



*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

## October 2021—Special Edition



*Another awe-filled sunrise Pastor Russ captured on a recent walk.*

### God of Aw(e)

Returning after 6 weeks away has been surprisingly overwhelming. Maybe jarring is the word; I'm not sure. It's great to be back at Salem, but it's not easy, at least not yet. I was feeling that sense of overwhelm my second morning back when I was about to roll out of my driveway on my way to church, and something caught my eye.

I looked up; I didn't know what I had seen. I waited a moment, and then saw something again: A single, streaking raindrop, backlit by the rising sun. So I shifted the car into park and watched. Another fell. Then another. Gradually, more and more drops fell, backlit by the sunrise, until I was watching a full-blown, sparkling rainfall. A million backlit raindrops, streaking downward filled my vision, like shooting stars from heaven. It was beautiful! I sat there, tears rolling down my cheeks in awe at the beauty of God's handiwork. Awe" is something we experience in times like that. Take away the "e," and the "aw" we experience can be at the sight of a newborn baby or a cuddly puppy. And at the end of a football game, when the quarterback throws that long, possibly game-winning hail Mary and it JUST slips out of the receiver's hands in the end zone, hopeful fans often express a collective "aw" in a disappointed sense.

Awe, Aw and the other Aw... All can come from God. From the striking colors of fall (awe) to an adorable animal (aw), to the loss of a dear one (aw), God is in the aw(e)s.

But we've all been on overload. Shocking breaking news story after shocking breaking news story cuts into our lives... Many of us have come to expect instant information from devices in our hands or on our wrists... This endless pandemic has worn on and worn us out. And lots of times, life does that to us as well. When we've been inundated, when we've been worn down, "Awe," "Aw," and the other "Aw" don't have much room to operate. It's hard to see the AW(e)some work of God in our lives when we are like this.

So.. stop and find the amazing awe. Adore the aw. Grieve the aw (yes, even the sucky feelings we so often try to avoid!). When you do, you make space for God. When you make space for God, you experience the presence of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer around you...

...Like in a rainstorm.

Here's to the Aw(e)!

*Pastor Russ*

### **RALLY DAY, October 3**

On Sunday, October 3, 9:30 am., Salem will celebrate the beginning of Fall worship and programming with a special worship service and fellowship. We invite members, friends, and families to gather in person or on Zoom for a worship service that will include: the return of our Salem Choir with an anthem and special children's song, a new format for Children's Time, in-person Sunday School classes, the dedication of the Special Offering received for our Christian Education Ministry, the celebration of Worldwide Communion, AND the return of Coffee Fellowship following worship! We hope everyone will attend and participate in this very special day in the life and future of our church!

### **Moderator Moments**

I'd like to start out with a heart-felt "Welcome Back, Pastor Russ!" Your spiritual leadership of Salem was missed, and we are so glad you are back!

Salem is in re-opening mode. For the first time in over a year, choir gathered for practice, coffee fellowship resumed, singing (with masks) in the sanctuary is back, and on October 20, we'll open our doors for the first Community Meal since March of 2020. In-person worship is gaining momentum, but all are still welcome to worship from home via Zoom.

With all these changes, we continue to be "Covid careful" – our Covid task force encourages us all to continue to use good judgement, and to be aware of the comfort levels of those around us.

Rally Day is October 3! Children's program will re-launch, and as we all know, Rally Day is the traditional day of new energy and engagement.

Also coming up in October is the formation of our Nominating Committee – a small group of Salem members who help identify candidates to "step up and lead" our church on Salem Council. Several positions will be open this year, so if you are interested in joining Council, please reach out to me. If a member of the Nominating Committee reaches out to you, please seriously consider this opportunity to help shape the future of our church.

As always, I am grateful for you and for all the leadership from members of our church!

*Michael Stice, Moderator*

### **COVID Task Force**

We have drafted new guidelines for all to see, starting Oct 3 — Rally Day. It can change, but for now this is what we have drafted as our new guidelines.

Please respect the differing boundaries and comfort levels regarding safety of all who use our facilities.

### COVID Task Force cont.

Please wear masks while in the facility/sanctuary to your comfort level and maintain social distancing as much as possible.

When in indoors, you may sing WITH MASKS ON during service.

Please wash or sanitize your hands upon entering and before leaving the facility, and as frequently as appropriate, to keep everyone safe.

For all using our facilities, please leave the area clean and sanitized, so it is safe for whomever uses it next.

We encourage those who are not vaccinated to wear masks when in person and are welcomed to join us on zoom.

If children under the age of 12 are present in the building ALL MUST wear masks. This is a protection for them as they are not vaccinated. This new Delta Covid variance is so contagious, and we want no harm to our children.

If you have any questions regarding the above guidelines, you can contact the COVID team, Polly Fumagalli, Deb Mayhew, Michael Stice and Chuck Wright.

Blessings,  
*The COVID Task Group*

### Christian Education

#### *SPECIAL OFFERING REQUEST FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM*

The Christian Education Ministry team invites you to contribute to a congregational Special Offering that will be received throughout September to support our Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, and Adult Education programming and events through the end of this year. We have big plans for the Fall and Christmas seasons but need the financial resources to bring them to fruition. Any donation of support will be greatly appreciated and well used! Your gift of support will help us move our church's Christian Education ministries to welcome and nurture children, youth, and adults in the future.

Special offering envelopes are available at the church to share your contribution. If you contribute by check please indicate on the memo line that it is for the "Christian Education Special Offering". Contributions may be placed in the offering plate at worship or mailed to the church office. All our gifts of support will be dedicated in worship on Rally Day, October 3.

Thank you!

Chuck Wright, Polly Fumagalli, Beth Hansen.

*C.E Ministry*

## THE MUSIC OF THE SEASONS

One of the ways that we mark passage through the year is the music that varies with the seasons. Christmas Music is the clearest example of this, but also think of the difference between cozy winter fireside music and hot summer jams! I would love your help in making the music at Salem for this Fall and Winter special. You can do so by joining the Choir or the Bell Choir! We had a great first choir rehearsal of two amazing songs: "I See You" by Chris Tomlin and "Turn the World Around" by Harry Belafonte.

Upcoming dates:

- Choir rehearsals - Wed. 9/22 and Wed. 9/29 at 7pm
- Choir performance - Sun. 10/3 during service
- Bell Choir rehearsals - Wed. 10/13, Wed. 10/27 and Wed. 11/10 at 7pm

In Peace, ~ Chappell

*Music Ministry*

## Worship Ministry

Worship has met with many ministries throughout the month of Aug and Sept to gather information and dates and times and organizing all sorts of ideas!! The most exciting is Pastor Russ is back as of Sept 13th!!! Looking forward to working with him and planning activities and worship services once again.



## Sunday School Returns!

In-person Sunday School classes for children and youth, pre-school through high school will return on Rally Day, October 3. We are planning a flexible program that will provide every Sunday school classes following the Children's Time, and monthly Sunday School resources and activities to be used by families at home throughout the month. The October Family Resource packet will be available at worship on Rally Day, or by calling Chuck Wright. We encourage everyone to invite family, friends, and neighbors to become part of our Sunday School programs. If you have any questions, please contact one of our Christian Education Ministry team members.

Thank you, Chuck Wright, Polly Fumagalli, Beth Hansen

*C.E Ministry*



## All Church Workday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 9am- 1pm

The Salem Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team will be hosting an all-church workday on Saturday, October 9, from 9am to 1 pm. Lunch will be provided. This will be a day for both outside and inside clean-up/repair/maintain projects. A list of projects needing to be completed will be provided. Bring your favorite tools and your work ethic and help prepare our building and grounds for fall and winter activities.

### Mission Moments

As a reminder, here are the Monthly Missions for the remainder of 2021.

**October** – Neighbors in Need – a UCC 5 for 5

**November** – Salem Stewardship Campaign and ICC Sock Drive for the Homeless

**December** – The Heifer Project and UCC Christmas Fund

Once the COVID numbers drop and its safe, the archway has invited all interested to tour one of their facilities. We could also participate in serving a meal or in helping with food distribution on one of their Food Bank Days.

Thank you, June Seppa

*Missions Ministry*

## Coffee Fellowship!!!



Yippee!

Following our church's updated COVID-19 protocols, Coffee Fellowship will be provided following Sunday worship services. For now, this will be served outside on the front porch (weather permitting) and consist of coffee, juice, and water. If you would be willing to provide the boxed juice for a Sunday, please see the sign-up sheet in the Community Room, or call the church office.

## Community Meals Return - October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Salem's weekly Community Meals will begin on Wednesday, October 20, at 6 pm. Every Wednesday, we plan to invite people from our church and our community to gather for a time of food and fellowship. We are looking to form 4 teams of volunteers to plan and provide one simple meal a month. If you would be willing to serve on one of the teams, please contact Kathleen King.



### ***The Romeos – Men’s Coffee Club***

Salem’s new fellowship group, *The Romeos*, (Retired Old Men Eating Out Socially), will gather on Wednesdays, 9 am., October 6 and 20, for coffee and conversation at the Detour Bakery, on Florida and Holly, near the church. All men are invited to join in an unplanned and spontaneous time of fellowship. More information contact Chuck Wright.

### **All Hallows Eve (Halloween) Event**

All Hallows Eve is the day before All Saints Day, November 1. It is celebrated in many ways throughout the world, but for Christians it can be understood as a day to understand how Christ’s resurrection and gift of eternal life helps overcome our fears of death. At Salem we have planned two events for you to participate in All Hallows Eve.

On Saturday, October 30, 5-6:30 pm, we invite children and adults to a *Pumpkin and Pizza Party* at the church. Everyone will have an opportunity to carve a pumpkin and enjoy pizza dinner. There is no cost for this event. Beth Hansen is organizing this party. Contact her with any questions.

On Sunday, October 31, we invite children AND adults to come to worship in-person, or on Zoom, in costume!

This might be a full costume of a favorite imaginary character or historic character. Or it might be just a simple hat or symbol representing a character or era of history. Be creative! In Children’s Time we will be thinking about what it means to, “walk in another person’s shoes” (or costume!)

### October's Calendar

**Worship** Sundays, 9:30 am. We are now worshipping 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)

**Council Meeting** Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm: on Zoom

**Community Meals** Wednesdays beginning October 20<sup>th</sup>

**Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm

**Bell Choir Rehearsal-** Wednesday October 13 and Wednesday October 27 at 7-8pm



### October:

12<sup>th</sup> - Kathleen King

### LOOKING AHEAD

Choir practice is held on Wednesday evenings, if you are interested, please let Chappell know, we would love your talents!!

November 21 Thanksgiving dinner in the Community Room.

Hanging of the Greens will be on November 27, from 1-3 pm bring your family to decorate the sanctuary.

Advent starts November 28.



### Salem United Church of Christ

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**Pastor: Rev. Russ Kirby, M.Div.**

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**Music Director: Chappell Kingsland**

# October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30- Art Class	2
3 <b>RALLY DAY!!!</b> 9:30am-Worship-Choir	4 7 - Boy Scouts 7-9 C.E. Ministry Zoom	5 9-12-Twinkle Music 10- Bible Class Zoom 1- Worship Ministry Team-In person 7- Cub Scouts	6 9-12-Twinkle Music 9- Men's Coffee Club 9:30- Art Class	7 9-12-Twinkle Music	8 9:30- Art Class	9 9-1- Church Workday
10 9:30am-Worship	11 7-Boy Scouts	12 9-12-Twinkle Music 10-Bible Class Zoom 7- Church Council Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	13 9-12-Twinkle Music 9:30- Art Class 7- Handbell Choir	14 9-12-Twinkle Music 7-Child Care Providers	15 9:30- Art Class	16
17 9:30am-Worship	18 7-Boy Scouts	19 9-12-Twinkle Music 10- Bible Class Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	20 9-12- Twinkle Music 9- Men's Coffee Club <b>6-Community Meal</b>	21 9-12-Twinkle Music	22 9:30- Art Class	23
24 9:30am-Worship	25 7-Boy Scouts	26 9-12-Twinkle Music 10-Bible Class Zoom	27 9-12-Twinkle Music 6-Community meal 7- Handbell Choir	28 9-12-Twinkle Music 7- Coin Club	29 8:30-11:00—Sunflower Hill Halloween Party	30 5-6:30 <b>Pizza &amp; Pumpkin Carving</b>
31 <u>Halloween</u> 9:30am-Worship- Handbell Choir Come in costume!						



# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7-Boy Scouts	2 9-12-Twinkle Music 10-Bible Class 7-Cub Scouts 7-Church Council Zoom	3 9-12-Twinkle Music 5-Community meal	4 9-12-Twinkle Music	5 9:30- Art class	6
7 9:30-Worship	8 7-Boy Scouts	9 10- Bible Class 7- Cub Scouts	10 5-Community Meal 7- Handbell Choir	11 7-Child Care Providers	12 8am-6pm Lifeline Tests 6-8- Sunflower Lantern Walk	13
14 9:30- Worship Handbell Choir	15 7-Boy Scouts	16 10- Bible Class 7-Cub Scouts	17 5-Community Meal	18	19 9:30-Art Class	20
21 <b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> 9:30-Worship 11-Dinner	22 7-Boy Scouts	23 10-Bible Class	24 5-Community Meal	25 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	26 9:30-Art Class	27 1-3 - Hanging of the Greens
28 <b>1st Sunday Advent</b> 9:30-Worship	29 7-Boy Scouts	30 10-Bible Class				