

## November 2022



In the eight chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus makes the statement “the truth will make you free”. That is what Salem’s current discernment process is after—calling on the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and guidance to help us discern just what the truth is about Salem UCC, it’s past and present, and the potential and possibilities for its future.

Our last discernment session on Sunday, October 23, brought forth some earnest, heartfelt, and searching questions and discussion about the desire for truth, for healing of some haunting misgivings, for communal unity. This kind of exploration is vital to any movement forward, and it was done with empathy, kindness and grace. It opened the door, I believe, to deeper understanding of what has happened to the Salem community in the way of distrust, disconnection and disinterest. It is a sacred process.

The following is a brief summary of the conversation held on Sunday, September 18, offered by one of the participants. It was presented at Sunday’s discernment session by another one of the four members named below, and, we hope, is a catalyst for further conversations among the greater body of members.

The SLC and the discernment participants want the rest of the church community to know this conversation has taken place:

Four members of Salem who have been central to some of the conflict at our church over the past year and a half met for a conversation facilitated by Reverend Joanne Buchanan joined by Reverend Anthony Scott. The four members – June Seppa, Chris Johnson, Michael Stice, and Kathleen King -recognize that they need to address their mutual anger, hostility, and resentment to move forward with their own healing, and for Salem’s healing.

Most Salem members are aware that the core issues among these individuals, and among many others in our congregation, are Council’s 2021 termination of Salem’s administrative assistant, and the perceived harassment of Pastor Russ Kirby, which resulted in his resignation in November of 2021.

The conversation took place on Sunday, September 18 after worship, and lasted three hours. The discussion was intense, at times helpful, and at times very hurtful. Participants are able to share any comments they themselves made during the discussion, but not comments made by other participants without permission. General themes of the discussion may be shared. The participants

spoke openly about the issues, their perceptions of the events as they unfolded, how those events had impacted them personally, and their struggles to resolve and move beyond their anger and hurt. They spoke about the need to reestablish relationships.

The participants will each “unpack” the discussion from Sunday and will decide how to best move forward – possibly with additional discussions, or with alternate actions.

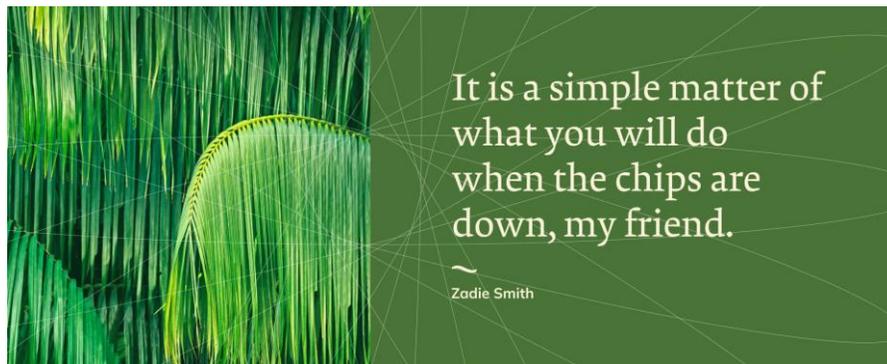
It would be helpful for you, Salem members and friends to hold this attempt at healing in your daily prayers. Our discernment process will continue formally with a session after worship and the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 6, but spiritual discernment should go on with all of us serious about seeking “the truth”.

The rest of the passage mentioned at the beginning of this article is this:

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

What is your truth about your own place in Salem’s past and present, and your commitment to its future? What is the truth you are seeking? Please consider these questions seriously in the days ahead, and feel free to call on me or another friend in the church with whom you might want to share your thoughts. Or, better yet, join us in the discernment circle if you are able...

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



Salem is entering into the season of Hope and Anticipation. Advent is just around the corner. The Worship/CE ministry has been working on the many different aspects of the services.

### **Christian Education/Worship**

- November 6<sup>th</sup> will be our Communion and Remembrance Sunday. Please send your names of people that you would like to raise up during service to the church office.

- November 13<sup>th</sup> we will also be joined by Conference Minister Sue Artt who will be available to answer any questions around previous pastoral leadership.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> is our Thanksgiving Youth service with a skit to remind us of spirit of Thanksgiving.
- November 26<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Hanging of the Greens. We will meet at church at 3:00 to decorate the church. To celebrate all our good work, we will be having a chili supper. Norma is asking for help with the supper. Bring your crafting side to make a Christmas craft. We will be ending at 7:00. Please plan on attending. (WE NEED TALL PEOPLE FOR HANGING GREENS IN SANCTUARY)
- November 27<sup>th</sup> Rev. Joanne will be leading us in the First Sunday of Advent. We will be lighting the Advent candle.

During the season of Advent, we are looking for families or individuals to be a part of the candle lighting. Please contact anyone on the Worship Team if you are able to help.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> we will be having a healing service.
- Church Caroling to our Salem people. We are looking at Saturday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> or Sunday Dec.11<sup>th</sup>. Please let any of the members of the Worship or CE team, know which day you are available to lend your voice.
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Youth Sunday. We will be having a skit, scripture and music with a Christmas theme.
- Saturday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service at Salem will be at 4:00pm. A service of carols and scripture. CTK will have a service at 10:00pm. Feel free to attend either or both.
- Christmas Morning- Salem will have an informal early service at 9:00-9:30 with coffee cake after the service.
- Sunday January 1, 2023- service will be at 11:00. Following service bring your favorite dish for a New Year's Day potluck, followed by games and fellowship.

*With the guidance of God,  
Beth Hansen, Norma Hansen, Chuck Wright,  
Polly Fumagalli, Deborah Barnard, Lisa Thomas*

## Salem Leadership Committee

Because of the unexpected resignation of Rev. Ward, the SLC has once again been busy working hard to secure a new pastor. We have lined up Dustin Adkins as a short-term supply minister. He comes to us highly recommended and has many years' experience within the Disciples of Christ denomination. Welcome Dustin!

The SLC held a Congregational meeting on Oct. 6, 2022, where opening discussions were started as to determine Salem's future. It is time now to begin to gather ideas about how to proceed. Should we continue, merge, or disband altogether? Are there other options we have not even considered? What assets should we consider liquidating? How will liquidated assets be used? It was

determined through discussion that the place to begin is to determine who is still part of the community and who has decided to move on. The SLC sent out a letter asking for all community members to send the SLC a written response informing us of membership decisions. The SLC will report back to the congregation at another Congregational meeting Nov. 6 after church. Please prayerfully consider your membership status and let us know where you stand.

Thanks so much,  
*Krissy Berry, Beth Hansen & Lori Carroll*

### **Salem Zoom Fellowship**

Eight Salem members and friends recently joined together on Zoom for a time of checking-in, fellowship, and fun, in a reboot of our Salem Zoom Fellowship. Our next meeting is November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If you would like to join us, please contact the church office for the Zoom meeting information. If you would like to be part of our fellowship but cannot make the next meeting, we would welcome your input about alternative days and times to gather. Share your input with Lisa Thomas or Norma Hansen.

### **Building and Grounds**

The Building and Grounds Team sponsored a successful workday on October 22. Our workers focused on re-organizing the storage area and winterizing the building. Our team's other October project was to begin planning to replace the window blinds in the Sunflower Child Care Center part of our building. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am. at the church. All are invited to join us.

*Chuck Wright and Roger Neumann*

### **Metropolitan Denver Association**

This annual meeting held via Zoom on 10/16/22 was the Business meeting to report of activities, budget for 2023 and discuss the future of the MDA.

- ~After the welcoming and prayer, we recognized Churches and Ministers celebrating years of service.
- ~The MDA representative to the Rocky Mountain Conference spoke of the connection between the 5 Associations included in the RMC.
- Nancy Erickson steps down as Moderator and Phil Campbell will lead in 2023.
- The budget was reviewed and accepted for 2023.
- During a small group break out session, a vote was taken for continuing the Association. the motion passed.
- The Nominating Committee presented the incoming officers for a vote of approval. The motion passed.
- Time was given for "Announcements and Speak Outs" We heard from the Denver Home Team and Congregations Alive
- True to their word, the meeting was closed before 5p.m. with a prayer.

As Delegates from Salem, Beth and Norma Hansen were able to vote.

## Mission Moments



During the month of November, Salem will once again collect clean new socks for the homeless. Socks will be delivered to organizations that deal with homelessness and they will have socks to give out at Christmas. If you know if any organization that could use some of the socks, please let June know. There will be a collection container for the socks in the Narthex November 1-27.

We will also look at our stewardship. How involved are you going to be for Salem?

*June Seppa*



3<sup>rd</sup> – Lori Carroll  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Camryn Smith  
 6<sup>th</sup> – Randy Johnson  
 11<sup>th</sup> – Roger Neumann  
 20<sup>th</sup> – Amber Smith  
 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jerry Gibson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Maxine Traudt

## November Calendar Highlights

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

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

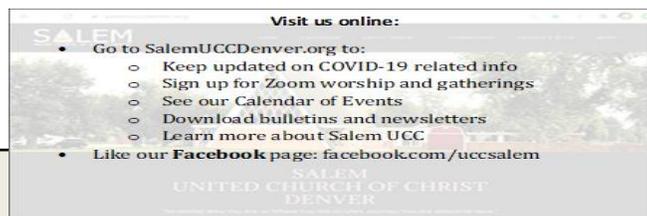
**Romeo Men’s Coffee Club** - Meets at Salem on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, please join us for coffee and conversation! Building and Grounds meeting is held afterwards.

**Zoom Fellowship** – November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**CE/ Worship Zoom Meeting** – November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Thanksgiving Dinner** – November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

**Hanging of the Greens** – November 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.



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### Church Staff:

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

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

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Salem Zoom Fellowship 7-Cub Scouts	2 9-Men's Coffee Club 10:30-Building and Grounds Team 6-Community Meal	3 Lori Carroll Caryn Smith 9-6 Lifeline Testing	4	5 5-7pm-Scout Court of Honor
6 Randy Johnson Remembrance Sunday 9:30- Worship 10:30- Cong. Meeting 11-Discernment	7	8 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Cub Scouts	9 6-Community Meal	10 7-Child Care Providers	11 5:30-9:30-Sunflower	12
13 9:30- Worship 3-7-CHK	14 7-Boy Scouts	15 10-Bible Study Zoom 6:30-Virginia Village Homeowners Assoc. 7- Worship/CE Meeting 7-Cub Scouts	16 9-Men's Coffee Club 10:30 Building and Grounds Team 6-Community Meal	17 7-Coin Club	18 9:30-1:00-Art Class	19
20 Amber Smith Thanksgiving Sunday Youth Sunday 9:30- Worship 11- Dinner 3-7-CHK	21 7-Boy Scouts	22 Jerry Gibson 10-Bible Study Zoom	23 Marive Truitt 6-Community Meal	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 9:30-1:00-Art Class	26 3-7pm Hanging of the Greens
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship 3-7-CHK	28 7-Boy Scouts	29 10-Bible Study Zoom 7-Zoom Fellowship	30 9-Men's Coffee Club 10:30 Building and Grounds Team 6-Community Meal			

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30- Worship Healing Service Communion 3-7- CTK	5 7- Boy Scouts	6 7:30-11:30- Sunflower 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Worship/CE Meeting 7- Cub Scouts	7 6- Community Meal	8 7- Child Care Providers <i>Note Reiser</i>	9	10 9am- Denver String Academy Violin Recital
11 <i>Ami Martinec</i> 9:30- Worship 3-7- CTK <i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i>	12 7- Boy Scouts	13 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Zoom Fellowship 7- Cub Scouts	14 9- Men's Coffee Club 6- Community Meal	15	16	17
18 <i>Elise McHenry</i> <b>Youth Sunday</b> 9:30- Worship 3-7- CTK	19 7- Boy Scouts	20 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Cub Scouts	21 6- Community Meal	22	23	24 <i>4pm- Christmas Eve Service</i>
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>DeB Barnard</i> 9am- Worship/ Banuch 3-7- CTK	26 7- Boy Scouts	27 10- Bible Study Zoom 7- Zoom Fellowship	28 9- Men's Coffee Club 6- Community Meal	29 7- Coin Club	30	31

