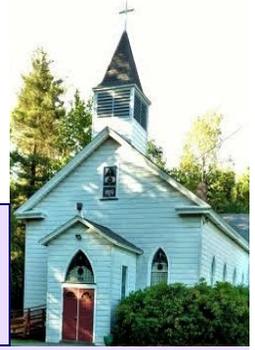




SALEM UCC NEWSLETTER

108 Church Street-PO BOX 1047
Pocono Pines, PA 18350



*No Matter Where You are in Your Journey,
You are Welcome Here!*

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Jubilee
March 10-8:30 am

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Mountain Top
Lodge
March 10-9:00 am

ALL INVITED
PIZZA NIGHT AT
DOMINIC'S
Thurs at 6:00 pm

EASTER EGG HUNT BRUNCH



**Kathy Averil
New Consistory**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



In a recent New York Times Sunday Review there was an article written by an American woman who has lived in Germany for the last several years. The article dealt with the post-surgery care the author received from her German doctors, after her hysterectomy compared to the post-surgery care her teenage daughter received after having wisdom teeth removed. The article was not about the German Health Care System, but the author did make this comment "I did say that this story is not about the benefits of universal health care, but for the sake of accuracy, let me add that this hysterectomy was not without cost. After my surgery, I had to pay \$25 for the taxi ride home." (Firoozeh Dumas, "After Surgery in Germany, I Wanted Vicodin, Not Herbal Tea," Sunday Review, 1/27/18)

Recently I had two spots of basal cell skin cancer removed. When I arrived at the doctor's office for the procedure I presented my insurance card to the receptionist and she told me "you have a deductible and coins (coinsurance) and you will probably be getting a bill." The receptionist was correct, based on the statements I see online, I will be receiving an invoice for several hundred dollars.

I don't know anyone in Germany, but I do have a classmate serving a church in Canada. I contacted him and asked him what a similar procedure would cost in Canada. He replied "The procedure would be free, as in paid for

Continued on page 2



After many years of service Don Howarth's time in our consistory has ended; **please thank Don for his many years of service.** Don and Lynne transferred to Salem in February 2012; he joined the consistory in March and became President in August. Don served as president for two terms, vice president for one term and as bookkeeper for almost six years. During his years of service he implemented a new computerized financial system which continues to be updated as needed.

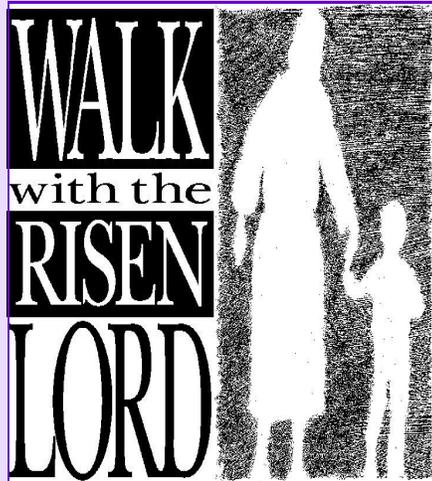
Prior to the installation of our new furnaces in 2013 Don would come in every Friday to check on the old temperamental furnaces to make sure they still worked.



Past and present photos of the furnaces supplied by Don Howarth



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SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH MISS LYNNE AND FRIENDS



COME JOIN THE FUN AND MEET NEW FRIENDS WHILE DISCOVERING HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU!



PALM SUNDAY-March 25 -10:00 am

The Salem Players will once again make an appearance

MAUNDY THURSDAY-March 29-5:00 pm

Communion will be served

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

March 30-NOON

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK continued

...for through taxes. You'd be responsible for some out-patient medication which you might have supplemental insurance for, but the procedure, in patient meds, and generic meds would be covered."

In 2009 our General Synod adopted a resolution stating "Based on our belief that health care is not only a basic human NEED but also a basic human RIGHT and our belief that it is a moral imperative to transform health care so that it is: inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable, the Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to act with urgency to: --affirm its support for universal health care which meets the following criteria: 1) it covers all persons; 2) it presents no financial barriers; 3) it provides comprehensive benefits; 4) it offers a choice of physicians and other health providers; and 5) it eliminates racial, ethnic and all other disparities for health care." (Resolution 09-GS-44)

On February 10th I participated in the Healthcare Justice Workshop sponsored by POWER, the Penn Northeast Conference and the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. After hearing the other participants share their experiences of our healthcare system it is clear to me that we must do better. I believe we can.



BEING THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

Bill Andrews thanks for passing along these tax tips!

In addition to supporting non-profits of their choice, contributions can also provide donors with specific tax benefits.

The new federal tax laws may allow you an **additional tax break for your charitable contributions**, including your giving to Salem, as follows:

If you are over 70.5 years old, and if you taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from a retirement account, such as an IRA, then, even if you claim (the increased) standard deduction, you can obtain a financial benefit from your charitable giving by designating all or part of the RMD as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Consider speaking to your IRA custodian on how to make a qualified charitable distribution, and to a tax advisor to review your own circumstances. Also, look for additional information about QCD's on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Don Jones, thank you for this information on the Reflection and Memorial Garden Directory.

Don Jones, Grace Conger and Loretta Daubert are compiling information for a directory of bricks in the garden. If you wish to provide a photograph of and a few words about your loved one submit the material to Don, Grace or Loretta.

There will be a separate page for each individual brick represented.



We will provide a picture of the brick and its location.



Don

Grace

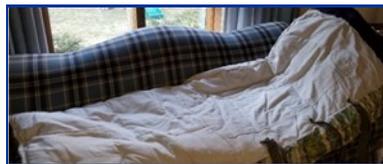
Loretta

John Lyman believes in sharing his talents with Salem and others. Not only did he step up when asked to fill a consistory vacancy he shared his carpentry skills to craft a beautiful new work table for our kitchen. Thank you John!

The old table is available for free!

John wants to know if you have any unwanted blankets, sweaters, etc.

A group in Pocono Lake makes sleeping bags for the homeless using use old blankets, sweaters, worn-out jackets, and anything else that has insulating value. They also can use canvas, cotton or synthetics for the outer layer.



Please bring any such items to the church and leave on the stage. They will find a good home supporting extremely marginalized people.

Sharing our knowledge and our skills with others.



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

God provides “every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough, we may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

The table below presents a snapshot of Salem’s income and expenses for the year 2017. In short, we continue to be blessed with sufficient resources to support God’s work here at Salem and beyond.

Regular tithes and offerings last year more than covered staff compensation and other operating expenses, as well as funds used to support outreach to the TOME C food pantry, backpack program, and other ministries beyond our walls.

Additional spending in 2017 for renovations and repairs in the sanctuary, partially offset by designated donations and memorial gifts, resulted in an overall net deficit (an excess of spending over income) for the year. Thankfully, as planned, this shortfall was covered by withdrawals from cash savings accumulated in prior years.

We trust that God will continue to bless Salem with the resources needed to carry on the ministries He is calling us to do here.

Thank you for your past and ongoing support. Your contributions make it possible for Salem to fulfill its mission here in Pocono Pines and beyond.



SALEM UCC INCOME and EXPENSE SUMMARY For 12 months ended 12/31/2017	
INCOME	
Tithes and Offerings	\$133,639
EXPENSES	
Personnel Costs	98,025
Operating Expenses	18,903
Outreach Ministry	7,676
	124,604
OPERATING SURPLUS	9,035
Renovations/Repairs	
Designated Donations	15,292
Spending	32,967
Net Spending	17,675
TOTAL NET DEFICIT	\$(8,640)

**Thanks Paula Guent for this post.
TOME C FOOD PANTRY**

If you wish to **donate** to the TOME C Food Pantry, please **make your checks payable to Salem UCC and mark the memo line “Missions - TOME C Food Pantry”**.

Cash donations should be **placed in a separate envelope marked “Missions - TOME C Food Pantry”** so as not to get the donation mixed in with our regular collection.

Non-perishable food and cleaning supplies should be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Always needed in addition to food: **pet food, Ensure, diapers, wipes, shampoo, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste, feminine monthly care products and laundry detergent.**

All who get aide are required to fill out State forms to show they are eligible.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Michael Lonergan
Email: pastor.mike.lonergan@gmail.com
Pastor's Home Office:
• 570-355-5397



Lord
Allow Us to
Recognize
You in
everyone
we meet!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone:

570-643-1411

Church e-mail:

salemucc1411@hotmail.com

Church Website:

www.salemunitedchurchofchrist.org

CONSISTORY



Dave Sleightholm
President



Kathy Averil



Bob Baechtold



Bill Andrews

THANK THESE MEMBERS FOR THEIR TIME
&
SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR CONSISTORY



Carol Kehler



Donna Knecht



Fran Jamison



John Lyman



Lois Hill

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT



Bill Andrews and others at the Five Loaf House sharing Christmas joy



Salem Players-Rachel Sees the Manger



Brent & Dad at Ice Harvest



Brent & Tyler at Pinewood Derby



Sullivan Trail Questers February Meeting



Seven Different Bird Species invading the yard of Don and Rosalind Jones



Patriotic Choir and Handbells at St. Maximilian Kolbe Pictures from Sue Kratzing



**The Extraordinary Chauffeurs for our Veterans
Bill Dyer, Kathy Averil, Bill Zimmerman-Picture from Kathy Averil**

SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY ONE IS WELCOME

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Meet the Men of Salem at the Jubilee every 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30. Enjoy great conversation over a hearty breakfast.



WOMEN OF SALEM

Come to Mountain Top Lodge and treat yourself to great food and even better conversation. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00.

THURSDAY IS PIZZA NIGHT!

Let Dominic's do the cooking on Thursday night! Join fellow church members in an extremely relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other better.

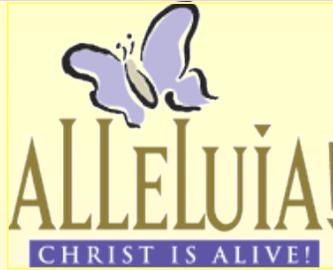
Dominic's is located at 584 PA-940, Pocono Lake, PA 18347



WHAT IS YOUR IDEA FOR A GET TOGETHER?

Talk it up, don't be shy anyone can start a new tradition!
Let me know and I will post it in the Newsletter.

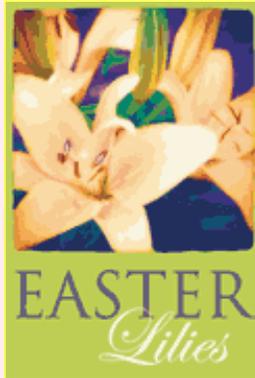
EASTER SUNDAY HAPENINGS



As in the past, as we get ready for Easter Sunday you will find sign up sheets, in the social hall, for Easter Lilies and for items needed to help the Fischer Family prepare for their annual Easter Sunday Brunch following our service.



If you wish to memory of a loved single Lily and will



purchase a lily in one this year, they are a be \$10.00 each.

Be sure to thank the Fischer Family for their generosity!

Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be during the morning service



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Night Out DOMINIC'S 6:00 pm		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1Cor 1:18-25 Ps. 19 Justin Baker Birthday Jim Burnham Birthday		Lou Menapace Birthday Weiss Market Senior Discount Day		Night Out DOMINIC'S 6:00 pm		Men Breakfast 8:30am: Jubilee Women Breakfast - 9am: The Mountain Top Cafe
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ephesians 2:1-10 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22		Weiss Market Senior Discount Day		Night Out DOMINIC'S 6:00 pm		St. Patrick's Day Harry Spiess Birthday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Hebrews 5: 5-10 Jer 31:31-34 Consistory Meeting		Weiss Market Senior Discount Day		Night Out DOMINIC'S 6:00 pm		Sierra Welch Birthday Lynne Howarth Birthday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Palm Sunday Phil 2:5-11 Mark 15 Don Howarth Birthday		Weiss Market Senior Discount Day	Nancy Judge Birthday	Maundy Thursday Service: 5:00 pm Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 Mark 14: 32-42	Olivia Price Birthday	

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1ST
PLEASE PRINT AND KEEP

SALEM ARCHIVES

By: Susan Kratzinger

I didn't find much mention in the ledgers about Easter. But here is what I found. "A Meeting of the Reformed Sunday School held in the Salem Reformed Church, Sunday, Feb. 18, 1900. It was moved & seconded that we have an Easter Service. It was moved & seconded that we get 70 'Bow of Promise'." Two weeks later, at a meeting on March 4, 1900, this was an entry, "It was moved & seconded that we pay Floyd Miller \$2.10 to pay for the 'Bow of Promise'." (Believe it or not, you can still find this on Amazon: *Bow of Promise: Hymns New And Old For Missionary And Revival Meetings And Sabbath-Schools* Hardcover – 1898. This hymnal was published as a companion to *The Finest of the Wheat Hymnal*. The book contains 253 hymns in piano arrangements.)

I found many booklets among the Archives for readings and plays at Easter. For example, I found a pamphlet by Eldridge Church Entertainments entitled *Two Readings for Easter Time: "Good Friday" and "Easter Morn"*. Each of the poems is about 3 pages long, and together they would be an interesting juxtaposition. Here are the first stanzas of each poem:

From "Good Friday"

O, day of sadness! Day of deepest gloom!
Day of the cross, the earthquake, and the tomb!
Day when our blessed Lord was crucified!
Day when the hope of all the world had died!

From "Easter Morn"

O, day of gladness! Day of deepest joy!
Day of the angels! Bliss without alloy!
Day of the vision! Of the empty tomb!
When Easter morn dispelled the midnight gloom!

Here are some of the other plays and booklets in our collection from the past: *By This Sign Conquer! A pageant Play for Easter*, *Songs of the Dawning: An Easter Service*, *Pageantry for Easter*, *All Hail: An Easter Pageant*, *The Road to Jerusalem: An Easter Pageant (with music)*, *The Christ of the Centuries: A Complete Pageant for Easter*. So I believe the Salem Sunday School enjoyed some kind of performance annually at Easter, usually a pageant with accompanying music.

I think our Easter service last year was very beautiful, when we gathered at the cross in the garden before moving inside for our joyous church celebration. We may not do pageants, but our service is still very meaningful, accompanied by Pieter's wonderful music. I wish you all a blessed and joyous Easter in 2018.



Debbie Lonergan-Newsletter
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