



# SALEM CHURCH

*God is still speaking*

435 S. 9th Street  
Quincy, IL 62301  
217.222.0601

**April 2025**

**Mission Statement: Building a community around the love of Jesus, where all are welcome.**



Rev. Matthew Hunt

## **Why Good Friday Matters: An Invitation to Tenebrae**

Dear Friends,

As we move through the season of Lent toward Easter, I want to invite you to experience one of the most moving and meaningful services of the Christian year: our **Good Friday Tenebrae service**, held this year in our lounge.

Many in our congregation are newer to the church, and some may not have grown up with Good Friday or even know what a Tenebrae service is. If that's you, you are not alone—and you are especially welcome.

Let me explain.

**"Tenebrae"** is a Latin word that means **"shadows"** or **"darkness."** The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in the church that helps us reflect deeply on the final hours of Jesus' life. Through Scripture readings, prayer, and the gradual extinguishing of candles, we journey with Jesus from the upper room to the cross. As the light fades, we remember the depth of his suffering—and the depth of God's love for the world.

This is not a service meant to leave us in despair. Rather, it's an invitation to sit in the reality of a broken world, to name our grief and sorrow, and to prepare our hearts for the joy of resurrection. In a world that often rushes past pain and loss, Good Friday invites us to slow down and pay attention.

This year, we'll gather in the **fellowship hall at 5:30pm for a light meal**, followed by the **Tenebrae service at 7:00pm in the lounge (not in the sanctuary)**. Sharing a meal together before worship is a beautiful way to connect as a community—just as Jesus shared a meal with his disciples on the night of his arrest.

Whether you've experienced a Tenebrae service before or this is your first time, I encourage you to come. Bring your questions, your wonder, your burdens, and your hope. There is room for you in this sacred story. Let us walk the path of shadows, knowing the light of Easter morning is just ahead.

With grace and peace,

*Pastor Matt*





**Dates to Remember**

**April 2025**

**Birthdays**

- 4/1 Debbie Olson
- 4/3 Heather Keller– Giltner  
Audrey Hoffman
- 4/4 Mike Edwards  
Allison Welch  
Darlene Gieselman
- 4/6 Cleo Zimmerman
- 4/7 Rod Cookson
- 4/10 Lora Vail
- 4/12 Jan Pollock
- 4/14 Alex Elder
- 4/17 Brian Stitt  
Linsey Laughlin  
Oliver Koch
- 4/18 Larry Clark
- 4/19 Steve Ippensen
- 4/24 Laura Kammerer
- 4/28 Dr. John Sallstrom
- 4/30 Annette Newquist

**Anniversaries**

- 4/4 Heather and Adam Spory  
Patti and David Tipton
- 4/9 Sue and David Lockhart
- 4/10 Cindy and Richard Lohmeyer
- 4/12 Lonita and Bob Fox
- 4/25 Debbie and Ed Husar

**Tuesday, April 1**

- 4:30 pm : Property Task Force
- 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45 pm: Choristers Rehearsal

**Saturday, April 5**

- 11:30 am: BJ's Café—Saturday Meals

**Sunday, April 6**

- 9:00am: Salem Worship
- 10:00 am Youth and Adult  
Re:Charge

**Tuesday, April 8**

- 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45 pm : Choristers Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 9**

- 6:00 pm: Ministry Meetings

**Thursday, April 10**

- 4:00 pm: Loads of Love

**Saturday, April 12**

- 9:30 am: Quinsippi Island Vision Quest
- 10:30 am: Paws & Prayers Pet Food Distribution
- 11:30 am: BJ's Café—Saturday Meals

**Sunday, April 13**

- 9:00am : Salem Worship
- 11:15am: Easter Brunch

**Tuesday, April 15**

- 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 16**

- 5:30 pm: Evening Guild meeting

**Friday, April 18th**

- 5:30 pm: Dinner before Service
- 7:00 pm: Good Friday Service

**Saturday, April 19**

- 11:30 am: Household/Toiletries Distribution

- 11:30 am: BJ's Café—Saturday Meals

**Sunday, April 20**

- 9:00 am: Salem Worship
- 10:00 am: Youth and Adult  
Re:Charge

*Newsletter Deadline*

**Tuesday, April 22**

- 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45 pm :Breathe Deep Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 24**

- 4:00 pm: Loads of Love

**Friday, April 25th**

- 8:30 - 4:00 Spring Rummage Sale

**Saturday, April 26**

- 8:00 - 1:00 Spring Rummage Sale

- 11:30 am: BJ's Café—Saturday Meals

**Sunday, April 27**

- 9:00 am: Worship
- 10:00 am: Youth and Adult  
Re:Charge

**Tuesday, April 29**

- 5:30 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45 pm: Breathe Deep Rehearsal

- 10:00 am: Youth and Adult  
Re:Charge

**Wednesday, April 30**

- 6:00 pm: VMST meeting

**Church Office open Tuesday  
and Thursday,  
9:00 to noon**



## Thoughts from Left Field

At long last, spring is here, and just in time! Day by day, we will see the blooming of our trees, hear the buzzing of the bees, and be treated with longer days.

Soon, I will be taking to the woods to reunite with my favorite local body of water. The once barren stream will be filled with icy, cold water. In my mind's eye, I see my lovely dogs splashing through the frigid pool. Their spirits revived after being inside for so long.

Spring reminds us that transformation is occurring, even when we do perceive it. Just look to the trees. They appear to be barren, desolate, and completely uninspiring in the winter time. And yet, little buds and fresh leaves bloom as soon as spring begins. God was working on them all along.

The renewal of spring time gives us fresh colors, new animal life, and a chance to revive our own spirits.

Were you dormant during the winter? Perhaps you were called to do something for the Kingdom, but felt lethargic from the cold, dreary days. Did you feel asleep, or even lost? Allow the newness of spring to enter your heart today.

**Ephesians 5:14 Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**

If you don't know where to start, I humbly suggest going outside.



### Garden Time

**Saturday, April 5th @ 9: 30**

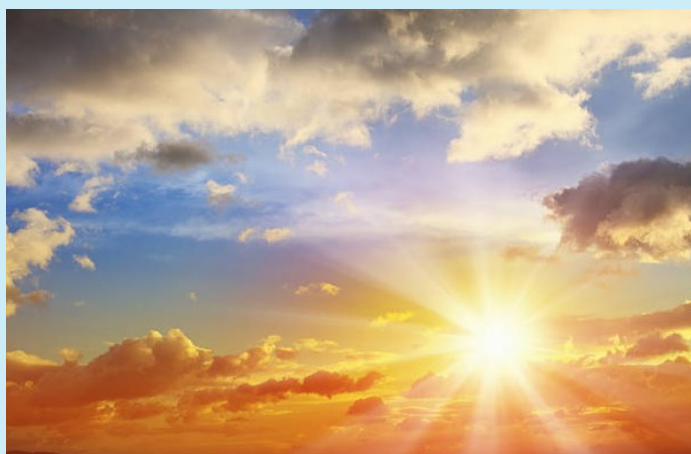
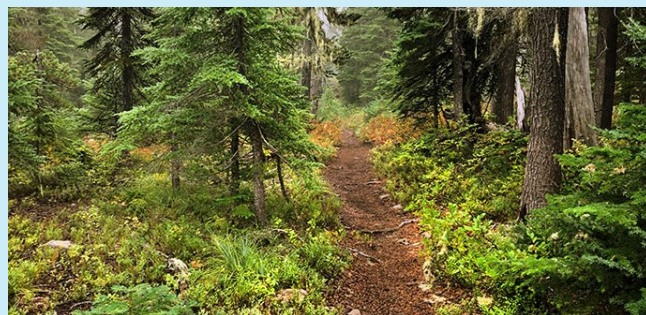
Join us at church as we build new raised boxes, and help prepare the ground for the new season!

**You are invited to our monthly vision quests!**

***Join likeminded nature lovers as we engage in the wilderness every second Saturday.***

**Saturday, April 12th at Quinsippi Island**

***Questions? Contact Linsey Laughlin at 217-231-1774***





# YTD Financials

## Salem United Church of Christ Operating Account - 2025

Month	Income	Expense	Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	YTD Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets
Jan	\$ 12,521.40	\$ 29,897.56	(\$17,376.16)	(\$17,376.16)
Feb	\$ 9,036.62	\$ 25,105.08	(\$16,068.46)	(\$33,444.62)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,558.02</b>	<b>\$ 55,002.64</b>	<b>(\$33,444.62)</b>	<b>(\$33,444.62)</b>

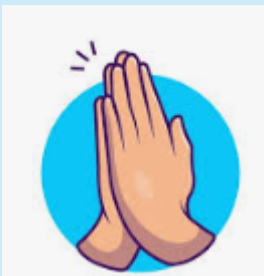
Amount Used from Endowments to Cover Deficit



Don't forget the Rummage Sale!

Fri. April 25th — 8:30 to 4:00

Sat, April 26th — 8:00 to 1:00



Email Ken Abbath at [ken@saalemquincy.org](mailto:ken@saalemquincy.org) to *give* or receive updates for prayer requests, news and announcements.



## *And now a Message from President Wanda...*

The Salem Evening Guild will be returning to our monthly meetings on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30pm in the lounge.

This will be a short meeting with snacks!

We will be planning our Spring Rummage Sale. *Also, table set up will be Monday, April 21st.* We need volunteers to help with chairs and tables.

*Organizing and setting out the donated items will be held on Thursday, April 24th.*

The sale runs from Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th.

Our Guild is always open to new and old members! Just come to a meeting or call Wanda at 217-222-3286.

See you on the 16th!



Please call Paster Matt, Jayne Clouser or the church office if you enter the hospital.

They would love to visit and pray with you!

217-222-0601– Church Office Phone Number

**It is time for the annual Easter Egg Brunch!**

**The connections ministry is hosting a lovely brunch and easter egg hunt!**

**Join Us Sunday, April 13th at 11:15am**

