



# SALEM CHURCH

*God is still speaking*

435 S. 9th Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217.222.0601

**June  
2026**

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



Rev. Matthew Hunt

## YOUTH MINISTRY AT SALEM CHURCH — 2026 AND BEYOND

Salem Church is fortunate. Truly fortunate.

Sometimes I find myself needing to pause and appreciate just how remarkable this season of ministry really is. In an era when many mainline churches struggle to engage young people in congregational life, Salem has been blessed with more than twenty children and youth — from newborns through high school — actively participating in the life of the church.

That did not happen by accident.

This congregation — including both those here today and those who came before us — has worked hard to be faithful. Through changing times, uncertainty, and transition, Salem has continued striving to follow the light of Christ with openness, compassion, and courage. Because of that faithfulness, new families and young people continue finding a spiritual home here.

And now, we are entering an exciting new chapter.

### **A Growing Need**

As our church family continues to grow, so do the needs of our youth ministry.

Every person at Salem deserves a place to grow in faith, build friendships, and engage in ministry — including our youngest members. One of the ongoing challenges in a church our size has been balancing age-appropriate ministry with the reality that we often have small groups spread across many different ages and developmental stages.

For a season, our Re:Charge ministry functioned much like a “one-room schoolhouse.” Later, we expanded into two broader age groups. Those models served us well for the time.

But the children of Salem are growing up. New children and families continue arriving. And because of that growth, we believe the time has come to move toward a minimum of three age-appropriate classrooms:

- **Pre-K through 2nd Grade**
- **3rd through 5th Grade**
- **6th through 8th Grade**

I have been working alongside a Christian Education Team to help prayerfully guide this transition and prepare for the future of Salem’s youth ministry. ***(Continued on Page 2)***

## What We Already Have

We already have many important pieces in place:

- We have the space.
- We have the children.
- We have the vision.

What we now need are people willing to help nurture the faith of the next generation through teaching, co-teaching, encouragement, hospitality, and presence.

The Christian Education Team is actively working to prepare Salem for a successful launch of this next step in Fall 2026.

## Core Values Moving Forward

As we continue building Salem's youth ministry, we hope to emphasize these core values:

- **Biblical Literacy**
- **Nurturing Faith**
- **Finding Friendship**
- **Belonging**
- **Mission & Outreach**

## Important Gathering

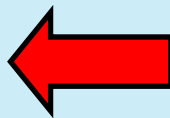
We invite anyone interested in learning more about Salem's future youth ministry to join us:

**Sunday, June 28th @ 11:30 AM**

At Salem Church

Lunch provided (Jimmy John's)

Childcare available



This gathering is for anyone interested in potentially teaching, co-teaching, helping, supporting, or simply learning more about where Salem is headed.

## How You Can Help

- Pray for Salem Church and for the future of our youth ministry.
- Prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to participate — either regularly or occasionally — in helping nurture the faith of Salem's children and youth.

The future of Salem is not somewhere far away.

It is already among us.

Grace and Peace,

**Rev. Matthew Hunt**

Salem United Church of Christ

## Coffee Hour Schedule

*Give us this day our Daily Drip*

### June

6/7 The Stitt Family Ft. David S.

6/14 Catherine V, Linsey L, & Victoria D

6/21 The Simmons Family Ft. Charlie H.

6/28 The Imlah-Emerson Family

The Caring Ministry Presents... Cake O'Clock!

Sunday, June 21st During fellowship time

Interested in providing a cake?

Talk to Catherine Vernetti



## NEXT Pop-up Choir Rehearsal

First rehearsal 6/28 @ 10:10am

7/5 Second rehearsal @ 8:40am

Performance 7/5 during service

Song: God Bless the USA

Salem United Church of Christ				
Operating Account - 2026				
Month	Income	Expense	Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	YTD Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets
Jan	\$ 14,433.71	\$ 25,038.23	(\$10,604.52)	(\$10,604.52)
Feb	\$ 8,880.86	\$ 26,096.42	(\$17,215.56)	(\$27,820.08)
Mar	\$ 31,379.07	\$ 26,703.04	\$4,676.03	(\$23,144.05)
Apr	\$ 11,695.96	\$ 23,761.00	(\$12,065.04)	(\$35,209.09)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 66,389.60</b>	<b>\$ 101,598.69</b>	<b>(\$35,209.09)</b>	<b>(\$35,209.09)</b>
Amount Used from Endowments to Cover Deficit				

# Dates To Remember

## Wednesday, June 3rd

6:00pm Property Task Force and Resource Ministry

## Saturday, June 6th

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

## Sunday, June 7th

9:00am Salem Worship  
10:15am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

## Wednesday, June 10th

5:15pm Connections Ministry Meeting  
6:00pm Caring Ministry Meeting

## Thursday, June 11th

4:00pm Loads of Love

## Saturday, June 13th

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

## Sunday, June 14th

9:00am Salem Worship  
10:15am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

## Wednesday, June 17th

5:30pm Evening Guild  
6:00pm VMST Meeting

## Saturday, June 20th

11:30am Health Fair/ Toiletry Distribution  
11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

## Newsletter Deadline

## Sunday, June 21st

9:00am Salem Worship  
10:00 Cake O'Clock  
10:15am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

## Thursday, June 25th

4:00pm Loads of Love

## Saturday, June 27th

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

## Sunday, June 28th

9:00am Salem Worship  
10:10am Pop-Up Rehearsal  
10:15am Youth and Adult Re:Charge  
11:30am Youth Ministry Lunch

## Special Summer Music Program

**Do you play an instrument?**

**Do you like to sing?**

**Salem would love to hear you during  
service!**

**See Jeannie Kanauss to sign up!**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## June 2026 Birthdays

6/8 Duane Phillips

6/29 Paul Goehl

6/20 Sharon Higgins

6/24 Emma Crain

6/26 Tim Cook

6/27 Heidi Shaw

6/27 Prynne Simmons

6/28 Cindy Davis

## June 2026 Anniversaries

6/4 Patti & Steve Hibbard

6/6 Martha & Kevin Deege

6/15 Cassie & Joel Koch

6/17 Catherine & Robert Verneti

6/18 Kathie & Larry Clark

6/20 Barb & Mike Edwards

**Save the Date!**  
**October 2nd– 4th**  
**Church Getaway @**  
**The Ursa Retreat**  
**House**



**Salem Evening Guild**  
**Next Meeting Information**

**June 17th @ 5:30**

**This will be a catered meal with an  
invited guest!**

**No meetings in July or August**

## Snowball Mountain: The Coolest Adventure Begins June 14

Get ready to turn this summer's Recharge Class into an unforgettable adventure at Snowball Mountain — starting June 14!

This frosty, faith filled experience invites kids into a world of snowy challenges, icy surprises, and hands on fun that helps them grow stronger inside and out.



At Snowball Mountain, kids won't just play — they'll **train their hearts**. Through powerful **Bible stories**, energetic **winter themed games**, creative **science experiments**, upbeat music, and the cheerful guidance of **Ollie the Arctic Seal**, kids discover how to build resilience, courage, and unshakeable faith.

Snowball Mountain is where fun meets formation — and every child learns they can climb any mountain with God by their side.

— SALEM CHURCH —

— SUMMER SERMON SERIES —

# A DIFFERENT *Kind of Life*

FINDING JOY, HUMILITY, AND PEACE  
IN THE WAY OF JESUS

— PHILIPPIANS — 5 WEEKS —

**JUNE 14**

**A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**

PHILIPPIANS 1:12–21

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THEME:  
Faith in difficult circumstances

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BIG IDEA:  
Our circumstances don't define us—our faith does.

**JUNE 21**

**THE WAY OF HUMILITY**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–11

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THEME:  
Christ-shaped living

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BIG IDEA:  
True greatness is found in humility and self-giving love.

**JUNE 28**

**LIVING IT OUT TOGETHER**

PHILIPPIANS 2:12–18

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THEME:  
Faith in community

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BIG IDEA:  
Faith is something we live out together, not alone.

**JULY 5**  
REV. KELLY JOHNSON PREACHES

**LETTING GO TO MOVE FORWARD**

PHILIPPIANS 3:7–14

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THEME:  
Release and renewal

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BIG IDEA:  
We move forward in faith by letting go of what holds us back.

**JULY 12**

**A PEACE THAT HOLDS**

PHILIPPIANS 4:4–9

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THEME:  
Peace and trust

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BIG IDEA:  
God's peace sustains us, even when life feels uncertain.

*Different World. Different Way. Different Kind of Life.*

## Salem's Kids Enjoying the new Montessori School's Outdoor Classroom



### Front Row

Audrey Hoffman and Felicity Koch

### Middle Row

Prynne and Mara Simmons

### Back Row

Flossy and Axel Stitt



### Left to Right

Mara, Audrey, Axel, Micah, and Prynne

Aiden on the top with Mara, Audrey, Axel, Prynne, Micah, and Felicity



## Scenes From the Connection Ministry's Spring Flowers Event

The Blooming Harts led us in making a Forever Bouquet on May 7th. Participants enjoyed custom building their own bouquet made with wooden flowers!



Barb Edwards looking very proud of her creation!



Martha Deege smiling beautifully next to her masterpiece.



Brian Stitt with daughter's Axel (left) and Flossy (right). Making memories that will also last forever.



Crafted by community!

Front– Axel Stitt, Mara Simmons, Flossy Stitt, and Martha Deege

Middle– Debbie Husar, Cassie Koch, and Barb Edwards

Back– Val Simmons, Brian Stitt, Katie Hoffman, Cindy Davis, Becky Emerson, Denise Imlah, and Catherine Verneti

Mara and Val Simmons– we are grateful to see beautiful memories blooming all around!

