

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

July 2021



A Word From Pastor Russ

Summer—the season—and I have a, well... complicated relationship. See, I love the fun stuff I can do during summer, but I don't like the heat summer brings. I sweat too easily and too much, and growing up in Oklahoma, summers were often 100-plus degrees and oppressively humid. And I burn easily. So summer isn't my favorite season, but I still enjoy parts of it.

And I've experienced summer in the different places I've lived: North Texas summers are like Okie summers, only with worse allergies. Coastal Connecticut summers are cooler, but super muggy. New Jersey summers are somewhere in between. Hawaii summers are not too hot, not too muggy, but that near the equator, sunburns are the thing. And here—well, I think this may be the best place for summers: it's dry, usually not super-hot, but that whole skin-toasting thing in this altitude, well...

The great theologians Jagger and Richards—that's Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones—say: "You can't always get what you want." It's true! As a constantly-recovering perfectionist, I can say with certainty that those who live without compromise live miserably.

Life is full of compromise. Summers for me are about enjoying the stuff I love while tolerating the heat and humidity and avoiding sunburn. Being a part of any family—blood relatives, a church family, a work family—is also about compromise: You put up with their crud while appreciating their strengths and goodness. Being in relationship is about compromise: Sometimes you agree, sometimes you agree to disagree; sometimes you have to work to find things you can love about them, sometimes you have to let go of the things that rub you the wrong way. Such is love.

In Mark, chapter 9, some of Jesus' followers didn't like what they saw others doing:

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.

In other words, just because we do faith one way, and someone else does faith a different way, that different way isn't necessarily wrong, as long as the other is "not against us" in the faith.

As people of faith, we're going to have to compromise in order to succeed, just like what I have to do in order to succeed this summer, and every summer. As we come out of this pandemic, as we go out into the world, let's try to hold fast to our faith while realizing we're still gonna need to compromise, for such is love.

Peace and loving compromise,

Pastor Russ

Moderator Moments

June was a momentous month for Salem members – celebrating the life of long-time member Vernita Carroll, expanding our in-person worship (while staying connected to our Zoom attendees,) continuing our amazing concert series – and celebrating Father’s Day with our first large social gathering in well over a year.

In each of these, we took another step forward to re-engaging with our community and our community of worship. It’s been a long year-and-a-half, and for many of us, those steps forward feel a little tentative. Masks on? Masks off? Handshakes or elbow bumps? And for introverts like me, just remembering how to start a conversation with someone other than immediate family can be a challenge!

Tentative or no, Salem members are moving forward. Some things I’ve noticed that get me really excited about how we’re moving forward are:

How respectful our members have been about honoring “where everyone is” with re-entry.

How many of our “younger faces” I’ve been seeing at Salem – especially at the Father’s Day cookout. These younger faces are the future of our church, and I hope every older member of Salem joins me in appreciating and engaging the next generations of Salem.

How so many of our ministries have collaborated to create the events at Salem – Hospitality, Worship, Buildings & Grounds, Communications, Finance.

My sincere thanks to all for making June a great month at Salem – and let’s keep it up in July! We are truly blessed to have such an array of wonderful leadership in our congregation at Salem!

Michael Stice, Moderator

Personnel Ministry Update

In June, Personnel Ministry completed Chappell Kingsland’s review – which included many observations from members and friends of Salem. If you didn’t take the chance to participate by providing comments, please feel free to just reach out to Chappell and let him know how his music affects your worship (or concert) experience.

In the latter part of June, Personnel Ministry will be working to develop the new job description for our Administrative Assistant, and we plan to start reaching out to find good candidates to fill the position in early July. It’s our goal to fill the position by the end of July, with a new person starting at the beginning of August. Fingers crossed! Concurrently, we’re continuing to work through the details of the Finance Assistant job description, and hope to have that finalized in the same timeframe.



We are blessed to have the talents of Pastor Russ, Music Minister Chappell, Finance Assistant Debbie, and Administrative Assistant Kerry at Salem. Please take a moment this month to let each of our staff 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

What a great start we have had! March brought Classical Swing with Abbey Road and More; April was Chappell's I Love the '90s solo show; May was the Lamont musicians with An Evening of Jazz; June had guests Zoe Spangler and Bryan Chuan join Chappell for Impressionist Fantasies.

I would like to thank the Salem members and staff who have made the concert series possible, particularly Rev. Russ, Craig Wilderman, Michael Stice, Chris Johnson, Krissy Berry, and Kerry Mayhew. And many thanks to YOU for listening, attending, donating, and sharing your feedback!

I have started recruiting performers for next year's season. You can look forward to a Singer-Songwriter Night, a Halloween Concert with the Wild Beautiful Orchestra, a program of Christmas Duets, and lots of special guest artists! The concert series is a real win-win proposition; it's great to share more music online and in-person, it gives performers new opportunities, and it will bring many guests to our church for the first time. When we resume in the fall, I'd like you to consider how YOU can play an important role: by inviting friends and neighbors to a concert, and by meeting and greeting the people who stop in, you can help forge new connections. If a visitor comes to our church for a concert, has a great time, and finds the people to be friendly and welcoming, they may very well decide to come back for a Sunday service too!

Finally, thanks to the board for approving my proposal, asking all the right questions, and being 100% supportive in this bold new adventure for our church!

Chappell



Christian Education News

The Christian Education Ministry team will distribute a Family Resource packet for July and August to Salem Sunday School families. The packet will contain a collection of undated Sunday School activities to be enjoyed by parents and children throughout the summer months. Extra packets will be available at church for anyone to pick up to use or share with another family. When families attend in-person Sunday worship during July and August, Sunday School activity packets will be available for children to use during the worship service.

Our team is beginning to brainstorm and plan for our Fall Christian Education program beginning in September and will include Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, and Adult programs. We are seeking input from our Salem family on program ideas and times for these programs. Please contact any of our team members if you have ideas you would like to share with us.

C.E Ministry

Missions Moments

July Mission- Filter of Hope

Filter of hope is an organization that takes life-saving water filters to villages that do not have clean water. Doing this provides families living in poverty with easy access to clean, safe drinking water—250 gallons a day for 10 years. The entire water filter kit fits inside a quart-sized bag and costs just \$40 to purchase.

For a \$50 donation, we'll deliver a water filter to a family in need and install it on your behalf.

Our June mission for Salem was a great success. A special *Thank You* to the Sunflower Daycare's contributions of kids' clothing. As always, Salem participation for the monthly mission was fantastic!

July's Calendar

Worship Sundays, 9:30 am. We are back in person! Please pay attention to the COVID guidelines. We will also continue with online and by-phone options for services. Join us in person or online!

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 July 5th 7 pm: on Zoom

Independence Day Sunday July 4th

Wild Beautiful Concert Series at Salem UCC Denver, will continue back up in August!



Chappell Kingsland and Brian Chuan on the piano



Chappell Kingsland and Zoe Spangler sarinading the few in house guests.



July 4: Norah Wilderman

July 8: Pat Freiburghaus

July 18: Kurt Mayhew and Jerome Jackson

July 20: Norma Hansen and Jaxon Neumann

Pictures to share and to remember the Joy of June!

Impressionist Fantaises Concert June 18th.



Our Tech crew of Michael Stice, Craig Wilderman and Chuck Wright

Reopening and Father's Day BBQ June 20th



Beth Hansen and Krissy Berry running the grills

Ean Oliver bringing out his ice cream



Pastor Russ conversing and mingling

Month

July 2021

Today

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 27 9:30am Worship Services Open and Affirming Sunday 9:30am Worship Services	28 6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 376; Salem Parking Lot and Backyard 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study	29 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	30 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn	Jul 1 5:00pm Private Concert	2 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class	3 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn
4 Independence Day 9:30am Worship Services 5:00pm PLPC	5 Office Closed 6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 376; Salem Parking Lot and Backyard	6 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Council Meeting	7 9:30am Art Class 9:30am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn	8 7:00pm Child Care	9 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class	10 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 5:00pm PLPC TBD
11 9:30am Worship Services 3:00pm UCC General Synod 5:00pm PLPC	12 3:00pm UCC General Synod 6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 376; Salem Parking Lot and Backyard	13 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study 3:00pm UCC General Synod	14 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class 3:00pm UCC General Synod	15 9:30am Art Class 3:00pm UCC General Synod	16 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class 3:00pm UCC General Synod	17 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 3:00pm UCC General Synod 5:00pm PLPC TBD
18 9:30am Worship Services 3:00pm UCC General Synod 5:00pm PLPC	19 6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 376; Salem Parking Lot and Backyard	20 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study	21 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn	22 6:00pm Coin Club	23 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class	24 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 5:00pm PLPC TBD
25 9:30am Worship Services 5:00pm PLPC	26 Newsletter articles due 6:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 376; Salem Parking Lot and Backyard	27 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 10:00am Bible Study	28 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class	29	30 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 9:30am Art Class	31 9:00am Twinkle Together Music Classes--Lawn 5:00pm PLPC TBD

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- 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
- Like our **Facebook** page: facebook.com/uccsaalem



Salem United Church of Christ

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