

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

Summer 2024

Friends,



It has been a busy summer for most of us already – lots of us are traveling these days and seeing family and friends. How fortunate we are to be able to enjoy the Colorado weather and sunshine! Traveling mercies to you if you are out on an adventure these days. I've been traveling too – Tennessee in May... Munich, Madrid, and Portugal in June...then church camp and Pride Sunday downtown – but so happy to be

with you in person for the next several months. I learned early in my ministry career that Coloradans love their summers and seldom stay put in one place for long when the weather is warm.

I am working on summer and fall already, and we have some fun things planned. Next weekend Salem celebrates her 140th birthday! We have a historical tour planned for Saturday, July 13th and we will have lunch at the church to follow, about 12:30 PM. Please message me and let me know if you are coming by Thursday, so we order enough food for everyone. We will meet at the church at 10 AM and take a guided tour through the places in Denver where Salem church has called home. On Sunday, we will have a special worship service with potluck to follow – please bring a dish or two if you are able! Our friend Lee Hamre will be singing and playing guitar for our Sunday lunch.

If all goes well, fall will be an adventure, too. We have another anniversary celebration September 14-15 with plans for that still in process. Several of Salem's former clergy are planning to be part of worship on September 15th, with other events still in the planning stage.

I hope to return to seminary in the fall so I can finish my master's degree and work toward ordination next year. I don't yet know if the pieces will fall into place but that is all in process. I will keep you updated as that evolves.

There are so many reasons for us to celebrate, both here at church and in our own lives. I pray that this year will be a year of celebrations for all of us.

Meanwhile blessings to all in your summer vacations and travels. We will look for you soon!

With Love, Pastor Dustin

Missions

In June, we showed our support for Salem’s mission, the Wednesday night Community Meal held at 6:00 PM. This meal is free to all people, come not just for the meal but for the fellowship. Strengthen the Church, a UCC 5 for 5, is the second mission for this month. Please mark your check on the memo line which mission you want your contribution to go for.

Salem will once again collect school supplies for Archway for its July mission. These supplies go to children in Archway's poorer housing units. There will be a collection bin in the Narthex, and it will be there all July.

Supplies needed are:

- ✓ backpacks
- ✓ lunch totes
- ✓ crayons
- ✓ pencils
- ✓ paper
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ rulers

All things needed to start the school year. If you are making a cash donation, please mark your check – Archway- on the memo line.

Thank you for your support!

-June Seppa

July Calendar Highlights

- Bible Study** Every Tuesday on Zoom at 10:00 am.
- Community Meal** Every Wednesday at 6 pm.
- CE/Worship** July 9th at 7 pm.
- Zoom Fellowship** July 16th at 7 pm.
- Conversational Coffee Club** July 10th & July 24th at 9 am.
- Property and Finance** July 10th & July 24th at 10:30 am.
- August Newsletter Deadline** July 31st.

Bible Study Group

Ever wonder why we have a word of the week? It all started during the pandemic. So many negative thoughts were getting meaner and louder, some calm was needed. Our Tuesday morning Bible study decided to have a word of the day. It was to be celebrated at 12 noon for 3 minutes and had to be positive. It worked for a month, and we chose words for two months. We shared our ideas on Sunday at worship service. It was surprising how many of the words fit in with the sermons and the celebrations. We still want to think on these words... maybe not always on Tuesdays or at noon but when you pause to reflect. The words for July, August and September have been chosen but if you have a word or words for us to consider, please let me know. Help keep it positive. *Hugs, Norma Hansen*

Finance and Property

We are pleased to let everyone know that we have submitted our final packet of information to the City of Denver for approval of the Zone Lot Amendment for the Parsonage and the backyard lot. We will then have a meeting with Denver representatives and receive final approval (we hope!). This will allow us to then begin making plans to sell the Parsonage.

We plan to send the congregation a Six-Month Financial Report two weeks before the Congregational meeting on July 28. We ask that you go over the report before the meeting. If you have questions about the report, we would appreciate you contacting one of our team members before the meeting so that we have the appropriate information available at the meeting to answer everyone's questions in a timely manner.

Ongoing projects include:

- Repair of the kitchen stove.
- Repair and addition of security cameras.
- Monitoring lawn care and repair/replacement of equipment.

Our team regularly meets on Wednesdays, 10:30 am., following the Conversational Coffee. You are welcome to attend our meetings or contact one of our team members with your input and questions.

Roger Neumann, Treasurer; Beth Hansen, Pastor Dustin Atkins.



Christian Education and Worship

Our work these past months has primarily focused on planning and conducting worship services when Pastor Dustin was out of the pulpit and planning 140th Anniversary events for July and September. We conducted worship services on:

- ❖ May 26 - Memorial Day Sunday
- ❖ June 9 - Gospel Sunday, with Jim Dean at the piano!
- ❖ June 23 - Pride Parade Sunday, with reports from Pastor Dustin from the parade.

Look for information on upcoming 140th Anniversary events July 13-14 in your mailbox, and make sure you save the date September 14th and 15th – details to come!

We will now be planning Fall Christian Education events and opportunities. We welcome your input! We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, on Zoom.

Chuck Wright, Beth Hansen, Norma Hansen, Polly Fumagalli, Pastor Dustin.

An Opportunity to Help

Dear Church: Lisa asked me if we could share this information with you, as her daughter Ashley is raising funds for cancer treatment. Care of our neighbor extends far beyond those in the pews (or on the screen!) on Sunday morning. If you would like to help, she would welcome your support.

-Pastor Dustin

Brittany's Brigade

Please [click this link](https://tinyurl.com/3kyymz55) to donate to my Fred Hutch Obliteride 5K fundraising page: <https://tinyurl.com/3kyymz55>.

If you would prefer to send a check – please make it payable to Fred Hutch Obliteride and please include our team's name: **“Brittany's Brigade”** on your check memo line and mail to: **Fred Hutch Obliteride**, 1100 Fairview Ave N. Mail Stop J5-200, Seattle, WA 98109.

Please consider contributing to this vital cause and thank you so much for your support!



Hello, my name is Ashley, and I am the daughter of Lisa Thomas. Thank you for the opportunity to share about an incredible person and cause in your Community Newsletter.

Seven years ago, I met Brittany while supporting our community at the Aurora Crisis Center. Brittany is the most caring, compassionate, and kind person I have ever met. Very quickly she became my best friend and I feel like I've known her my entire life. She is the type of person who is always there, no matter what. She has dedicated her life to supporting and advocating in the mental health space, with a passion for children.

Brittany embodies the best qualities imaginable in a person.

A few months ago, Brittany was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Brittany has gone through three rounds of chemo so far and has shown incredible tenacity through suffering. Brittany continues to focus on the positives in life. As her body endures the effects of treatment, Brittany is thankful for all the amazing support she is experiencing, appreciating the strength of her body and mind, and now having the opportunity to advocate again - and spread awareness for an important cause.



In August, I'm traveling to Seattle to join Brittany and her amazing support system to participate in the Fred Hutch Obliteride 5K. This event raises crucial funds and awareness for cancer research and treatment. 100% of the donations raised for Brittany's Brigade will directly support the lymphoma clinic.