



Salem Cass News

April 2017

Dear Salem Cass Family,

Praise God for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! An early creed of the New Testament church states:

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; He was buried and He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; and He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred at one time. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles” (I Cor.15:3-7).

Why do I quote this? Because as Paul goes on to say,

“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised... and your faith has been in vain... and we are of all people most to be pitied” (I Cor.15:13-19).

But we are not to be pitied! We are of all people most joyful! Why? Because Jesus did rise again. He is alive – alive in all His followers! And that means we are forgiven of our past, empowered for the present, and encouraged for the future.

In April we continue the sermon series “The Case for Christ” as we discover the evidence that Christ’s claims are true – that He came to earth, He died on purpose for our sin, and He rose from the dead. Based on the book and movie that tells Lee Strobel’s true story, “The Case for Christ”, we will journey and dig deeper into the evidence for Christianity. So invite your family and friends to Sunday worship!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor Ray



**Youth Fundraiser
Soup & Salad
Luncheon
Sunday, April 2
11:45 am**



Stay after Sunday School and enjoy a variety of homemade soups, salads, and desserts for a free-will donation. Proceeds will benefit missions, projects, and activities for the children and youth.

Easter Events

Our Easter Celebrations begin Sunday, April 2, with our Children’s Drama Presentation and Communion. Then Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday worship & message “*Explaining the Good News of Christ*” –complete with palms. Our Open Community Holy/Maundy Thursday (April 13) worship at 7:00 pm includes scripture readings, hymns, and Christ’s Last Supper. A Community Good Friday worship takes place April 14, 7:00 pm at Van Buren United Methodist Church and features the last words and hours of Jesus leading to His death on the cross. Then Christ’s Resurrection is celebrated back at Salem Cass Church, Sunday, April 16, with 8:15am Sunrise Devotions, 8:30 am Breakfast, 9:15 am Children’s Egg Hunt, and 10:00 am Worship, featuring the Salem Cass Celebration Choir’s presentation of “*Amazing Love, How Can It Be*”. So make it a priority and invite your friends!

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 am
Children’s Easter Presentation
Pastor’s Message: “Embracing the Truth of Christ”
Communion

Sunday, April 9, 9:30 am
Palm Sunday Celebration
Pastor’s Message: “Explaining the Good News of Christ”

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm
Holy/Maundy Thursday with Christ’s Last Supper

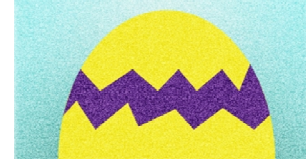
Friday, April 14, 7:00 pm
Good Friday hosted at Van Buren UMC

Sunday, April 16
8:15 am Sunrise Devotions
8:30 am Easter Breakfast
9:15 am Children’s Egg Hunt
10:00 am Resurrection Worship, “*Amazing Love*” Musical Presentation



**Children’s Easter Program
Sunday, April 2, During Worship**

**YOU CAN’T HAVE
EASTER
WITHOUT...**



Summer Camping Information



Registration forms for Sr. High Lakeside and Jr. High Lakeside are available online at lakesideforyouth.com. Sr. High Lakeside is for incoming 9th graders through current graduating seniors and Jr. High Lakeside is for incoming 6th graders through current 8th graders. Sr. High Lakeside is offering 2 different weeks this summer. The first week is June 18-24 and the second week is June 25-July 1. Jr. High Lakeside is scheduled for the week of July 3-7. Family Camp is June 30-July 2. You can check out all this information in the registration forms or online.

Camping information for the West Ohio Camps of Widewater, Otterbein and Wesley can be found online at <http://www.westohiocamps.com>. There are many camping opportunities available for kids in grades 2 through 12 along with family camps, grandparent/grandchild camps and physically challenged camps.

Please remember that the church very generously helps to fund a portion of the summer camping fees for our youth. Members or children of members will receive \$175 towards their camping fee and regular attending non-members will receive \$87.50 towards their camping fee. **Please turn a copy of the registration form in to the church office.** Additionally, full camping scholarships for those in need can be arranged by contacting Pastor Ray.

Memorial Funds

Listed below are the Salem Memorial Funds and the balances in each account as of March 26, 2017.

Lois Henderson Memorial	\$164.87
Ron Shaffer Memorial	\$125.00
Foy Henderson Memorial	\$230.00
Wayne Mertz Memorial	\$0.00
(\$32.00 transferred to Scholarship Fund)	
Virginia Messer Memorial	\$45.00
Ray Amos Memorial	\$2,737.00
David C. Coulter Memorial	\$235.91
(\$321.64 applied to Easter cantata music)	
Eleanor Scully Memorial	\$25.00
Doris Beck Memorial	\$0.00
(\$615.00 transferred to Scholarship Fund)	
Darlene Lewis	\$2,070.00
(\$250.00 transferred to Scholarship Fund)	
Raymond L. Kane Memorial	\$150.00
Robert E. Doxsey Memorial	\$505.00
Lawrence Kring Memorial	\$240.00

Welcome March Visitors

Sally Warren	Devan Walicek
Ryan Walicek	Luke Walicek
Rose Mary Rush	Cassandra Taylor
Ben Huston	Ali & Lennon Doxsey

"We have not the reason to despair, quite simply because Christ has risen."

—Richard John Neuhaus

Needles for God April Meetings



Tuesday, April 4, 2 p.m., church
Tuesday, April 18, 2 p.m., church

We would like to thank Christy and Sophia Powell, Max and Marge Stacy, Karen Doxsey, Donna Bond and Bonnie Donaldson for recent gifts to the group. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Nine ladies in the Needles for God group have made **1,207 items** to be given to others since the group began in September 2010. Each person purchases the materials needed for her project and does such outstanding needlework. We thank them for their faithfulness and devotion to Needles for God.

Thank You:

...thanks to Needles for God friends for the comforting gifts.Fred & Pat Arnold

... thank you for the beautiful needlepoint gift from Needles for GodDan & Lori Eaton

Ladies, thank you for the lovely gift, and yes, God was with me! Keep up your good work as the Lord will bless you as you bless others. Thanks again.Sylvia Compton

We want to thank Needles for God for the lovely gift of needle point.Family of Lawrence Kring



Trustee Meeting

*Sunday, April 2
10:45 am
Fellowship Hall*

Discipleship & Fellowship Pillar Meeting

*Tuesday, April 18
7:00 pm
Office*



*"The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears."
—Native American proverb*



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy, love and prayers to the Jones Family, as Howard Jones passed; to the Kring Family, with the passing of Lawrence; and to Barb Rice and her Family, as Barb's mother passed.



Salem Church: How Connected Are We?

Small groups bring people together. God created us to live in relationship with Him and others; enabling us to live the full life He intends for us. We were designed to share life through community.

Getting plugged in with a group is a great place to get connected.

Are you connected with a group outside of Sunday morning worship, exploring faith and studying God's Word?

Perhaps the group is not affiliated with Salem, perhaps it is one you hold in your home, maybe you have been thinking about beginning a small group...

Over the next few weeks, a bulletin insert (pictured below) will be available; please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

How Connected Are We?

Please indicate your small group participation and place in the offering plate.

- I attend a Bible Study/Small Group at Salem UMC
- I attend a Bible Study/Small Group outside Salem UMC
How many outside Salem do you attend? ____
- I attend Sunday School at Salem UMC
- I attend Sunday School outside Salem UMC
- I attend a Youth Group at Salem UMC
- I attend a Youth Group outside Salem UMC
How many outside Salem do you attend? ____

Get Plugged In at Salem

Sunday School after Worship: 10:45 am-11:45 am

Seasoned Saints Meet in the Office for a lesson & discussion and then continue the fellowship at lunch

Adult/Boomers Meet in Mezzanine

Youth (6-12 grade) Meet in the Library Loft

Kindergarten - 5th grade Meet Upstairs in the Sunday School Rooms following Jr. Church

Kids and Youth Small Groups

Jr. Church Meet Upstairs in the Sunday School Rooms after Children's Sermon

Good News Kid's Club is for children ages 5-12 who meet on Wednesdays in the Van Buren Elementary Cafeteria from 3:00-4:00 pm for a fun-filled hour full of Bible lessons, learning activities, inspiring missionary stories, songs, and scripture memory.

Campus Life Middle School: 6th – 8th Graders
Mondays after school from 3-4 pm in Mrs. Obenour's Room

Campus Life High School: 9th – 12th Graders
Wednesday Nights from 7:00-8:30 pm at Salem UMC

Adult Small Groups

Monday Morning Bible Study Led by Pastor Ray
10:00 am Fellowship Hall

Thursday Evening Young Adult Bible Study
Led by Young Adults
7:15-8:30 pm Mezzanine

Please keep these groups in your prayers.



Youth Night: Dinner & Mission Project

Friday, April 7
6:00-9:00 pm
Salem Fellowship Hall

Walking tacos will be served.

Fleece tie blankets will be made for Project Linus, which gives blankets to children who have experienced trauma.



Thank You!

A very special thank you to Salem for the use of the church for the memorial service of our daughter, Joanne Powell, and a big thank you to the ladies and Jim who contributed and served the wonderful food after the service. We can't express our gratitude enough for helping to deal with a difficult situation. We appreciate all of you more than you know; we love you all. Also thanks to Needles for God friends for the comforting gifts.

In His Love and ours, Fred & Pat Arnold

During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Family of Lawrence Kring

Salem Cass,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, phone calls, texts, letters, facebook messages and any other social mediums I might have forgotten, during my illness. It was so wonderful and uplifting to know you all were thinking of Jenna, Clint & I. We miss you all!
Eric Wilkins
(Eric is now serving at Portage Chapel as a part-time local pastor.)

Dear Salem Family,

Thank you for all of the support through our Uncle George's battle with cancer and his passing. The prayers, cards, and beautiful needlepoint gift from Needles for God demonstrate the deeply caring people at Salem.
Love, Dan & Lori and Family

Salem Cass UMC – Staff & Members,

Thank you for the floral arrangement you sent for our father's funeral. We know he always enjoyed attending your church while he was still able.

The Family of Howard W. Jones, Judy, Paul & Janet

Salem Cass U.M. Church,

Thank you for your prayers, cards and flowers at the death of our father and my husband, Lawrence Kring. We want to thank Needles for God for the lovely gift of needle point. Thank you, Pastor Ray, for your visits, prayers and final service. A special thank you to the ladies of the church for serving a delicious luncheon.
Family of Lawrence Kring



**Christian
Clearing House**
Christians Helping in Crisis..

**Christian Clearing House is proud to
welcome Salem Cass UMC to our
participating congregations. Welcome!**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us here at the Christian Clearing House-staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees-we want to thank you for your generous financial support of this ministry.

Your commitment to helping the "needy" in Hancock County get through the crises in their lives is appreciated by those who help them and most importantly, by those who benefit from our services. Daily we help those living without enough funds to pay their rent or utility bills. They may have spent their paycheck for a car repair and then be forced to come to our office to request a voucher for food to feed their family, or for gasoline to get to work. Many people have nowhere else to turn when needing prescription medication or help with a medical emergency. The person we helped today could be the single mother living down the street, the senior citizen you sat next to at church or a friend you saw at the grocery store.

This is a very generous and giving community. The work done here wouldn't be possible without people like you who have a caring heart for others.

In Gratitude,
Tammy Stahl, Executive Director

Member church congregations are amazing supporters of Christian Clearing House! In 2012, CCH began operating the Caring Cupboard containing items not covered by food stamps or vouchers to be distributed to those in desperate need. Due to generous donations, CCH is able to keep this valuable cupboard stocked, making a big difference in the lives of their neighbors in crisis.

Caring Cupboard Items Needed

- Toilet paper
- Diapers (size 4 & 5)
- Deodorant
- Feminine products
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Tooth paste
- Tooth brushes
- Bath soap (bars)
- Shaving cream
- Dish detergent
- Baby wipes

Box in Lobby



City Mission's New Children's Chapel

Youth living at the mission are able to attend a new program that teaches them about the Gospel. It is held Monday through Friday from 5-5:30 pm. Activities include a Bible story, game or craft, video, and memory verse.

Help Needed!

The mission is looking for people willing to lead the children's program once a week, bi-weekly, or even once a month. For more information, call 419-423-9151 or email brookemorgart@findlaymission.org.



'Praygrounds' Encourage Little Children to Come

By Crystal Caviness
March-April 2017

Photo by Tania Dozeman A circular sanctuary includes Grace Space, the playground at First United Methodist Church in Holland, Mich.



As the band at [Trinity United Methodist Church](#) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, played the first chords of "All the People Said Amen," 22-month-old Liam sat on a soft blanket on the floor at the front of the sanctuary playing with a red rubber ball. A few measures in, the toddler stood up, moved to the aisle and started bouncing up and down with the rhythm of the music.

When the music ended, Liam returned to the blanket, sat down and resumed playing with the ball and other soft toys around him while the service continued just a few feet in front of him. "Liam definitely feels the Spirit with the music and message, even as a toddler," said Kaitlyn VanHaren, Liam's mom and a member of Trinity.

Trend around the globe Trinity is among a growing number of churches adopting a trend to incorporate space near the front of the sanctuary for young children to sit and play during worship services. The concept, called "praygrounds," is taking root around the globe.

"Often, parents and children sit in the back of church, hoping not to disturb anyone," VanHaren said. "I have found that children, especially Liam, are more attentive and active in the service when they are in the front of the church. There is more to see, hear and respond to that way."

Melanie C. Gordon, director of [ministry with children at Discipleship Ministries](#), has seen praygrounds in a number of countries. In 2014, Gordon participated in the Wesley Pilgrimage in England. "I was amazed at how many churches had a space carved out in their sanctuaries for children and adults," she said. "Everything was small and childlike. When I asked what the space is used for, I was told 'We like for our children to be in worship with us.'"

On a trip to Sweden, Gordon worshiped at Abrahamsbergskyrkan (Abraham Mountain Church) in Stockholm where preschoolers seated near the front of

the church in the playground stay busy with crafts and books during church worship. Then a United Methodist congregation, the church is now part of the Uniting Church in Sweden.

"They wouldn't even think about the children being anywhere else but in worship," Gordon said. "You could tell the children were used to being in church, because they were very comfortable in the space. I thought it was wonderful."

All God's children worship together Encouraging parents to bring their young children into the worship service and placing them near the front may be unprecedented in many churches. In recent decades, the trend in most mainline denominations has been toward children's church. There, youngsters are taken to a child-oriented service or activity in a space outside of the sanctuary for all or most of the service.

"I'm not sure where it started, but for the past 30 years, there has been a struggle about having children in worship," Gordon said. "Should they be there? Are they learning anything?"

"What's been found over time is that when children who are separated out of the worshipping community get to an age to decide for themselves if they want to be a part of worship, they will likely decide not to be part of worship because it hasn't been part of their life. We know enough about the brain development of a young child to know they need opportunities to be part of something, so they see it as an important part of who they are.

"We are all adopted through our baptism into God's family, so we need to worship together," Gordon said. "We know children need to move and have some active time, so we need to find creative ways of engaging children in worship."

(continued)

A playground does not negate the need for a church nursery, leaders say. Rather playgrounds supplement existing spaces. Most churches continue to have nursery and Sunday school ministries.

Radical hospitality for youngest congregants

Often, church leaders view playgrounds as part of the welcoming ministry.

"The playground is a space where children can see and be engaged, a space that's especially for them," Gordon said. "It's a way of offering a radical hospitality to children."

Beth Hagemeyer, director of children's education at [Community United Methodist Church in Napierville, Illinois](#), agreed. "Our playground has been a wonderful way to welcome all to worship," she said. In addition to the playground, the church continues to offer a 20-minute children's church activity for which youngsters can leave the sanctuary.

Grace Space, the playground at [First United Methodist Church in Holland, Michigan](#), has brought positive responses from members and visitors.

"The first day we started it, we happened to have a guest who thanked me at the end of the service, not only for the warm welcome, but for having a space to worship with her children," said Tania Dozeman, student pastor at the church, and a consultant for the [Michigan Vital Church Initiative](#). Dozeman led the designing of the playground.

"Grace Space is a statement to the entire congregation that we are making physical and spiritual space for families," Dozeman said. "We are now embodying our inclusiveness and intentionality. This is a way to 'walk the walk' for churches who talk about desiring more families in their midst."

In addition to providing a physical space for young children, the Rev. Lynn Piers-Fitzgerald, senior pastor at Holland First, said that playgrounds offer an opportunity for spiritual formation to begin at an early age.

"We want children to witness their parents and other adults worshipping to show that this is what our life looks like together as children of God," she said.

Trinity Church's Glenys Nellist is a vocal playgrounds advocate. "I'm passionate about including young children in worship," she said. "I have a passion for getting God's

word into the heart of little ones. I was immediately drawn to this idea."

Nellist, coordinator of children's ministries in the West Michigan Conference and a children's author, and Nichea Ver Veer Guy, Pathways to Discipleship director at Trinity, teamed up to develop their church's playground.

"Children bring an energy and this unashamed love of worship," Nellist said. "If we can get past this fear of how much noise there will be or how much distraction there will be, then I think the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks."

"I want young parents and families to know there's an intentional space for your child in the front or toward the front," she said. "When the space is near the front, the children know they are part of something bigger than themselves."

On the Sunday when Liam started dancing to the worship music, Nellist was standing nearby.

"When I saw Liam dancing, I was in tears and his mom was, too. Everybody in the congregation responded to that. This is not just impacting one little life that gets to hear the liturgy and dance to the music. If we can find a way to implement these in every United Methodist church, it will impact their congregational life."

The command to bring children into worship services may date back to the church's earliest days.

"I believe when Jesus said 'Don't block the children, let them come to me,' I can imagine that the tone was firm," Gordon said. "Let them come to me."

Crystal Caviness is a public relations specialist at United Methodist Communications in Nashville, Tennessee.

Salem Cass UMC



Any Full Member of Salem Cass UMC pursuing a college degree may apply. Applications are available in the lobby, or by contacting secretary@salemcass.org. Former recipients may apply but applicants who have not received this award will be considered first.

***Applications must be returned to the church
c/o Scholarship Committee by
Monday, May 1, 2017.***

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Trustees 10:45 am Youth Fundraiser Lunch 11:45 am Scott Lewis ☺	3 Bible Study 10:00 am Campus Life M 3:00 pm Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲	4 Needles for God 2:00 pm Girl Scouts 6-8 :30pm ▲	5 Good News Club 3:00-4:00 pm Elem. Café. Handbells 6:45 pm HS Campus Life 7-8:30 pm Scout Pack Mtg 7-8pm ▲	6 Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Praise Team 8:00 pm	7 Campus Life Breakfast Club 7:00 am - VB UMC Youth Night Dinner & Mission Project 6-8 pm ▲	1 Truth Seekers Worship & Bible Study 9 am-12 pm Hannah Deiter ☺ 8 Truth Seekers Worship & Bible Study 9 am-12 pm Spence 4-6 pm ▲
9 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Betsy Klinke ☺	10 Bible Study 10:00 am Campus Life M 3:00 pm Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Malynn Simpson ☺	11	12 Good News Club 3:00-4:00 pm Elem. Café. Handbells 6:45 pm HS Campus Life 7-8:30 pm	13 Holy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm - Salem Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Choir 7:30 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Ken Beilharz ☺	14 Good Friday VBUMC 7:00 pm	15 Truth Seekers Worship & Bible Study 9 am-12 pm Sean Brauneller ☺ Robyn Miller ☺
16 Happy Easter! Prayer 8:15 am Breakfast 8:30 am Egg Hunt 9:15am Worship-Musical 10:00 am (No SS) S. Stacy 12:30 pm ▲	17 Bible Study 10:00 am Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Bob Doxsey ☺ John Rinker ☺	18 Needles for God 2:00 pm Girl Scouts 6-8 :30pm ▲ Discipleship & Fellowship Mtg 7:00 pm - Office Rick Grant ☺ Betty McCann ☺	19 Good News Club 3:00-4:00 pm Elem. Café. Handbells 6:45 pm HS Campus Life 7-8:30 pm Pat Arnold ☺ Richard & Peggy Word ♥	20 Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Bible Study 7:15 pm Praise Team 8:00 pm Emily Mertz ☺	21 Campus Life Breakfast Club 7:00 am - VB UMC Girl Scouts 5:30-8 pm ▲	22 Truth Seekers Worship & Bible Study 9 am-12 pm Back Yard Missions McKenzie Franklin ☺
23 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am B. Stacy 12:30 pm ▲ Mark Greer ☺ Ryan Krouse ☺	24 Bible Study 10:00 am Campus Life M 3:00 pm Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Marjorie Stacy ☺	25 Servant Leader Board Meeting 7:00 pm	26 Good News Club 3:00-4:00 pm Elem. Café. Handbells 6:45 pm HS Campus Life 7-8:30 pm Brooke Rehus ☺	27 Exercise Class 6:00 pm ▲ Bible Study 7:15 pm Praise Team 8:00 pm Tom Miller ☺	28 Campus Life Breakfast Club 7:00 am - VB UMC Retired Teachers Lunch 10:30-3 pm ▲ Dave & Julie Erwin ♥	29 Truth Seekers Worship & Bible Study 9 am-12 pm



30 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45 am	<p>“If we are not planted in Christ, we’ll be uprooted in crisis.”</p> <p>—Unknown</p>	Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Fellowship Hall ▲ Birthdays ☺ Anniversaries ♥
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Salem Cass News

Published monthly by
Salem Cass United Methodist Church

Located at
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Worship Schedule

Worship Service.....9:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available)

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.



“Worship in the country with us.”



Salem Cass United Methodist Church
4699 Hancock County Road 236
Findlay, OH 45840