
Peace Talk Holiday 2019
Salem United Church of Christ, Wanatah, IN 46390

Calendar of Events

11/3-Youth Fellowship 11-1 p.m.

11/3-Totenfest, pew communion, daylight savings time ends

11/5-Prayer Shaw Committee meeting 9:30 a.m.

11/10-Veteran's Day Service; Budget Mtg. 6 p.m.

11/20-23, Branson Christmas Adventure

11/24-Thanksgiving Sunday, pew communion

12/1-First Sunday of Advent
12/1-Congregational Meeting, calendar, budget, election; Council meeting

12/7-Trim the Christmas Tree, time to be announced

12/15-Christmas Communion

12/22-Children's Christmas program at 10:00 worship, Church wide brunch following the children's program

12/24- Candlelight service at 11:00 p.m.

12/29-New Year's Communion

From the Heart

This is the season to be thankful for all that we are and have.

Let us give thanks for those in our lives who make us better people. God has placed each person in our lives for a reason and a time. Sometimes it is to help us to grow and sometimes it is to help them to grow.

Let us also give thanks to all that God has given us. Whether they are tangible things like furniture or presents, or intangible like Faith and ideas.

I give thanks to God for all of you, my family in Christ. I am so very blessed to be a part of Salem UCC Wanatah.

May God bless each of you this Christmas season and all the year ahead.

Your secretary,

Kristina Bertsch

Thankful
&
Blessed

Salem Council News

November 10th at 6:00 p.m. – Annual budget, calendar and Cabinet meeting in Memorial Hall, everyone is welcome to attend.

December 1nd- Congregational Meeting to approve budget and calendar, and election of elders and trustees. Anyone interested in being on the council should contact Larry Pierce or any council member.

Thank you, Salem for the opportunity to share with you each week the Word of God. God's Word has been so impactful for me in my life. It gives life. It truly is a lamp to help me see where I stand and a light to show me the way on the path in front of me. Last week I began sharing a journey that I started around a decade ago. I was just ending my pastorate at my home church. It was a good experience. The people were great. The thing I struggled with, though, was how I was doing church. It didn't seem to mesh with Jesus.

It caused me to begin crying out to God in the midst of my frustration. I began praying, "God show me your body." What do you want your church, the body of Christ, to look like? I can't begin to tell you how this has changed my life. The way God opened up his Word and began teaching me new things.

Over the course of time, as God was teaching me about how to be his body, my prayer got broader. "So if this is how to be your body, then what does that look like for me? What should I be doing to be your body?" Again, this was a prayer that completely changed my life. God began opening doors, directing my steps towards things that would force me to be his body in a different way.

The best way for me to remember things is word pictures. God knows this well. He used a word picture to really give perspective to this change in me. He showed me that for many years, my church was a lamp. It was a nice lamp and there is nothing wrong with it being a lamp. The problem lies in a couple things. The lamp is stationary and I can't take it with me. My focus was on making every attempt to get people to come to the lamp. God said that it is not the light I want you to be. God also showed me that I had a tendency to carry with me a flashlight. I would go into people's lives and flash it in their faces and point out how they needed to come to the lamp. God said this is my Holy Spirit's job, not yours.

God pointed out that he simply wants me to be a lantern. A lantern gives off a soft light. My light is Jesus in me. God wanted me to be a lantern that goes out into the darkness and meets people where they are. The purpose is two fold. I am to be a witness to the light in me. This means I talk about the Jesus I have seen and heard and know. The second is I am to allow this light in me, Jesus, to illuminate my weaknesses, my flaws, my shortcomings, all the things in me that made it necessary for Jesus in my life. This is my testimony. This is me being the body of Jesus.

Today, my prayer has expanded even more. "If this is what the body looks like and this is how you want me to practice it in my life, then what does it look like when we come together corporately?" What God is beginning to help me see, is that it looks like a bunch of people being lanterns during the week and running their fuel really low while they are in the darkness, meeting people where they are and talking about the Jesus they know, and then coming together sharing where they have seen God at work. These are God sightings. This sharing together is what refuels our lamps.

Over the next few months I would like to continue to share with you the ways that God opened up his Word to me and answered my prayers. My answer may not be your answer, but know that this is the message given for me to share.

Blessings,

Chris

Totenfest for 2019-

Totenfest will be held on Sunday, November 3rd 2019. A candle will be lit for the following:

***Jeanette Amalia Nuske**, 100 years, 6 months, 8 days; November 9, 1918--May 17, 2019

*Almeda A. Davis, 94 years, 2 months, 5 days; June 26,1925—August 31, 2019

*Don Berger, 94 years, 8 days; September 24, 1925--- October 1, 2019

Youth Fellowship:

Our last Youth Fellowship meeting was held on Sunday, September 15. We talked about what is being planned for Youth Sunday scheduled for Spring of 2020, played a game, went on a scavenger hunt in Wanatah, and finished the day with ice cream sundaes in Memorial Hall. Our next meeting will be Sunday November 3 from 11-1 P.M. We'll be having a party celebrating the upcoming holidays, and will also be making Christmas cards for our shut-ins, and other friends of Salem. If you have any questions or suggestions please call Rae Manhart (219) 531-1979.

Veterans Day:

Salem Church will be celebrating Veterans Day on Sunday, November 10, during worship service. Following the service, we'll be having a "potluck luncheon" in Memorial Hall. The meat, bread and drink will be provided but the membership is asked to assist by bringing a side-dish for all to share. We are honored to have Army Specialist Joe Smoker as our luncheon speaker. His topic will be related to recent basic training and other combat skills training combined with his choice of duty specialty assignment. If you wish please bring a picture of your family member or special "other" who is serving or is a veteran of our armed forces. Veterans attending Church Service or the luncheon will be recognized. However, if you wish to share your veterans photograph, and make any comments during the meal please feel welcome to do so.

Christmas Tree Trimming-

The trimming of the Salem Christmas Tree will be on Saturday, December 7th. Bring your holiday spirit and helping hands to the church ready for the Christmas season. Time will be announced at a later date.



What if ... An Angel Came with a Message of "Tapping" People?

(author unknown)

Kris: Hello! What are you up to today?

Well, I'm all done tapping trees for this season. So, I've come to help you tap some folks. You know people are a lot like trees, some have real obvious gifts like fruits and nuts. But others, you have to tap. You have to draw their gifts. It's not so much a matter of not wanting to share their talents, it's just that some gifts are more hidden. You'll be surprised sometimes when you tap the right person at the right time the gifts just come flowing out mixed with joy, love, and the Holy Spirit.

We tapped a woman the other day. Her husband had died about a year ago after a long illness. We asked if she could play the piano for the church service at the nursing home. She had a great time and plans on going every time. She really added a lot to the service and the whole nursing home visit! She felt it was a blessing to be asked and we felt it was a blessing to have her.

Kris: Yes, but what if you don't have a musical talent?

Oh, we tap them for everything. We have one woman who enjoys the computer, she's staring on an e-mail prayer chain. That will spread the need for prayer a lot more efficiently and cut down on our prayer chain by phone. There are a lot of people out there who can vacuum.

Kris: Is vacuuming a gift?

Oh, my yes! You know... after you have almost any kind of surgery or give birth to a baby the doctor tells you not to vacuum for six weeks. So, you sit around watching the dust pile up for six weeks or you vacuum and end up back in the hospital. But if you have someone who calls and says "Listen, I'd be happy to vacuum your house for you, if you'd like." Then the rugs look better and you relax, get well and probably enjoy a visit with your vacuum angel.

Kris: So, what other kinds of gifts do you tap for?

Driving is a great one. People need rides to meetings. Shut-ins are sometimes shut-ins simply because they can't drive safely, but they are ready to go anywhere if someone will take them. We have shut-ins visiting shut-ins. They love to catch up on each other's news and rehash old times. Drivers can also take people shopping or to shop for people, take people to doctor appointments or treatments, or simply take them out to see the beautiful spring flowers.

Good health is a gift. With good health you're capable of doing all sorts of active things; you can even share your good health.

Kris: How do you share good health?

Well there are always people who need blood. If you have good health, you can give blood. It's the gift of life. My brother-in-law recently donated bone marrow to his sister. She's doing well, thanks to his gift. Hairdressers can donate any hair that is 10" or longer to "Locks of Love" or a similar organization to make wigs for patients going through chemo and have lost their hair. The patients not only feel better about their looks, but they know several people cared enough about them to provide hair for a wig. I heard of a rough-looking biker who donated his ponytail to "Locks of Love." You just never know what kindness you'll discover when you tap people. I've also known little girls who have donated hair.

Kris: So, at what age should you start tapping?

You can start with newborns. They're a gift in themselves. Some people seem to put the world and its priorities in perspective when they hold a baby. We're always reminded of what a miracle life is when we see a baby.

Kris: Are people ever too old to tap?

No. I've seen a 96-year-old woman helping take care of kids. They loved her. She was especially fun in the "dress up" corner! I know a 92-year-old woman who is always ready to listen and offer spiritual guidance. She sets me back on track.

Kris: What about someone who has lost most of their capabilities? What if they have severe limits because of illness or age?

Then their gift can be to receive. People can't give, if there's no one to receive. When a shut-in laughs and claps or simply smiles in response to a young child's song, the shut-in is nurturing the gifts of the young giver. Accepting gifts from others is a very important role that needs to be filled. The giver and the receiver are both having needs met.

Kris: So, you're saying the person who is tapped for gifts is benefiting too?

Definitely! We all have a need to be in community to be needed to have goals and self-worth. But even more than that, we need to know and experience God. Sometimes that comes when we are caring for God's sheep. Sometimes it comes when we worship and pray with others or experience God's love through others. When we answer a call to share our varied gifts, then we are part of bringing about God's Kingdom here on earth.

Kris: How do you go about tapping people?

There are a variety of ways. I'll show you the most direct route. You just put this spigot on someone's finger and hang a bucket underneath. Here, give me your finger.

OK, here we go. Now let's see. (Looking in the bucket.) There are a lot of things in here. You have spiritual gifts, prayer, and an excitement about the Good News! You have emotional gifts: like appreciation of others and encouragement! Also, your endurance through times of poor health is a blessed example to others who also face physical challenges. You have some of those practical instrumental skills, such as organizational gifts and hospitality. You've also been the recipient of others' caring gifts. There's probably a lot more but, I'd have to cook this down and separate all the components.

Now if you don't have a tap and bucket, it's a little more involved, but not hard. You watch people, talk to them, get to know them. What are their interests, their passions? What have been some of their life experiences? Could they help someone who is going through a similar experience or could they use skills they developed to help others? Do they have a wide range of interests that they enjoy discussing or do they have a sincere interest in others -- is this person a good listener? Are they compassionate? Do they have knowledge of the Bible and/or a strong prayer life? The list goes on and on. Then you start looking around for situations or people that would tap that gift.

Kris: How often do you tap a person?

That varies according to their gifts and situations. I think it's probably good to keep in touch with people and tap them regularly. Gifts change as people's lives change. Sometimes people become the stewards of the gift of time and sometimes money and then they are looking for a place to use their gift. Retired teachers frequently use their gift of time to tutor. I know several former teachers who get a great deal of satisfaction by tutoring now -- teaching is in their blood! Sometimes people are looking for ministries for their money. So, you must continually present a variety of opportunities -- people usually are looking for a special project that speaks to their interest -- something that in its own way fills *their* needs.

Well, I've got to get to work now. I can tell just by looking at this bunch, that there's a lot of sap -- I mean *gifts* -- out there to be tapped. So... get tapping!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A long time tradition at Salem Church is the annual Christmas Service presented by the children of Salem Sunday School. It will be held this year on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd during our 10 am worship service. **PARENTS:** We need and want your child/children to attend Sunday School to prepare for this service. Classes are held each week for boys and girls from Kindergarten thru 12th Grade. Theme for this year's service will be announced in a few weeks. A Christmas Brunch will be held after the service.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Salem Sunday School Teachers and
Christian Education Board

**You're
Invited**

CHURCH WIDE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH will be held in conjunction with the Children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 22 at 10:00am. Please plan on staying after the program to enjoy a meal together for the Christmas season. The meal is being planned by the Women's Fellowship and Brotherhood. We hope that everyone can join us for this additional time of fellowship.



GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Need a gift for your Thanksgiving Dinner or Christmas Dinner host and hostess?

What better gift than a Salem 150th Anniversary Commemorative Trivet! Two styles: Salem Church or Collage of Salem photos. \$10 each. Purchase 2, get a 125th ornament free. Holiday SPECIAL, 3 trivets for \$25 and an ornament. Located on entryway table. Put money in basket.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BOOKS

A photo/history book from Salem's 150 Anniversary Celebration is available for sale. A great keepsake gift for old and new Salem members and friends. There was a misprint by Shutterfly, the company who printed the books. The cover was printed in white in place of blue. Rather than recycling the books, Shutterfly sent the books to Salem. The inside pages are printed correctly. Cost of the books are \$10. (There is just one of the correct cover books available for \$25.) Located on entryway table. Put money in basket.



Happy Birthday

November:

11/7- Deb Smoker
11/10-Daniel Serrato
11/24-Madison Wolff

11/1- Jerry Smoker
11/7- Tina Randa
11/13-Talytha Holtz
11/25-Dakota Grieger

11/6-Brain Batzka
11/9-Laurie Costello
11/19-Drelah Grieger
11/27-Tim Guse

December:

12/5-Julia Boldt
12/8-Roger Haman
12/11-Gerald Werner
12/18-Juli Charlesworth
12/20-Allison Parks
12/23-Mitchell Wolff
12/30-Mark Grieger

12/1- Tim Grieger
12/6-Ashley Riegle
12/10-Bentley McMahan
12/15-Julie Morris
12/19-Jim Manhart
12/21-Suzi Carpenter
12/24- Ed Marks
12/30-Drew Galbreath

12/4-Jaye Mitzner
12/7- Morgan Wolff
12/11-Gordon Boyd
12/17-Daniel Morrow
12/20-Rosa Hamann
12/22-Kyle Homan
12/27-Stephen Stultz

January:

1/5- Steve Bos
1/14-John Wilinski
1/23-Gary Cauley, III
1/25-Cathy Homan

1/8- Don Peters
1/15-Pauline Mohlke
1/23-Caitlyn Stout
1/27-Jess McGinley

1/13-Tyler Mack
1/21-Ross Lehman
1/24-Tennley Werner
1/28-Jerry Bennett



Happy Anniversary!

November:

11/1- Fred & Patti Kem
11/7- Matt & Jenni Smoker
11/30- Scott & Suzi Carpenter

December: 12/05- John & Tammy Homan
12/11-Jerry & Kelli Smoker
12/13- Tom & Laurie Costello
12/20- Elwood & Drelah Grieger

January:

1/5- Jacob & Jill Smoker
1/25- Ed & Carol Marks