



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

February 2024

From the Pastors Desk

Friends,

This month you're getting a combined Pastoral and Worship/Christian Education article! Lent begins on February 14th, and I want to update you around some Lenten opportunities at Salem:

- Lenten Daily Devotionals will go out via email this year, but only if you opt-in to receive them. If you want to be added to the devotional list, please message me at salemUCCdustin@gmail.com. Look for the daily devotionals on our Facebook page, too.
- Ash Wednesday Schedule, February 14th: 11:00 am -2:00 pm – Drop by the church to receive ashes. The sanctuary will be open for prayer. 6:30 pm – The Metro churches will host worship at Park Hill United Church of Christ, 2600 Leyden St. 7:00 pm – Christ the King Anglican service in Salem's sanctuary.
- Lenten Bible Study on the book of Mark, led by Rev. Chuck Wright in partnership with First Congregational Church UCC, Loveland. Join us Thursday evenings during Lent from 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm – look for the link weekly. Dates are February 15, 22, 29, and March 7, 14, & 21.
- A Lenten Family Resource Packet will be available at Salem this year. If you need one mailed to you, let us know. See Beth Hansen or Chuck Wright with any questions.
- Sunday, March 3rd: Healing Service and Communion
- Sunday, March 10th: Exploring different religious traditions. Also, 'Pi' Sunday at Salem– Enjoy homemade pie by the slice. Look for more information to come.
- Sunday, March 17th: St. Patrick's Day – Be sure to wear your green :)
- Palm Sunday, March 24th: Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry with us!
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th: 6:30 pm – The Metro UCC churches will worship together at Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC.
- Good Friday, March 29th: 12:00 -3:00 pm – Sanctuary will be open for a time of contemplation and prayer, with Good Friday scriptures read at Noon. 7:00 pm – Christ the King Anglican service in Salem's sanctuary.
- Salem's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 30. Volunteers are needed at 9:00 am to work the hunt, with candy donations welcomed anytime (pre-wrapped candies only.) Egg hunting festivities begin at 10:00 am. See Pastor Dustin, Krissy Berry, or Beth Hansen with questions.
- Easter Breakfast and Worship – Come for breakfast at 8:30 am and stay for Easter worship with Communion at 10:00 am.

There are many ways to worship and connect at Salem in the coming weeks. We will be looking for you!

With Love,

Pastor Dustin

Finance and Property

We want to thank everyone who attended and participated in the 2024 Annual Meeting budget discussions with their input and questions. It takes a village! We will be preparing a completed 2023 Financial Report to be presented to the congregation at the next congregational meeting on April 7.

Current activities include:

- completing the annual property insurance audit.
- arrange annual maintenance for the Community Room Floor.
- hiring an individual to remove snow from church sidewalks and walkways.
- pursuing the Zone Lot Amendment with the City of Denver.
- completing a short-term lease with the Parsonage tenants.

We welcome returning member and Treasurer, Roger Neumann, newly elected team member Beth Hansen, Administrative team liaison, Polly Fumagalli, Pastor Dustin Adkins, and Office Manager, Lisa Thomas. We bid a fond farewell to outgoing member, Chuck Wright.

Finance and Property Team: Roger Neumann, Treasurer, Chuck Wright, Polly Fumagalli, Administrative team liaison; Pastor Dustin Adkins.

Lenten Zoom Bible Study, Feb 15

Everyone is invited to participate in a Lenten Zoom Bible study, The Gospel According to Mark, beginning on Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm., and continuing weekly through Thursday, March 21. This study will be a partnership between First Congregational Church, Loveland, and Salem U.C.C., Denver. Our study of Mark's Gospel will be facilitated by Rev. Chuck Wright, retired U.C.C. clergy and a member of Salem church. This study will be an overview of Mark, using individual scriptural passages to explore its understanding of Jesus through historical context, cultural setting, textual history, and its relationship to the other three gospels. Everyone is encouraged to read Mark's gospel before we begin our exploration and come with scripture passages significant for you, and your questions! Zoom meeting information will be sent out well before the first meeting.

Salem Zoom Fellowship, Feb 20

Salem's monthly Zoom Fellowship will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 pm. We will gather for a round of individual check-ins then enjoy our annual "Take Me Out to the Ballgame!" celebration of the coming of the baseball season by sharing memories, telling stories, and swapping lies about the Grand Old Game. Zoom meeting information will go out to the congregation on the Monday before our meeting. "Play Ball!"

Missions

Feb. 11th is Soup-er Bowl Sunday! Before you go home to watch the big game, stay after worship for a bowl of soup and have some treats from the Women's Bean Project, Salem's February mission! We will be featuring their products, and you can place an order from their catalog and pick up the items at church. See June Seppa or Pastor Dustin with any questions.

Our March missions will be our annual food drive for Archway, in addition to our collection for One Great Hour of Sharing. The food drive will take place at Salem on March 16th, with an alternate date of March 23rd in case of inclement weather. Look for more information about the food drive to come soon. – *June Seppa*

Baseball Sunday, Feb 25

“Play ball!” Spring is in the air! On Sunday, February 25, Slugger Pastor Dustin will be out of the line-up and our Designated Hitters, Beth Hansen, and Chuck Wright, will be in the home dugout filling out the line-up card for the worship service. Everyone is invited to join all of Salem’s “bleacher bums” in 9 innings of scripture, prayer, and music (in less than a three-hour game!). Wear your favorite team’s uniform or bring baseball memorabilia and be part of the “Big Show” of praise and popcorn! If you would like to be part of the starting lineup by participating in the worship service in some way, please talk to Beth or Chuck. “Let’s play two!”

A Word from our Moderator

A reading from John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." In times of chaos, whether it's internal or external, it's good to be reminded that one of God's greatest gifts to us is Peace. May God help us to be open to the peace that is offered to us. *Deborah Barnard*

February Calendar Highlights

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Bible Study | Every Tuesday on Zoom at 10:00 am. |
| Worship C/E Zoom | Feb 13 th at 7:00 pm. |
| Community Meal | Every Wednesday at 6 pm. |
| Conversational Coffee Club | Feb 7 th and 21 st at 9 am. |
| Property and Finance | Feb 7 th and 21 st at 10:30 am - Hybrid. |
| Zoom Fellowship | Feb 20 th at 7 pm. |
| March Newsletter Deadline | Feb 25 th . |



Salem United Church of Christ - 2023 Budget/2024 Budget

| | 2023 Budget | 2023 Actuals 12/31/2023 | Proposed | 2024 Budget |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Operations and Rentals | | | | |
| Loose Offering | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 1,468.00 | \$ | 2,000.00 |
| Pledges (11) | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 21,313.00 | \$ | 19,456.00 |
| Rentals (8) | \$ 7,180.00 | \$ 6,235.00 | \$ | 7,500.00 |
| Manor/Parsonage | \$ 31,800.00 | \$ 28,153.74 | \$ | 32,560.00 |
| Sunflower Hill Childcare Center | \$ 34,624.00 | \$ 39,507.00 | \$ | 39,984.00 |
| Verizon (9 months) | \$ 22,081.00 | \$ 16,561.17 | \$ | 22,630.00 |
| Christ The King | \$ 7,200.00 | \$ 7,200.00 | \$ | 12,000.00 |
| Special Offerings/Events (Easter, Thanks, Christ) | \$ 125.00 | \$ 47.84 | \$ | 200.00 |
| Grocery Certificates (KS Rebate) | \$ 800.00 | \$ 619.93 | \$ | 800.00 |
| Total Cash from Operations | \$ 135,810.00 | \$ 121,105.68 | \$ | 137,130.00 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Compensation | | | | |
| Dustin Adkins | \$ 47,545.00 | \$ 48,060.00 | \$ | 49,610.00 |
| Joanne Buchanan (diff 13,645) | \$ 23,520.00 | \$ 9,875.00 | | |
| Admin. Assistant | \$ 20,800.00 | \$ 15,454.79 | \$ | 19,500.00 |
| Finance (Salem/Ellis Accounting) | \$ 3,600.00 | \$ 8,431.25 | \$ | 4,200.00 |
| Musicians (54w x \$175) | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 8,795.00 | \$ | 9,450.00 |
| Payroll Tax | \$ 2,440.00 | \$ 2,871.61 | \$ | 3,000.00 |
| Supply Ministers | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 400.00 | | |
| Total Compensation | \$ 106,405.00 | \$ 93,887.65 | \$ | 85,760.00 |
| Church Expenses | | | | |
| Utilities (gas/elec,Trash,W/S, Blackflow) | \$ 17,900.00 | \$ 15,921.16 | \$ | 18,800.00 |
| Repair Maint - Church | \$ 19,740.00 | \$ 17,316.69 | \$ | 18,850.00 |
| Parsonage/Manor | \$ 3,700.00 | \$ 4,344.50 | \$ | 3,900.00 |
| Insurance/Taxes | \$ 20,818.00 | \$ 16,804.22 | \$ | 21,860.00 |
| Conference Meetings | \$ 1,045.00 | \$ 908.24 | | |
| Operating Expenses | | | | |
| Office | \$ 11,565.00 | \$ 5,462.07 | \$ | 8,000.00 |
| Community Events | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Admin/ Personnel | \$ 50.00 | \$ - | \$ | 200.00 |
| Church Life | | | | |
| Comm Newsltr,Adver,Website,Zoom | \$ 4,120.00 | \$ 1,047.42 | \$ | 1,500.00 |
| Vitality/Hospitality | \$ | \$ 310.43 | \$ | 400.00 |
| Worship (Licensing, Music) | \$ 50.00 | \$ 1,116.89 | \$ | 500.00 |
| CE | \$ | \$ 680.27 | \$ | 500.00 |
| Total Church and operat. Exp. | \$ 78,988.00 | \$ 63,911.89 | \$ | 75,510.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 135,810.00 | \$ 121,105.68 | \$ | 137,130.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 185,393.00 | \$ 157,799.54 | \$ | 161,270.00 |
| 1/09/24 Net Loss | \$ (49,583.00) | \$ (36,693.86) | \$ | (24,140.00) |