



Help us update our records!

Staying connected matters to us. If your contact information has changed, please take a moment to update us—especially our at-home congregation—so we can continue sharing news, encouragement, and care. You can reach the church office at 716-692-3429.



**New Number?
New Address?
New Haircut?
Let Us Know!**

Thanks to all for your comforting words of support, your prayers, cards, flowers, and kind words during my recent illness. I am slowly getting better and am so grateful to be back at worship and activities. I thank God every day for my wonderful Salem Family. -Love, Dawn

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:
saalemchurchucc.org.
Mail check to:
114 Morgan Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150



WEDDING

ANNIVERSARIES....

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- ...**Paul & Samantha Arida** - 5th, May 1
- ...**Charles & Gail Wildt** - 55th, May 22
- ...**Jim & Julie Verel** - 49th, May 23
- ...**Paul & Rhonda Hopkins** - 45th, May 23
- ...**Edward & Barbara Trosin** - 62nd, May 23
- ...**Mark & Julie Bastian** - 23rd, May 24
- ...**Robert & Patti Slominski** - 36th, May 27
- ...**Charles & Wendy Pilkey** - 56th, May 29

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



BAPTISM

Xander Jeffery Sterner, son of Nicholas & Rachel (Haentges) Sterner was baptized on April 26, 2026. Xander was born on October 20, 2025. Godparents for Xander are Emily Haentges and Richard Sterner.

FROM OUR RECORDS....The above 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.

Memorials to Salem

To the Music Ministry

John Krupp

FROM: Laura Martineau

Memorial Fund

Jean Braun

FROM: Patti Kidder

Norma Stryker

FROM: Herman Sparks

Endowment Fund

Loving memory of my hubby

Walter Nebelecky

General Fund

Honor of **Neal Malchow**

FROM: Letizia Pellizzori

Sue Malchow



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 contact the church office, or watch in our weekly Worship Bulletins for order forms.

GERANIUMS AND FLOWERS

The cost of each plant is \$10. Please fill out the form with your dedication and return it by

May 15.

The dedications will be printed in the bulletin on Memorial Day weekend.

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAT

WOW! I loved our recent vacation trip to places I hardly ever hear about and even know where they are located (except Hungary, since I lived there for awhile a very long time ago).

We went to Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania and our several guides were so amazing and honest. Viking only uses local people to serve as guides on our excursions and they have to study and pass tests to work for Viking, as Viking reminds us that they only use the best. They all speak English, and believe me, they all have an American sense of humor!

What both Mark and I found amazing was the complete honesty from all of them in those countries about their experiences (or their family's experiences) under Communist rule and then what happened when freedom came to them after 1989, when the "wall fell" and other countries followed along.

What I learned has been enlightening because we take our freedoms for granted and let me say that we need to be very careful because I sense and fear some of them are being eroded or reformed in scary ways. (Another topic for another conversation).

The guides told us that at first everyone was happy about being free and out from communism, but as their lives went on, they realized that they did not feel so free, because now they had to live under a new system called democracy and self-reliance and a system called capitalism. They told us that it was hard especially on the older ones who, although they might have hated communism, they were taken care of and there was no real competition





The guides told us about all the growing pains that their countries went through and the relearning of what a democracy is and how capitalism works and what freedoms they now have.

They said that the people were learning to survive but now, almost 40 years later, they are thriving, and for instance, buildings are being restored and new ones are being built that are strikingly different from the old, utilitarian ones built under a different regime. And how people are now loving being who they are (And not having to learn Russian). Many of them chose English as another language to use.

Which brings me to an awareness that freedom has always been our right here in the United States and our way of life, but our freedoms and our democracy are always on the verge of being taken away, and most of all, of **being taken for granted.**

So let's think about our freedom to assemble, to have free press, to have a right to free speech, to petition (look that one up!) and of course, to us as people of faith, the **freedom to worship as we choose.**

I hope to see you in worship this week and all the weeks to follow and in all that we do at Salem United Church of Christ, because, any one of those can be taken away at the blink of an eye, and we might say one day, "At least we had flesh pots in Egypt." And "Are we going to die in the desert?"

Have a great day and week and season of Easter and the joy of being Easter People!

Joy in Christ,

Pastor Pat



SALEM SCHOLARSHIP

Salem Church has a proud history of supporting active members entering college with scholarships in memory of Evelyn Cary Miller and Arlene Werth. These scholarships are provided through donations made to the scholarship fund. An indoor picnic was held to raise funds for our scholarship program, so we hope to be able to offer two \$500 scholarships based the amount of donations received. If you are planning to apply for a scholarship, applications are available online or from the church office. Successful candidates' applications will be based on involvement in Salem Church ministries, community and school involvement and leadership qualities. Applications are due back in the church office **May 17th**.

Graduation

Attention all graduates and families of graduates! As always, Salem will be celebrating our high school graduates on Sunday, June 21. If someone in your family is graduating this year, please let us know by either signing the list on the activity table or contacting the church office. We are so proud of you!!!



CONFIRMATION CLASS READY TO JOIN THE FAMILY OF GOD

It is delightful to be able to share with you that we have 8 young people who will be joining our church through the **RITE of CONFIRMATION** on **Sunday, May 17th**.

It has been a year of learning, sharing, memorizing, of some highs and lows, making of our own personal chalices, and soon they will be ready to make their own confession of faith, that Jesus is their personal Lord and Savior.

We are strongly encouraging them to become active members of our church through Sunday school and youth group, and to continue to be our acolyters for Sunday worship, to go to Dunkirk Camp in the summer, and to become helpers at our many events.

Those who will be confirmed by prayer and the laying on of hands are Richard Banks, Carter Banks, Preston Banks, Gleb Panchenko, Oksana Panchenko, Clarissa Lucas, Emari Neal, and Chloe Meister, who is the 5th generation of her family to make her confirmation in our church.

We will have a special celebration after the service to have you all officially welcome them to our family of God here at Salem United Church of Christ.

Let us praise God for their young people as they make their confession of faith.

The Community Life Committee would like to thank everyone who helped us with the March Madness, total collected \$3130.00. We could not have done it without your support. On April 26th a good will offering luncheon was held to help replenish the Miller Werth Scholarship Fund. At the end of April, a Krispy Kream Donut fundraiser will take place and go into May. We are hoping everyone would buy 1 dozen (\$15.00) or more. They will be delivered on Mother's Day.

On Mother's Day May 10th, all women will receive a ticket and a chance to win a beautiful hanging basket.



Lunch Bunch continues to meet at 12:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Each month we visit a different local restaurant for food, fellowship, and fun. All are invited to join us, just sign up in the fellowship hall so we can make reservations. In May, we will be meeting at the Hideaway on Division Street in North Tonawanda. June takes us to the IronTon on Wheatfield Street in North Tonawanda. Hope you can join us!

Lenten Project Update

Thanks to all Salem children and adults for the generous support of our "Heart, Love, and Soul" Lenten Project. Your overwhelming donations of food, laundry, and shower items and the money (\$628.16) in the Lenten Banks will help the many ministries offered by this group. Special thanks to Carolyn and Larry Shaw and Wanda Chase for organizing and delivering the bags of donations.

- ! Join us for Community Corner Café!
- ! Saturday, **May 9th!**
- ! Doors open at 11:00 am
- ! Food served at 11:30am!
- ! All are welcome! We ask a \$2 donation.
- ! May's Menu:
- ! Sausage with onions and peppers on a roll
- ! Sides
- ! Cake!
- ! Next Café will be on June 13th! We will
- ! end our Café season with a Picnic Lunch!



SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp at Dunkirk

If you are planning to attend summer camp at Dunkirk, it is time to make sure you are up-to-date. Camp brochures are 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)**

***Salem will offer a \$250 scholarship to all youth who are registered and have contacted Dawn.**

***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 5 - 7. Mark your 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, Paulette Mongold, Christine Jones, or the others who have attended in the past.

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.



170 years of serving with Joy!!

Salem Church will be celebrating our 170th anniversary!! It's the perfect time to remember our past, enjoy the present, and plan for our future. We have planned some special events to celebrate this important milestone.

First, please check those old scrapbooks for any Salem memorabilia. We would love to have you share any photos, newspaper articles, old Salem cookbooks, confirmation and Sunday School items, etc. We would like to display items and memories from our history. We also plan to visit our archive room for some items we may have forgotten.

You will also have an opportunity to share your favorite memories on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Our children, of all ages, are encouraged to get creative and enter a poster in our poster contest. The theme is *"What I Love about Salem Church"*. Pick up a poster board from Miss Dawn on any Sunday. You are free to color, paint, cut out pictures, use crayons, markers, etc. There will be prizes for all in each age group, including some larger prizes (how does a weekend at Dunkirk sound?). Posters must be turned in by Sunday, June 7.

There will be a weekly trivia question in your Sunday bulletin. Put your answer in the trivia box on the activity table.

The winners will receive a prize.

We will end our celebration with a luncheon after worship on Sunday June 14. You must sign up in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, June 7 (free will offering will be taken). Please plan to join us as we share our ministry and begin to plan for another **170 YEARS OF SERVING WITH JOY!!!**

Watch your Sunday bulletin and newsletters for more updates.



Easter Visitation Update

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. Special thanks to all the volunteers who came out that day to fill over 300 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. Special thanks to Wanda Chase and Sharon Cleveland for organizing all the details. This is a Salem tradition that has been around for decades, and we plan to keep it going for a long time.



Summer Sunday School

The final Sunday School class of this school year will be held on Sunday, June 21. Summer Sunday School will begin on Sunday, June 27. All children pre-school through grade 6 are invited to join us in the McDermott Room for Sunday School lessons and other activities. All youth in grades 7 – 12 should plan to attend worship. Crib room will be available. We hope all will join us!!

Vacation Bible School

Salem will again be offering Vacation Bible School in August. Details will soon be available. All children aged 3 - grade 6 are invited to attend.

Friends and family are also invited to participate.



We Need Your Help

Salem has many committees that handle specific roles within the church. This year we need to fill a few places on **our Church and Ministry Committee** and our Communication **Committee**. Details concerning the responsibilities of committee members can be found on the activity table in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions or concerns, Patti Kidder can answer any questions you may have about the Church and Ministry Committee and Samantha Arida can answer any questions you have about the Communication Committee.

If you are interested in serving on these committees, please sign up in the fellowship hall.



Do you know how much it costs Salem each year to perform our ministries? *

\$35 from each member supports Christian Education, Confirmation, Camp Scholarships and Vacation Bible School

\$110 from each member supports our music ministry

\$18.50 from each member sustains our worship services

\$9.50 from each member assists us in maintaining Salem Cemetery

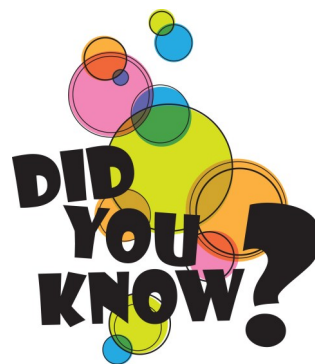
\$182.50 from each member maintains operations of our buildings (excluding repairs);

\$275 per member includes cleaner & maintenance part-time salaries

\$793 from each member is needed to support all these ministries, support a part-time Pastor, part-time staff and balance our budget.

Please consider either adding to your weekly offering or making a one-time donation to keep our Salem ministries fully funded.

*(calculated based on 325 members & the 2026 budget)





Thank
YOU
for ALL THAT
YOU do



Thank you to all who volunteered to help fill baskets for our Easter Visitation project!

300 baskets were made for our community and our at home congregation.

This is a Salem tradition that has been around for decades, and we plan to keep it going for a long time!

All those who receive these baskets are extremely grateful every year!

