

# 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 2022**



As our Spiritual Discernment Process is in a place of looking deeper into the questions of “What is church in 2022, anyway?” and “Why is Salem UCC a church, rather than anything else?”, I want to share with you this piece called “Love Each Other” by Presbyterian minister and prolific, unapologetic spiritual writer, Frederick Buechner. We contemplated it in last Sunday's discernment session, and I thought it might be helpful to share it again here:

*Matthew the tax-collector and Thomas the doubter.*

*Peter the Rock and Judas the traitor.*

*Mary Magdalene and Lazarus's sister Martha.*

*And the popcorn-crunching woman in the movie theater.*

*And the man in the pick-up.*

*They are all our family, and you and I are their family and each other's family, because that is what Jesus has called us as the Church to be.*

*Our happiness is all mixed up with each other's happiness and our peace with each other's peace.*

*Our own happiness, our own peace, can never be complete until we find some way of sharing it with people who the way things are now have no happiness and know no peace.*

*Jesus calls us to show this truth forth, live this truth forth.*

*Be the light of the world, he says. Where there are dark places, be the light especially there.*

*Be the salt of the earth. Bring out the true flavor of what it is to be alive truly. Be truly alive.*

*Be life-givers to others. That is what Jesus tells the disciples to be.*

*That is what Jesus tells his Church, tells us, to be and do.*

*Love each other. Heal the sick, he says.*

*Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Cast out demons.*

*That is what loving each other means.*

*If the Church is doing things like that, then it is being what Jesus told it to be.*

*If it is not doing things like that—no matter how many other good and useful things it may be doing instead—then it is not being what Jesus told it to be. It is as simple as that.*

I would invite each of you that have both a heart for, and some concern for Salem UCC to ponder the above questions, pray about them, take some daily silence, and see what comes in response by Spirit. Take notes. Find someone to share with, or, best yet come and join us in our next discernment session after worship on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**As I posted in my discernment update on Tuesday, the next 4 discernment session dates are: Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.**

I always encourage you to contact me at [parsonbrownjbb@yahoo.com](mailto:parsonbrownjbb@yahoo.com) or 303-579-7307 for any questions, ideas, or suggestions you may have about our spiritual discernment process.

In the Promise of Christ, *Rev. Joanne*

## Finance

At the Congregational meeting held on Sunday, June 19, it was brought up that people would like to know more about Salem's Financial health, procedures regarding who "touches" the money and /or has access to our accounts and who makes sure bills and payroll are paid. I thought this was great opportunity to share that information.

### *Financial Health –*

We are doing fine financially. Thanks to your continued generosity during this time of transition and discernment our bank accounts are as follows ~

1. Operating \$25,018,
2. Crisp \$72,170,
3. Memorial \$12,011,
4. KS rewards or Grocery Cert. \$ 7,475
5. Community Meals \$902.

All our bills and payroll have been paid on time even given we have lost internet twice in the last month; even to handwriting paychecks.

### **Procedures:**

~ *Roger Neumann is our Offertory Manager.* He picks up all the checks, cash and rentals from the church weekly, deposits them and records the information on giving statements which are then distributed after the end of each quarter. He is really the only person who "touches " the money.

~ *Ani Martinez is our bookkeeper.* She is in the church twice a month, usually the first and third weekends. She is responsible for recording the deposits, paying all bills - most of which are online or direct pay from our bank which is US Bank. She is responsible for completing payroll which is paid out on the 25th of each month at the request of our employees to facilitate budgeting on their part. She is responsible for reconciling all 5

accounts and our credit card. She is responsible for completing reimbursement requests which have been submitted and signed off on by the appropriate ministries. She usually texts the individual that their check is ready and available for pickup from Lisa Thomas, our Admin. Assistant or mails the check if so requested. And she is responsible for completing all Federal, state and city employee tax requirements which are done at the end of each quarter.

Chris Johnson has continued to oversee these activities.

~*Reimbursements* ~ If someone has spent their own money, they can request reimbursement by completing the following steps:

1. Receive approval from the SLC (this used to be handled by the ministry heads and is done so we know what money is used out of different budgeted areas).
2. Purchase approved item(s) making sure to retain a receipt.
3. Fill out a reimbursement form located on top of the lateral file in the office, attaching the receipt and indicating the ministry area and who approved.
4. Place the form with attached receipt in the appropriate folder on the lateral file.
5. Receive your reimbursement check after the next working weekend Ani is there.

~ *Funds Transfer* ~ Chris Johnson, as treasurer has overseen this. With the Dissolution of our Church Council and establishment of our ELC - now SLC - they have the authority to authorize the transfer of funds for the purpose of keeping enough money in the Operating budget to pay our bills and meet our payroll. Or with regards to a special project that had been approved previously by church council, this was paid for from our Memorials.

**Finance cont.**

~ *Credit Card* ~ Salem now has its own credit card through US Bank. Pam Neumann has one of the cards as she does the majority of the food purchases for our functions. Lisa Thomas has access to the second and she has authorization to complete almost anything else that the church as a whole wishes to purchase, i.e... palms, curriculum, office, and bathroom/kitchen supplies etc. Ani also has access to the second card to use in paying for invoiced items such as tree trimming, and our Denver Property taxes. We do earn a percentage back on our purchases which goes back into the operating account. Since this is the first year that we have had this credit card available, we are in the process of seeing what we will be able to add to our account.

*Chris Johnson*

**A Word from Reverend Ward**

I'm writing this at the beginning of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. What are your favorite memories of this time of year? If I had to choose, I would say that the times I went with family and friends to see the fireworks are my favorites. My family and I arrived in Denver from New Haven, Connecticut 23 years ago on July 4<sup>th</sup>. As the plane began to land, we could see fireworks going off all over this region. What a way to begin our new lives in what would become our new home!

We have our personal memories, but we also have a chance to remember those who sacrificed so much to help us become the nation that we have become and that we hope to be. I also remember those teachers I have had through my life who instilled in me a love of our nation's history. That history reminds me of who we can be when we are at our best as Americans and what it is that we offer the family of nations.

It is that history that tells me what to pray for these days as a citizen and as a Christian. The traditions of governance that I have come to cherish are under threat. Freedoms that we have too often taken for granted have become targets for enemies of democracy within our very nation! However, there are heroes in our midst who are showing true patriotism by speaking truthfully about what threatens us. We pray for them and ask God to help us find the kind of courage and resolve they are demonstrating.

That's the birthday gift I would offer my country on this, her 'birthday'. My own 'pledge of allegiance' to her highest ideals and my resolve to pray for her, to resist those attempts to take away the rights of those who seek autonomy over their own bodies, the rights of those who have worked so hard to gain the vote, and the right to attend school without the fear of violence.

I do this because as a Christian and an American citizen I work to bring our national life closer to Jesus' teaching about God's kingdom.



Happy birthday, America! Happy July, Salem!

## Building and Grounds

We want to thank the scouts of Troop 376 for the hard work they put in on their workday at our church on June 11. They edged the church lawn and tidied up the church woodpile in the southeast corner of the backyard. Our team continues to work on the damages resulting from the snowstorm in June. We have received a bid to strip and wax the Community Room tile floors. We have met with members of Christ the King church for a 6-month review of their lease and to evaluate how our relationship with them is going. We once again welcomed Twinkle Music who will be meeting outside on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday throughout the Sunday to provide a program of music appreciation to toddlers and preschool children and their families. We welcome congregational input on any Building and Grounds issues and will always welcome volunteers willing to help out with the work of keeping our church in tip-top shape!

*Building and Grounds Ministry  
Roger Neumann and Chuck Wright*

## Mission Moments

Salem will do a school supply drive for Archway. They have asked we do the drive in



July so they will have the supplies by August when many school programs start. There will be a collection box in the Narthex.

Needed are pencils, crayons, notebooks, backpacks, etc.

*Missions Ministry  
June Seppa*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4<sup>th</sup> – Norah Wilderman

8<sup>th</sup> - Pat Freiburghaus

18<sup>th</sup> - Kurt Mayhew

18<sup>th</sup> – Jerome Jackson

20<sup>th</sup> – Jaxson Neumann

20<sup>th</sup> – Norma Hansen

## July Calendar

**Bible Study** – Join us via Zoom at 10 am on Tuesdays.

**Worship** - Sundays, 9:30 am. Join us in person or online!

**Romeo Coffee Club** meets at Salem on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, join us for coffee and conversation!

**Discernment** – Meetings held after worship service, beginning at 11:00 am. **July 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**July Mission** – Archway, School Supply Drive

## Keeping in Touch

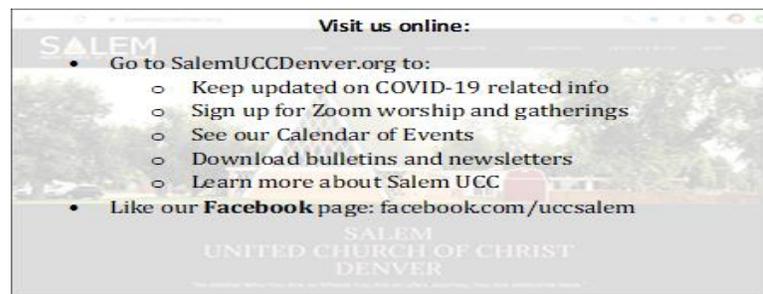
If you would like to reach out to our new ministry team, Rev. Ward can be reached at [richardward51@gmail.com](mailto:richardward51@gmail.com) and by cell at 720-982-6852. Reverend Ward will typically be online for Bible Study on Tuesdays, at Salem on alternate Wednesday mornings for the Romeos coffee club meetings, and on Sunday mornings for Worship.

Reverend Buchanan can be reached at [parsonbrownjbb@yahoo.com](mailto:parsonbrownjbb@yahoo.com) or you can call her on her cell at 303-579-7307 (please no texts). She will be at Salem on Discernment session dates, and on Sundays when she is involved in leading worship.

Both ministers are available by appointment, so feel free to reach out and give them a call!

## Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines!!

Deadline for August newsletter articles is July 27<sup>th</sup>. Please submit any announcements or additions to the bulletin to the church office by Wednesday of each week.



### **Salem United Church of Christ**

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Denver, CO 80222  
Phone: (303) 759-4649  
**Church Staff:**

Email: [Salemuccdenver@gmail.com](mailto:Salemuccdenver@gmail.com)

Website: [SalemUCCDenver.org](http://SalemUCCDenver.org)

[adassistant.salemuccdenver@gmail.com](mailto:adassistant.salemuccdenver@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant - Lisa Thomas

Discernment Minister - Joanne Buchanan

Pastor - Richard Ward

Financial Assistant - Ani Martinez

Music Director - Isabella Ashton



# July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30- Worship Communion 3-7- CTK	4 Norah Wilderman 7- Boy Scouts	5 9- Twinkle Music 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	6 9- Twinkle Music 6- Community Meal	7 9- Twinkle Music	8 9- Twinkle Music <i>Pat Freidberg</i> <i>Johns</i>	9 9- Twinkle Music
10 9:30- Worship 11- Discernment 3-7- CTK	11 7- Boy Scouts	12 9- Twinkle Music 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	13 9- Twinkle Music 9- Men's Coffee Club 6- Community Meal	14 9- Twinkle Music 7- Child Care Providers	15 9- Twinkle Music	16 9- Twinkle Music
17 9:30- Worship 3-7- CTK	18 <i>Kurt Maglow</i> <i>Jerome Jackson</i> 7- Boy Scouts	19 9- Twinkle Music 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	20 9- Twinkle Music <i>Norma Hansen</i> <i>Jansen Neumann</i> 6- Community Meal	21 7- Child Care Providers	22 9- Twinkle Music	23 9- Twinkle Music
24 9:30- Worship 11- Discernment 3-7- CTK	25 9:30- Art Class 7- Boy Scouts	26 9- Twinkle Music 9:30- Art Class 10- Bible Study Zoom	27 9- Twinkle Music 9- Men's Coffee Club 9:30- Art Class 6- Community Meal	28 9- Twinkle Music 7- <i>Co in Club</i>	29 9- Twinkle Music 9:30- Art Class	30 9- Twinkle Music
31 9:30- Worship 3-7- CTK						



# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 9:30- Worship Communion 3-7- CkK</p>	<p>8 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 9- Twinkle Music 10-Bible Study Zoom</p>	<p>10 9- Twinkle Music 9-Men's Coffee Club 9:30- Art Class 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>11 9- Twinkle Music 7-Child Care Providers</p>	<p>12 9- Twinkle Music 9:30- Art Class</p>	<p>13 9- Twinkle Music</p>
<p>14 9:30- Worship 11-Discernment 3-7- CkK</p>	<p>15 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts</p>	<p>17 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>18 7- <i>Co in Club</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:30- Worship 11- Discernment 3-7- CkK</p>	<p>22 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts</p>	<p>24 9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <i>Bev Gibson</i></p>
<p>28 9:30- Worship 3-7- CkK</p>	<p>29 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30 10-Bible Study Zoom</p>	<p>31 6-Community Meal</p>			