

FROM: Salem United Church of Christ
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historic Salem United Church of Christ in Columbia will celebrate their 215th Anniversary on Saturday, September 29th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be food and festivities behind the church at 324 Walnut Street, in the parking lot off of Avenue H. Activities will include: kids' games, face painting, an adult art project using sparkling cider, raffle baskets, and more. There will also be opportunity to tour of the Historic Church Building. The minimal fee charged for activities will be used for building improvements and mission donations. Musical groups scheduled to provide mini-concerts are a three-man combo, BrozNJoe, performing tunes from the 60's and 70's, and Juliana Schnee, a pianist and writer of her own Christian songs. There will also be plenty of food and baked goods for sale.

The oldest church in Columbia, the cornerstone of the original Old Salem Church was laid in 1805, an offering of Lancaster churches to the German speaking people of Columbia. The newly formed Reformed congregation joined the Lutherans in ownership of the church, creating a union church. The first church building was completed by 1821. For many years, only the German language was permitted to be spoken. As an English-speaking congregation grew, the English Lutheran Church was formed in 1850. Worship services in German continued at the original church until 1939; in 1940 the church became Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church of Columbia. By 1957 the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Church to form the United Church of Christ.

Readers are invited to learn more about this rich history by joining the day of fun and inspiration. Rain date is October 13th. For more information, phone 717.684.6498, or email salemucc.columbia@gmail.com

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