



# Salem UCC Newsletter

P.O. Box 1047, Pocono Pines, PA 18350

570-643-1411

## Items of Interest

### Work Session Scheduled for September 8th ...

Hold the date - - **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm** has been scheduled as the date for interested volunteers to meet at the Church and help to sort through the clutter that has accumulated over the years, so that we can determine what can be staged for subsequent disposal. Before disposing of any items, the Church will get input from several long standing Church members to make sure that the items staged for disposal do not have a future useful purpose. In addition, we will use that same day and time to deal with issues related to the exterior of the Church building. Please lend a helping hand.

### Ad for piano/organ player ...

The church recently placed a newspaper ad regarding our interest in employing additional personnel who can supplement and support our existing Music Director, Pieter, who has recently announced that he will only be available for the first and second Sunday of each month. Therefore, we are looking for personnel who can join us to fill in for the balance of the Sundays each month. If you know of any people who may be interested, please have them contact Judi Rarig, Ron Kehler, or June Steinberg.

### Blood Drive at Salem ...

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Salem UCC on **Monday, October 14th from 9am to 2pm**. Please try to join us so you can show your support for the Red Cross by donating blood.

PUT THESE FUTURE DATES  
ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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- Salem Work Session on Sunday, Sept.. 8th at 1:00pm.
- Women's Bible study in Fellowship Hall at 1pm on Monday, Sept. 9th.
- Red Cross Blood Drive at Salem on Monday, Oct. 14th from 9am to 2pm.

Future Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

- Consistory meeting on Third Sunday of the month at 8:30am.
- Women of Salem meeting at Mountain Top on second Saturday of each month at 9:00am
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Jubilee on second Saturday of each month at 8:30am



**Church image on  
micro-cloth**

## The Pastor's Corner ...

Summer is a special time at Salem! Our church family has returned from its winter and spring travels. Our attendance is up and we are excited to be with one another. This is readily apparent to me each Sunday when I try to get your attention to begin our worship service.

Last week we had considerably more children in attendance than other times of the year. Isn't it wonderful that we feel comfortable welcoming grandchildren into our midst – and bringing our grandchildren to Salem UCC?

And, of course, we have more visitors than usual. I sure am proud of how you welcome our visitors and invite them to join with us in coffee hour. You are warm and welcoming and I am proud to serve as your pastor.

Finally, our giving is also up. Your love for our Lord and church are readily apparent. We are truly blessed!

Blessings!  
Pastor John

## Children's programs ...

We are happy to report that Children's Sunday School is alive and well at Salem UCC. I am blessed to be able to spend time with our younger children. Our attendance averages between one and six children. Last fall we started to read stories in the Old Testament. In December, we moved into the New Testament. Our class has some talented artists, so we always try to reinforce our learning with a craft project. Feel free to stop in and see our room. I'd like to say, "thank you" to Fran Jamison for helping teach, and to Judi Rarig for designing children's activity bags.

Submitted by Lynne Howarth

## Fundraiser and Promotion ...

The Church has recently purchased 250 micro-cloths that can be used for cleaning eyeglasses, computer screens, or any other glass items. These micro-cloths are available in the Church Fellowship Hall for a minimum donation of \$3.00 per cloth. Each cloth is 7"x9" in size and includes a plastic carrying pouch. There is a color picture of the Church on both sides. We also intend to use the cloths as a means of promoting the Church by giving them as a gift to prospective new members or as a complimentary hand-out at special events.

## From the Consistory ...

Most of your current Consistory has worked together for 12 months. We offer the following progress report.

- Salem has a number of new members.
- Financial giving is up and the church's financial situation is brighter.
- There is now a Sunday school program with new curriculum for our younger children.
- Two new furnaces and one new submersible well pump have been installed.
- A new computer and robust church software have been donated and implemented for the maintenance of general ledger and individual-giving accounts.
- Salem has a new Web site, newsletter, and electronic and print member directories.
- We have a very capable secretary with expanded duties.
- Our treasurer has mastered additional financial data-entry responsibilities.
- A volunteer bookkeeper with a financial background now handles Salem's books.
- Another volunteer does a terrific job of maintaining our church grounds.
- Monies have been donated and plans prepared for a new "*Reflection and Meditation Garden*".
- Capital-giving opportunities have been publicized that will help assure the future physical viability of the church building.
- The water retention problem on church grounds is under review.

Submitted by Don Howarth  
Consistory President

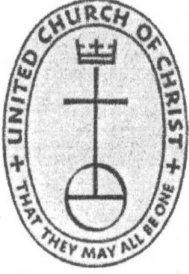
## TOMEK -- A brief history ...

Top of The Mountain Ecumenical Council (TOMEK) consists of six churches: Blakeslee United Methodist, Faith Lutheran, Pocono Lake United Methodist, Pocono Lake Wesleyan, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Salem UCC. Their pastors serve as the Executive Committee. The TOMEK Council membership consists of two at large people from each congregation, plus two food pantry volunteers, and the Executive Committee. Pastor Stowell, Joyce Evans and Bill Jamison are the Salem UCC representatives.

TOMEK cares for the poor and needy here on top of the mountain. The various working committees consist of: shelter, counseling, meals-on-wheels, food & gas vouchers, interfaith action, and food pantry. The food pantry distributes food and household goods to approximately 200 families (about 600 people) each month. They do this through donations of food and money from the member churches, outside organizations, and a grant from the State of Pennsylvania. The state grant was cut by \$6,000.00 this year, so the amount of food each family receives is less than last year. The food pantry will be moving to a new location owned by Pocono Lake Wesleyan Church this fall. The new location is the former Lakeside House Restaurant, which will be renovated and renamed the Five Loaf House. The rent for the new location will be low, so this should help TOMEK provide more food for the needy.

You can help the food pantry mission by giving food and/or money. Food should be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall, and checks should be made out to Salem UCC with "missions-Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Submitted by Bill Jamison



# Salem United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 1047, Pocono Pines, PA 18350  
(570) 643-1411

Ministers: Entire Congregation

Pastor: Rev. John A. Stowell

Pianist/Choir Director: Pieter Verbeke

Consistory: Don Howarth and Lisa Erlsten

Woman's Guild: Sonya Hackenberg

Newsletter Editor: Jim Burnham

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## Progress on the Reflection & Meditation Garden ...

Things are moving ahead with the creation of a new "**Reflection and Medication Garden**" that will be located on a portion of the open ground to the right side of the main parking lot. The Garden will be developed in multiple phases. The first phase will include: an Old Rugged Cross; a hard surface area for a few benches for quiet contemplation; landscaping material; and space for engraved brick pavers that can be purchased and placed in the Garden to memorialize a deceased loved one, or to celebrate a birth, graduation, anniversary, or any other special occasion. At the foot of the Old Rugged Cross, there will also be a special area that may be used by those who wish to spread the ashes of a loved one. A Memorial Book will be located in the Church Fellowship Hall to hold photos and other notes about loved ones memorialized in the Garden. Shown at the right is a concept sketch by Judi Rarig.



Also shown at the right is a photo of the Garden Work Gang who have been hard at work adding some finishing touches to the Old Rugged Cross. Pictured (left to right) are: June Steinberg, Rosalind Jones, Don Jones, Brian Roberts, Shirley Fisher, Judi Rarig, Makenzie Erlsten, and Sonny Fisher. NOTE: Brian Roberts is a friend of Rosalind and Don Jones who was visiting them from England. He is an Anglican Priest and he Blessed the cross during the work session.



**Order Forms for the engraved memorial brick pavers are available in the Church Fellowship Hall.**