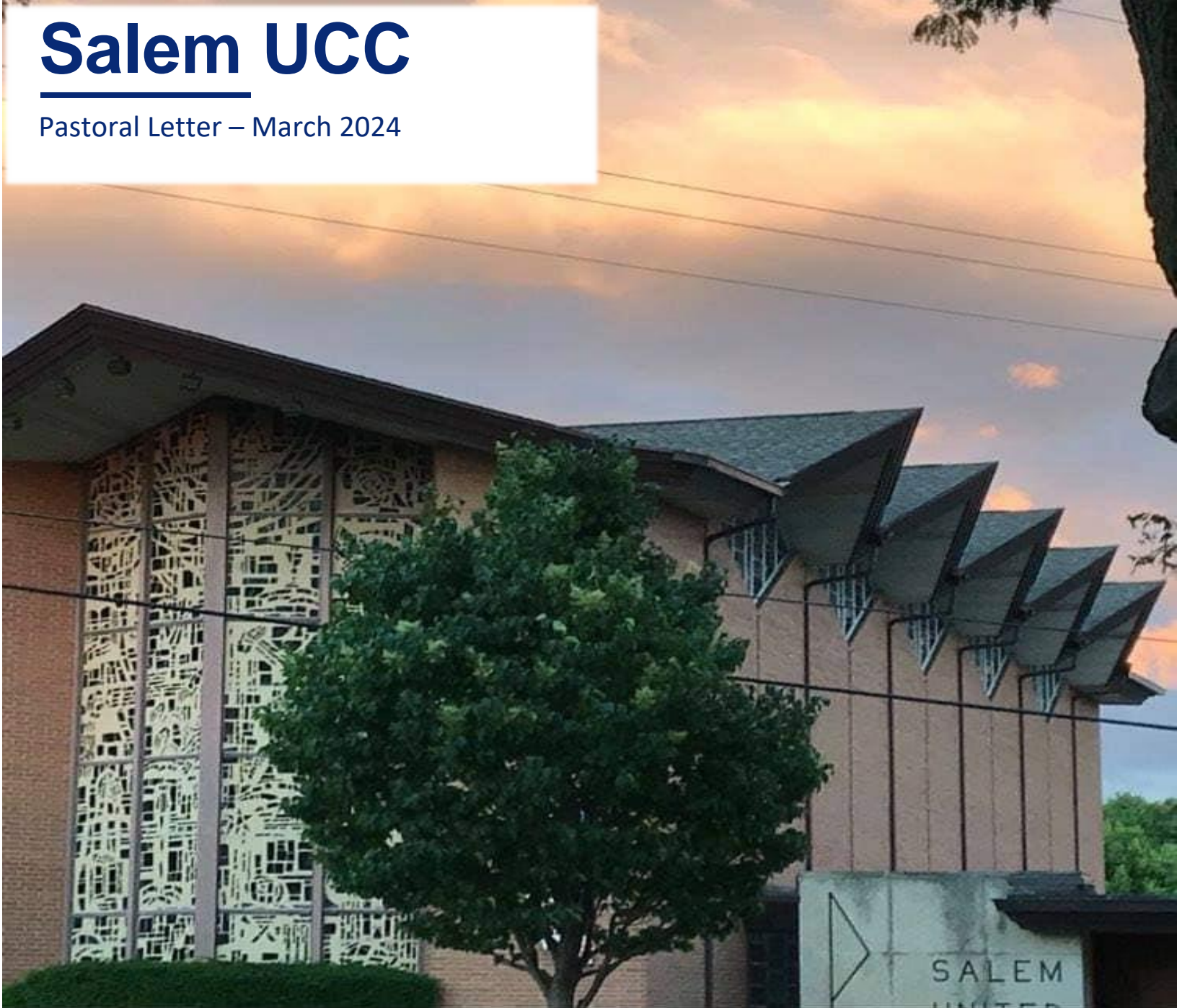


# Salem UCC

Pastoral Letter – March 2024



## FEATURING

Letter from the Pastor  
Salem Dates  
Birthdays

*Everyone is welcome at our table.*



# Letter from the Pastor

Last week, I went to an all-day meeting for my hospice job. During the meeting a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) talked about how when she first started caring for hospice patients, she took a picture of each one and hung them up in her home. Each morning, she would look at the pictures and pray for them. However, as she got to know them better, she would end up crying during her prayers. Eventually, a wise, seasoned CNA told her to put the pictures away. Her presence and love during the time they were together was enough. She did, and, not only her job, but her life became smoother and more joyful.

We are called to be people of compassion and empathy and to care for others. However, we are not called to own the problems of others. We are not called to make other people happy. We are not called to save people from depression or addiction. We are called to help as we are able, but not take responsibility for the one we are helping. This is their life to live, we have our hands full with our own journey. Making boundaries ensures that we stay healthy on our journey, which is ultimately the best gift we can give to someone we care about.

As we continue through Lent may we care for ourselves as we care for others.

Peace,

Pastor Steve



*Rev. Steve Hoerger  
Pastor  
Salem U.C.C.*

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people of compassion  
and empathy and to  
care for others."*

# Salem Dates

## Youth Outing

The combined youth of Salem and Pilgrim Faith are going bowling Sunday, March 10th from Noon to 3pm. at Arena Bowling in Oak Lawn. Cost is \$15. Sign-up in the entryway.

## Prayer Around the Cross

There will be three Prayer Around the Cross services on Thursdays in March at 7:30pm. On Thursday March 7, 14 and 21 we will gather in Zion Hall to sing and pray. These services are a beautiful time of reflection and peace. Make this season holy by being a part of all three.

## Maundy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup> @ Salem UCC

We will be doing the Meal In the Upper Room again at **7pm**. The service begins in the sanctuary where the altar is stripped. When then go to Zion Hall for a Seder Meal, prayers, songs and communion. It's a beautiful, moving service. Sign-up in the entryway. If you are willing to read sign-up for that as well.

## Good Friday – March 29<sup>th</sup> @ Pilgrim Faith UCC

This is going to be a great service as well. We will follow Jesus to the cross through the eyes of the disciple Peter. There will be great music as well. Pilgrim is located at 9411 S 51st Ave, Oak Lawn. Service begins at **7:30pm**.

**March is a busy month! Joni is calling for people interested in joining a combined choir with Pilgrim Faith for the Good Friday service. Also, for those interested in singing on Easter there will be two rehearsals after church on 3/17 and 3/24. Please join us!**

# ***Salem Birthdays: March***

**3/1 Judy Barker**

**3/1 Marsha Sumner**

**3/7 Margie Benson-Hill**

**3/20 Ashlee Griffith**

**3/21 Amanda Pohrte**

**3/27 Norm Wiedow**

**3/27 Denise Lonigro**

**3/28 Sherry Collura**

**3/28 Timothy Thorne**

If you are a church member and your birthday is missing from our monthly list, please contact Bill Westphal at [westphal.william@yahoo.com](mailto:westphal.william@yahoo.com) for corrections!

