treasurer
Patti Kidder	At-Large Member – Secretary
Rick Kraft	Property Board
Bruce Lamm	At-Large Member
Jeff Ribbeck	At-Large Member
Peg Williams	Community Life Board

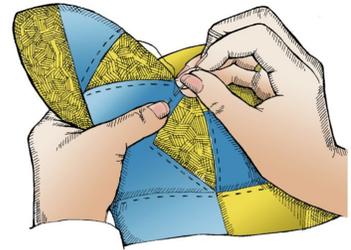
COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Salem's at-large Council members' job is to represent the Salem congregation as a whole. Patti Kidder, Bruce Lamm, and Jeff Ribbeck want Salem members to know that they are available to answer questions and address concerns. If you have questions or concerns, please write them on the back of a prayer request card and give them to any of the at-large members. They will then be able to make the Church Council aware of the needs and concerns of the congregations.



Calling all Quilts!

On **Sunday, March 9**, the Dorcas Society Quilters are having a special celebration! The Society was established 100 years ago in March of 1925. Originally created as a social group in 1911, it morphed into the Quilting arm in 1925 and has been functioning creating and finishing quilts for Salem members and community friends ever since. In order to make this celebration a memorable event, we are asking anyone who has a quilt that is a product of Dorcas, or of the Willing Hands, to loan us their treasured piece. Pastor Pat is planning a special moment during the service on March 9th to bless all of the quilts. The quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary for all to see. If you have a quilt you would like to include in this special service please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Your quilt will be returned to you after service that day. Thank you for making our 100th birthday a very special event!



Dorcas Society Quilters

LUNCH BUNCH

On the 3rd Tuesday of every month, a group of Salem members meet for lunch. We enjoy food, fellowship, and fun. All Salem family members and friends are invited to join us. For monthly details, stop by the activity table for details and sign up to attend. We hope you will join us soon!

PANCAKES!!

The Mileham Family cordially invites you to our annual Maple Sunday event. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, sweet rolls and OJ after the service on **March 23**. Come and enjoy some pancakes and fellowship at the free breakfast! Hope to see you there!



Community Café

Join us on the second Saturday of the month for Community Corner Café!

Doors open at 11:00 am, food is served at 11:30 am. All are welcome! Bring your friends and family! A \$2 donation is requested.

March 8th Menu

- Baked Ham
- Mashed potatoes
- Vegetables
- Bread
- Cookies

April 12th Menu

- Fried Chicken
- Scalloped potatoes
- Vegetables
- Rolls
- Brownies



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Our children from pre-school through grade 6 will have the opportunity to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt before worship on Easter Sunday. You can help by donating small, wrapped candies, larger chocolate Easter candy, or NEW small stuffed animals to fill the eggs or use as prizes. A donation bin will soon be available in the fellowship hall.

March Madness is underway, but don't worry, you can still buy tickets (\$10 each)! Each time you win, your ticket will be put back into the bucket for another chance! We have a lot of wonderful gift cards this year! Including, Federal Market, Wegmans, Tim Hortons, Hideaway Café and More! The Community Life Board would like to thank everyone who donated gift cards and purchase tickets. Good Luck!!

Christian Education Updates

*The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on **March 5**. All are encouraged to attend our potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by our Ash Wednesday worship service.

*The Christian Education Committee will be introducing our 2025 Lenten Project on **Sunday, March 2**. This year we will be collecting items and monetary donations for the organization "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". This wonderful ministry makes beds and provides bedding for children in need. Our Sunday School children and youth will be receiving Lenten banks on that Sunday and encouraged to find creative ways to earn money for their banks. Lenten banks will also be available for any Salem member who would like one. Other donations are always appreciated. We will also be collecting very specific items. Watch your bulletin for details. **Lenten Banks** will be collected on Palm Sunday.

*Sunday, **April 13** - our children and youth will be asked to bring in oranges/cuties to help with the Easter Visitation project. Adults are encouraged to help, too.

Lenten Event - This year our big event to end our Lenten Project will be a **BOWLING PARTY** on Palm Sunday (**April 13**) at Tonawanda Lanes on Young Street. The party will begin at 1 pm. It includes 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop. All children/youth registered for Sunday School can attend free (they just need to pick up a ticket). All others may purchase a ticket for \$10. Watch the bulletin for ticket sale announcements. All are invited.

***EASTER SUNDAY, April 20** - *Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!* - Join the Salem family for a French toast breakfast followed by our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children pre-school - 6th grade. Then we will all attend church to celebrate the Resurrection! (No Sunday School, crib room available.)



EASTER VISITATION 2025

For decades, Salem has reached out to our at-home congregation and many others in our community with our Annual Easter Visitation Project. Easter baskets, which include a cookie, chocolate, candy-filled egg, fruit, and an inspirational message, are put together and delivered by volunteers from our congregation.

There are many ways you and your family can help:

- Donate small, wrapped chocolate candy (ex. Kisses, miniature candy bars, Rolos, etc.)
- Donate larger wrapped eggs -(ex. Russell Stover, Reeses, Cadbury)
- Donate dinner size paper napkins and gallon size zip lock bags
- Donate oranges on Palm Sunday
- Monetary donations also help us purchase other necessary items

Volunteers are also needed on **Wednesday, April 9th at 10:30** to help put the baskets together. Volunteers will be provided with lunch.

Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact Wanda Chase or Dawn Chase.

Holy Week



Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



Summer Camp at Dunkirk

It's time to begin planning for summer camp!! Camp brochures are now available in the Fellowship Hall. Many Salem children, youth, and adults attend every year and have a great time!! As always, Salem will help with the cost of camp.

WHAT NOW?

***sign up in the fellowship hall to let us know you are planning to go to camp**

***register for camp(s) on-line and pay the \$150 deposit**

***Tell Dawn Chase you are registered (call:716-692-7879, text: 716-430-7399, email: dchase8755@aol.com) and inform her of any discounts you were able to use.**

***Salem will pay Dunkirk \$250 of your camp cost.**

***If there are any financial issues, please talk to Dawn or any member of the Christian Education Committee.**

Read the brochure carefully as there are discounts for early bird registration, first-time campers, multiple campers from one family, campers attending more than one camp, etc.

Note: If your child is attending a weekend camp, please let us know. We will pay half the cost of that weekend camp, too.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF SALEM

Many of us had the great opportunity to attend Dunkirk's Women's Weekend. We had a fantastic time and most of us plan to attend again this year. Why not join us? The dates – June 6 - 8, cost: \$125 (Salem will pay \$50). Mark you calendar and plan to join us. If you would like more information, feel free to talk to Rhonda Hopkins, Samantha Arida, Wanda Chase, Dawn Chase, or the other 11 women who attended last year.

ADDITIONAL DUNKIRK CAMPS TO CONSIDER

Dunkirk also offers Family Camps, a Fun After 50's Camp, and many others. Take a look at the camp brochure on the activity table.

