SALEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHAPEL CHIMES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, March 1, 2020
First Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 32
Epistle: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, March 8, 2020
Second Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm: Psalm 121
Epistle: Romans 4:1-4, 13-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 15, 2020
Third Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 95
Epistle: Romans 5:1-11
Gospel: John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm: Psalm 23
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 29, 2020
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Hebrew Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm: Psalm 130
Epistle: Romans 8:6-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45

FIRST NOTES

As we begin this month's edition of *Chapel Chimes,* I want to start with a word of thanks. First, I want to express my thanks to everyone who was involved in this year's Annual Meeting—for the church's leadership, to those who were in attendance, and those who stepped up to fill some short-term needs at the last minute. We were able to make amendments to Salem's By-Laws and to suspend certain sections of them as we work towards a more streamlined and efficient governing structure. We still need to make changes to Salem's Constitution, but those will require two months' notice. In this issue of *Chapel Chimes*, we are including the proposed changes and the scheduled meeting date for the next congregational meeting (April 26th).

I also wish to extend my thanks for all of those who helped to make "Night to Shine" -- the prom event for persons with special needs ages 14 years and older—such a resounding success back on February 7th. The event for our half of the county took place at two sites: the staging and welcome took place at Salem and the dance itself was held at Christian Life Assembly of God. There were (at best current count) 73 kings and queens and 261 volunteers from Salem, Christian Life, and the community around us. I want to thank those of you who waved and cheered the participants and the volunteers who worked in so many different capacities. I can tell you from personal experience that it was a wonderful event for the participants and a rewarding event for the volunteers. I am proud that we could open up the church for this community event and it reflected well on the congregation.

Next, I wish to highlight the Lenten worship series schedule. Our series for this season is "Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story." Beginning Ash Wednesday—February 26th -- each Wednesday before Holy Week will feature a Simple Meal at 5:30 p.m., a study at 6:15 p.m., and worship at 7:00 p.m. The themes for each week will be, as follows: March 4th -- "The Parade: Risking Reputation"; March 11th -- "The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger"; March 18th -- "The Teaching: Risking Challenge"; March 25th -- "The First Dinner: Risking Rejection"; and April 1st -- "The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends." Maundy Thursday, April 9th, will feature the last session of the series: "The Garden: Risking Temptation." It is my hope that many of you will take advantage of the opportunity for fellowship, study, and worship during this season.

The final event that I want to lift up is the scheduling of the combined choirs of Salem and St. Peter's UCC, Kiel in worship at Salem on Sunday, March 29th (the choirs will perform in Kiel on March 1st). It is always a special event when these two choirs get together and I hope that you will circle the date and make every effort to attend.

May these upcoming Lenten days be a time of spiritual renewal and an opportunity to deepen your faith.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Jim Hoppert



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST