

SALEM TIDINGS

No Matter Who You Are, Or Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here.

Salem United Church of Christ, 5300 E. Florida Avenue, Denver, CO 80222

June 2021

A Word From Pastor Russ

Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still, and know that I am God.” (NRSV) I’ve always been a mover and shaker. Oh how I struggle when I try to just stop, even for a moment! When my body’s not moving, my brain is, and on it goes... And on I go. I can pass an entire day with busyness, and next thing I know, it’s bedtime.

For folks like me, the pandemic has been hard. Hard to stay home. Hard to not go places. Hard to not do things. But as with everyone, the pandemic has been hard on our souls, whether we’re movers or chillers. It’s gotten to all of us in some way or another. If COVID-19 didn’t get to us, the staying home and social distancing sure did. Even my husband, a home body, had enough of staying home.

This month he and I go on vacation. It’s my first real vacation where I get to leave not only the house, but the city as well. I’m looking forward to it (and you’re going to have a couple great preachers fill in for me that you can look forward to!), but I’m going to have to work to find time to be still, and to know that God is God.

Psalm 46 starts off about God being our refuge and strength. It talks about the work of God. It sings about God having power over creation. It declares how God has power over human conflict, and even has power over war. And then—after all of these reminders about who God is and what God does comes the admonition for us: “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Another Bible version translates it as, “stop striving, and know that I am God.” (NASB). Striving is more than just doing. It’s going all out, working super hard, putting in extra effort. It’s everything that we U.S. Americans have been told is the right way to be.

But apparently that’s not what God needs us to do, at least not all the time. We need to be still, stop striving, let it go, and connect with the one who is already doing the stuff that actually needs to be done.

So whether you go on vacation, or find yourself always busy in retirement; whether post-pandemic or just another day... Be still. Be still and know that God... is. And have a great summer!



Peace,

Pastor Russ

Moderator Moments

This past Saturday, several members of our congregation attended Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches – and spent the day doing a “deep dive” into ways to transform conflict into productive outcomes for churches. Among other things, we learned that reconciliation with others in the church is a prelude to genuine worship. (Matthew 5:23-24) “Thank you” to Polly Fumagalli for her efforts and support in making this workshop available. I look forward to sharing some of what we learned in upcoming Council meetings and with members of our congregation.

In many ways, May has been Salem’s “light at the end of the tunnel” month. We honored our graduating seniors (in person!) and welcomed this “next generation” who are the talent and leadership that will move our world forward. Some of us were able to gather for in-person worship in our sanctuary – for the first time in over a year! I’m grateful to all who stepped up to make this a possibility, including:

- The Covid 19 task force, who continue to evaluate risks and public guidance on Covid, and advise us on how to safely return to our building;
- Buildings & Grounds ministry, who hosted a cleanup day to get everything ready;
- Everyone who showed up and helped out on that cleanup day;
- The Hospitality ministry, who provided sustenance to our cleanup crew;
- The Worship ministry, who planned it all out;
- Our gifted Pastor and talented Music Director, who “made it so”;



- The members of our congregation who ventured out, all masked-up and socially-distanced, for in-person worship.

As I sat in the back of the sanctuary providing tech support during the services, I felt the excitement and joy of all who were able to attend. Yes – I know some of us struggle with the prohibition on singing, and the minimal social contact, but this, too, shall pass. I marvel at the resilience of Salem UCC.

We are truly blessed to have such an array of wonderful leadership in our congregation at Salem!

Michael Stice

Personnel Ministry Update

In May, Personnel Ministry met with Worship Ministry and Pastor Russ to launch the review process for Chappell. You – as a friend or member of Salem – should have received an email invitation to provide feedback to us for Chappell’s review. We received responses from five of you – if you haven’t had a moment to respond, it’s not too late! We have drafted Chappell’s review, and anticipate completing it during June.

Speaking of Chappell – Personnel Ministry would like to lead a giant shout-out to him for the amazing work he’s done with the concert series. If you haven’t been able to tune in via Zoom or Facebook, it’s not too late – there’s still a concert or two ahead for us. Chappell’s talents, network of musicians, and energy bring amazing music to Salem!

As we work through our interim stage of reorganizing the administrative staff functions, I ask for your patience and your feedback. Currently, Kerry is working at Salem on Monday afternoon and all day

Tuesday; Debbie is in the office on Friday of each week. Kerry and Debbie continue to “sort out” the jobs of the two positions; please be supportive of them during this process. If you notice anything we’re “missing,” or need to be approaching differently, please reach out to Kathleen to discuss.

We continue to support our evolving staff model and our staff members; during and after this process, we appreciate your support of our work and of our talented employees. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Russ, Kerry Mayhew, Debbie Gordy, and Chappell Kingsland. We hope you’ll take a moment this month to let each of them know how much you appreciate them!

Please feel free to reach out to either Polly or Kathleen with questions.

Personnel Ministry

Keeping in Touch

Is Salem connecting with you the best way? Please let us know how we can contact and distribute Salem news to you! Email Kristenmarieneumann@gmail.com or adassistant.salemuccdenver@gmail.com

Help spread the word! Share/invite 5 people or more to a Salem event! Let's start sharing all the great things Salem is doing!

Communications Ministry

Wild Beautiful Concerts

Chappell Kingsland's next show is **June 18th!** Join us at 7pm to enjoy Impressionist Fantasies either on Zoom or Facebook Live. The concerts are FREE! Donations of \$15/household are greatly appreciated!



Christian Education News

The June Family Resource packet includes weekly activities around the biblical themes of bread, baking, sharing meals, and fatherhood. Packets have been distributed to Salem families and extra packets are available at Salem for anyone to pick up to use or share with other families.

We are planning special activities for children of all ages when in-person worship and Sunday School begins on June 20. These will include learning a song and prayer to be shared at the picnic following worship.

We are seeking volunteers from the congregation to help with our Summer Sunday School that will run during Sunday worship from June 27 to September 5. Volunteers are asked to take ONE Sunday to share an activity with any children who attend worship. We will provide the lesson plan and materials for each Sunday’s activity. If you are willing to volunteer for a Sunday please contact Chuck Wright.

C.E Ministry

Back to Almost Normal

A BIG thank you to the seventeen people who showed up for the work day on May 15. Of the 18 items listed to try and get done that morning, all but two were accomplished! After a year- long absence, the church was greatly in need of attention, especially with Salem’s “test group” starting church service the next day. The breakfast and lunch items were also greatly appreciated by everyone. The Church and I thank you!

Building and Grounds

Father’s Day BBQ

Getting back to normal Father’s Day BBQ! It will be hosted in the backyard at church after service on June 20, 2021. To sign up, please call Pam Neumann at 303-229-9986 or Pat

Freiburghaus at 303-759-0301. Be sure to tell us who you are, how many are coming, and what you would like to bring! (Chip spots are limited to five 😊) **Pam Neumann**

Missions Moments

June Mission is a drive for Archway of clean and gently used clothing. Men’s, boy’s and kids 6-15 are especially needed.

Archway residents often don't have outfits for job interviews and or have recently been homeless and don't have much to wear. Residents at Archway various facilities vary from recently homeless, refugees, veterans and seniors.

Salem plans to be open for in person worship June 20th. June 20th and 27th will be collection dates. Bring your clothing to Salem on either of these Sundays. If those dates are not convenient there will be a collection box placed in the Narthex June 14-27th. Archway will pick up clothing June 28th.

If you don’t have clothing to donate but want to help Archway you can make a financial donation. Just mark the memo line on your check to Archway.

June’s Calendar

Worship Sundays, 9:30 am by Zoom* (online or by phone) Re-opening June 20th!

Bible Study Tuesdays, 10 am by Zoom* (online or by phone)

Virtual Community Social, Wednesdays at 6 pm by Zoom* (online or by phone)

Council Meeting Tuesday June 1st 7 pm: on Zoom*

Father’s Day Sunday June 20th

Father’s Day BBQ Sunday June 20th

Wild Beautiful Concert Series at Salem UCC Denver, Friday June 18th 7pm:

Impressionist Fantasies performed by Zoe Spangler and Chappell Kingsland- on Zoom*

*to join by Zoom, sign up on our website at SalemUCCDenver.org



June 2: Craig Wilderman and Miro Subotic

Pictures to share and to remember the fun of May!



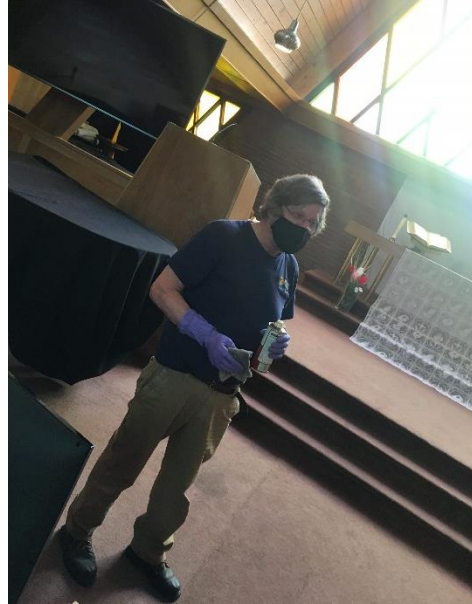
Chappell and the DU Lamont School of Jazz Ensemble #2 after the Wild Beautiful Concert at Salem Friday May 21, 2021.

The Jazz ensemble from Denver University’s Lamont School of Music Performed May 23, 2021





Craig Wilderman and Michael Stice running tech at the concert, May 23, 2021



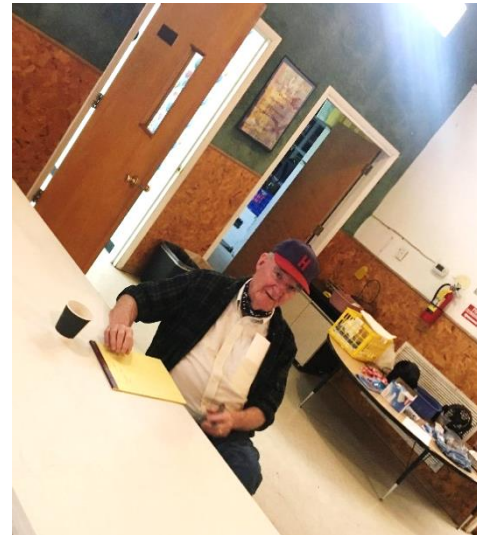
Moderator Michael Stice ready to clean the pews in the sanctuary.



May 15th Salem's Work Day!



Rodger Neumann getting out of the way for the vacuum in the sanctuary.



Pastor Chuck Wright "supervising"



Pat Freiburghaus in the kitchen

Visit us online:

- Go to SalemUCCDenver.org to:
 - Keep updated on COVID-19 related info
 - Sign up for Zoom worship and gatherings
 - See our Calendar of Events
 - Download bulletins and newsletters
 - Learn more about Salem UCC
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Salem United Church of Christ

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