

The Salem Center Presbyterian Church

1839 – 2021



Organized in 1839 in the home of John Wilson, the Salem Center Presbyterian Church remains to this day a tight knit family going on almost 200 years of faithful service to the rural residents of southwest Steuben County.

It is a small congregation, but a strong one, with some of the members attending for 60-plus years. Von Milleman joined as a child over eighty (80) years ago. *“The gentleman across the road would come over at 4:30 am to start the fire in a pot-belly stove.”*

The congregation doesn't see as many children as they'd like on Sundays, but the church is still alive with the voices of children as one of the church's main missions of Salem Center is her preschool, the Discovery Center. Begun in 1980 by Rita Hayward, nearly 1,000 children have matriculated through the preschool since then, and more are on the way again this year.

In the early 1970's several Salem Center members launched a mission to reach out to seasonal lake residents, which eventually became the Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes in 1982. A spirit of mission and love animates the congregation still as it maintains an active prayer chain and reaches out to the community by providing prayer shawls to those going through hardships.

Salem Center is a resilient, caring, and friendly faith-filled family seeking a half-time pastor to shepherd her into her future ministry opportunities, with primary emphasis upon leading weekly Sunday worship, providing pastoral care, and assisting in adult Christian education.

Compensation starts at \$20,000.00 per annum, with a negotiable benefit package beyond that.