

# Salem Forecaster



Salem United Methodist Church

September 2024  
Volume 36 Issue 9



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[www.salemchurch.life](http://www.salemchurch.life) - [office@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:office@salemchurchcr.com)

# MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

## SEPTEMBER MISSION focus

Meas  on  
Whee s



UWF'S ANNUAL  
GARAGE SALE

A PROGRAM OF  Horizons



This month our monthly mission focus will be supporting the United Women of Faith's mission!

Our Mission Team is excited to lend our support and hands to the UWF's efforts. You can still make financial contributions to support this mission by going to [salemchurch.life/give](http://salemchurch.life/give) and by shopping at the garage sale.

## LEAGUE 33

Jesus is the ULTIMATE Superhero.

This year for League 33, we'll be exploring His abilities by investigating Jesus' "I AM" statements. Join us the first Wednesday of each month, starting September 4th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for church in kid sized bites!



On our first gathering we'll be collecting :

- any kid's clothing (new or gently used, newborn to 18)
  - bras (new or gently used)
  - shoes (new or gently used)
  - quilts or blankets (new or gently used)
  - new socks and underwear (newborn to 18)

So, while you're cleaning out your kiddo's closets of outgrown clothes in preparation for the new school year and our UWF Garage Sale - bring those with you to League 33! We'll be donating them to [Families Helping Families](#), a local non-profit, that helps care and support kids in the foster system and their foster families.

Here is a linked [list of things they accept or do not accept](#), if you have any questions.



**August 25**

Radical Hospitality

**September 1**

Passionate Worship

**September 8**

Intentional Faith Development

**September 15**

Risk Taking Mission and Service

**September 22**

Extravagant Generosity



## KINDNESS CAMPAIGN

Kindness, compassion, respect, and love. How do you want to be treated?

There is a phrase often referred to as the golden rule that simply states,

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

It is a call to treat others with the same kindness we would want to receive in return.

Yet, during election season it seems division and polarization are common headlines.

In a time filled with negativity, we have a choice to make.

Choosing kindness is not about avoiding our differences but navigating them with respect and compassion. Kindness has the power to influence even more than an election.

It strengthens relationships, neighborhoods, and communities.

It helps us find common ground instead of taking sides. It allows us to disagree and remain friends. It builds bridges instead of walls.

I invite you to join us for our sermon series we will be kicking off in October leading up to the November election. As the election heats up, we the church will be the voice of reason to cool things down. The world is not looking for a replication for the divided culture. It needs a solution. The solution is Jesus.



September 29: Justice: A Shared Moral Vision

October 6: The Power of Kindness

October 13: The Power of Humility

October 20: Being One

September 27: Malice Towards None, Charity for All



Let's vote for kindness. One small act at a time.

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

# KARAOKE CREW

Did you know that singing is like a gym session for your brain? It enhances neural connections and improves cognitive flexibility. Singing is an activity that engages multiple areas of the brain, including the ones responsible for language, rhythm and emotion.

So, if you're looking to give your brain a good workout (or just want to have a good time), please join us for karaoke fun on Friday, September 13th at the Eagles Club (1735 11th St NW).

The singing starts at 8:00 p.m.

Several Salem friends have been gathering for monthly karaoke since February and we hope to see you there too! If you have any questions, contact [April Campbell](#).

And PLEASE invite other friends that you think might be interested.



# FOODIES & FUN



Bring a friend and join the Foodies and Fun Group at Union Station Sports Bar and Grill! Thursday, September 5, 2024, 6:30 PM  
1724 16th Ave SW,  
Cedar Rapids  
Questions: Contact [Dianne Redden](#) or [Ron Campbell](#)

# LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES

8.20.24

Those in attendance were Pastor Matt German,  
Donna Sanders, Tim Reisen, Deb Valenta,  
\*Jan Graham, Ron Campbell, Tara Schlesselman,  
Larry Janda, \*Tim Sweet and Deb Fritz.  
\*Virtual attendance

Guests: Brian Schooley and Nicole German



5:30- Pre-Meeting called to order.

Trustees - Mark Minger

Mark is working on finding replacements LED canisters for sanctuary. He checked with two companies, and they don't have them and believe we should change canister to allow a screw in LED bulb, however we do not know if the current wiring can support. The request is to hire an electrician to review and advise on how to move forward.

A motion (Tim R, 2nd Ron) to hire an electrician was voted on and approved. Volunteers have been assisting with building cleaning and it has been much appreciated. A Fall clean up day will be scheduled. Mandatory annual building inspections such as fire safety, fire extinguishers and air conditioning units have been conducted. The suppression system is scheduled. Cub Caden mower is in the shop for tune-up Mark Simonson is offering to pay for this work.

Thank you Mark for all your continued care of Salem's lawn. You are greatly appreciated.

Stewardship - Brian presented financials for July. We received \$21,778.36 and expenses were 17,249.72, with a surplus of 4,528.64. We are (\$16,743.35) short for the year. The building fund has 4.00 months of reserve.

Nicole German - Presented to the board an overview of how many different softwares we use. She proposed adding an additional service to one of our current suppliers Planning Center to allow for a more robust and updated online directory. This program will allow different teams to send out a single request for scheduling/care or updates. The cost of this additional feature is \$32 per month. It will eventually lead to us cancelling several other systems allowing for a future savings. A motion (Deb F, Tim R) to expand and add on to Planning Center was voted on and approved.

Board Outreach Phone Calls - connect and thank the members of our church for their generosity. We would like to have all members called by next board meeting September 17th.

Charge Conference Review- next steps. We have a realtor working with zoning department to establish lot lines.

6:23 Meeting called to order.

Loving - Where do you like to go to find some time with the Lord?

Learning - Pastor Matt shared information about the upcoming Sermon Series 5 practices of a Fruitful Congregation.

Leading - We are on a mission to make disciples of the Lord.

SPRC - With staff reductions and realignments, job descriptions were updated. A motion (Deb, Tara 2nd) to approve all new job descriptions was voted on and approved.

S/PPRD Appointment Advisory Consultation for 2025 was reviewed and a motion (Tim S, Tim R 2nd) motion to request Pastor Matt to remain at Salem voted on and passed.

## Other Business.

Church in Our Backyard August 28th (Final for Summer of 2024)

League 33 starting back up Sept. 4th.

5th Sunday potluck September 29th.

More Affinity Groups starting this Fall.

Women's Garage Sale - Funds to Hacap (Meals on Wheels)

Ended the meeting with Prayer at 8:45

Next Meeting:

Tuesday September 17th @ 5:30


# 3-10 CONNECT

Almost every week, someone new visits our church. As much as we may feel like home at Salem, they may feel like a stranger and it is up to us to change that. We want them to know that we are glad they are here and that they are welcome in the family of God. There is a simple concept called 3-10-connect. It means that at the end of our worship services for the first 3 minutes look around in a 10-foot radius from where you are sitting. If you see someone in that space that you don't know, extend a handshake and say hi. You could simply say, "I don't think I know you." Then introduce yourself and make conversation with them as you walk out of the sanctuary together. You see, now you have made a connection with that person and they have with you. If it turns out they have questions about our church, you can connect them further. You can physically take them to the welcome center or introduce them to a pastor, church staff member, or someone you know who can help them. The idea is 3-10-Connect. Focus on the newcomer for the first 3 minutes after worship. Know that your mission field is a 10-foot radius from where you are sitting. Connect them with another person in the church. 3-10-connect. Let's start this Sunday!

**LET'S  
START  
THIS  
SUNDAY**

A graphic with a dark blue background featuring a network of glowing blue nodes and lines. The number '3' is on the left, followed by a horizontal line and an arrow pointing to the right. The number '10' is inside a white circle on the right. Below this, the word 'connect' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

3 → 10  
connect



One woman Admin show seeks 5-10 volunteers to join her in correcting membership roles and assist in gathering accurate information for communications and annual reporting. Please contact Nicole at [office@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:office@salemchurchcr.com) or by phone at 319.362.6178

Please visit our [Planning Center page](#) to confirm the information we have for you at Salem and for our very own **online directory!**



# MISSIONS MYSTERIES... EXPLAINED



We gather grocery bags in the Missions closet to donate to Together We Achieve! Now we can finally do something good with our grocery bags filled with other grocery bags that we've been saving!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

09/01 GENE FRAME  
09/01 BECKY JOHNSON  
09/01 TARA SCHLESSELMAN  
09/02 CHARLENE HARRISON  
09/02 ROGER NEWHARD  
09/04 KATHY VALENTA  
09/08 JAN JOHNSON  
09/11 RAYMOND BURNS

09/15 SUSIE HEALD  
09/17 ARCHER AYERS  
09/18 PHYLLIS HODINA  
09/19 DEB VALENTA  
09/23 DAWN FOUGH  
09/25 KATHY SCHOOLEY  
09/25 DENNIS VALENTA  
09/26 TOM MCMILLEN  
09/27 ALEX MARA  
09/29 PERCY GAVINESS  
09/29 LINDA NOLAN  
09/29 DOUG WHITMER

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



09/04 WARREN & DORIS HOLST  
09/21 MARK & DAWN FOUGH  
09/27 TIM & AMY REISEN  
09/30 TOM & CHARLENE HARRISON

## WEEKEND CLEAN UP CREW

In efforts to be good stewards, we've reduced staff hours to offset the strain on our budget. With that, to keep our church inviting and welcoming we're counting on volunteer support. We're asking for 2+ volunteers (bring a friend, make it a family event, sign up with someone you'd like to get to know better...) to spend 1-2 hours on a Friday or Saturday, freshening up our building.

Duties include vacuuming, cleaning countertops, straightening chairs, etc.

There will be a checklist in the maintenance closet in Fellowship Hall (near the bathrooms).

Please sign up at the Inspiration Station - if you or your cleaning partner don't have a key to the church; just let the office know and we will coordinate opening and closing the building.

A church isn't a building you go to; it's a family you belong to.

We appreciate everyone's time and efforts in the up-keep of our home.

# SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Salem United Methodist Church – Special Charge Conference

Sunday August 18 th

Attendance Attached

Meeting called to order at 10:15 by Pastor Matt German

Introduction and opening comments from Rev. Sherrie IIG – Rev. IIG clarified that while all are welcome and can ask questions and comment on the motion, only members will be allowed to vote. She then turned the meeting over to Board Chair Donna Sanders

Mrs. Sanders spoke regarding the purpose of the proposed sell of land stating the goal was to retire the current mortgage of just over \$500K that that church carries, retain enough land for outdoor ministry endeavors and future building expansion. By retiring the mortgage, it would free up approximately \$5,400 per month. We would have additional savings in the upkeep of the property. A map was put on screen that gave an indication of what the division of the property could look like. It was made clear that this was for reference, and we would be working with others to clarify zoning restrictions and lot sizes.

The following motion from the board was presented as follows:

The leadership board moves that a portion of the Salem grounds be sold with the proceeds of the sale to be used to retire the mortgage balance carried by Salem United Methodist Church while retaining enough ground to allow for future building expansion and outdoor activities.”

The floor was then opened for questions.

Question/Discussion regarding how and if we can control who could buy the property, Tim Sweet shared that we can put covenants and restrictions on the land we sell to ensure we don't end up with a neighbor that would be in direct conflict with our faith.

Question/Discussion included clarification that the board would be authorized to accept offers and sell the land without further approval. While the Board will be making the decisions they will endeavor to keep the Church congregation up to date as we move forward. This will allow for the Board to make quick decisions as often necessary with an offer to buy.

Rev. Steve Pudinski asked if we could make an amendment to the original recommendation stating the board can act as agent for the church. Tim Sweet 2nd the motion that the Board may accept all offers.

The motion was discussed and accepted.

The Updated motion reads as follows:

The leadership board moves that a portion of the Salem grounds be sold with the proceeds of the sale to be used to retire the mortgage balance carried by Salem United Methodist Church while retaining enough ground to allow for future building expansion and outdoor activities. The Board is authorized to act as an agent for the church with the ability to accept any offers for the property.”

A Vote was called with the results:

55 – Yes

0 – No

1 – Abstention

The congregation was thanked for their attendance and caring for this matter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45



# CONNECT WITH US

Looking for new ways to plug in at Salem?

Visit our website and fill out our  
Ministry Interest Survey!

You can click the link above or go to  
[saalemchurch.life](http://saalemchurch.life) and choose the footprints  
at the bottom left corner of your screen,  
then select "See More" and then click on the  
Ministry Interest Survey button!



## HOME CARE TEAM

Ever wonder how the HCT Team knows when you're in the hospital?

Every day, a member of the Salem Care Team calls both  
St. Luke's and Mercy Hospitals to see if anyone affiliated with  
Salem UMC has been admitted.



During the admission process, a registrar updates your records.  
In most instances, they will ask you, a family member, or friend  
if you are connected with a faith community.

When you share that you are connected with Salem UMC,  
that gets logged into their operator's listing so that when our  
HCT Team calls, your name will be listed; unless you're registered  
as a private patient or do not share your connection to Salem.

Often times, primary care physicians share chart information  
with hospitals; so if you have shared with your primary care office  
that you are in connection with Salem, that information also  
may be shared to the hospital's operator's listings.



HOME CARE  
TEAM

Another option is to call the church (319.362.6178) and connect with the Director of Pastoral Care,  
Sandra Daniels. If she is unavailable; you are welcome to leave a message for her, send  
her an email at [s.daniels@saalemchurchcr.com](mailto:s.daniels@saalemchurchcr.com), or call back to the church and select Option 2  
for the Pastoral Emergency Line.

If you have any questions on this process or would like further guidance, please reach out  
to Sandra at 319.362.6178 or [s.daniels@saalemchurchcr.com](mailto:s.daniels@saalemchurchcr.com), as she would love to connect  
with you and make sure you're getting the care you desire from Salem!

# Meals on Wheels

We deliver hot, healthy, ready-to-eat meals daily in addition to frozen meals and breakfast bags to older adults and persons with disabilities in our community. Our clients can receive meals for a short duration while they're recovering from a hospital stay, as respite care for their family who usually provides meals, or on an ongoing basis each weekday.



## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH - GARAGE SALE

Donations of gently used items may be dropped off in Fellowship Hall on :  
Monday and Tuesday, September 23rd & 24th from 9:30 AM - 4 PM  
and Wednesday, September 25th from 9:30 AM - 12 PM.

If you have items but are unable to make the drop off times, please connect with  
Gerry Wheeler (319.899.7565) to make arrangements.  
If you have any additional questions contact Gerry (see above)  
or Sandy Minger at (319.651.5140).

**SALEM'S  
ANNUAL  
UWF  
Garage Sale**



PROCEEDS SUPPORT

**Meals  on  
Wheels**

A PROGRAM OF **Horizons** 

**SEPTEMBER 26 & 27  
9 AM - 5 PM  
SEPTEMBER 28  
9 AM - NOON**



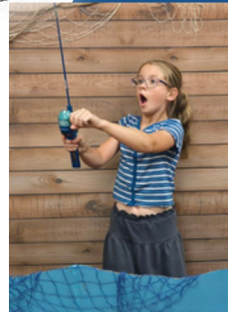
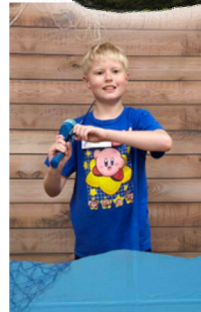
**CASH & VANCO.COM  
(QR CODE) ACCEPTED**

Items accepted :  
Household utensils,  
toys, decor, holiday  
decor, books, tools,  
dishes, luggage,  
purses, electronics,  
etc...

Items not accepted :  
baby cribs and car  
seats (due to  
government recalls),  
clothing and  
furniture.

# VBS WEEK

Thank you, Jill Tunis, for organizing such an incredible week!  
Equal amounts of learning, fun and love - the best kind of VBS!



# ANNUAL GIVING

# BUILDING FUND

	YTD 2024	July
Offering Income	\$132,293	\$21,778
Operating Expenses	\$149,036	\$17,250
Net over/(under)	(\$16,743)	\$4,529

	YTD 2024	July
Offering Income	\$29,047	\$4,968
Mortgage Payments	\$37,604	\$5,372
Net over/(under)	(\$8,557)	(\$404)

Average monthly deficit (under) (\$2,392)

Remaining mortgage balance \$509,607  
Building Reserve Fund - 4.0 months

## 5 ways to give

 VANGO MOBILE APP

SALEMCHURCH.LIFE/GIVE 

 TEXT 855-917-1810

MAIL GIFT TO CHURCH 

 IN PERSON 



Salem  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# SEPTEMBER



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

1  
9 AM - Modern  
Worship  
10:10 AM -  
Fellowship/  
Sunday School  
11 AM Trad.  
Worship



3

4  
10 AM -  
Bible Study  
5:30 PM -  
League 33

5  
11 AM - Options  
of Linn County  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation

6  
6 PM - 12 AM -  
Emmaus  
Walk #189  
Team Meeting  
6:30 PM -  
Foodies & Fun  
at Union Station

7  
12 AM - 3 PM -  
Emmaus  
Walk #189  
Team Meeting  
8 AM - UMM's  
Breakfast

8  
9 AM - Modern  
Worship  
10:10 AM -  
Fellowship/  
Sunday School  
11 AM Trad.  
Worship

9  
10 AM - Missions  
Meeting  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation



11  
9 AM - Pastors  
Circuit Meeting  
10 AM -  
Bible Study

12  
10 AM - UWF  
Sarah Circle  
11 AM - Options  
of Linn County  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation

13  
1 PM - UWF  
Rachel Circle  
8 PM - Karaoke  
Crew at the  
Eagles Club

14

15  
9 AM - Modern  
Worship  
10:10 AM -  
Fellowship/  
Sunday School  
11 AM Trad.  
Worship

16  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation

17  
5:30 PM -  
Leadership  
Board

18  
10 AM -  
Bible Study

19  
10 AM - UWF  
Exec Board  
11 AM - Options  
of Linn County  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation

20

21  
9 AM -  
Emmaus  
Walk #189  
Team Meeting  
*Hello  
autumn*

22  
9 AM - Modern  
Worship  
10:10 AM -  
Fellowship/  
Sunday School  
11 AM Trad.  
Worship

23  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation  
**GARAGE  
SALE  
DROP OFF**

24  
1 PM - Staff  
Meeting  
**10 to 1** →

25  
10 AM -  
Bible Study

26  
11 AM - Options  
of Linn County  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation

27

28  
**GARAGE  
SALE  
9 AM - 12 PM**

29  
9 AM - Modern  
Worship  
10:10 AM -  
Fellowship/  
Sunday School  
11 AM Trad.  
Worship  
4 PM - SonWalkers

30  
12 PM - Senior  
Recreation



Office hours  
Mon-Thurs  
9:30 AM -  
1:30 PM  
(Office closes  
@ 12:30 PM  
on Mondays)





*Salem*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3715 33RD AVE SW  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404  
(319) 362-6178

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 2024 FORECASTER

SALEMCHURCH.LIFE



# SUNDAY

*Services*

MODERN WORSHIP - 9 AM  
FELLOWSHIP - 10 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:10 AM  
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP - 11 AM

IN PERSON & ONLINE - LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK, SALEMCHURCH.LIFE AND YOUTUBE.COM/SALEMCHURCHGR