



*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

## May 2024

### **From the Pastors Desk**

Dear Church,

My article for May is mostly an outline of what I carried away from my experiences at a conference last week. I spent three days in Loveland with the Disciples of Christ to participate in a discussion around how churches are using their buildings and property for good in their respective communities. The time spent there was helpful in a number of ways. We had honest conversations about buildings that were too large and budgets that were too small, and we talked about what was working and what wasn't. We acknowledged that the societal/cultural trends away from church attendance and participation are not going to change in the foreseeable future, but that there is still a need for communities of faith – and how do we adapt faithfully?

Everyone realized the ongoing need for mutual support and for sharing information during a time when there is no clear roadmap for how small churches move into the future. We talked about our dreams, and we shared resources and ideas. Universally, we agreed that the future ahead of us would be very different from the past, and that there were advantages to be had there. Perhaps most importantly, we left feeling that even though we know the future ahead will have its challenges, that there is much to be optimistic about.

One trend that I see emerging is there are more and more small churches of 20-40 members that are able to manage the challenges before them, maintain modest growth, and continue doing meaningful ministry together. I think that this is the model ahead for most communities, and Salem is already doing this! Almost universally, the urban and suburban churches that were stable/well were actively sharing space and renting space for income, and positioned themselves as a partner and community resource, not just as a place to receive religion. These churches also were able to focus clearly on who they are, what they believe, and who they are called to serve – a clear sense of mission helps churches keep their focus. Very few churches can afford to go it alone. Both outside ministry partners and partners who produce income for the church are keys to long term health and viability.

Nearly every church I know is having conversations about how they move into the future. We are all figuring things out! We know that what lies ahead is different from but not 'less than' what we did in the past. Sunday morning attendance will no longer be the only metric of the health of a church, and every church will find the way that works best for them.

While we have much work ahead of us, we are on the right path, as much as that is able to be defined. I left the week optimistic about who we are and where we are headed, and deeply grateful for our supportive and loving community. We are doing good work, and we are honoring God in our presence and witness. Best of all, we are on this journey *together*.

*With Love, Pastor Dustin*

## **A Word from the Moderator**

An article by Robert L. Kinast in the pamphlet 'CARENOTES', discusses healing the body, mind and spirit together. His interest in healing came as a result of his brother being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and the lifestyle challenges he faced as he coped with the disease. In the view of Dr. Larry Dossey, author of 'Meaning and Medicine, "Your body is more like music than a machine. It is a harmony of movements and patterns that flows in and out of the harmonies emitted by those around you, including plants and animals." "The trick is to hear the music that is the body. If we can do so, the meaning of the body can be transformed. It becomes not blind, silent, doomed machine, but a glorious composition, a part of God's oeuvre: the Great Tone."

**Pun....** *I don't know what you call a small spillage from a pen but I have an inkling..*

## **Worship/CE**

Your Worship/CE team has been busy! It's going to be an interesting summer at Salem, and we hope you'll join us for a great variety of celebrations and worship! May 12th is Mother's Day, and we will be celebrating accordingly. The 19th is Pentecost, and we invite you to wear red and come ready for the movement of the Spirit! We are planning a special service for May 26th - Pastor Dustin will be with family that day, so come and see what we have planned for Memorial Day worship. On June 2nd we will honor our kids and celebrate a school year well done. For June 9th, our friend Jim Dean will be playing a gospel service for us - come and sing! June 16th is our annual Father's Day celebration, and the 23rd will be a Pride celebration. Dustin & Kate will be walking in the Parade that morning and will be offering reports in real time! In worship on June 30th, we will talk about inclusivity, and July 7th will be communion Sunday.

## **Missions**

KIVA will be the mission this month. They provide micro loans to people who can't access the financial services they need. Founded in 2005, KIVA is an international nonprofit. Through Kiva's work, students can pay for tuition, women can start businesses, farmers are able to invest in equipment by getting the loans they need. These loans are not a donation. Once the person is able, they repay their loans so another can be helped. Loans have a repayment rate of 97%. Supporting KIVA's mission helps people help themselves, and their community.

*-June Seppa*

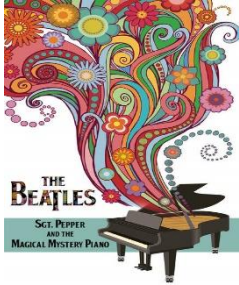
## **Memorial Sunday Worship, May 26**

Salem's Worship Team is planning a congregation-led worship service for Memorial Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Using the American flag as a focus for reflection we hope to provide the opportunity in scripture, music, and prayer to remember those who have died in the service of our country and to consider what it means for us to serve our country today in our time and place. If you would like to help plan and participate in this service, please contact Beth Hansen and Chuck Wright.

### **PBS National Memorial Day Concert May 26**

Sunday, May 26, 7:00 pm MST (and repeated at 8:30 pm) on Channel 6/PBS - Live from the U.S. Capitol, America's national night of remembrance takes us back to the real meaning of this holiday through personal stories and tributes along with musical performances.

### **Hilltop UCC on June 2<sup>nd</sup>**



Chuck and Su Wright invite everyone to join them on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3pm, at Hilltop UCC, Parker CO, for the solo piano concert by Chappell Kingsland, "Sgt. Pepper and the Magical Mystery Piano." Chappell will be playing his own unique arrangements of this classic Beatles album.

More information about the concert and tickets are available at [ck4piano.com](http://ck4piano.com).

Join us for a fun time!

### **Salem turns 140!**

July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> will be a weekend of celebration as Salem turns 140! On Saturday from 10-Noon we will be touring Salem's historic sites, visiting the site of Reno Hall, where Salem first met, then on to the site of our first building at 26<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence St., then to Pioneer Church at 9<sup>th</sup> and Sherman St., and Bradley School, where we met just before moving to 5300 Florida. We will come back to the church for a catered lunch. Sunday will be just as fun - we are inviting former clergy and ministry interns to celebrate with us, and will follow worship with a potluck picnic and live music. It will be a weekend to remember - plan to be with us both days!

### **May Calendar Highlights**

<b>Bible Study</b>	Every Tuesday on Zoom at 10:00 am.
<b>Community Meal</b>	Every Wednesday at 6 pm.
<b>Zoom Fellowship</b>	May 15 <sup>th</sup> & May 21 <sup>st</sup> at 7 pm.
<b>Conversational Coffee Club</b>	May 15 <sup>th</sup> & May 29 <sup>th</sup> at 9 am.
<b>Property and Finance</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.
<b>June Newsletter Deadline</b>	May 26 <sup>th</sup> .

### Salem United Church of Christ - March 2024 YTD

	2024 Budget	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>		03.31.24
<b>Operations and Rentals</b>		
Loose Offering	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,261.84
Pledges (11)	\$ 19,456.00	\$ 5,095.00
Rentals (7)	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 1,690.00
Manor/Parsonage	\$ 34,900.00	\$ 9,397.46
Sunflower Hill Childcare Center	\$ 39,984.00	\$ 13,298.00
Verizon (O,N,D,J,F,M) 6m x \$1840.13 = \$11,040.78	\$ 22,630.00	\$ -
Christ The King	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Special Offerings/Events (Easter, Thanks, Christ)	\$ 200.00	\$ 242.00
Grocery Certificates (KS Rebate)	\$ 800.00	\$ 145.28
Other Income		\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Cash from Operations</b>	<b>\$ 139,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 39,129.58</b>
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Dustin Adkins	\$ 49,610.00	\$ 14,277.00
Administrative Assistant	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 4,470.00
Financial - Ellis	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,175.53
Musicians	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 3,225.00
Payroll Tax	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 376.45
Supply Ministers		\$ -
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$ 85,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,523.98</b>
 <b>Church Expenses</b>		
Utilities ( gas/Elec/Trash/W/S, Blackflow)	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 3,907.42
Repair Maint - Church	\$ 18,850.00	\$ 2,619.20
Parsonage/Manor	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,147.54
Insurance/Taxes	\$ 21,860.00	\$ 6,737.96
Conference Meetings	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Office	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 241.04
Community Events	\$ 1,000.00	
Admin/Personnel	\$ 200.00	\$ -
<b>Church Life</b>		
Comm Newsltr,Adver,Website,Zoom	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Vitality/Hospitality	\$ 400.00	\$ 120.00
Worship (licensing,music)	\$ 500.00	\$ 365.35
CE	\$ 500.00	\$ -
<b>Total Church and Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 76,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,138.51</b>
 <b>Total Income</b> \$ 139,470.00 \$ 39,129.58		
<b>Total Expenses</b> \$ 161,870.00 \$ 40,662.49		
4-2-24	<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$22,400.00) (\$1,532.91)</b>



## Salem UCC 2024 Missions Survey

*The Mission Team needs your feedback! We are in the process of evaluating our current missions and we would appreciate it if you would share any information that might be helpful for us as we plan for future ministries.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to serve on Salem’s Mission Team
- I would be interested in being more active in local outreach/service projects.
- I know other missions and local non-profits that we can help support with time and energy:

\_\_\_\_\_

- I know other missions and local non-profits that we can help support financially:

\_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to learn more about the following missions:

\_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to help in other ways:


Salem’s current missions that touch my heart:

\_\_\_\_\_

Salem’s current ministries that are less engaging to me:

\_\_\_\_\_

Salem could really make a big difference in our community if we...






**You're invited to a  
Life Line Screening event!**

**Where:** Salem United Church of Christ  
5300 E Florida Ave. Denver, CO 80222

**When:** Friday May 24, 2024

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

*Trusted by over 10 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:**

Anyone over the age of 40

**Special Member Pricing for \$159**

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Plus a **FREE** Hypertension Screening

**4 ways to book your appointment...**

Call 888-814-0466 and use promo code HSCA001

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://llsa.social/hscapromo)



Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.