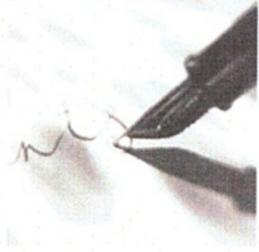




JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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Mary Dubs

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Who is the center of your life?

January 1, 2026, rings in a new year, for new beginnings, new memories to be made, new goals, and yet God's love is the same for each of us! Some make New Year's resolutions that may last a couple of weeks or possibly even a couple of months. God's love lasts forever! God's love is unconditional!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38, TEV).

Everyone has their lives centered around something. It may be your family, career, hobby, sports, your friend, or money. When your life isn't centered around God, you will find yourself stressed out, full of worry, and amid struggle after struggle!

Having God in the center of your life, you will find yourself at peace, you will stop worrying and turn to God more frequently throughout your day.

“Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7, TEV).

Start your day with God, continue conversations with God throughout your day, and close your day with praise and thanks to God for all His goodness you experienced during your day. God is Good! All the time!

Who will be the center of your life, for the rest of your life?

With love in Christ,

Mary Dubs
Children/Youth Ministry Director
mary.dubs@salemgmc.com
(989) 550-2511



JANUARY 2026 BIRTHDAYS

04 – Mary Guardian
08 – Marge Reist
10 – Aaron Eichler
14 – Gwen Ovcen
14 – Bonnie Powell
25 – Gary Newman
29 – Justin Esch
30 – Darin McNabb
31 – Crystal Elenbaum



ACTIVITIES

We would love to have you join us for any or all of the various Bible Study's:

Men's Bible Study: Will resume shortly.

Women's Morning Bible Study: Will resume shortly.

Women's Morning Bible Study: Will resume shortly.



JANUARY ANNIVERSARY'S

01 – Joy & Steve McIntosh
15 – Mary & Scott Dubbs
28 – Klarissa & Aaron Eichler



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Kids Club Family Meals and Activities – will resume January 7th with the meal at 5:30pm, 6pm-6:30pm Object Lesson /Activity. Check the Church calendar for future dates.

Children's Christmas Program Practice Times:
January 4th at 10:15am in the Sanctuary and
Saturday, January 10th at 10-11:30am in the Sanctuary.

Children's Christmas Program – January 11, 2026, at 9am.

Senior Meal/Bingo – January 14th, 11:30-1:30 pm.

Loons Faith & Family Night Baseball Game – Saturday, August 15th at 7:05pm –
Watch for sign-up sheet!

As we begin a new year, let us follow the star of Bethlehem each day, so that we can
*'Let our light shine for all people, so that they will see the good things we do and praise
our Father in heaven'* Matthew 5:16

Mary Dubs
Children/Youth Ministry Director
mary.dubs@salemqmc.com,
(989) 550-2511

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Upcoming Events this JANUARY & Reminders...

JANUARY 4, 2026
Communion



Salem Church's Treasurer

After serving for three years as our Treasurer, Greg Foy has decided to turn over his duties to another servant of Salem. The Assistant Treasurer, Kelly Leppien who was appointed by Pastor Albert Barchue, will be taking over for Greg. Please be helpful and patient during the upcoming transition period. And thank Greg for his service as our Treasurer. Job well done!

With this taking place, we are in need of an Assistant Treasurer. This person would step in for Kelly if and when needed. If you have any interest, please contact Ray Leppien and we can discuss, in more depth, the position.

Community Event

January 8 @ 7:00am, Men's Community Breakfast at First United Methodists Church. Guest speaker will be Pastor Laurie Koivula, Sebewaing Trinity UMC & Kilmamaugh UMC.

Senior Meal/Bingo – January 14, 11:30-1:30PM, \$3/person.

Pigeon Food Pantry from 10am to 4pm January 14 & 28 at First UMC.



Please see "Thank You" notes on the bulletin in the back, if interested.

Thank you notes are from Paul Shupe & Family – Marge Hall for Food Pantry & Lakers Giving Tree Team.

Our Presiding Elder, Dr. Chris Titus, asked us to help get the word out to the Thumb District churches and pastors about this upcoming Theological Teaching & Tour. Please see below, if interested.

14-DAYS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

GREECE * GREEK ISLES
*TURKEY

Including
Athens * Corinth * Thessaloniki
Ephesus * Philippi * Rhodes
Santorini * Meteora * Mykonos
Delphi

August 05 - 19, 2026

Hosted by:

Rev. Dr. Chris Titus

\$4,385 per person round trip Detroit to
Athens - Details below
(includes 7 days on Mediterranean Cruise
Along with island visits)
Price based on double occupancy



Make checks payable to: **THEOLOGICAL TEACHING AND TOURS** & Mail to:
Pastor Chris Titus
P.O. Box 384
Marlette, MI 48453
1-810-265-1658

PayPal is available upon request
Please make the following reservations for each traveler:

Name: _____
(as it appears in your passport)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I am/We are enclosing \$ _____ (\$1,200+ per person) as deposit for the tour. (If paying for more than one person, please indicate number of tour participants _____).

Upon confirming travel, a deposit to hold place on flight/cruise is \$1,500 per person. Balance of travel expense is due March 15, 2026, **unless other arrangements made.**

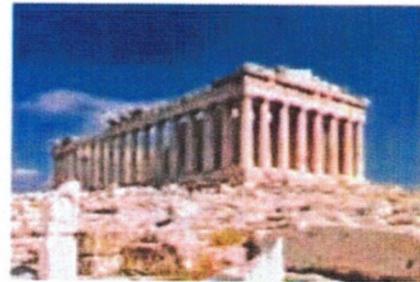
Trip includes round trip airfare, all transportation costs during trip, all food (except for lunch or dinner during land excursions), all hotel and cruise ship accommodations, all cost for guides. Not included on cruise are gratuities, drink packages, WIFI. Tips for guides or driver are optional.



COME JOIN

THEOLOGICAL
TEACHING AND
TOURS, LLC

In the Footsteps of Paul



SUMMARY OF OUR DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAY 01 - AUG 5

Leave Detroit airport in afternoon (2-4pm) arrive in Athens the following day given there is a 7-hour time difference between Detroit and Athens. Meals included on flight.

DAY 02 - AUG 6 ATHENS

Upon arrival we'll be met by our local guide and transfer to our hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 03 - AUG 7 ATHENS

After breakfast full day with guide to explore Athens, including the **Aeropagus (Hill of Ares or Mars Hill)** and the **Acropolis** with its magnificent ruins of the Golden Age of Athens, the Propylaea, the Temple of **Athena Nike** and the famous **Parthenon**. View the **Agora** and the Ancient **Hill of Pnyka**. Lunch during the day. After Athens tour, return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 04 - AUG 8 ATHENS/PORT

After breakfast, explore Athens shopping & sights. Leave around 1pm for Port. Cruise begins at 5pm.

DAY 05 - AUG 9 SANTORINI ISLAND

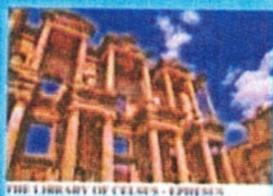
Explore in your free time the famous island. 7am-9pm

DAY 06 - AUG 10 ISLAND OF RHODES

Tour transport & guide for the historic narrative/sights.

DAY 07 - AUG 11 EPHEBUS

Tour with guide at the Turkish port of **Kusadasi** where we visit Ephesus.



THE LIBRARY OF CELSUS - EPHEBUS

DAY 08 - AUG 12 ISLAND OF MYKONOS

Free day to explore this interesting island 7am-6pm

DAY 09 - AUG 13 THESSALONIKI

Tour with guide of this ancient city (now known as Salonica). Also spend time at ruins in Philippi and location where Lydia was baptized (Acts 16:14-15).

DAY 10 - AUG 14 SEA DAY

Enjoy cruising the waters Mediterranean, passing beautiful islands.

DAY 11 - AUG 15 CORINTH/METEORA

Disembark ship at 8am. Take transport to Corinth. Visit the **Archaeological Museum, Bema, the Market Place and the Temples**. Later we travel to Meteora. It is a rock formation in central Greece hosting one of the largest and most uniquely constructed complexes of **Eastern Orthodox Monasteries**, second in importance to **Mount Athos**. The ageless **Byzantine Monasteries** (dating from mid-11th to 14th Century) that stands suspended between earth and the sky, containing priceless and religious treasures. Spend night.



THE MONASTERY OF GREAT METEORA

DAY 12 - AUG 16 METEORA

Guided Tour of several of the amazing monasteries located atop rock formations. Spend second night.



SANTORINI

DAY 13 - AUG 17 DELPHI/KING LEONIDAS

Leave Meteora, travel to ancient ruins at Delphi and stop at historic sight of the battle between King Leonidas I of Greece against the Persians in 480 BC, as depicted in the movie 300.

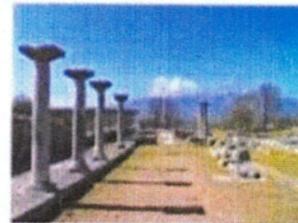
Return to Athens to stay the night.

DAY 14 - AUG 18 ATHENS

Enjoy free time in Athens, including historic churches, museums, cultural neighborhoods. Option for a food tour is available for extra fee. Live music, interesting restaurants and night life. Explore and relax, you earned it! Final overnight in Greece.

DAY 15 - AUG 19 RETURN TO DETROIT

Check out of Athens hotel in morning and head to airport. Arrive in Detroit the evening of Aug. 19.



THE FORUM - PHILIPPI

IMPORTANT: Please submit a copy of your passport with your final payment.

Scripture and commentary will be provided as we visit various sights noted in the New Testament Book of Acts and the Letters of the Apostle Paul.

A group chat for information and to keep in touch will be set up on What's App.

The currency in Greece is the Euro. Optional: You may wish to convert some cash from the US dollar to Euros prior to departing. Not required/Credit Cards OK



JANUARY 2026

Worship Assistant Schedule

	1/4/2026	1/11/2026	1/18/2026	1/25/2026
Coffee/Snacks/Server	Nancy Gunden	Meyersieck Family	Mary & Scott Dubs	Michelle & Marc Hill
Acolyte - 1 person	Klohie Clink	Noah Clink	Zoey Clink	Evan McIntosh
Greeters Narthex	Mary Dubs & Riley Sears	Barb Main	Connie Damm	Maggie Wolford
Scripture Reader	Pam Hoepner	Children's Program	Mel McCracken	Connie Damm
Ushers	scott Meyersieck	scott Meyersieck	Marc Hill	Marc Hill
Money Counters	Angie Dubs & Kathy McQueen	Lauren Armbruster & Michelle Hill	Karrie Foy & Michelle Hill	Ray Leppien & Russ Wolford
Sound Techs	Linda Garman & Ethan Hoepner	Linda Garman & Ethan Hoepner	Linda Garman & Ethan Hoepner	Linda Garman & Ethan Hoepner
Technical Support	Aaron Eichler	Aaron Eichler	Aaron Eichler	Aaron Eichler
Snow Shoveling Removal	Scott Dubs & Terry Damm	Scott Dubs & Terry Damm	Steve VerBurg & Jeff Leipprandt	Steve VerBurg & Jeff Leipprandt

Be sure to call someone to take your place if you will not be here on your Sunday. Thanks!



JANUARY 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year's! Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 Communion Pastor Bill Seitz, Guest Speaker 10:15AM Christmas Program Practice for Pre-school through 8th graders in Sanctuary	5	6	7 5:30-6:30pm All Families & Kid's Club with Meal	8 7am Men's Community Breakfast	9	10 10-11:30am Christmas Program Practice for Pre-school through 8th graders in Sanctuary
11 Salem Church Children's Program during Worship Service	12	13	14 Pigeon Food Pantry 10am-4pm @ First UMC Senior Meals/Bingo 11:30am-1:30pm	15	16	17
18 Hans Eichler, Guest Speaker	19	20 7pm Church Council	21 5:30-6:30pm All Families & Kid's Club with Meal	22	23 <i>Winter Impact at Bay Shore Camp</i>	24
25 Gus Garman, Guest Speaker	26	27	28 Pigeon Food Pantry 10am-4pm @ First UMC 5:30-6:30pm All Families & Kid's Club with Meal	29	30	31

Salem United Methodist Church
Where Friends Gather!

**JANUARY
NEWSLETTER**



Salem Church

23 Mabel St. | PO Box 438 | Pigeon, MI 48755

Statement of Purpose

We exist to:

- S**eek The Disconnected
- A**dore Our God
- L**ive Like Christ
- E**njoy Friendships
- M**obilize For Ministry

We do this by being:

- G**lorified In Christ
- M**aturing In Faith
- C**ommitted In Practice