



SALEM **First
Christian
Church**

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH SCROLL

Volume 83 Issue 23 November 20, 2025

Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:30 am • Children's Church 10:30 am



belonging

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service & Dinner

Tuesday, November 25

6:00 pm Soup | 7:00 pm Service

St Mark Lutheran Church
790 Marion St NE, Salem



All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Your Caring Ministry Team is hosting our annual **All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner** on **Sunday, November 23**, immediately following the congregational meeting after the 10:30 am Worship Service.

If you are unable to join us, we would love to bring a meal to your home. Call: 503-363-9273.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



SUPPORTING
HIGHER EDUCATION



Thanksgiving Special Offering Supporting Higher Education

For over 130 years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has made a commitment to nurturing and supporting higher education through the general ministry of HELM (Higher Education & Leadership Ministries). Through relationships with the 15 Colleges/Universities and 7 Seminaries/Divinity Houses connected to the Disciples of Christ, HELM can continue its mission of developing and nurturing Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world.

Every November, the Church dedicates a special offering to support these institutions. The collection goes straight to the institutions and enables them to offer scholarships, expand programs, and offer assistance through faith-based services. Support through this annual special offering is a critical part of our ongoing collaborative work between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and higher education.

This year's special **Thanksgiving Offering** will be received on **Sunday, November 23rd**. Please consider a generous donation as we come together to help make a difference in the lives of thousands of students. Thank you.

... where love leads community

Pastor's Message from Co-Senior Minister, Michelle Harris-Gloyer

Why Salem FCC? Why Now?

The November 16 sermon was entitled, "Why Ruth? Why Now?" One major theme is the notion that in order to know who we are, we look to stories of the past for inspiration for who we want to be as a community, and cautionary tales about who we do not want to be. Upon the surface, the Bethlehemite community of ancient Judah would not be desirable for many contemporary American people of the 21st Century. Unstable food sources, migration to avoid starvation, inadequate (or non-existent) governmental systems, limitations on women's rights to own property, just to name a few. And yet, the biblical witness can (and does) still hold valuable faith lessons for us if we are able to look beyond the specific social structures to see the underlying principles.

For example, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld writes in "Interpretation" that "the story of Ruth embodies... the biblical version of human community. First of all, no one is to be left destitute...Second, loneliness and despair must not be ignored...Third, children are valued, and so are old people...Fourth, the marginalized outsider may appropriately be 'pushy' towards being included."

A life of faith looks below the surface to see the well of *hesed* (loving-kindness) that bolsters a community. Such a *well of hesed* was existent among the ancient Bethlehemites as evidenced by the acts of loving-kindness demonstrated by Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, the village women and elders. Such a well of hesed exists here at Salem First Christian Church, too, as evidenced by our various ministries of feeding dozens of hungry people every Monday and Tuesday; Grief Share; elder's fellowship and communion with aged members unable to travel; Sunday children's ministry; Thursday youth group and Sunday Youth Collective; Taize prayer services; 3rd Wednesday Worship; Rummage and Book Sales and Advent Giving Trees that financially support several local non-profits like Courtney Place



(housing for veterans), Center for Hope & Safety (women & children shelter), Church @ the Park (outside friends), Union Gospel Mission (outside friends), Family Building Blocks (children), Family Promise (family housing). Additionally, SFCC has consistently over several decades affirmed that "our house" does not belong to us. The building and property of SFCC is God's house and so it is open to the community, which takes multiple forms: various Recovery Groups

six days a week, local school's choral concerts, weekly Just for Fun Singers rehearsal, weekly Bible Study Fellowship that boasts 400-500 participants, and more.

SFCC is a great place to worship and live into our Christian faith both directly with our church-led ministries and indirectly through support of local organizations that uplift our fair Salem city.

For all of those who have given in 2025 of time, talent and/or treasure, your congregation and your pastors thank you for doing ministry together.

On behalf of your pastors, thank you for your support of the **2025 Stewardship Journey, Dreaming God's Dream**. We are excited to hear where God is calling SFCC into ministry into the next year.

For those of you who have turned in Giving Estimates, thank you for your gift. And, thank you for assisting our financial team's planning of ministries for 2026. We can't do any of this without each of you. Thank you, kindly. Prayerfully,

~Revs. Michelle and Matthew Harris-Gloyer



Pastor Matt completes the 3rd Annual Ryan Gloyer Middle School Memorial Run on November 2nd, near Pittsburgh, PA.



November 20 - December 3

David Walle	November 22
Colleen Vawter	November 25
Judy Gilbertson	November 27
Laura Hildebrandt	November 29
Dakota Jull	November 30
Zoe Rice	December 1
Joyce Zook.....	December 3

Gratitude

Salem FCC,

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the Trunk-or-Treat event! Your donations, kindness, and willingness to share resources made a wonderful difference. Our church family was able to connect with neighbors, spread joy, and shine the light of Christ in our community!

*With appreciation and blessings,
Elder Kim, Keizer Christian Church (DOC)*

November Holiday Closures

The SFCC Building will be closed November 27-28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Worship Attendance

November 9	in-person	online
8:30.....	20	
10:30	100.....	122
November 16	in-person	online
8:30.....	20	
10:30	107.....	105

Snack Bag Ministry

Winter is almost here and the Snack Bag ministry is ready for any heavy plastic bags that you may have. You may leave them in the Chalice entrance and we will see that they are added to others in our snack bag room. We appreciate you all.

~Marilyn and Steve Fine, Snack Bag Coordinators

Condolences

Janice VanDyke passed away on November 1. Our prayers and sympathies go out to her family.

Ward Hill recently passed away. Our sympathies go out to his family. There will be a celebration of life for Ward at Turner Christian Church on January 31, 2026 at 1:00 pm.



Prayers For

Leslie Carlisle, pancreatic cancer

Susan Crom, pancreatic cancer

Joyce Richter, healing from hip replacement

Dolores Vance, diagnosed with Type III Achalasia



The Joyful Singers sang "My God is So Big" in the 10:30 am service on November 9. "There's nothing my God cannot do! For YOU! And you and you and you!"

Advent Series "ABIDE WITH US"

November 30

Hope in the Valley

December 7

Peace through the Fire

December 14

Joy in God's Purpose

December 21

Love Made Flesh





Christmas-At-Noon Concerts

Join us for three fabulous (and free) concerts on the first three Wednesdays of December!

December 3 • Willamette Singers
Small Chamber Vocal Ensemble

December 10 • Iris Duo
Piano Duets

December 17 • Just For Fun Singers
Chorus



Leaf Clean-Up

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Leaf & Lunch All-Church clean-up day! Like they say... many hands make light work!

Many thanks to our volunteers: Mindy, Pat, Gene, Leanne, Bob, Joyce, Faith, Eugene, Jessica, Penny, Wayne, Paul, Lorna, Doug, Dena, Dennis and Rick. Your hard work, teamwork, and generosity made a big difference. We're truly grateful for your service!

Extra thanks for the two trailers (Doug and Paul). And we enjoyed a delicious homemade pumpkin soup lunch made by Rick. Yum! Thank you all for being such a blessing!

Property & Serving Teams



Abide with Us An Advent Devotional

On Sunday, November 30th, the Season of Advent begins and continues for the next four weeks up to Christmas. To help us reflect on Advent, the Teaching Ministry has purchased "Abide With Us, An Advent Devotional." This devotional is a collection of meditations prepared by pastors in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is published by Chalice Press.

"Abide With Us" is a daily Advent devotional that will help you remember that our God is always with us. Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, each day's devotion includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer. As you engage with the traditional themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, love—you will reflect on what you can do to create a welcoming space for God in our hearts and our world.

The complimentary Advent devotionals will be available beginning on Sunday, November 23rd. If you would like to give a small donation to offset the cost, you are welcome to do so; however, there is no obligation.

For more information or to receive your copy of "Abide With Us," please contact Lisa Barnes or any member of the Teaching Ministry.

Thank you SFCC!

Thanks to our awesome church community, the 2025 CWF Rummage Sale by the bag and "Twice Blessed Boutique" earned \$4,044 for local charities! We had a big crowd of buyers, especially the first day of the sale.

It took dozens of helping hands to make the Rummage Sale possible, and our church stepped up in a big way. Everything from donating, sorting, organizing, moving boxes, advertising, selling, and cleaning up happened because our church is a motivated, hard-working, loving, church.

Colette Tennant's Corban University students packed up every unsold item and hauled it to trailers to donate to Goodwill.

Awesomeness happened! Thank you to all the volunteers!



Giving Trees Coming Soon!

Starting November 30 through December 28 your Serving Ministry team, as they have in the prior years, will be putting up 4 Giving Trees for the Christmas Advent Season.

This year's recipients are:



RK Foundation

This RK Foundation is a new organization in Kenya we connected to through Nduta Cayton. They are a Kenya Vihiga County Community Empowerment program. One of the programs they started is a resource center for children to go after school and on Saturdays to do their school work.

Many of the children do not have school supplies so we will be collecting: pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, art drawing books/tablets, markers, wood or sturdy plastic rulers.

Hope – Center for Hope & Safety

Hygiene kits for women: bar soap, small bottles of body wash, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and hairbrushes.

Courtney Place Veterans Home

Home for Veterans with no other shelter. (We had a giving tree for them in 2024.)

For their clients with dogs we are looking for items for their dogs: biscuits, snacks, toys, collars, leashes and other accessories.

For their clients without dogs, we will collect small snack bag items like beef jerky, smoked salmon, cheese and crackers and other treats.

Narthex Giving Tree

We are looking for warm winter gloves, hand warmers, caps or hats, scarves, socks, jackets and coats.

These gifts will be split between two ministries: "HOAP – Homeless Outreach & Advocacy Program" and our own "Snack Bag Ministries."

Decorating for Advent and Christmas

Tuesday, November 25, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

If you want a little "mood" boost getting ready for Christmas, please join us on **Tuesday, November 25 from 10:00 am-12:00 noon** to help get the church ready for Advent and the Christmas season. If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Johnson at 503-399-8168.



2025 Ladies Christmas Tea & Treasures

We sold quite a few tickets on Sunday, November 16, but we are NOT sold out yet! This year we are offering Children's tickets for \$10; it will be the same menu, just smaller portions. Also, the Adult Tickets are for \$15, same as last year! Please remember to get your tickets as soon as possible! We are excited to celebrate the JOY of Christ's birth with you and kick off the Christmas season with this special time together!

With Great Joy, Leanne C. Griffin

2025 Christmas Tea and Treasures Coordinator

Tea & Treasures

Calling all crafters, seamstresses, artists, bakers, and collectors: please donate your handmade items, any kind of "gift-able" items, and Christmas decor to the CWF Christmas Treasures Sale.

Bring your items to the marked table in the back of the Fellowship Hall through December 5. You can also contact Joan Lloyd or Linda Olson to have your items picked up at your home. Baked goods can be delivered December 4 through the morning of December 6, just before the sale.

Thank you for your kind generosity. All proceeds from the Treasures sale benefit local charities.



685 Marion Street NE
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(503) 363-9273

Call for Musicians & Singers!

Is this holiday season calling you to more boldly proclaim your faith?

Our Praise Team, AMPT, invites you to consider bringing your instrumental or vocal talent to this dynamic ministry. With convenient Sunday morning rehearsals, and flexible scheduling, this just might be the ideal next step in your faith journey!

Contact Brian Smith or the church office for additional information: 503-363-9273

address label

Salem First Christian Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Matthew Harris-Gloyer

Senior Minister: Rev. Michelle Harris-Gloyer

Office Manager: Melissa Houston

Worship Leader & Custodian: Brian Smith

Accountant: Laura Hildebrandt

Communications Director: Joyce Richter

Music Director: Lisa Gallagher

Accompanist: Melissa Davey

Handbell Choir Director: Lisa Gallagher

Nursery Coordinator: Teri Garland

Nursery Assistant: Elizabeth Krummel

Security & Custodian: Terrance Jull

Security & Member/Visitor Engagement: Shawn Hill

Sound Technicians: Chris Martin & Ricky Fuentes

We are proud members of:



oidisciples.org



emoregon.org



disciples.org

The **chalice** symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple, Andrew, is a reminder of the importance of evangelism and the ministry of each person.

Salem First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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