

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

October 2022



Salem's focus for many years has been almost entirely inward. Worries about declining membership and declining resources have sharpened that inward focus and created a closed environment where change and growth are nearly impossible. This has in turn contributed to further declines in membership and resources. Yet, in many ways, Salem is truly a place of abundance. Decades of careful stewardship by church leadership and members have resulted in assets that could - and arguably should - be invested in turning Salem into a vibrant, welcoming, outward-facing, community-engaging house of God. My sculpture shows Salem at the center of our community, open and inviting to all. Actively reaching out, becoming an integral resource to the community, Salem is investing its abundance to spread and receive joy and hope. This investment yields returns - energizing and creating meaningful relationships among our congregation and our community - ultimately leading to greater abundance.



I thought our mission should start and come from the Bible and its teachings (that's why there is a Bible in the center) and the arrows going outward is towards others - our neighborhood, community, country, world. But we also need to work on ourselves -arrows pointing in toward the Bible.



As Salem tries to heal the divide in the church, the hand and heart represent the mission of extending a hand of love, caring, and understanding to fellow Salem individuals. Salem has always extended a helping hand to those in need, both locally and worldwide.



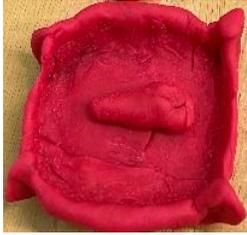
Take what you need, give what you can



The symbol I chose was the giving hands! We have missions that Salem supports!



I have witnessed both tears of sadness and tears of joy in the people of Salem. These mingle together in a tear bowl and create a healing balm that can spill out and over into the community.



It all starts in the manger!



My fish is food to eat. Rejoice, happy, alive!



We salvage and send ours to other countries for their collections



A flow of milk is given freely, just as Salem wants to give through its missions



The Salem community offers Word and Sacrament to God's world, in the love and care of God to God's people.



The open right hand symbolizes welcome, friendship, and an offer to help or listen to.

Your answers:

- 1 C 2 A 3 B 4 L 5 J 6 F
- 7 H 8 E 9 K 10 D 11 I 12 G





Curiosity has been called one of the 8 “C’s of the Spirit”, that is, of the Holy Spirit, along with Compassion, Courage, Clarity, Creativity, and others. Curiosity is also a main ingredient to any spiritual discernment process, including the one in progress for the past 5 months at Salem UCC. So, in this approaching time of crisp autumn air and golden color, the time of back-to-school and Church Renewal Day, I want to encourage you to be curious. Here are three ways you can exercise or reenergize your Curiosity here at Salem.

Way 1: Attend

If you haven't yet attended a Discernment Session, now is the time. If you have been faithfully attending, either regularly or sporadically, keep coming. Five or six months into a process is when Spirit moves us to restlessness and impatience, a good sign that your work in the Spirit is working! Clarity is coming that would not have been there when we began. Courage to move into definitive action gets stronger, more decisive. I dare say our process will be heating up in our next sessions, and it is the prime time for you to be involved if you are interested in and want to be part of Salem's future. **Be curious enough to attend.**

Way 2: Read

Back at the beginning, I suggested everyone read two books most helpful to a congregational spiritual discernment process: “Weird Church: Welcome to the 21st Century” by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon, published by the UCC's Pilgrim Press, 2016, and/or “The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age” by Dwight J. Zscheile, Morehouse Publishing, 2014. If you haven't read either of these works, I highly suggest you wait no longer! They are both excellent resources for churches in discernment about how to move forward, and the 30 examples in Weird Church of actual churches taking a non-traditional path give you inspiring, creative ideas to consider—ways of “being church” you may never have imagined as possibilities.

Be curious enough to read.

Way 3: Pray

Without ceasing, as Paul says. Every one of us is creative in some way or another. Let your Creativity from Spirit guide your daily prayers for the church and this process. Sing them. Dance them. Commune with nature and listen to the birds' call, the leaves rustle, the crickets chirp. Draw or color your prayers. Write a simple poem. Have Compassion on your sisters and brothers who have been working hard for 5 months in the discernment circle and hold them in your heart for their commitment and dedication. Ask for the interest and curiosity to join them. If you are one of those who have been working hard, give thanks and ask for continued strength for the journey.

Be curious enough to pray, pray, pray in whatever way God calls you to.

Please remember that I hold you of Salem UCC and our spiritual discernment process in my own heart of prayer. As I have been saying, and say again, **now is the time. Do what the trees do in fall—let go of what is no longer alive in order to make room for new growth.**

Be curious enough...

In the Promise of Christ, Rev. Joanne, Discernment Minister

Salem Leadership Committee

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” - Deuteronomy 31:6

Just when we get comfortable... things get shaken up. Prayerful that the Lord is with us during this time of change and transition. This month we had some great conversations in discernment about the "safety" within our church. Do you feel safe? Have you ever felt unsafe in Salem? We also discussed our priorities with discernment. Hopefully you saw Joanne's Discernment notes! SLC has scheduled a meeting with Ani Martinez, our financial bookkeeper to go over her annual review, and a meeting with Isabella Ashton for her mid-year review is being discussed. We received the unfortunate news this month that Reverend Ward is resigning due to health concerns. We pray he gets the rest he needs to recover without surgery. The SLC is thankful Joanne is willing to continue with discernment and the pulpit!! We, along with the Worship and C.E. Ministries and Rev. Joanne, continue working on planning our future worship. We are looking for laypeople to help soon. Looking ahead we will be asking for your help with our Stewardship Drive. Please attend our congregational meeting as we discuss where Salem is headed. We are not planning on voting but listening to our members. Please come with ideas and an open mind! The SLC would like to thank everyone for their support. Please reach out if you have ideas!

Krissy Berry, Beth Hansen & Lori Carroll

Building and Grounds

Our team would like to invite all members and friends of Salem to our annual Fall Workday on Saturday, October 22, 9-12. We will be focusing on indoor projects: re-organizing the storage area, cleaning the Sanctuary, cleaning the Community Room and tables. Lunch will be provided. This past month's projects included: Roger (on a very hot day) repairing leaks in the Community Room roof. Deciding the placement of CtK's new shed in the backyard. Welcoming the Virginia Village Homeowners Association's meeting at our church on September 13. This was the Association's first meeting in two years and, having lost their previous meeting space, they were very grateful to our church for providing meeting space. The Building and Grounds team meets regularly after the Men's Coffee Club on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. You are invited to join us! We welcome questions and ideas about maintaining and using our Salem facilities.

Roger Neumann, Chuck Wright

Worship and Christian Education Team

Salem's Worship and Christian Education teams have combined into one team and will be having joint meetings in the future. Everyone is welcome to join our Zoom meetings by contacting Chuck Wright or Lisa Thomas.

Christian Education

Our team is excited about Renewal Sunday, October 2, the return of in-person Sunday School and monthly Sunday School Family Resource Packets. We hope everyone will attend the worship service and picnic on Renewal Sunday to learn about the plans for Fall, Advent, and Christmas activities at Salem. October will mark the return of Salem's Zoom Fellowship on Tuesday evening, October 18, 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to gather in the comfort of your own home for a time of casual conversation and community sharing. Information for attending the Zoom Fellowship will be sent out to everyone in the near future.

Upcoming opportunities at Salem include:

- Youth Sundays on October 30, November 20, and December 18.
- The Hanging of the Greens on November 27.

Worship

We planned the worship leadership schedule for Sundays in October and November. We look forward to working with Rev. Joanne Buchannan, members of the SLC, and all members of Salem in empowering meaningful worship services for our church.

Upcoming worship opportunities at Salem will include:

- October 2 – Renewal Sunday/World Wide Communion
- October 30 – Youth Sunday
- November 20 – Thanksgiving Sunday and Dinner

Advent Worship: Healing Service, Youth Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Sunday, New Year Sunday.

We welcome all ideas and questions about our upcoming plans. Please contact one of our team members with your input. Our team's next Zoom meeting will be, **Tuesday October 11th, 7 p.m.** We invite anyone and everyone to join us in our planning. For information on attending this meeting please contact Chuck Wright or Lisa Thomas.

*Beth Hansen, Norma Hansen, Chuck Wright,
Polly Fumagalli, Deborah Barnard, Rev. Joanne Buchannan*

Youth Sunday October 30th

Sunday, October 30th Salem will hold an "All Hallows" youth and family worship service at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to come in costume, or funny hat, and join in worship with our young and young at heart. Following worship, we will have pumpkin carving for young and old in the Community Room. You are invited to bring your own pumpkin, but we will have some pumpkins available to carve. So, bring your pumpkin and your pumpkin-spiced latte and join in the fun!

Mission Moments



We are all aware of the problems people here in the US and around the world are facing from natural disasters to poverty and war. Neighbors in Need – a 5 for 5 UCC ministry that makes an effort to ease the burdens families are facing. Please consider supporting October’s mission and lend a hand to a neighbor in need. Do you have a friend or co-worker that would be willing

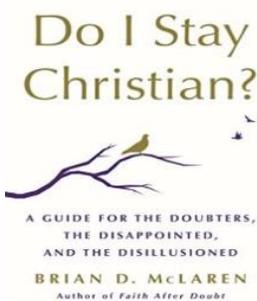
to sign up for the King Soopers reward program? This would provide additional monies to support Salem’s Operating Fund.

June Seppa

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday October 9th we will be having an informational congregational meeting following morning service. The SLC and Building and Grounds will be presenting ideas on how Salem can move forward. We need your input, feedback and unlimited ideas! Thank you for being a part of Salem now and in our future. Please pray and reflect on our future. We look forward to hearing from everyone!

Fall Book Club



6th Ave UCC Church will host a fall book club that will begin on Wednesday October 5th at 7 pm. We will be reading the new book by Brian McClaren entitled, "Do I Stay Christian?" We gather by zoom and each session will last 1 hour.

Please use this <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82928950056> for each gathering.



October 12th – Kathleen King

October Calendar Highlights

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

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

Romeo Men’s Coffee Club - Meets at Salem on Oct and 5th and 19th at 9:00 am, please join us for coffee and conversation! Building and Grounds meeting is held afterwards.

CE/ Worship Zoom Meeting – October 11th 7 pm.

Discernment Meetings -

- Sunday Oct. 9th after service - bring your lunch.
- Sunday Oct. 23rd after service - lunch will be provided.

Children’s Sunday – October 30th 11:00 am - All Hallows Pumpkin Carving



Salem United Church of Christ

5300 East Florida Avenue
Denver, CO 80222
Phone: (303) 759-4649

Email: Salemuccdenver@gmail.com
Website: SalemUCCDenver.org

Church Staff:

adassistant.salemuccdenver@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant - Lisa Thomas
Discernment Minister - Joanne Buchanan
Financial Assistant - Ani Martinez
Music Director - Isabella Ashton

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 RENEWAL SUN-DAY! 9:30- Worship Communion 11- Picnic 3-7- CTK</p>	<p>3 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts</p>	<p>5 9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9-Art Class</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:30- Worship 11- Discernment 3-7- CTK</p>	<p>10 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-CE/Worship Zoom 7-Cub Scouts</p>	<p>12 Kathleen King 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>13 7-Child Care Providers</p>	<p>14 9-Art Class</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:30- Worship 3-7- CTK</p>	<p>17 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Salem Zoom Fellowship 7-Cub Scouts</p>	<p>19 9-Men's Coffee Club 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9-Art Class</p>	<p>22 9-12- WORKDAY AT SALEM!</p>
<p>23 9:30- Worship 11-Discernment 3-7- CTK</p>	<p>24 7- Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 10-Bible Study Zoom</p>	<p>26 6-Community Meal</p>	<p>27 7-Coin Club</p>	<p>28 9-Art Class</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Children's Sunday 9:30- "All Hallow's" Worship 10:30- Pumpkin Carving 3-7- CTK</p>	<p>31 7:30-11:30-Sunflower 7- Boy Scouts</p>					





November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 <i>Randy Johnson</i> 9:30- Worship Communion	7 7- Boy Scouts	8 10-Bible Study Zoom	9 6-Community Meal	10 7-Child Care Providers	11 5:30-9:30-Sunflower	12 5-7pm- Scout Court of Honor
13 9:30- Worship	14 7- Boy Scouts	15 10-Bible Study Zoom 6:30-Virginia Village Homeowners Assoc. 7-Cub Scouts	16 9-Men's Coffee Club	17 7-Coin Club	18 9am-6pm Lifetime Testing	19
20 <i>Amber Smith</i> Thanksgiving Sunday 9:30- Worship 11- Dinner	21 7- Boy Scouts	22 <i>Jerry Gibson</i> 10-Bible Study Zoom	23 <i>Maxine Trankoff</i> 6-Community Meal	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26 3-7pm Hanging of the Greens
27 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30- Worship	28 7- Boy Scouts	29 10-Bible Study Zoom	30 9-Men's Coffee Club			
3-7- CTK			6-Community Meal			