



SALEM CHURCH

God is still speaking

435 S. 9th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217.222.0601

January 2026

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



Rev. Matthew Hunt

As we finish 2025 and step into a new year, many of us are looking for fresh hope, new beginnings, and a deeper sense of God's presence in our daily lives. January brings us into a season the church has long connected with "revelations"- those moments when something ordinary becomes a window into God's extraordinary love.

This January, we'll begin a new sermon series called **Everyday Epiphanies: Seeing God in Everyday Life**. Each week, we'll explore a simple truth: God often shows up not through lightning bolts or perfect clarity, but through curiosity, courage, small invitations, and the quiet reassurance that we're never alone. My hope is that these messages help you start 2026 with open eyes and renewed faith, ready to notice God's presence in both the bright moments and the shadowed ones.

January 4th- "When Light Breaks Through" (Matthew 2:1-12)

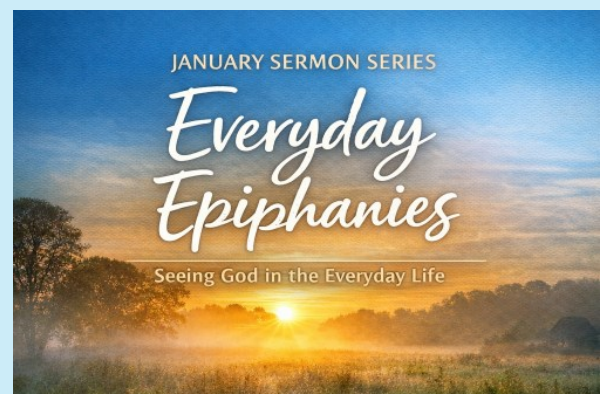
January 11th- "Faith in the Fog" (Matthew 14:22-33)

January 18th- "Ordinary Days, Holy Encounters" (John 1:43-51)

January 25th- "The God Who Goes Before You" (Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

It has been a joy to serve God alongside you throughout 2025, and I'm truly excited to begin a new year together at Salem church. God has already done more among us than I could have imaged, and I believe the Holy Spirit is far from finished. As we make room for God- in our worship, our relationships, our service, and even in the quiet corners of our daily lives- I trust that God will continue to move in powerful and life-giving ways. Here's to a new year of growing, noticing, and experiencing God together.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Matt



Coffee Hour Schedule

May our coffee be strong, and our spirits freshly brewed

January

1/4 The Spory's

1/11 The Edward's

1/18 The Stitt's Featuring David S.

1/25 Catherine V., Linsey L., and Victoria D.

February

2/1 The Simmon's Featuring Charlie H

2/8 The Imlah-Emerson's

2/15 The Hillebrenner's Featuring Judy B.

2/22 The Deege's and the Goehl's

What did the coffee say to the sugar?

I like you a latte

How do coffee cups greet each other?

With mugs and kisses



Fellowship time is a GREAT opportunity to get to know new people!

Try sitting next to a new person, they will likely surprise you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2026

Birthdays

1/5 Jacob Zimmerman
 1/9 Patti McNay
 1/10 Val Simmons
 1/11 Ric Hillebrenner
 1/12 Charlotte Moore
 1/13 Carl Spory
 1/15 Jayne Clouser
 Aurora Hellige
 1/16 Jordan Fuller
 1/18 Becky Emerson
 1/19 Bud Bushaus
 1/23 Mary Huseman
 1/24 Carol Eddy
 1/24 Mary Witte
 1/28 Barb Edwards
 1/29 Alicia Laughlin
 1/31 Norma Spory

Anniversaries

1/22 Judy & Bud Bushaus

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Jan 3rd

11:30am BJ's Café—
 Saturday Meals

Sunday, Jan 4th

9:00am Salem Worship
 10:00am Un-Hanging of the
 Greens

Thursday, Jan 8th

3:30 Loads of Love

Saturday, Jan 10th

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

Sunday, Jan 11th

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

Tuesday, Jan 13th

5:30pm Bell Choir
 Rehearsal

Wednesday, Jan 14th

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

Saturday, Jan 17th

7:00am to 11:00am Ursa
 Retreat House Breakfast
 11:30am Health Fair
 11:30am BJ's Café—
 Saturday Meals

Sunday, Jan 18th

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

Tuesday, Jan 20th

5:30pm Bell Choir
 Rehearsal

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, Jan 21st

6:00pm VMST Meeting

Thursday, Jan 22nd

3:30 Loads of Love

Saturday, Jan 24th

11:30am BJ's Café—
 Saturday Meals

Sunday, Jan 25th

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

Tuesday, Jan 27th

5:30pm Bell Choir
 Rehearsal

Saturday, Jan 31st

11:30am BJ's Café—
 Saturday Meals

Thoughts From Left Field

Keeping Christmas Alive By Linsey Laughlin

Christmas was over: to begin with. The stockings were unhung by the chimney with care. The goose is no longer getting fat. Santa has left the building.

One of my beloved traditions is to watch a Muppet's Christmas Carol on Christmas Eve. Scrooge, portrayed by Sir Michael Cane, is a heartless banker who needs to be reminded about how to be a decent human being. Believe it or not, we bankers need this reminder from time to time!

The ending always hits my heart with an extra dose of emotion. Scrooge is looming over his grave with the ghost of Christmas Future, and he is promising to keep Christmas alive in his heart everyday.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." - Ebenezer Scrooge

Past– Remembering loved ones, meditating on advent themes, recalling acts of forgiveness that changed our perspective.

Present– giving our time, treasure and talents, being grateful for the people in our lives.

Future– start a recurring donation to a cause, make plans with loved ones, think about changes you would like to see in your life.

Please join me in keep God's hope, joy, peace, and love in our hearts all year round.

Salem holds a membership to the Ursa Retreat House. Please consider attending this fundraiser event!

You can buy raffle tickets from Martha Deege!

SUPPORT THE URSA RETREAT HOUSE
PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

50/50 RAFFLE!

50% to the winner
50% supports the
Ursa Retreat House


RAFFLE TICKETS
1 FOR \$5 OR 5 FOR \$20

**PANCAKES, WHOLE HOG
SAUSAGE, AND
BISCUITS & GRAVY**

JANUARY 17, 2026
7:00 AM TO 11:00 AM
UNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD UP UNTIL THE DAY OF
THE BREAKFAST. DRAWING TO BE HELD THE DAY OF,
YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

2025 Salem Operating Account Overview

Salem United Church of Christ				
Operating Account - 2025				
Month	Income	Expense	Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	YTD Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets
Jan	\$ 12,521.40	\$ 29,897.56	(\$17,376.16)	(\$17,376.16)
Feb	\$ 9,036.62	\$ 25,105.08	(\$16,068.46)	(\$33,444.62)
Mar	\$ 16,225.97	\$ 25,675.89	(\$9,449.92)	(\$42,894.54)
Apr	\$ 16,874.73	\$ 25,200.15	(\$8,325.42)	(\$51,219.96)
May	\$ 9,427.59	\$ 27,428.72	(\$18,001.13)	(\$69,221.09)
Jun	\$ 19,342.65	\$ 24,966.18	(\$5,623.53)	(\$74,844.62)
Jul	\$ 12,583.20	\$ 31,245.71	(\$18,662.51)	(\$93,507.13)
Aug	\$ 9,005.48	\$ 26,483.46	(\$17,477.98)	(\$110,985.11)
Sep	\$ 12,113.98	\$ 34,613.31	(\$22,499.33)	(\$133,484.44)
Oct	\$ 9,238.53	\$ 23,883.17	(\$14,644.64)	(\$148,129.08)
Nov	\$ 9,825.81	\$ 20,708.00	(\$10,882.19)	(\$159,011.27)
Total	\$ 136,195.96	\$ 295,207.23	(\$159,011.27)	(\$159,011.27)
Amount Used from Endowments to Cover Deficit				



The UN-Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, January 4th following service

SOUP AND SANDWICHES
FOR THE VOLUNTEERS!

Scenes from “A Merry SOUPmas”

The Connections Ministry hosted this fun event on December 7th. There were 5 soups total made chefs Debbie Husar, Adam Spory, Cassie Koch, Barb Edwards, and Alicia (Linsey) Laughlin. Christmas tunes played in the background, the children had fun with gingerbread houses and general frolicking, adults chatted. I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again, it is great to be a part of the Salem Family!



Micah Simmons



Prynn Simmons



Their gingerbread houses were great!



Aurora Hellige, Catey Hellige, Alicia Laughlin, and David Schafer sitting for a buddy pic.

Scenes from “A Merry SOUPmas”



Lifelong friends Sharon Higgins and Jeannie Kanauss.



Mara Simmons crafting her masterpiece!



Aiden Simmons– what a lovely smile!

Scenes from “A Merry SOUPmas”



Mike Edwards with Grandson Oliver Koch



Kirsten Stitt with parents Eric and Katherine. It was so great to have them in service!



Barb Edwards and our Christmas elves. She is wrangling Audrey Hoffman.

Back— Axel Stitt, Mara Simmons and Prynne Simmons

Front— Micah Simmons, Aiden Simmons, and Aurora Hellige

Scenes from “A Merry SOUPmas”



Val and AJ Simmons, with son Aiden.



Something is
coming....

Stay tuned!



Joyce Winn and Adam Spory