



THE SALEM TIDINGS

JULY 2020

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

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A Word from Pastor Russ

Beginning a new call in ministry means EVERYTHING is new. When I began my call here at Salem, it meant for me many new faces and personalities, new ways of doing worship, new traditions, new Church Council... the list went on!

Then, after 5 months of learning all these new things, COVID-19 hit and a lot those new things I had just about gotten the hang of... DISAPPEARED! Suddenly, there were new technologies, new ways to worship, new ways of keeping in touch, new ways of conducting meetings, and more new, new, new.... It really felt like starting all over for me... AND for all of Salem, too!

While new can be nice, *too much* new is really hard and sometimes overwhelming. We've all been finding that out these days. And we've been finding out that it's stressful, too. As M. Scott Peck says in *The Road Less Travelled*:

“Self-discipline is a self-enlarging process. The pain of giving up is the pain of death, but death of the old is birth of the new. The pain of death is the pain of birth, and the pain of birth is the pain of death. For us to develop a new a better idea, concept, theory or understanding means an old idea, concept, theory or understanding must die.” *

It's like the old church metaphor of the caterpillar that lives its life on the ground before “dying” in the “tomb” of a cocoon, then emerging in new life as a butterfly. It's also like the death and resurrection of Jesus: for us to develop a better faith, the old faith must die, and it did in Christ.

So, while these are challenging times—and while we're getting weary of these challenging times—remember that these times are the death of a lot of old things in our society and church whose time is up, and remember that their death makes room for new and hopefully better things in society.

Massive change in the world is inevitable; whether it is good change or bad change is up to us. And the church—the church universal and Salem UCC—has the responsibility, the *call*, to make the world's change the very best it can be.

Let's let go and go in Christ!

Pastor Russ Kirby

*M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values And Spiritual Growth*,
© 1986 Touchstone/Simon & Schuster

Dive Deeper Each Week!

Go to <https://salemuccdenver.org/pastors-blog> later in the week to read a recap of Sunday's sermon and reflect on some helpful questions to challenge you to learn more and dive deeper in your faith!

Visit us Online:

→ Go to SalemUCCDenver.org to:

- Sign up for Zoom (online or phone) worship and gatherings
- See our Calendar of Events
- Download bulletins and newsletters
- Read the Pastor's blog with sermon summaries and reflection questions
- Learn more about Salem UCC

→ Like our **Facebook** page: facebook.com/uccsaalem

Moderator MomentsPolly Fumagalli

Happy July and Independence Day on July 4th when we celebrate the birth of American independence. Happy belated Juneteenth (on June 19th) which is another celebration and holiday that originated in Texas in 1865 to celebrate the emancipation of slaves in the United States, following President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1862. Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day. This year on Juneteenth, the United Church of Christ started a 4-year campaign to dismantle "structural, systemic, and individual racism." I celebrated Juneteenth for the first time by watching the very special 2-hour live webinar "And Still We Rise" presented by the United Church of Christ's Ministry for Racial Justice. The speakers and music were enlightening! I encourage you to watch this webinar "**UCC Juneteenth 2020 Event" on YouTube.com** (posted on 6/25/20). Let us join together in the movement to protect black lives and start the important work that God is calling us to do, "to journey back..., live into our present realities, and then plan and move forward with keeping our African diaspora descendants in the forefront as a global priority."

God bless, Polly Fumagalli, Moderator

Annual Celebration 2020: Leading in Troubled Times (July 20 - August 1):

The Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ will host this year's annual celebration online due to the pandemic. There will be many ways to participate and learn through live events, workshops, talk-back sessions with key leaders and recorded events. World-class theologian Susan Thistlethwaite will be the keynote speaker on Monday, July 20. **The conference this year is 100% free and please register at rmucc.org to participate!** The schedule of events will be finalized on or before July 1. The entire conference is invited to participate in an online Worship Service on Sunday, July 26. The business meeting discussion sessions will be held during the week of July 27 culminating in the official business meeting on Saturday morning, August 1 via Zoom. Salem will have two voting delegates in addition to Rev. Russ. Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister, and her team are to be commended for their work on this annual celebration. We hope that you will register and participate in this "unique conference gathering!"

MISSIONS MOMENTS

The July Mission is one of the UCC's 5 for 5 Neighbors In Need.

On June 2nd I took all the food that was in the church pantry to the warehouse distribution center for Feeding Denver's Hungry. This is quite a well organized and much needed service to the community. Why did our food pantry supply go to this mission? Salem is not scheduled to open until September 13th and many of the food items were close to expiring and we definitely wanted the food to go to good use☑
Thank you to everyone who contributed to Feeding Denver's Hungry!!

Salem's continuing missions are The Cancelled Stamp Project and collecting used eyeglasses for The Lion's Club mission to distribute eyewear to those in need.

There will be NO hands-on mission this summer but hopefully we can do one in the future.

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY



7-8 Pat Freiburghaus
7-18 Kurt Mayhew
7-18 Jerome Jackson
7-20 Norma Hansen

Please join us:

Worship Sundays, 9:30 am by Zoom* (online or by phone)

Bible Study Tuesdays, 10 am by Zoom* (online or by phone)

Virtual Community Social, Wednesdays at 6 pm by Zoom* (online or by phone)

*to join by Zoom, sign up on our website at SalemUCCDenver.org

Thursday, July 16, 7 pm: Council Meeting by Zoom (online or by phone)

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