



# PEACETALK

2020 FALL ISSUE

## FROM THE OFFICE

This year we have learned that planning ahead is good, but we need to be flexible. We have had church on Facebook. We had Easter in July! Social distancing and wearing facemasks are being practiced. Even with all the changes one thing is still true, God is on his throne. He is still here among us and always will be. We have nothing to fear for God is our provider and home. When we become afraid it is not God who moved. It is our focus. When we focus on God, we have no fear for he is all we need. This is a time to practice the faith we say we have. Faith that God is in control of our lives. This is not our home. Death is not our end. Be still and remember what you know to be true.

**Kristina Bertsch**

Your Church Secretary

## **Meet Rev. Jeff Coester ~ Potentially Salem's Next Pastor Salem**

Search Committee and Salem Church Council are pleased to announce we have called Rev. Jeffrey A. Coester to be Salem's 25th minister. Pastor Jeff eagerly accepted our offer and looks forward to meeting the entire Salem Congregation on Sunday, September 13, 2020. He and his wife Mary have been married for 41 years and have two children and seven grandchildren. They chose Wanatah as a central point between the homes of their two children. Pastor Jeff received his B.S. in Pastoral Theology in 1979. He has been serving First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sterling, Illinois since 2008. He states his style of preaching is expository and practical and his leadership style is patient and inclusive. He has served churches in Shabbona, Illinois and Spartanburg, South Carolina. He also worked for Residential Therapeutic Foster Care in Ohio as well as has experience in sales and management. He states he has gifts as a counselor and does well at weddings and funerals. Rev. Coester has a goal to not only be a pastor to the church but her community as well. He is currently serving The Local 911 Dispatch for Police and Fire Departments in Whiteside County, Marketplace Chaplains USA and CGH Hospital as a Chaplain. He is president of the Clergy Association, part of the Reopening Committee for the County and Rotary. He makes pastoral care a priority. Jeff is from the rural town of Sandwich, Illinois. Jeff began his pulpit career at age 15 and has served in a number of roles. Mary is from Merrillville. In addition to being a devoted mother and grandmother, Mary has worked in social services in nursing homes and in mental health agencies. She also has been a substitute teacher for a number of years. Jeff and Mary are a good team whose gifts complement each other. Please join your friends at Salem on Sunday, September 13 at 10am to meet Rev. Jeff and Mrs. Coester. Members will be asked to vote on his acceptance at the conclusion of the service. Steps will be taken for social distancing. Masks are encouraged but not required.



**Trial Sermon**  
Rev. Jeffery Coester  
Sunday, September 13  
10 A.M.—Salem UCC  
Your presences requested and  
appreciated for a large  
attendance.

## Calendar of Events (subject to change)

9/13 ~ *Trial Sermon and Vote: Rev. Jeff Coester; Council Meeting*

10/4 World Communion Sunday

11/1 Totenfest, pew communion and Daylight Savings Time ends

### Totenfest for 2020

Totenfest will be held on Sunday, November 1st 2020. A candle will be lit for the following:

Terry Werner, 67 years, 6 months;

April 4, 1952--October 31, 2019

Dee Edgcomb, 75 years, 6 months, 21 days;

August 22, 1945--March 14, 2020

Dr. Berming Pan, 73 years, 10 months, 7 days;

June 9, 1946--- May 7, 2020

Matthew Rosenbaum, 46 years, 9 months, 10 days;

August 19, 1973—May 29, 2020

Beverly Ann Guse, 81 years, 7 days;

July 30, 1939--- August 6, 2020

James Tate, 74 years, 6 months, 12 days;

January 18, 1946--- August 12, 2020

## Sunday School News



Salem Sunday School will NOT resume in September as planned due to the covid pandemic until further notice and will resume when a new Pastor is secured for Salem congregation.

## A MISSION UPDATE ON THE NAVAJOS IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Grace and peace and the blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ to you! By the time that you read this in the “PeaceTalk,” about one year will have passed since we said “farewell” to one another in September 2019. As Joe and I answered God’s call to move to Santa Fe, New Mexico, we promised to keep in touch with Salem UCC in the ways that are appropriate, and we have managed to do that over this year. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted all of us in unexpected ways.

The city of Santa Fe has changed a lot in 40 years since the United Church of Santa Fe, UCC, was established here as a “mission outpost” here. The Indian reservations (also called “Native American Pueblos”) outside of Santa Fe have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and there is plenty of ministry for me to do here. Systemic issues of poverty, lack of clean water, and inadequate health care impact the rising numbers of Covid-19 cases and death amongst Native Americans.

Some of you have asked how you (as individuals) can support our mission efforts here. Shipping items from Indiana to New Mexico is too expensive. The best way to help is to write out a check in any amount to the **United Church of Santa Fe, UCC**. Clearly indicate in the memo line on the check that your donation is for **Dine’/Navajo Relief**. (“Dine’” is how the Navajo people describe themselves in their own language.) Checks can be mailed at any time to **The United Church of Santa Fe, UCC, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe, NM 87505**. I do not open the mail, nor do I see the checks that come in (so I never know who gives what), but I go shopping (for food, water, cleaning supplies and other items) and I help to deliver the needed supplies to the Navajo Pueblo.

Thanks in advance for your on-going support (and prayerful support) of our shared Christian mission!

Peace on earth. Goodwill to all!

*Victoria*

Pastor Victoria S. Ubben,

24<sup>th</sup> pastor of Salem UCC



Victoria preparing for a delivery!



Food, Water, and Supplies





## ***Happy Birthday!***

### **September Birthdays:**

**9/1-** Victoria Ubben; **9/2-** Kylene Lambert; **9/3-** Joe Smoker; **9/4-** Andrew McCormick, Peggy Wilinski; **9/7-** Norman Werner; **9/8-** Jeff Shotts, Dara Guse; **9/10-** Carol Marks; **9/11-** Marlene Mitzner, Dana Kane **9/15-** Zachary Grieger; **9/17-** Ruth Carnell; **9/19-** Claudette Cairns-Boyd; **9/21-** Melissa Grieger, Brooke Bos **9/23-** Carol Benkie, Jeff Mitzner; **9/24-** Don Berger; **9/25-** Shirley Espravnik; **9/27-** Bernell Grieger, Emily Grieger, Zachary Parks; **9/29-** Becky Pierce, Paul Bailey, Lyla Powell; **9/30-** Dale Bagnall

### **October Birthdays:**

**10/3-** Alden McCormick; **10/5-** Jennifer McCormick, Ron Carnell; **10/11-** Anthony Galbreath; **10/12-** Kelli Smoker, David Vorkapich, Helen Steinke; **10/13-** Jason Randall, Frank Gorski; **10/14-** Roger Hutton, Janet Maupin **10/16-** Diane Fike, Susie Mack; **10/19-** Charles Homan, Jennifer Vorkapich; **10/21-** Elwood Grieger; **10/23-** Amber Bos, Sharon Bailey; **10/24-** Sadie Smoker; **10/27-** George Walter, Mitchell Brown; **10/30-** David Pozil, Calen Poort

### **November Birthdays:**

**11/1-** Jerry Smoker; **11/6** Brian Batzka; **11/7-** Deb Smoker, Tina Randall; **11/9-** Laurie Costello; **11/10-** Daniel Serrato; **11/13-** Talytha Holtz; **11/19-** Drelah Grieger; **11/24-** Madison Wolff; **11/25-** Dakota Grieger; **11/27-** Tim Guse

## **Happy Anniversary!**

### **SEPTEMBER**

**9/1** ADAM & TRICIA WERNER  
**9/7** PENNY & JEFF SHOTTS  
**9/4** GORDON & CLAUDETTE BOYD  
**9/10** JOHN & PEGGY WILINSKI  
**9/12** STEVE & LINDA STULTZ  
**9/13** KELVIN & DANA KANE  
**9/14** JEREMY & JILL BROWN  
**9/18** BLAIR & CORY MURO  
**9/25** DAVID & ANNA BAGNALL  
**9/25** HOLLY & CHRISTOPHER KING

### **OCTOBER**

**10/8** CONNIE & JERRY BENNETT  
**10/17** GERALD & CAROL BENKIE  
**10/26** PAUL & CAROLYN HOMAN

### **NOVEMBER**

**11/1** FRED & PATTI KEM  
**11/7** MATT & JENNI SMOKER  
**11/30** SCOTT & SUZI CARPENTER

We apologize for any errors to the list, please let the office know to make sure the list can be corrected. Thank you.

Kathy Wallace wants to let everyone know they have disconnected their home phone. She has given permission to use her cell number which is (219) 380-1252.

## Salem UCC Council Minutes for August 9, 2020

The meeting of Salem United Church of Christ for Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, was called to order by President, Rodney Peters at 9:04 a.m. All Council members were in attendance. Opening prayer was given by Donna Spencer.

### Secretary's Report-

Report was given for July 12, 2020 meeting. A correction in the minutes was to add Justene Charlesworth to the list of those who helped in cleaning up the church grounds. Donna Spencer moved to accept minutes and Gary Cauley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### Treasurer Report-

Ray Charlesworth reported that Salem received \$7750 from the Paycheck Protection Program and \$4000 in a grant from the EIDL. Thank you Juli Charlesworth for your work in applying for the funds. The PPP was deposited into the General Fund to be used for payroll and utilities. Drelah moved to accept the report, Rodney seconded the report, motion passed.

### Old Business-

Cemetery Board- Church Council Trustees have requested that in accordance with Article XIV of the Salem United Church of Christ Constitution, Cemetery Chairman, Jeff Mitzner and Cemetery Treasurer, Dale Bagnall names be added to Salem Cemetery Checking Account, replacing the current names on the account. Motion to approve this request was made by Donna Spencer and seconded by Deb Smoker, Motion passed.

### New Business-

New pavement on Main Street- Jeff Mitzner has requested that Salem fix an existing problem with the hole/drain by Main St. and coming into Salem's parking lot. Grinding down and patching the holes by the parking lot would cost approximately \$1500. Motion was made by Drelah Grieger to fix the holes and motion was seconded by Donna Spencer. Motion passed.

Kris Bertsch will put a calendar on the bulletin board outside the office for events.

Ray Charlesworth brought up a discussion about raising the amount the church council is allowed to spend from \$2000 to \$4000. The issue will be discussed more at a later meeting.

Lights in sanctuary need to be rewired, Ray will work with Greg Smoker to hire a gentleman to rewire the lights. Hope is to let the lights down on a Monday, fix lights and raise the lights back into place by Friday or Saturday.

### Elder's Report-

Website emails have been put into a folder to avoid spam. \$250 was allocated to the Search Committee to allow for an in-person interview with a perspective candidate as pastor.

Sunday School starting date? With schools not starting on a normal schedule or using only e-learning; it was decided to discuss the restarting of Sunday School next month.

## Trustee Report-

Lines will be replaced on the parking area for the church

Cemetery Board member, Jeff Mitzner informed the trustees that the pillar at the entrance to the cemetery will be taken down, the top retained and pillar replaced at a later date.

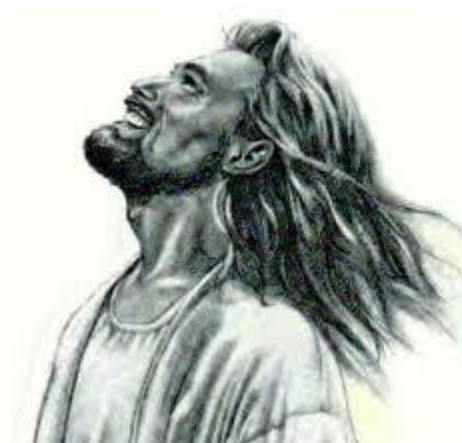
Next meeting will be Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Motion to adjourn was made by Ray Charlesworth, seconded by David Bagnall. Motion passed.

Lord's Prayer was said by all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Smoker

Salem UCC Council Secretary



## Lighter side

Thank God you can't call Him too often. You only need to ring once and He hears you. Because of Jesus, you never get a busy signal. God takes each call personally. He knows each caller personally: *"Then you will call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I"* (Isaiah 58:9).

Moreover, God often calls us. Are you waiting for His call, or will your answering machine talk to Him? If you listen carefully, you will hear music in the background and God singing, "I just called to say 'I love you! I just called to say how much I care...'"

By Cal and Rose Samra