



October 2026

THE MUSTARD SEED



Luther and the Bible

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31. It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.



The Book Club will meet October 26 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Guest List" by Lucy Foley. The November book is "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston and will meet November 16. The December book is "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan and they will meet December 14. The January book is "The House in the Cerulean Sea" by TJ Klune for January date to be decided. Any questions contact Carin Kaag cas207@yahoo.com



Friends Helping Friends Shopping Passes are available for a \$5 donation to the Women's Guild. The pass is for 25% off regular and sale priced items (with exclusions listed on the Pass) on **Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 2025**, from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. at any Boscov's Department Store. See Shirley Beck before or after worship to get your pass or you may contact her at becksl35@gmail.com. She will have the passes in church until Oct. 11th. The \$5 donation all goes to the Women's Guild and their Christmas Stocking program for local nursing homes.



8 TIPS TO CONSERVE & PRESERVE OUR MOST VITAL RESOURCE: **WATER**

1. **PROPERLY DISPOSE** of pharmaceuticals, household chemicals and paint. Many drug stores will take old meds.
2. **LIMIT FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES.** Pollinators will like this too.
3. **FIND AND FIX LEAKS.** Small faucet leaks can waste up to 20 gallons a day.
4. **TURN OFF WATER** for shaving and brushing teeth.
5. **REPLACE SHOWER HEAD** with a water-saving model. It can save up to 2,700 gallons a year and reduce electricity use.
6. **RUN A FULL DISHWASHER.** It uses less water than hand washing.
7. **COMPOST FOOD WASTE** instead of using a garbage disposal.
8. **USE A RAIN BARREL** to water your flowers and garden.

Listen to the Creation Care Moment on October 18th to learn more!



SALEM'S ANNUAL CAMPFIRE will be on **Saturday, November 7th at 6pm** at JoAnne Longenecker's. There will be a sign up in the bell tower. All are welcome!



The **YOUTH** will meet on **Sunday, October 4th at 9:45 am** in the youth room.



The **Kiwanis Club of the Palmyra Area** is selling **Sycamore Spring Farm's Apple Dumplings**. All proceeds will be used to help fund the organization's School Nurses' Project. This on-going project provides the school nurses in the Annville-Cleona and Palmyra School Districts with clothing, snacks and personal care items that are often needed by students. The proceeds will also help to promote literacy in the community. The cost is \$7.00 each with your choice of regular or sugar free. The sign up sheet is on the bell tower bulletin board. Orders are due by Tuesday, October 20. Pick-up date is Wednesday, October 28 from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM in our church parking lot. Payment made be made by cash or check (payable to the Kiwanis Club of the Palmyra Area). Thank you for your support.!

Christian Symbol

LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.





Our **Little Free Library** continues to be a very popular outreach in our community. Your eleven years of support of the Little Free Library has touched many people not only in our local community but also travelers who have stopped by to “take a book...share a book.” Please place donations in the collection bin in the west foyer. Thank you very much as we continue to promote literacy and the goal that **Reading Changes Lives**.



Fall Festival October 25th 4pm – 6pm Rain or Shine! Salem is partnering with Campbelltown Community Alliance for a Fall Festival at the Campbelltown Community Park pavilion. Fall-themed games, crafts, & snacks are planned. All activities are free of charge. Please share this event information with your friends & family. Volunteers are needed to lead activities; a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Contact Pam or Tara with questions.



CONGREGATION'S BUDGET UPDATE	
	General Fund
January to August 2026:	Yr. to Date
Year to Date Receipts	\$113, 696
Year to Date Expenditures	(\$145, 186)
Net	<u>(\$31, 489)</u>

The General Fund provides the basic support of our ministry, benevolences, program, staff and building. General Fund Receipts are up 1.7% from 2025 for the first eight months of the year. As an extraordinary receipt, we received \$64, 325 from the sale of the south parking lot in August



Neighbors in Need Offering – Sunday, October 4th – Therefore be Imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSVUE). This is at the heart of why this scripture is the theme for our Neighbors in Need offering this year. When we come together as a church to do the work of justice and advocacy, we are acting out of the hope that change in the world is possible.



The Lebanon Rescue Mission would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$180 to support all six ministries of the Lebanon Rescue Mission.

The Caring Cupboard thanks you for your generous gifts of \$100 and \$170. Your support comes at a critical time of year as many families in our community continue to face difficult choices of paying for housing, utilities, transportation, childcare and putting nutritious food on the table.

Salem UCC Council Meeting Minutes

08/10/26

Present: Faith Bicksler, Tom Peiffer, Missy Weidler, Jim Flanagan, Cindy Umberger, Pastor Matt Hoover, Barb Kauffman, Michelle Alger, Gretchen Monahan, Bill McNamara, Sarah McNamara, Jared Cooper

Virtual: Megan Wheelden

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Opening Devotions (Faith)

Approval of Agenda

- Addition to old business, brief discussion of fall/winter planning for new business
- Approved by unanimous consent

Approval of Secretary's report (Cindy's minutes from July)

Treasurer's Report (Tom)

- First 7 months down 2.2% from last year
- General fund -
 - Repairs of air conditioning and elevator, significant expenses
- \$25,369 deficit for 7 months
- Funds report – down \$14,606 – building and grounds expenses and Cemetery Fund (lawn mowing)
- Discussion on the constant repairs of the elevator, very unreliable unit
- Treasurer's report passed by unanimous consent

Pastor's Report (Pastor Matt)

- Last Sunday for Pastor Matt will be Sept 13; he'll be here on 9/14 for council
- Becky will preach the next 6 Sundays, paid through pulpit supply

Old Business:

- **Parking lot sale** (Jared and Tom); agreement for sale of commercial real estate has been signed as of yesterday.
 - Settlement could be as early as Friday 8/14.
- Repair of the organ chimes (Tom)
 - \$4700 estimate from organ company to repair. Instead, Gordon Wirth came out and fixed the chimes.

New Business:

Rally Day – 8/23; we are trying to celebrate the ministries of the church; not just the Sunday school – a representative of each committee do a brief “elevator pitch”, Michelle - fellowship, Tom (B&G), Shirley Beck – women’s fellowship, Kristin Vines, Don – finance and stewardship, Jim – Christian Ed.

- Fall/Winter planning –
 - Start to think about council member planning, Pres and VP are leaving
 - 4 officers and 3-5 members at large
 - Jim, Matt, Barb leaving
 - Missy, Gretchen, Michelle, Bill can serve another 2 years
 - Budget meeting – November
 - **Next month’s agenda –**
 - **Discuss new Council set-up as the main new business item**
 - **Hanging of the greens – logistical concerns (possibly December 6th for greater availability)**

Committee Reports:

1. **Building, Grounds, Cemetery (Tom)** – already updated on cleaning of drains, elevator repair, A/C repair, bushes trimmed on office side that are Mr. Albright’s property. Township gave us the go ahead
 - a. Drainage problem still coming down our ramp to the west basement door. Good seal on door, but water approaches door handle.
 - b. Ron and Jared will be checking the roof/gutters soon
2. **Christian Education (Jim)** – no meeting, but Kid’s Night out will be Wed 8/12., 9/13 will be first day of Adult Sunday school
3. **Fellowship (Michelle)** – Picnic was 8/3. For Rally Day, food will be outside but less substantial food. Might plan Bingo for January/February for after church.
4. **Finance Stewardship (Tom)** – **No meeting; End of August, Tom will begin the budget planning worksheets**
5. **Membership (Bill)** – Reported on National Night Out was a success. Planning to work with Campbelltown Community Alliance for a fall event.
6. **Missions (Matt)** – Collected food for Christmas in July, meeting August 25
7. **Creation Care (Cindy)** - no meeting
8. **PACC (Tom)** – Will probably be completely disbanded by the end of the year

1. **Women's Fellowship (Faith)** – no meeting
2. **Pastoral Relations (Missy)** – met on 7/20 with Pastor Matt.
3. **Music and Worship (Faith)** – next meeting 8/17
4. **Youth Fellowship (Sarah)** – Meeting planned for 8/23

Open Comment period (off the record)

Meeting adjournment by unanimous consent at 8:13 PM

Closing: Mizpah Benediction

Next Meeting: Sept 14 , 2026 7:00 PM



Charging Forward in Stewardship

Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.

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Published By:

Salem United Church of Christ
2761 Horseshoe Pike

P.O. Box 7

Campbelltown, PA 17010-0007

Pat Young, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 717-838-4236

Web Site:

www.Salemucccampbelltown.org

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Sunday	October 4	YouthMeeting 9:15 p.m. Sip & Chat 10:00 a.m. Family Worship with Communion – World Communion Sunday – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	October 7	R.E.S.T. Group 10 a.m. Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m
Thursday	October 8	Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m Manstreamers 4-H 6 p.m.
Sunday	October 11	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 p.m.
Monday	October 12	Council 7 p.m.
Tuesday	October 13	Mission Committee Budget Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday	October 14	Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	October 15	Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Sunday	October 18	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	October 21	R.E.S.T. Group 10 a.m. Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Thursday	October 22	Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Sunday	October 25	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Reformation Sunday Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Fall Festival Campbelltown Community Park Rain or Shine 4-6 p.m.
Monday	October 26	Book Club 7 p.m.
Wednesday	October 28	Kiwanis Apple Dumpling Sale Parking Lot 3-5 pm. Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	October 29	Sanctuary Being Used by Karen Umberger 3:30–6:30 p.m.

All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on YouTube



October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

November 1, 2026
All Saints Sunday
Rev. 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-31, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-3

November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-17, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

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- 1 Zachary Ott
- 2 Jan Peiffer
- 3 Samantha Beahm
- 5 Donald M. Umberger
- 6 Emma McNamara
- 9 Audrey Woomer
- 10 Blair Kerr
- 10 Chad Shenk
- 11 Stephen Hitz
- 11 Kristin Vines
- 12 Brendan Monahan
- 14 Mary Risser
- 15 Elizabeth Gingrich
- 17 Zach Kindt
- 19 Aaron Steely
- 20 Tessa Flanagan
- 20 Kevin Monahan
- 21 Myka Lechleitner
- 22 Timothy Kreider
- 23 Thomas Peiffer
- 24 Dave Bushnell
- 26 Audrey Miller
- 27 Tiffany Broaddus
- 27 Patricia Young
- 30 Jeffrey Albright
- 31 Sheila Gingrich

- 1 Robert Weidler
- 4 Jane Long
- 7 Natalie Kaag
- 10 Ashley Goodwin
- 10 Beth Jefferson
- 14 Rachel Alger
- 14 Abigail Alger
- 16 Matthew Hein
- 21 Anna Kauffman
- 24 Susan Hite
- 27 Ashley Jefferson
- 29 William Kauffman



A Mission Field of Prayer

Missionary Cynthia Sundman shares the story of a woman in her 80s who is battling cancer and confined to bed. Though she can no longer leave home, she keeps a list of missionaries around the world and prays for them each day.

Cynthia says, "This woman travels the globe every day serving the Lord. Her mission is to pray for all the missionaries on her list."

Her story reminds us that faithful service does not always require travel or public recognition. Sometimes ministry happens quietly, from a bedside, through prayers lifted to God

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Products to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed in the grocery cart found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Cindy Steger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling Old clothing and material that are too worn to use can be recycled. If possible, take to an Goodwill (mark the bag Recycling) otherwise put it in the box in the west narthex and we'll take it for you. Thank you!

Writing Tool Recycling You can recycle old writing tools – crayons, markers, pens, and pencils. Staples Store will recycle these items as well as many other items (check their website!). Feel free to take to a Staples or place in the "Crayola marker" collection tube in the west narthex. Thank you!

Battery Recycling Salem now has a battery recycling collection bin in the West narthex (shaped like a battery!). Place used rechargeable or single-use batteries there and they will be taken to Staples for proper disposal.

Seeds of Victory



Months before the U.S. victory at the World War II Battle of Midway, important work was happening far from the ocean. Code analysts were quietly studying Japanese messages, using early tools that came long before the computers we know today. Their careful work helped crack a code and gave American forces the warning they needed to avoid an ambush.

It makes you wonder what those long days felt like. Did the analysts ever grow tired of searching for answers? Did they wonder whether their efforts mattered? Did they feel discouraged when the breakthrough had not yet come?

We can understand that feeling. Christians sometimes grow weary, too. We wonder whether teaching children about Jesus is making a difference. We wonder whether small acts of kindness, quiet prayers or faithful service will ever bear fruit. We see sin, sorrow and brokenness around us and wonder how victory will come.

But God sees what we cannot. No faithful work done for him is wasted. The Spirit who helps us plant seeds of truth and love is also able to bring the harvest. And because of Christ, the final victory is already secure.