November 2026

THE MUSTARD SEED



Rev. Julia L. Brown was ordained in the United Church of Christ in April 2023. She holds a Bachelors of Science from Penn State University and a Master's of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. In ministry and in life, she is passionate about creation care and social justice. In her free time, Pastor Julia enjoys reading, hiking, gardening, cross-stitching, and cooking/baking. She and her husband, Ben, have two daughters, Louise (3) and Aubrey (11 months), two cats, and a bulldog. She comes to us with five years of experience, serving the last three years in Chambersburg PA.



TURN CLOCKS BACK ON NOVEMBER 1.



The Book Club will meet November 16 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Ann Johnson. 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, date to be decided. Any questions, contact Carin Kaag cas207@yahoo.com



<u>Hybrid Drive-Thru" and/or On Site Harvest Home Food Collection</u>

Salem is offering **two options** for our annual **Harvest Home Food Collection** to support the Caring Cupboard in Palmyra! A Missions Committee member will be stationed ***outside*** at Salem's East Parking Lot off of Hinkle Road for a drop off of donations on **Sunday, November 8th before the church service.** Look for the vehicle with the turkey and we will load up right on the spot. **Or** you can place your donation ***inside*** starting **Sunday, October 25** and place it in the Shopping Cart located in the East Narthex.

The Caring Cupboard is currently in need of: Soups (Progresso, Campbell's etc.), Rice, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Flour & Sugar, Pasta (any shape including Ramen), Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Vegetable oil, Jarred/Dried Garlic, and Canned Vegetables. **Thank you for your generosity in helping people in need in our local community!**

Why Choose Meatless Meals?

Choosing meat-free options is an act of love, compassion, and mindfulness. Here is how this small change makes a big impact:

? **Helps the Environment:** Reducing our meat consumption lowers greenhouse gases, conserves precious water resources, and preserves our global forests.

❤️ **Good for Your Health:** Minimally processed plant foods are naturally lower in saturated fat. Cardiologists note that cutting meat just one day a week reduces your total intake by about **15%**, which can significantly lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels.

? **Financial Benefit:** Animal products are often the priciest items in the grocery cart. Swapping them for nutritious beans, lentils, and other plant-based foods can save you money.

? THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE
Try just one intentional meatless meal this week.

Listen to the Creation Care Moment on November 22nd to learn more!



SALEM'S ANNUAL CAMPFIRE will be on **Saturday, November 7th at 5 p.m**. at Joanne Longenecker's. There is a sign-up sheet in the bell tower. All are welcome!

Youth Events

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:
Saturday, November 7th 5pm - **CAMPFIRE**
Sunday, November 15th after church - ✂️ **CRAFTING**
Sunday, November 29th 8:30am - ? **ADVENT BREAKFAST** with Fellowship
Sunday, December 20th 9:30am - ❄️ **GINGERBREAD HOUSES**

Adopt-A-Highway- Saturday, November 7th, 9:00 am

Harvest time! With the clearing of the crops in the fields, what do we see from the road? Unsightly trash! Please join Jan and me to harvest (pick up) the trash along Rte. 117. We will meet in the church in the choir room. Vests, clean gloves and bags will be provided. Please sign up on the list on the church bell tower bulletin board or contact Tom Peiffer @ 717-269-5924 or thomaspeiffer@verizon.net at least several days before the event. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Tom Peiffer

SAVE-THE-DATE for UPCOMING CREATION CARE EVENTS:
Sunday, January 10th after church - **LUNCH & NO-WASTE BINGO** (more details to come!)
Saturday, January 23rd 10am - **WINTER WALK & LUNCH** at Porch & Pantry



Salem's Hanging of The Greens AND Pancake Breakfast will be held on **Sunday November 29th, starting at 8:30am.** A hot breakfast will be served downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Then we will head upstairs to Hang the Greens and decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season.



Christy Umberger published her first book, **Earthly Observations: A Year in Haiku**. It's a short collection of haiku poems alongside a small number of longer poems reflecting on the seasonal transitions of a year. Christy also writes a weekly Substack post.

If you're interested in either the book or her Substack post about the book, follow this link - https://christyumberger.substack.com/p/my-book-is-out

Christy and her parents appreciate all of the support members of this church continue to give her. Thank you!



The Lebanon Rescue Mission would like to thank you for your recent gift of $120 to support all six ministries of the Mission.

Christmas Is Coming – We are starting to take Poinsettia Orders. All poinsettias are $7.45 but the one exception is Glitter on Red which are $8.75. They will be available in Red , White, Pink, Marble, Pink Speckle, White Glitter and Glitter on Red. **Orders are due November 12th**. Forms are in a basket on the back windowsill. Thank you for beautifying the church for Christmas Eve. Please see Pat Young with any questions

Salem UCC Council Meeting Agenda

09/14/26

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

Virtual: Cindy Umberger

Called to order by Jim at 7:02 PM

Opening Devotions (Faith)

Approval of Agenda

Secretary's report (Bill) – approved by unanimous consent

Treasurer's Report (Tom)

- Without transfers and parking lot sale, $6,000 loss for August; $31,490 under for the year.
- We are close to spending budgeted amount for entire year in property repairs and maintenance ($10,283 spent of $10,410 budget)
- Giving is up 1.7% from this time last year
- Discussion on budget format - The detailed expenses will be completed every other month and not every month

Old Business:

- Execution of loan agreement between Salem and Pastor Julia, update — Tom P and Jim Flanagan
    - $10,000 lump sum loan with interest, to be repaid within 6 weeks of the sale of home in Chambersburg or April 2027, whichever is sooner.
    - Moving expense to be a little more than $7,000; she'll be moving in late October. Tom will get Weaver movers a certified check.

New Business:

- 2027 Council member/officer slate discussion
    - New bylaws give the option of 7-9 council members (down from 12). Determined that council will now consist of 9 members, including the youth representative.
    - Executive team will discuss officer candidates for 2027 prior to the October council meeting.

    - Those that could go on for a second term will decide by October.
- Hanging of the greens -
    - 1st Sunday of Advent is Thanksgiving weekend and there are limited people available for hanging of the greens. Will be held December 6 for greater availability.
    - Altar guild and Fellowship – special Sip and Chat time for 12/6 will be announced to congregation.
    - Joanne Longenecker and family have provided and installed a live tree for years! This responsibility should no longer fall to Joanne. Still deciding on Joan Campbell's artificial versus live tree.
- Pastor Becky's availability for Fall:
    - Julia's first day will be /Monday November 2, first service November 8.
    - Becky Hoover will preach 9/20 through 11/1, but 10/11 she is not available. Karen will not be here either. Still looking for supply pastor. Substitute organist is lined up.

Committee Reports:

1. **Building, Grounds, Cemetery (Jared) –** Ron Kline and John Risser clearer gutters again. No water from last rain. Lot of work to divert water from ramp area on west side - Ron put down stone for drainage and trimmed shrubs.
   Downstairs bathroom, switch was moved to inside bathroom.
2. **Christian Education (Jim) – No report**
3. **Fellowship (Michelle) –** Hosted fellowship on August 23 Rally Day and a potluck on 9/13 for Pastor Matt. Jan 10th will be "no waste" bingo
4. **Finance Stewardship (Tom)** – Audit still needs to be determined; next meeting October 29; purchasing additional CDs with parking lot sale
5. **Membership (Bill) –** Sunday October 25, In conjunction with the Campbelltown Community Alliance (CCA) holding the Kid's Fall Fest in Campbelltown Park. Volunteers needed – signup in narthex.
6. **Missions (Cindy)** Mission committee met 8/25
    - Cindy Umberger joined the committee and can act as council liaison
    - Upcoming projects/offerings
        - Lebanon Rescue Mission meal 9/20
        - Neighbors in Need Offering 10/4
        - Boscov's Friends Helping Friends passes sold prior to 10-21for Women's guild projects
        - Harvest Home collection 10/25-11/8
    - Began to discuss Advent projects
    - Kristin let us know that she will be stepping down as committee chair at the end of 2026 – will remain on the committee
    - Next meeting 10/13 to discuss budget/benevolences for 2027 budget
7. **Creation Care (Cindy) – met on 9/10/26**

- We will begin monthly CCM during church with those ideas highlighted in the weekly email and monthly newsletter
- The team will gather to do a fall cleanup around the gardens and plant 6 more trees to use the remaining funds from the Penn Central grant – prior to our walk on 9/26
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- The majority of the meeting was spent with a guest who talked to us about possibly submitting an application to put 2 EV chargers in Salems parking lot. Central PA hasn't opened yet but will soon, we'd work with a partner so that all of the costs should be covered.
    - This would be a large project, and we realize we'd need council and church buy in.
    - The committee has only agreed to submit a survey once the application opens to see if there would be any partners interested in working with Salem
    - Along the way a site plan would have to be designed and we could lose more than 4 parking spaces
- Additional upcoming events:
    - No waste bingo with fellowship after church 1/10
    - Winter walk 1-23
- Council agreed that CCT should complete the Electric Vehicle Charging Station survey on the PENNDOT website.

2. **PACC (Tom) –** no report/no meeting, Jim cancelled renewal of the website/paccministry.org
3. **Women's Fellowship (Faith) –** Met on September 8, planned December 13th matinee show attendance
4. **Pastoral Relations (Missy) –** No meeting
5. **Music and Worship (Faith) –** Missed World Wide Communion, October 4th, Faith, Jim, Tom, Missy will serve
6. **Youth Fellowship (Sarah) –** Met August 23 before church, will meet October 4 before church, and the Campfire at Joanne's house being planned for Nov 7

Pastor's Report

Calendar should be updated in two places now – Please update the paper calendar in the office (Pat Y) and Pam Mc is updating the digital calendar. We'll need a budget for advertising on Facebook. If you know a shut-in, please visit them within the next 6 weeks during our pastoral absence.

Open Comment period (off the record)

Closing: Mizpah Benediction

Next Meeting: Oct 12 , 2026 7:00 PM



Sunday	November 1	Sip & Chat 9:45 a.m. Family Worship All Saint's Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	November 4	511 R.E.S.T. Group 10 a.m. Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Thursday	November 5	Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday	November 4	Adopt-a-Highway 9 a.m. (meet in choir room) Campfire at Joanne Longenecker's 5 p.m.
Sunday	November 8	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Harvest Home Collection Fellowship in Choir Room after Worship to Welcome Pastor Julie
Monday	November 9	Council 7 p.m. Hybrid
Wednesday	November 11	Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m. Missions Committee via Zoom 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	November 12	Manestreamers 6 p.m.
Sunday	November 15	Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. Holiday Crafting after Worship in Fellowship Hall w/light luncheon
Monday	November 16	Book Club 7 p.m.
Wednesday	November 18	R.E.S.T Group 10 a.m. Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m.
Thursday	November 19	Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Sunday	November 22	Sip & Chat 100 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday	November 25	Use of Sanctuary by Karen Umberger 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Thursday	November 26	Thanksgiving
Sunday	November 29	Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by decorating of the Sanctuary. Sip & Chat 10 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m. First Sunday in Advent - Communion Community Tree Lighting at Campbelltown Community Park 3-5 p.m.
Monday	November 30	Creation Care Committee 7 p.m.

All Worship Services will also be live streamed on You Tube

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November 1, 2026
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-27
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

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
I 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

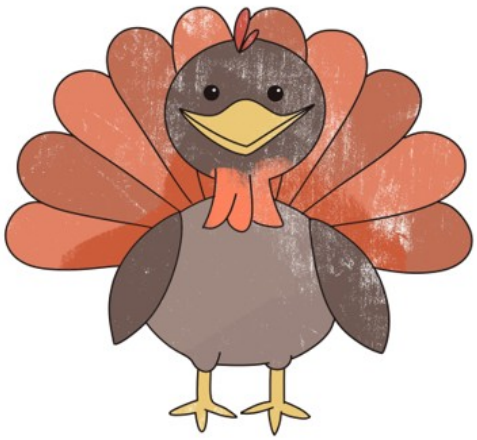
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-17, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December 6, 2026
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Matthew 1:1-8

December 13, 2026
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Advent
1 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 27, 2026
First Sunday after Christmas Day
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40





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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Sydney Flory
2 Liz Brandt
2 Garrett Bear
7 Kathy Binkley
11 Kelley Frew
12 Earl Garrett
19 Roxann Albright
19 Arlene Yantz
21 Virginia Ream
23 Kimberly Kozelsky
23 Jenna Van Hout
26 Jarrett Smith
29 Lily Miller



A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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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.



THE MUSTARD SEED
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