



SALEM **First
Christian
Church**

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH SCROLL

Volume 84 Issue 2 January 23, 2026

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



Week of Compassion is the denomination's fund for disaster relief where we can partner with and help those in need around the world. By combining funds from many congregations our impact around the world is far greater than the sum of the numbers.

The theme for Week of Compassion's 2026 special day offering comes from Mark 2, verses 1-5 "When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven.'"

When the four brought the paralyzed man to Jesus and saw no path to him, they somehow still found a way. **Week of Compassion** takes this approach with helping those in need. When paths seem blocked or non-existent they somehow still find a way.

This year's Special Day Offerings for Week of Compassion are February 15 and 22, although you may give to Week of Compassion anytime during the year. I would like to stress that giving to Week of Compassion is very important and well used but this should be "Above and Beyond" our normal giving to Salem FCC.

Thank you all!

Rick Ikeda, Chair of Serving Ministry Committee



Sunday, February 1 • 8:15 - 9:45 am

JD and Arty Day will be cooking breakfast! Come to the Fellowship Hall and let's have breakfast together!

Again, THANK YOU for seeing God's dream for this, your family congregation!

In Christ, Giving & Sharing and Caring Ministry Teams

... where love leads community

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

As we approach the season of Lent, we enter a sacred time of reflection, preparation, and deepening our relationship with God. Lent offers a unique invitation to set aside the noise of the world and listen more closely to the “still, small voice” of the Spirit.



The Significance of Ash Wednesday

Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18). This service is one of the most profound moments in the church year. As we receive the imposition of ashes—a small cross with oil and ash, gently marked by a pastor on participant's forehead or hand—we are reminded of our mortality and our total dependence on God's grace. We hear the words, “From dust we were created, and to dust we shall return.” We remember what God can do, from ashes to resurrection!

We often focus on the joy of the Resurrection, but we cannot fully appreciate the light of Easter morning without first walking through the shadows of the wilderness. The ashes are not a sign of shame; they are a mark of honesty in bringing our whole selves to God. They signal our desire to “turn around” (the literal meaning of repentance) where we get stuck and realign our lives with the way of Jesus.

A Meaningful Lenten Journey

Lent is a 40-day season (excluding Sundays) modeled after Jesus' time in the wilderness. I invite you to make this journey meaningful by adopting a “Lenten Practice” that feeds your soul:

- “Fast” from Distraction: Consider setting aside a habit that declutters your mind to create space for prayer.
- “Feast” on Service: In the spirit of our commitment to care and compassion, find a new way to serve neighbors.
- “Dwell” in the Word: Use a daily scripture reading resource and/or a weekly devotional that Salem FCC will provide to ground and lift your days.

- Mark your calendar to attend services such as Ash Wednesday (2/18), Maundy Thursday (4/2), and other special Lenten opportunities through the church.

An Invitation to the Table

We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 18. Come as you are—with your doubts, your burdens, and your hopes. Together, we will start this journey toward the cross and Easter morning—knowing that we do not walk it alone.

May this season be for you a time of holy renewal.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Michelle

The Social Change Ecosystem Map



Multi-Congregation Workshops

Find Your Role in the Social Change Ecosystem

Sundays February 8, 15 and 22, 1:00-3:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

Join in a three-workshop series around Deepa Iyer's workbook *Social Change Now*, designed to help participants reflect on the 10 roles in the social change ecosystem. Build connections with other people of faith and reflect on the role(s) you can play from “Visionary” to “Healer” to “Storyteller” and more. Participants may choose to be part of a group order or to obtain their own copy of *Social Change Now*. [Register here with your intent to attend and interest in a group order.](#)



January 23 - February 4

Lorna Johnson.....	January 23
Caden Melzer	January 23
Joe Resch	January 24
Dolores Vance	January 24
Mia Bledsoe	January 26
Kathy Boles	January 26
David Decker.....	January 29
Myrna Phillips.....	January 29
Mary Lou Hazelwood	January 30
Bob Olson	January 31
London Ruettgers	January 31
Sarah Dalke.....	February 1
Kathy Parlet	February 4

Attention Membership

Your year-end tithing statements will be available Sunday, January 25, for pick-up at both Sunday services in the Narthex. Please pick them up as this saves the church funds for postage.

Thank you, Laura Hildebrandt, Accountant



Ever wonder who washes and dries the church kitchen towels? This is who!

Thank you to Rosealee Clemens!



Condolences

Diann Pugh passed to her heavenly home on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. She served from 1969-1974 as Associate Pastor's (Don Henry) wife for our congregation. She is survived by her children, daughter, Anne; son, Phil; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Diann Pugh's burial service will be held at Belcrest Cemetery on Wednesday, January 28, at 1:00 pm.

Celebration of Life for Ward Hill

Saturday, January 31, 2026
1:00 pm at Turner Christian Church

Prayers For

Elisa Bledsoe, healing from hip replacement surgery
Leslie Carlisle, pancreatic cancer
Margaret Cleveland, broken ribs
Susan Crom, pancreatic cancer
Lisa Gallagher, healing from shoulder tendon surgery
Judy Gilbertson, healing from open heart surgery
Christy Knox, healing from lumbar fusion surgery
Ruth Schnelle, thyroid biopsy

Name Tags

With the new year upon us, let's work toward wearing our name tags while attending church service. Name tags are located on the magnetic board in the Narthex by the double doors at the Marion Street entrance. If you need a new name tag let me know and staff will prepare one for you.

Thank you so much for your willingness to be a Welcoming congregation.

~Rosealee Clemens, Welcoming Ministry Chair

Worship Attendance

January 11	in-person	online
8:30.....	21	
10:30	88	180
January 18	in-person	online
8:30.....	17	
10:30	87	105



Books! Books! Books!

CWF Book Sale • February 6-8

Please bring your books as soon as possible (by February 4 at the latest)! We really need books, puzzles, games DVDs, CDs and office supplies to make this a successful sale. A drop-off table is in the Fellowship Hall.

Penny Blackwell, Book Sale Chair

Salem Youth Collective

Salem Youth Collective volunteered with Family Promise on January 18th. Eleven youth and seven adult volunteers cleaned up the entire Day Center house, mopping floors, disinfecting toys, sweeping out the van, cleaning toilets, and sorting through dozens of bags of clothing donations.

Family Promise has been in Marion and Polk County for more than 25 years and has settled over 15,000 people. Just the last couple of months 35 people have come through the Day Center and 33 have been successfully placed into housing. You can find out more about their work here: familypromisemwv.org

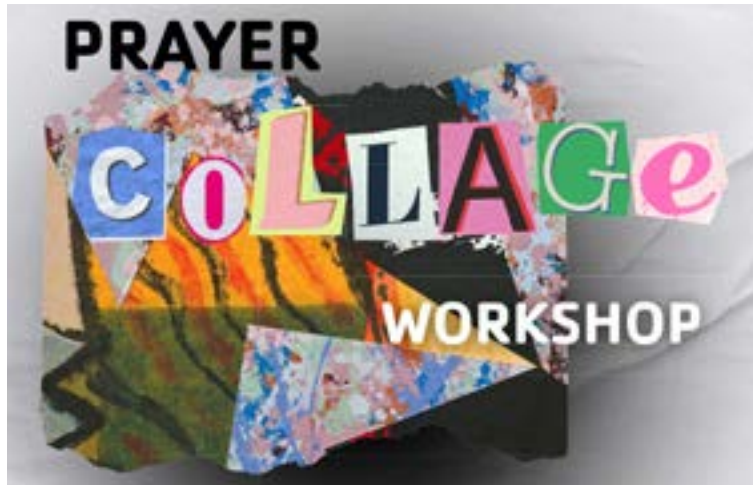


Youth Group

Thursday Night Youth Group has been consistently meeting with 13 to 17 teenagers. Pictured here you see several of them assisting choir members putting away Christmas decorations on January 8. When they are not helping choir members, youth group is building

community, trusting friendships, and religious education. They are grateful for adult Sunday school classes providing food.

Thank you, Church, for supporting this ministry! If you would like to know how you can get involved, please contact Pastor Matt.



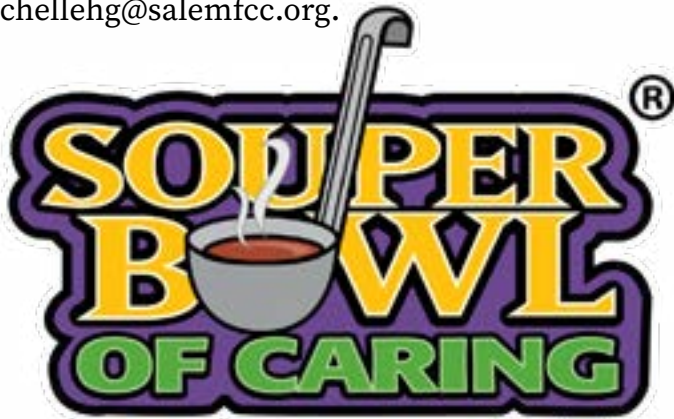
Prayer Collage Workshop

January 24, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Capitol Room at the YMCA

The SFCC Praying Ministry Team is hosting a workshop at the YMCA, just down the block at Cottage and Court Streets. Allow a few minutes extra time for parking and check-in.

The workshop will use images, imagination, and intuition as a simple and enjoyable way to talk to God and listen for God. Supplies provided.

Spaces are still available, and we would love to have you there! Reserve a spot through Pastor Michelle: michellehg@saalemfcc.org.



tacklehunger.org

Tackle Hunger Challenge

Souper Bowl of Caring • February 8

Salem FCC is running a food drive to help fight food instability. It revolves around the popular football game that is on February 8. We have a “Souper Bowl” table set up in the Narthex to collect non-perishable foods through February 8. All the donations go to Marion-Polk Food Share. Proteins are often the harder food group for families of limited means, so peanut butter, tuna, and chili are great ideas. Help fight hunger!

Serving Volunteer Opportunity!

Union Gospel Mission Valentine's Day Lunch
February 14

Please join us for a special Valentine's Day to share God's love. We will be preparing and serving the UGM community a hamburger lunch with all the trimmings, including a special Valentine's Day treat for dessert.

There are three jobs/shifts you can sign up for:

8:00 – 9:30 am: Food prep and cooks (4 people)

11:15 am – 12:45 pm: Servers (6 people)

11:15 am – 12:45 pm: Dining room servers (6 people)

Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex on Sundays, or email Dena Turner at denaturner5@hotmail.com. Let's show God's LOVE and be the hands and feet of Christ here in Salem!

Giving Trees

We have received monetary donations for the Giving Trees so we split those gifts among the organizations. Here is Joan Lloyd presenting the check to Center for Hope & Safety. They were very grateful for this as well as for all the hygiene gifts from the Giving Tree. Thank you all for your generosity. You are great!



Courtney Place

Giving Tree gifts are delivered to Courtney Place Veterans Housing. Many thanks for your generous gifts.

RK Foundation Giving Tree

Nduta Nyoro-Cayton gratefully received our gifts of school supplies from the Giving Tree for RK Foundation. Thank you for your loving gifts.





685 Marion Street NE
Salem OR 97301-3729
(503) 363-9273

Save The Date!
Salem FCC Women's Retreat
Saturday, March 7 • 9:00 am - 12:30 pm



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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(503) 363-9273 | website: salemfcc.org

email: info@salemfcc.org