



# *THE SALEM TIDINGS*

*APRIL/MAY 2020*

*No matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!*

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**Pastor: Rev. Russ Kirby**

**Administrative Assistant: Debbie Gordy**

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## **A Word from Pastor Russ**

As I write this, it's the day after Easter. What a blessed day we had in Zoom worship! There were nearly all the usual faces, along with several others we haven't seen in a while. It was a beautiful experience.

And outside most of our homes where we worshipped, snow was coating the world in gentle white. White is the church color for the Easter season, so even the weather outside was liturgically correct as God surrounded us in white, falling snow!

With social distancing, job and money struggles, and stay-at-home orders, blessings still abound. My husband and dogs and I are deepening our relationships in ways we never before imagined (though, it isn't always easy). Amid the change and challenges, we *all* are growing and learning in ways we never thought possible.

And Salem is doing a shortened newsletter and sending it out in ways that we usually don't do. (Thank you, Debbie Gordy!) We have a new church website ([www.salemuccdenver.org](http://www.salemuccdenver.org)). Soon we will have a Church Council meeting by Zoom, and we've been sharing together in worship online for a month now, with some of us using computers and mobile devices in ways we haven't before.

This time is a hard time for all of us, and it's *very* hard for some of us. When things are hard, it's easy to see what we don't like. But even in times like these, there are blessings... but you have to look for them.

So I challenge you to look for blessings! Look for the new things you're doing, the new experiences you're having, the relationships that are deepening. If you can, endeavor to be a blessing, too. Check in on church members or friends who might need it; make masks and drop them off on people's porches; pray for those struggling in this time. Find other ways to bless those who need it most these days. As the Easter snow coated us in Easter white, God's blessings abound. Always!

Easter Blessings on you!

Pastor Russ Kirby

## **Moderator Moments . . . . .Polly Fumagalli**

Belated Easter and Spring greetings these months of April and May as we have witnessed unprecedented changes to our community, state, nation and world due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Since he arrived at Salem in October, Rev. Russ Kirby has been preparing us for change. Surely most of us never imagined anything like this would happen in our lifetime. As we are now staying at home and not gathering to worship and participate in activities at Salem, what can we do as Christ's disciples? We can pray for all world leaders, responders, medical staff and essential workers who are working around the clock and helping to save and sustain as many lives as possible. We can call each other along with our relatives, friends and neighbors to check in, provide much-needed moral support and stay connected. Each and every short conversation will lift spirits and general well-being! We can donate to local food banks, HelpColoradoNow.org, the UCC Disaster Relief Fund, the American Red Cross, etc. We can listen to our favorite music and look at photos to remember special people, places and experiences. We can pray for and support those who have become unemployed, cannot attend school, are struggling, have health conditions, and are elderly. And most importantly, we can look intently for goodness and light as God will continue to speak to us, guide us and help us through this crisis!

God bless, Polly Fumagalli, Moderator

## **Salem's Craft Fair and Bake Sale Update by Polly:**

Unfortunately, our semi-annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale was not held on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4. Thankfully, June did not mail the postcards due to the increased COVID-19 risks that were developing in early March. Our hope is that the Craft Fair and Bake Sale may be rescheduled for this summer pending improvements and recommendations. If that is not possible, then we will look forward to hopefully hosting it in December. I would like to convey a special message of thanks to everyone who volunteered to help June since I would not have been able to participate. Although my office move to Arvada actually happened on March 28, I am very happy to be able to work from home for now and pray to continue doing so at least once per week in the future. A true blessing!

## **Mission Moments**

We will need to modify Salem's Monthly Mission list. The new April/May mission is to take care of yourself and each other. Once we can safely gather together again, we will resume the monthly missions with some changes. Hopefully we will be back on track in June!

## **BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL**



April 1<sup>st</sup> Anne Ottinger  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> Polly Fumagalli  
April 20<sup>th</sup> Paul Traudt  
April 26<sup>th</sup> Melinda Neumann

## **BIRTHDAYS IN MAY**

May 1 <sup>st</sup> Ean Oliver	May 22 <sup>nd</sup> Russ Kirby
May 5 <sup>th</sup> Heidi Mayhew Wilderman	May 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jim Dean
May 7 <sup>th</sup> Pamela Neumann	