



SALEM CHURCH

God is still speaking

435 S. 9th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217.222.0601

November 2025

Mission Statement: Building a community around the love of Jesus, where all are welcome.



Rev. Matthew Hunt

Romans 12:1–2 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The **primary goal of Salem Church** is not simply to *do great things* in the community.

It's not to be known for *helping people in need*.

It's not even to *have enough money*.

Those are all good and faithful goals, but they are **secondary**.

The *primary* goal of Salem Church is to be **transformed by God's saving love**.

And that transformation—thankfully—is not a one-time event.

It's not something you check off a list after baptism, confirmation, or church membership and say,

"Whew... glad I got transformed."

Transformation happens **throughout** the Christian journey.

The job of the church is to help people *experience* that transformation, to create *opportunities* for it,

and to *support one another* along the way.

That's why we worship.

That's why we have ministry groups, mid-week lessons, small groups, choirs, youth gatherings, and outreach to those in need.

Every single thing we do is about **transformation**—becoming more like Christ together.

(continued on page 2)

If you've been part of Salem Church for a while and haven't yet found your place of connection, I invite you to **pray about your next step**.

Maybe it's coming to worship more regularly.

Maybe it's joining a small group or serving in a ministry that will help your faith grow in new ways.

If you are **new to Salem Church**, please know that we delight in your presence and consider it an honor to share this spiritual journey with you.

We offer an open and flexible pathway to discipleship designed to help you connect and grow:

Journey One

🕒 *Sunday, November 2 — 10:15–11:15 a.m.*

A one-time gathering in the Fellowship Hall that includes a tour of the building and an introduction to who we are as a church.

Journey Two

🕒 *Sundays beginning November 9 — 10:15–11:15 a.m. (4 weeks)*

An opportunity to learn what makes Salem Church “tick,” what we believe, and how you can be part of it.

No matter **who you are** or **where you are on life's journey**, we hope you'll join us at Salem Church on this *wonderful journey of Godly transformation*.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Matt

P.S. I'll share more next month about your incredible generosity during *Month of Ministry*, but please know how deeply I cherish every kind word, text, and encouragement you've shared with me this October.

Coffee Hour Schedule

Thank you for our volunteers for brewing up some community

November

11-2 The Stitts and David Schafer

11-9 Catherine Verneti, Linsey Laughlin, Victoria Dry

11-16 The Simmons and Charlie Hall

11-23 The Emerson– Imlahs

11-30 The Hillebrenners and Connie Mowen



Its Time to go NUTS Again

🥜 Golden Kernel Pecans 🥜
from South Carolina

- Plain Halves (1 lb.) \$13.50
- Honey Roasted Halves (14 oz.) \$15.00
- Milk Chocolate Halves (1 lb.) \$16.50
- Dark Chocolate Halves (1 lb.) \$18.00
- Sugar Free Chocolate Halves (1 lb.) \$19.00

Place your order with Judy Bushaus,
Sharon Higgins or Jeannie Kanauss



Hanging of the Greens

- Sunday, November 23rd immediately following fellowship time
- A lovely lunch will be served to the volunteers!



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, FROM 8AM-1PM

Salem Holiday Bazaar

- Free ADMISSION!
- Complimentary Coffee!
- Booth Space Available- contact Wanda at 217.222.3286
- Baked goods, candy, jewelry, floral arrangements, cemetery flowers, Tupperware, pecans, and placemats!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 2025

Birthdays

11-3 Kathy Anastas
Ruth Lantz
11-4 Axel Stitt
Flossy Stitt
11-5 Savannah Coelho
11-9 Ken Abbath
David Tipton
11-10 Daniel Hellige
11-11 Kyle Vail
11-13 Cassie Koch
11-14 Madeline Hendricks
11-16 Sue Welch
11-17 Victoria Dry
Jim Tipton
11-20 Hadley Moran
11-28 Aiden Simmons
Micah Simmons

Anniversaries

11-20 Kim & Chad Akers
11-30 Linsey & Alicia Laughlin

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Sunday, November 16th

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

@ 10AM

We will be voting on the budget, new church officers, and new Constitution

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Nov 1st

8:00am Holiday Bazaar
11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, Nov 2nd

9:00am Salem Worship
10:00am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Saturday, Nov 8th

10:30am Paws & Prayers Pet Food Distribution
11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, Nov 9th

9:00am Salem Worship
10:00am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Tuesday, Nov 11th

5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, Nov 12th

6:00pm Ministry Meetings– Connections and Caring
6:00pm Property Task Force and Resource Ministry

Thursday, Nov 13th

3:30pm Loads of Love

Saturday, Nov 15th

11:30am Household/ Toiletries Distribution
11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, Nov 16th

9:00am Salem Worship
10:00am Fall Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 18th

5:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, Nov 19th

5:30pm Evening Guild
6:00 pm VMST

Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, Nov 22nd

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, Nov 23rd

9:00am Salem Worship
10:00am Youth and Adult Re:Charge
10:00am Hanging of the Greens

Monday, Nov 24th

5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Nov 29th

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, Nov 30th

9:00 am Salem Worship
10:00 am Youth and Adult Re:Charge



Thoughts From Left Field

An Act of Optimism by Linsey Laughlin

Recently I attended a UCC conference in Peoria. The minister spoke on Ephesians 4:20-32, and the portion that resonated with me the most were verses 22-24:

“you were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and you put on your new self, created to be like God in True righteousness and holiness.”

What a joyful instruction! Most biblical instructions are hard to really enjoy, but I for one, love the idea of putting on my new self. Maybe this is just me, but I had a different frame of mind years ago. Sometimes the decisions I made hurt other people, including those I loved very dearly.

As a ruminator, it can be difficult to let go of past mistakes, even after changes are made and apologies are given. But God wants better for us. Afterall, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. What an act of optimism!

If you are struggling with past mistakes, feeling isolated, or disconnected, I encourage you to join the upcoming Journey One group. I joined when I first came to Salem nine years ago, and it was one of the best decisions I made. You will meet people just like you, Children of God who are looking for belonging. Afterall, It is much easier to be optimistic when you are surrounded by people who are also putting their best foot forward.

It is time to embrace the changing of the season. I pray that each of us will allow the spirit of change to enter our hearts and minds today.



Scenes From Bowling Night

Our 3rd annual bowling night was held September 27th. We had a great time bowling, eating, and spending time together. The spread was incredible! Corn salad, chili, cookies, brownies, guacamole, pigs in a blanket, and the list goes on!

Pro Tip— love chili and guacamole? Don't hesitate to pop them in the bowl together for a savory treat.

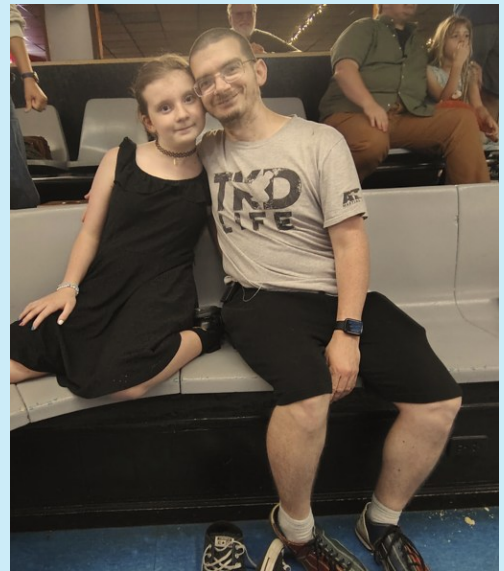


From top left to bottom right:

1. Oliver and Felicity Koch
2. Val, Micah (green shirt), and Aiden (Orange shirt) Simmons
3. Brian and Flossy Stitt
4. Felicity Koch, Prynnne and Mara Simmons
5. Cassie Koch and Audrey Hoffman



Scenes from Bowling Night



1. Mike and Barb Edwards, Katie and Mark Hoffman, Joel Koch
2. Aurora and Dan Hellige
3. Savannah Coelho-Zimmerman, Cleo Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman, and Gwen Zimmerman
4. Aiden and AJ Simmons
5. Prynne Simmons and Axel Stitt

Scenes From Bonfire Night



What happy little faces!!



Proof of life before entering the corn maze!



Audrey Hoffman and the mums.



If giggles were fuel, this little tractor would run all night!



Scenes From Bonfire Night



Barb Edwards with her Grandson
Oliver Koch.



Alicia and Linsey Laughlin, Kirsten Stitt, and Barb Edwards.



Group #2 getting ready to take off!