



SALEM NEWS

May 2024

Salem News is published by

Salem United Church of Christ

114 Morgan Street Tonawanda, NY

716-692-3429

www.salemchurchucc.org

The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Lopez, Pastor



As we enter the month of May, I'm excited to share some wonderful news and upcoming events with you all.

First, I want to remind everyone that Mother's Day falls on May 12th. This is a special day to honor and

celebrate the ladies of our church who play such important roles in our lives. Following the worship service on Mother's Day, we will have a special celebration for all the mothers in our congregation. Be sure to join us for a time of fellowship and appreciation, including a drawing for some special prizes handmade by a member of our church. You can read more about this drawing, and even see pictures of the prizes, in this newsletter.

Additionally, I'm excited to announce that Confirmation will take place on May 19th, which always falls on Pentecost Sunday. This is a joyous occasion for our congregation as we celebrate the commitment and faith journey of two young men in our church who have diligently worked through the confirmation program. These young students have studied our faith, our tradition, and our scriptures in order to take on themselves the vows that were made on their behalf at their baptism. As they begin to mature in their faith,

we will confirm the faith we see at work in their lives.

Let us come together as a family of faith to support and celebrate these young individuals as they affirm their faith and embrace their role as full members of our church family. This is also a wonderful opportunity for each of us to reaffirm our commitment to our own faith journeys, reaffirming our baptismal vows and reigniting our passion to follow Christ.

May this month be filled with blessings, joy, and opportunities to grow in our faith together as the body of Christ. I look forward to seeing you all at these upcoming events and worship services.

See you Sunday!

Jeremy



For Pastoral Care:

Call: (716) 692-3429 Office
(716) 545-6214 Pastor Lopez
Email: salemtona@verizon.net

To Support Salem Church

Electronic Giving:

salemchurchucc.org.

Mail check to:

114 Morgan Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

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.

Baptisms

Ruth Taylor, daughter of Emily Taylor, was baptized on March 30, 2024. Ruth was born on December 22, 2023. Godparents for Ruth are Taylor Tocco, Cameron Kraemer, Shannon Provorse and Richard O'Connell

Cody Clemons, son of Kim Clemons was baptized on April 6th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

Donna Heiss—May 2
Frank Ford— May 8
Mary Decker—May 9
Kathleen Salmon —May 10
Marlin Salmon — May 28



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES....

Congratulations and best wishes to:

...**Paul & Samantha Arida** - 3rd, May 1
...**Charles & Gail Wildt** - 53rd, May 22
...**Jim & Julie Verel** - 47th, May 23
...**Paul & Rhonda Hopkins** - 43rd, May 23
...**Edward & Barbara Trosin** - 60th, May 23
...**Mark & Julie Bastian** - 21st, May 24
...**Robert & Patti Slominski** - 34th, May 27
...**Charles & Wendy Pilkey** - 54th, May 29
...**Lynn & Rochelle Shiesley** - 47th, May 29

IN SYMPATHY

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

...**Robert Gerbec** who died on February 12th, 2024. A memorial service was conducted on March 12th at Salem Church. Robert was the husband of Lori (Bodie) Gerbec.

...**Richard Gross** who died on March 11, 2024. A memorial service was conducted on April 6 at Salem Church. Richard was the brother of Dorothy Gross and Uncle to Karen Kenney.

...**Maureen Schulz** who died on April 5, 2024. A memorial service was conducted on April 11 at Salem Church. Maureen was the wife of Gary Schulz.

MEMORIALS TO SALEM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Marilyn Hardy

FROM: Howard and Judith Starks
Wendy Grieser
Donald and Lois Hayes

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Charles Foels

FROM Eugene, Patricia and Helga Stevenson,
Gail H and Charles Wildt.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Stuart Bush

FROM: Betts Industries
John and Sally Sherman
Mr & Mrs Neil Sommerfeldt
Mr & Mrs Robert Ludwig
Mr & Mrs Robert Walker
Mr & Mrs Gordon Green
Mr and Mrs Alan Graser

Continued on next page...

Memorials Continued...

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Richard Gross

FROM:

Herman Sparks

Roy and Sharon Berube

Maureen Schulz

FROM:

Ms Kathleen Barton

Sue Toth

Diane Gronwall

Dawn Chase

Salem League

Diane Kunkel

Stephen, Sheryl and Stephanie Molnar

Gail and Charles Wildt

Bob and Peggy Williams

Mark and Loretta Keller

Believe-it-or-not, it is time to begin planning for **Salem's Annual Parade Day Chowder and Roast Beef Dinner**. This year it will be held on Tuesday, July 16. Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the Fellowship Hall. We need "all hands on deck" for this event. Many of our former volunteers are no longer able to help, so please consider signing up. We need folks to help cook the meat, set-up, clean-up, serve and help in the hall during dinner, dish washers, dessert bakers, etc. I guarantee there is a job for everyone. If you have questions, please talk to Dawn Chase.



Travel Club

Travel Club will meet on
Tuesday May 7th at 11am.
All are welcome too Attend!

MILLER-WERTH SCHOLARSHIP.....

*Attention all graduating
Seniors!*



Have you started to apply to
college?

Have you started to apply for
scholarships?

Salem Church offers the Miller-Werth Scholarship to all church members who are planning to continue their education at a 2 or 4 year school. Applications are now available. Call the church office (692-3429) if you are interested.

*The deadline for submitting your application is
May 31st*

Winners will be notified in June.

We will be having a special collection June 14th to support the scholarship. Please use a pew envelope and mark "scholarship" or send donations to the Church Office.

WILLING HANDS

Thursday, May 2 9:30am

Bring a sandwich for lunch -
dessert will be provided by hostesses

Come join in the fellowship, laughter,
and meaningful work in making quilts
and lap robes.

All are welcome to join!!

NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Salem Church, please let Pastor Jeremy or one of the elders know. Reception of new members will be coming soon!



VIRTUAL THEME BASKET.....

was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who gave donations for the raffle and to all that purchased tickets. The church benefited an amount of \$ 3520 to our General Fund. Thanks again to everyone for your generosity!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Salem's annual family picnic will be held at Eastern Park in Tonawanda on **Sunday, August 11th** after worship.

If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Let's make this a great event for all ages!!



Did you know??

Salem has a

LENDING LIBRARY!!

Please help yourself to a book or two! There are a variety of adult, young adult and children's books available!

If you have extra books laying around the house that you are done reading and want to share, please consider donating them to our Lending Library!

If you have any questions please reach out to Ann Lamm.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for COMMUNITY CORNER CAFÉ !

Saturday May 11th

Sausage with Peppers and Onions on a roll, with sides and brownies for dessert!

Saturday June 8th

Hotdogs, hamburgers, macaroni salad, chips and ice cream!

All are welcome!! Doors open at 11 am, food is served at 11:30. A \$2 donation is requested.

Community Corner Café will be taking a break in July and August

Salem's Annual Easter Visitation Project was a great opportunity for Salem to reach out to our at-home congregation as well as other groups in our community. A special thanks to all the volunteers who came out that day to fill baskets, prepare them for delivery, and provide a delicious lunch for all. Thanks to all Salem members and friends who donated oranges, candy, etc. and took the time to deliver the baskets. This is a Salem tradition that has been around for decades, and we plan to keep it going for a long time.

thank you

We are pleased to announce that a long-time member of Salem who recently passed away left a generous bequest to Salem's Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund Committee agreed to invest this gift in a Certificate of Deposit to generate more interest to help fund the general fund in 2025.

Community Corner Café has been around for years and is one of Salem's mission outreach projects. We have delicious meals every second Sunday of the month. (With a break in July and August). Doors open at 11 am and food is served at 11:30am. We ask a \$2 donation for the meals.

We get many people from the community and our church family. It is a great opportunity to share a good meal and provide fellowship.

We have been blessed with some donations from people from the community. Recently, Christopher Fisher, a City of Tonawanda Councilman, has graciously donated to the Café.

Thank you so much for your support Chris!!

There are many people involved from cooks to servers. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community. Any questions please reach out to Ann Lamm at 716-574-0152.

From The Community Life Committee:

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 12th, we will be handing out tickets to all the women to WIN one of six pictures donated by Jane Andres. Come to the Fellowship Hall after church for a chance to win one of the quilling pictures for yourself or a special person in your life!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Chocolate COUPON

Love your Salem Church Family

- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Enjoy 1 free Chocolate Bar from the Youth Group

Join us on Friday Evenings for Bible Study!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 6:30 in the McDermott Room for a time of Bible Study and Fellowship. All are welcome to attend!

Did you know?...

With all the security threats out there, you might be tempted to click on a pop-up or ad for a “free” scan to keep your computer safe. Especially if you see a Windows logo.

The problem? They’re impersonating well-known companies and scaring you into paying to fix computer problems that may not exist.

Lying about finding security threats on your computer to sell you a service to repair your computer over the phone is illegal. Many people, including older adults, paid tens of millions of dollars for software and services to repair made-up problems. They may also install “spyware” which may allow them to view your activity, potentially capturing your credit card and bank account access codes.

To avoid tech support scams:

- Know that legitimate tech companies won’t contact you by phone, email, or text message to tell you there’s a problem with your computer.
- Never click a link or call a number in a pop-up warning. Honest tech companies won’t contact you unexpectedly and ask you to do that.

Join us for our

Salem UCC Holiday Craft Market!

~November 16th 2024 10am-4pm~

We are currently looking for Artists, Crafters and Vendors! Cost is \$50 to have a table at this event. Save \$5 if you provide your own table.

Any questions please reach out to Samantha Arida: samanthaarida@yahoo.com
Or by calling: 716-533-3012

HELLO! From your new Church Secretary.

I thought I could take this opportunity to introduce myself to my church family. So, here goes! Hello! My name is Trista Hayes, or better known as "Daphne's Mom". I am so incredibly thankful to have been given the opportunity to serve the church in this way.

I grew up in Central New York, out in the country, with my parents and my brother. It was a beautiful family farm that we shared with my Uncle and Grandmother. It was nice, but not the area I wanted to live in forever. In high school I was very involved with the music program at my school (surprising I know!) performing in band, orchestra and chorus. I was also heavily involved in our theatre program. I went on to study music education at Roberts Wesleyan College (now University) but didn't finish my degree there. After 2 years of studying education I transferred back home to SUNY Oneonta and got a degree in Theatre. Hoping to one day move to NYC and work in theatre, I decided that I would continue my studies and get a Master's of Theatre from Binghamton University. I loved studying theatre and it is still a big part of my life today.

Growing up, my family was very involved in our church. We were in the Hand Bell choir, children's choir and Sunday School. After I graduated from college I was our High School youth group leader for a few years. I even had the pleasure of bringing a group of teenagers to a 7 day retreat in Colorado. Which is an experience I will never forget!

You may be wondering how I went from wanting to live in NYC to living in Buffalo. I moved to Buffalo just about 7 years ago. My life had taken a few detours that were unexpected and God led me here. Originally thinking that this was going to be a pass through, I didn't plan on staying long. Well, then I met my now husband Kal while working a bartending job. Our first date story is pretty funny and if you'd like to know just ask. I love telling it! Anyway, we have been married for 3 years now and have our beautiful daughter Daphne. I couldn't be happier with where I am in life.

When Kal and I first met, my father was suffering from ALS. After his passing I needed to find something that would "ground me". Kal stated that he would like to go back to being a regular church member and without hesitation I agreed. I didn't know at the time, but I was craving that Sunday morning routine and fellowship from a Church Family.

Fast forward years later and here I sit writing my "meet the new secretary" post. The outpouring acceptance and love for my family has been so touching for me. I love that we call this Church Community family and that we are accepted with open arms. I know that the friendships I have gained while being a member of Salem Church are ones I will treasure for my life time.

I look forward to many years working here in the Church Office and hope to help keep our Church thriving. Please feel free to stop by anytime to chat or introduce yourself!



Trista

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, so it's time to add some flowers and plants around our beautiful church building and our Memorial Walkway. This year, there are many ways you can help with this project.

- You can volunteer to plant – date to be determined
- You can volunteer to help water throughout the summer
- You can donate to help cover the cost of the flowers. If you are interested, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by May 15.

GERANIUMS AND FLOWERS

The cost of each plant is \$10. Please fill out the form with your dedication and return it by May 13.
The dedications will be printed in the bulletin on Memorial Day weekend.

NAME _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Memorial Walkway plaque Order Form

If you would like to order a Memorial Walkway Plaque to be added to our walkway please fill out the form below and send it with your payment, to the church office.

Plaque Size: 5X7 5X10

Engraving: _____

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Cost: 5X7 \$200

Email:

5X10 \$300



Youth serving dinner during our Lenten Wednesday Night Service



Arose for You Puppets Joined us for
Christian Education Sunday



Happy Retirement Pam!!



Easter Egg Hunt

