

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

April 2022



Do not hurry as you walk with grief;
It does not help the journey.
Walk slowly, Pausing often:
Do not hurry
As you walk with grief.
Be not disturbed by memories that come unbidden,
Swiftly forgive; and let Christ speak for you unspoken words.
Unfinished conversation will be resolved in Him.
Be not disturbed.
Be gentle with the one who walks with grief.
If it is you, be gentle with yourself.
Swiftly forgive; walk slowly, pausing often.
Take time, be gentle
As you walk with grief.

By: George MacDonald "Walking with Grief"

Salem is going through a grieving stage with the loss of our Spiritual leader and some of our loving members. We as people of God have a desert to go through trusting God on our way.

The ELC have been putting in many hours working on the budget, hiring a music director, interviewing Interim ministers, supporting Lisa as she aids us in our many tasks. We look forward to meeting and working with our financial assistant Ani Martinez. We have hired a new music director- Isabella Ashton. She is making church service a delight to have live music again.

The ELC hosted the annual meeting on Sunday March 13, 2022. The ministry reports were very truthful and thought provoking to what they accomplished in 2021. We passed all the Ministry reports. The 2021 budget was passed with discussion. The proposed 2022 budget was also passed with discussion. The financial ministry will be overseeing the budget for 2022.

Our search for an Interim minister has good news, no GREAT news! On Sunday April 3rd, we will be welcoming Rev. Richard Ward. Rev. Ward will be Salem's worship leader including pastoral visits, bible study, meeting with the different ministries and attending Salem's activities. On April 10th we will welcome Rev. Joanne Buchanan. She will be our discernment leader, helping us work on our spirituality journey. She will clarify how our discernment will be developed. The ELC is requesting your presence at Salem to meet both Rev. Ward and Joanne Buchanan. We will be having a vote of the congregation's willingness to work with Joanne in the discernment process on Sunday April 10th after the service. Please plan on attending.

We are thankful that Salem is on its way. We opened our sanctuary for worship as well as zoom worship. Thank you to all that are working the tech. Chuck Wright is offering a contemporary contemplation on zoom Tuesday evenings and in person on Wednesday after the community meal. Thank you, Chuck. We will be welcoming our Salem Easter Egg Hunt back on and our Sunday morning Easter breakfast, followed by Easter service.

Emergency Leadership Council (ELC)

Krissy Berry, Lori Carroll, Kathy Baird and Beth Hansen

Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.

– Pope John Paul II

Welcome Reverend Richard Ward

Rev. Richard F. Ward, Phd has recently retired from the Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa Oklahoma as the Fred B Craddock Professor (Emeritus) of Homiletics and Worship. Richard is married to Amy, a Denver native. They are members of Sixth Ave UCC. He comes to interim ministry after serving on the faculties of Candler School of Theology (Emory University), Yale Divinity School, the Iliff School of Theology here in Denver and Phillips. Richard thinks of ministry as 'time in the wilderness' for a congregation. A wilderness time need not be a time when a congregation is deprived of leadership but is in fact a time for creativity, spiritual renewal and growth. Wilderness time tunes our ears to God's voice and reminds us of our dependence on God's providence and provision through God's Spirit. We have our example in Jesus who, while in the wilderness, learned what the focus of his ministry would be. Jesus was not given a clear blueprint for that ministry.

Rather he learned that God could be trusted with his future. That deep trust not only helped him survive, but also gave him courage to respond to unrealistic expectations of who he should be. We also have a model in Moses and the people of Israel who after a time in captivity were led into a wilderness to learn who their God was. They were not perfect while they wandered! They made mistakes. From time-to-time trust was broken but God never gave up on them and when they emerged and entered a brand-new place, they were a new free people, still imperfect, but agents of redemption in the world.

We at Salem are being beckoned by a God into a 'wilderness'. The wilderness stories of our ancestors in faith remind us that God loves us, will guide us, and be present in this time of transformation. We will make mistakes. We may think we are getting lost. We may be tempted as Jesus was to grab power or seek some 'miraculous' release from our situation. But if we listen carefully, prayerfully to God's

Word, disclosed in our Scripture, in worship and in each other's witness we will become the faith community we are being shaped to be--a place of Peace (what 'Salem' means in Hebrew). Let's go into the wilderness together, with our minds and hearts open to what God has to reveal to us about our future!

Shalom, friends.

Richard

Welcome Rev Buchanan

We are so excited to have Rev. Joanne Buchanan preaching at the worship service on April 10th. She will be there to mix and mingle with folks after the service, and there will be a vote taken that day on calling both Rev. Ward and Rev. Buchanan as our transitional ministry team, so let your voices be heard! Salem will hold an introductory session to our discernment process on April 27th at 7 pm, after the community meal. Please join us! Reverend Buchanan has been working with local churches in the RMCUCC for the past 10 years, offering a process of spiritual discernment to congregations in transition of various kinds. She is called to the ministry of revitalizing the church's seeking of and reliance upon the Holy Spirit for wisdom, guidance, and direction in all of the day-to-day operations of ministry and mission, including the details of the business aspect of "being church." She is especially drawn to the changing landscape of her work with discernment in the Spirit—each congregation has its own "DNA", personality, needs, joys, and gifts for ministry, and each can approach a discernment process in the way that works best for them. It has been particularly illuminating to witness the rich fruit, often surprising, that has come forth in congregations working a spiritual discernment process with dedication and commitment. Joanne's background includes 30 years in nursing and 30 years in ministry, including parish, prison, teaching, retreat, hospice, and spiritual direction ministries. She currently resides in Longmont, CO.

Worship Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt is back!!! Saturday April 16th- Hiders welcomed at 9:00, please bring some decorated colored eggs to add to our plastic eggs. Hunters will be arriving at 10:00 to find all the eggs that were hidden. The Egg Hunt is for kids 2 years old to 5th grade. Bring your basket to be filled with eggs.

Candy donations are needed for us to put in the plastic eggs. Please bring the candy to Church by Sunday April 10th. We have around 300 eggs to fill. Please contact Krissy Berry for more information.

Easter Breakfast set-up- We will be setting up for Easter breakfast at 11:30 on Saturday April 16th. If you are available, please come and join us, the more the hoppier. Easter Breakfast will be held Sunday April 17th.

Bring your coffee cake at 8:00 and enjoy some fellowship time. Breakfast will be served at 8:30. Be sure to let Pat Freiburghaus how many will be attending and what you are able to bring or help with. Pat will have a sign-up sheet for us to sign. Take this opportunity to invite friends and family back to our Easter tradition.

*Worship Ministry Team,
Norma Hansen, Deborah
Barnard, Beth Hansen, Polly
Fumagalli, Chuck Wright*

Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry team continues to plan and conduct education opportunities for all ages at Salem. In-person Sunday School is offered every Sunday for any youth attending the worship service. We are planning to present the skit, "Parade for a King," in worship on Palm Sunday, April 10.

Adult education opportunities include the weekly, "Practical Contemplation," Lenten series led by Chuck Wright, on Tuesdays, 7 p.m. (Zoom), and Wednesdays, 7 p.m. (in-person at Salem). This program will conclude in Holy Week on April 12 and 13. The weekly Adult Bible Study continues via Zoom, on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

We look forward to Easter Sunday and participating in the new energy, vision, and leadership that is empowering the future of our church!

Christian Education Ministry

Lenten Suppers and "Practical Contemplation" Program

"Practical Contemplation," led by Chuck Wright will be held at 7 pm Tuesday, April 5th and 12th on Zoom and in person on Wednesday April 6th and 13th, starting at 7 pm. This program explores the *practical* benefits of the practice of contemplation for personal health, healing, and spiritual well-being. We will do this through experiencing and discussing scripture, Christian contemplative tradition, and world religious experience. Throughout Lent we will use the Christian discipline, *Lection Divina* (Divine Reading): Read-Meditate-Pray-Contemplate, as a focus for our contemplative practice.



Mission Moments

Salem will support The Denver Hospice for April's Mission. The Denver Hospice has been serving the people of Colorado for 43 years. Salem's own Vernita Carroll was one of its founders. They served over 5,000 patients in 2021. COVID put a huge strain on their staff but making sure patients and their families received the best care was their priority. Programs besides nursing care include art therapy adult grief programs, a footprints children's grief center - to name a few. No one is turned away even if they are indigent or uninsured.

Missions Ministry

June Seppa

Building and Grounds

It has been a relatively calm month for the Building and Grounds team. Besides our struggle in, "Battle for the Planet of the Ants," we continue to attend to minor repairs, welcome outside groups, and plan for the effective maintenance and use of Salem's physical resources in would be interested the future. We welcome any input from the congregation, and any and all volunteers who are willing to help out with the jobs at hand.

*Building and Grounds Ministry
Roger Neumann and Chuck Wright*

Tech Volunteers Needed!!

Our new Sunday morning tech crew are learning the ropes and working to streamline our system, so it is easier to learn and operate during worship. We are very much in need of a few more volunteers willing to learn and operate the system so that we can relieve the current crew occasionally and continue to provide effective worship opportunities for both our Zoom and in-person attendees. If you

would be willing to participate in a simple training session and to help out on an occasional Sunday, please contact Lori Carroll, Lisa Thomas, or Chuck Wright.

April Calendar

Bible Study Participate on Zoom at 10 am on Tuesdays.

Worship Sundays, 9:30 am. 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!

Romeo Coffee Club meets at Salem on April 6th and 20th at 9:00 am, join us for coffee and conversation!

Maundy Thursday – April 14th Christ the King and Salem – worship service at 7 pm.

Good Friday – April 15th Christ the King and Salem – worship service at 7 pm, Zoom participation will be available.

Easter Sunday – April 17th Easter Breakfast 8:30 am, Worship and Communion at 9:30.

Discernment Session – April 27th at 7 pm, following the community meal.

April Mission - Denver Hospice, honoring founder Vernita Carroll

Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines!!

Please submit any announcements or additions to the bulletin to the church office by Wednesday of each week.

Deadline for May newsletter articles is April 22nd.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

1st – Anne Ottinger

3rd – Polly Fumagalli

20th – Paul Traudt

26th – Melinda Neumann



Salem United Church of Christ

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April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 Poly Evangelist 9:30-Worship Communion 3-7-CRK</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 PALM SUNDAY 9:30-Worship 3-7-CRK</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 EASTER 8:30-Breakfast 9:30- Worship 3-7-CRK</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 9:30-Worship 3-7-CRK</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
7-Boy Scouts	7-Boy Scouts	10-Bible Study Zoom "Practical Contemplation" Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Soup Supper 7-Lenten Program "Practical Contemplation"	7-Child Care Providers 7-Worship Service	Lisa Thomas 8-11- Sundowner	9-Set up for hunt 10 am- ages 2-11-are welcome 11-Easter breakfast set up
7-Boy Scouts	10-Bible Study Zoom	6-Community Meal 7-Discernment Session	4-Boy Scout, Eagle Scout Ceremony			
7-Boy Scouts	7-Cub Scouts	9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal				
7-Boy Scouts	Meander Neumann 10-Bible Study Zoom		7-Coin club			



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30- Worship Communion 3-1- CCK	2 7-Boy Scouts	3 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	4 9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal	5 Heidi Middleton	6 Dillon Nyree Concert 7 pm	7 Pamela Newman "For the Voice" Concert 5 pm
8 9:30- Worship 3-1- CCK	9 7-Boy Scouts	10 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	11 6-Community Meal	12 7-Childcare Providers	13	14
15 9:30- Worship 3-1- CCK	16 7-Boy Scouts	17 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	18 9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal	19	20	21
22 9:30- Worship 3-1- CCK	23 Jim Deem 7-Boy Scouts	24 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	25 6-Community Meal	26 7-Coin Club	27	28 Dillon Nyree Concert 5 pm
29 9:30- Worship 3-1- CCK	30 7-Boy Scouts	31 10-Bible Study Zoom				