



SALEM CHURCH

God is still speaking

435 S. 9th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217.222.0601

**October
2026**

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



Rev. Matthew Hunt

A Four-Week Sermon Series & Connect Groups | October 11–November 1

There are a lot of voices telling us what it means to be a Christian. People invoke the name of Jesus in support of all kinds of beliefs, causes, priorities, and ways of treating other people. Sometimes those things seem consistent with the Jesus we encounter in Scripture. Sometimes we might reasonably wonder.

So perhaps one of the most important things we can do as followers of Jesus is also one of the simplest: **keep getting to know Jesus.**

Beginning October 11, our four-week sermon series, **Encounters with Jesus**, will take us into four Gospel stories where very different people find themselves face-to-face with Jesus. We will meet ten people living with leprosy who cry out for mercy—and the unexpected outsider who returns. We will listen as a wealthy man asks Jesus what he must do and receives an answer he finds difficult to accept. We will stand beside a condemned criminal who simply asks, “Jesus, remember me.” And on All Saints Sunday, we will join a grieving widow in the village of Nain when Jesus sees her pain and responds with compassion.

These aren't simply stories about people who lived two thousand years ago. Each encounter gives us another opportunity to pay attention to **Jesus himself**: What does he notice? Who does he welcome? What does he challenge? What moves him to compassion? What does he ask of people? What kind of life does he invite people to live? And what might all of that mean for those of us who call ourselves his followers today?

Each Sunday, the conversation will continue through our **Connect Groups**. Together we'll dig more deeply into the day's Scripture and sermon, ask questions, listen to one another, and consider how these encounters with Jesus connect with our own lives and faith.

CONNECT GROUP OPTIONS

- **Sunday at 10:30 a.m. — Faith Trek Room/Lounge** Meets following Fellowship and includes a meal.
- **Sunday at 10:30 a.m. — Fellowship Hall** Led by Pastor Matthew.
- **Sunday from 4:30–6:30 p.m. — Quincy-area home** Evening Connect Group; meal included. **Childcare is available at the church during both Sunday morning Re:Charge groups.**

You don't need to be a Bible expert. You don't need to have all the answers. Come ready to listen, talk, ask questions, and spend some time getting to know Jesus.

Because if we are going to call ourselves followers of Jesus, it seems worth making sure we know the one we are following.

SEMLER

ACOUSTIC SHOW

WITH ESTHER MOORE

LOADS OF LOVE FUNDRAISER

**STATE STREET THEATER
MONDAY NOV. 9 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30
FAMILY FRIENDLY
OVER BY 8:30**

**QUINCY, IL
FREE SHOW
DONATIONS WELCOME**



SALEM CHURCH
God is still speaking

Coffee Hour Schedule

October

10/4 The Moran's & The Hellige's

10/11 The Spory's

10/18 The Edwards'

10/25 The Stitt's

November

11/1 Linsey, Catherine V, Victoria

11/8 The Simmons Family

11/15 The Caring Ministry

11/22 Ric, Carol, Judy, and Connie

11/29 The Deege's and Goehl's

Church Announcement: We are BACK in the sanctuary for worship. Thank you for your active participation in the Fellowship Hall!



SALEM CHURCH
Building a community
around the love of Jesus.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

—  —

One Bread. One Cup. One Table.
All are welcome at Christ's table.

 **Gluten-Free
Bread**

 **Sugar-Free
Non-Alcoholic
Grape Juice**

*So that more of us can share
together from the same table.*

Dates To Remember

Saturday, October 3rd

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, October 4th

9:00am Salem Worship

10:30am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Tuesday, October 6th

5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 7th

6:00pm Resource/Property Meeting

Thursday, October 8th

4:00pm Loads of Love

5:15pm Connections Ministry Meeting

Saturday, October 10th

10:30am Paws & Prayer Pet Food
Distribution

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, October 11th

9:00am Salem Worship

10:30am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Tuesday, October 13th

NO Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 14th

6:00pm Caring Ministry Meeting

Thursday, October 15th

7:00 Informal gathering at Quincy Brewing
Company

Saturday, October 17th

11:30am Health Fair/Toiletry Distribution

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, October 18th

9:00am Salem Worship

10:30am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Tuesday, October 20th

5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, October 21st

5:30pm Evening Guild Meeting

6:00pm VMST

Thursday, October 22nd

4:00pm Loads of Love

Saturday, October 24th

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Sunday, October 25th

9:00am Salem Worship

10:30am Youth and Adult Re:Charge

Tuesday, October 27th

5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 31st

11:30am BJ's Café– Saturday Meals

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September 2026 Birthdays

10/4 Denise Eastman
10/12 Jennifer Simpson
10/20 Kathy Fauble
10/25 Kevin Deege

September Anniversaries

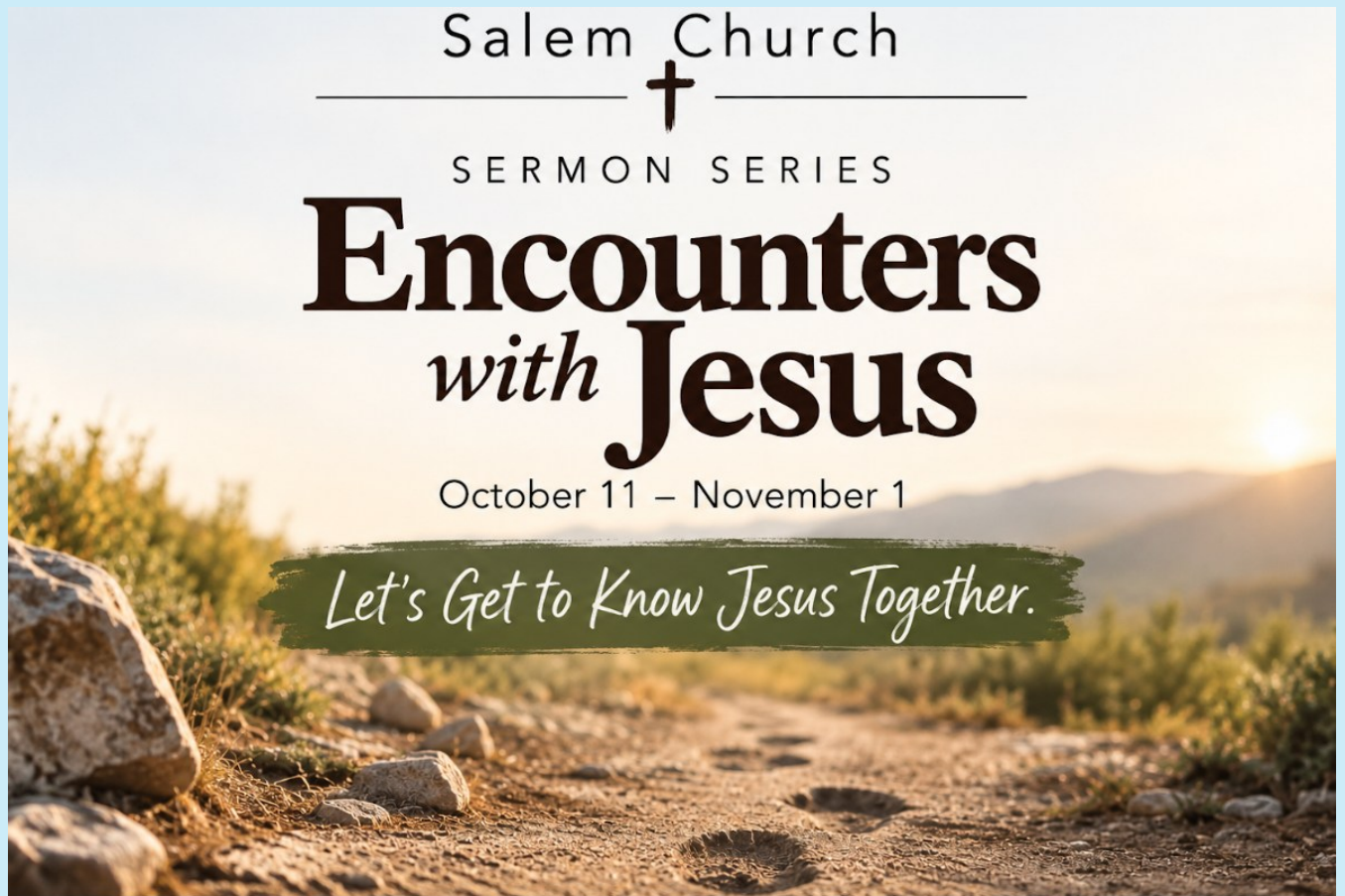
10/ 5 Lora & Kyle Vail
10/16 Cindy & James Davis
10/19 Savannah Coelho &
Jacob Zimmerman
10/28 Marilyn & Ken Abbath

Salem Evening Guild

Join us for our NEXT Meeting

10/21

- ♦ Short meeting about the Fall Rummage sale
- ♦ Planning the Holiday Bazaar, scheduled for 11/6 and 11/7

A poster for Salem Church's sermon series. The background is a photograph of a dirt path with footprints leading towards a sunset over hills. The text is centered and reads: "Salem Church" with a cross symbol below it, followed by "SERMON SERIES", "Encounters with Jesus" in a large serif font, "October 11 – November 1", and a green brushstroke banner at the bottom with the text "Let's Get to Know Jesus Together." in white script.

Salem Church

SERMON SERIES

**Encounters
with Jesus**

October 11 – November 1

Let's Get to Know Jesus Together.



WALK IN LOVE

A SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING OF
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EQUIPPING

ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES



UCC.ORG/NIN

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering — October 11

On **Sunday, October 11**, Salem will collect the United Church of Christ's **Neighbors in Need (NIN) Special Mission Offering**.

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of **justice and compassion throughout the United States**. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)**, while the remaining two-thirds supports justice ministries, advocacy, direct service, and grants to UCC congregations and organizations working in their communities.

NIN grants help provide immediate assistance such as food, clothing, and utilities while also supporting community organizing and advocacy addressing systemic injustice. The offering also helps develop UCC resources addressing racial, economic, environmental, LGBTQ+, immigration, and other areas of justice.

Through Neighbors in Need, our gifts become part of the wider church's work of **serving our neighbors, alleviating suffering, and working for a more just and compassionate world**.

Please consider making a special gift to Neighbors in Need on Sunday, October 11.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Matt



Regular,
Informal,
Social
Gathering

Join us on the
3rd Thursday of every month
7:00 pm
Quincy Brew Co

*Non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase

Salem UCC

Questions?

|

AJ Simmons
(520) 705-3159

WIDENING THE TABLE

Recently, a colleague raised a question that has stayed with me. We often talk about wanting Salem to be a church where as many people as possible can fully participate. But what about Communion? Even at the table where we proclaim that everyone is welcome, dietary needs can sometimes leave people unable to share the same bread and cup as everyone else.

That started a conversation about how we might **widen our welcome and widen our table.**

Interestingly, the early church wrestled with questions about food and inclusion too. In Romans 14, Paul addresses Christians with different dietary practices and encourages them to consider one another when they eat together. He writes, **“It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble”** (Romans 14:21). For Paul, sometimes loving our neighbor means willingly changing what we do so that someone else can more fully belong.

So on **October 4, World Communion Sunday**, we will begin using **gluten-free bread and sugar-free, non-alcoholic grape juice for everyone** who receives Communion at Salem. Rather than providing separate options for some, we will share one bread and one cup together.

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity we share with Christians around the world despite our many differences. It seems like a fitting day to make our own table a little wider.

One Bread. One Cup. One Table. All are welcome.

Rev. Matthew Hunt

Pride in the Park 2026



Val and Prynn Simmons



Nyasia Shaw,
Amber Shaw,
Kylee, and
Tevea Shaw



Val, Micah, and
AJ Simmons



Mabel (dog),
Emma Crain,
Kenny, and
Jennifer Simpson

Blessing The Youth Re:Charge Classes



PreK– 1st

Felicity Koch, Audrey Hoffman, Aiden and Micah Simmons, and Cleo Zimmerman

With teachers Catey Hellige and Val Simmons

2nd– 5th

Flossy Stitt, Prynne and Mara Simmons, Axel Stitt, and Alex Spory

With teachers Norma Spory , Cindy Davis, and Charlie Hall





6th-8th Graders Hadley Moran, Tevea Shaw, Aurora Hellige, Violet Holtschlag, Kylee, and Nyasia Shaw

With teachers AJ Simmons, Heather and Adam Spory, Linsey Laughlin, Jayne Clouser and Debbie Husar



All of Salem's youth Re:Charge teachers. Jeannie Kanauss will be leading music lessons with the kids this year.