

# *THE SALEM TIDINGS*

*MARCH 2020*

*SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

*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**

Ash Wednesday: YUCK.

Don't get me wrong; I actually love Ash Wednesday: the solemnity, reflection, and confession... It's not the day or the service I don't like, it's *preparing* for it. If you're not a pastor and you don't have to make all those ashes to mark people's foreheads, you wouldn't mind it, either.

It's a messy ordeal. First you have to burn the dried palm leaves from last Palm Sunday. We keep a few through the year just for this. But even though they've had months to dry, they're still not easy to burn.

And they smoke. And ash gets on your clothes and you try to brush them off without rubbing them into your clothes (White. For some reason I always manage to wear white when I need to do this! Why?!).

Then you have to pulverize the ashes. They don't conveniently turn to powder when you burn them. No, they fight you every step of the way! And then you add some oil. Not motor oil, but olive oil or anointing oil. And it doesn't mix easily like flower and water, no... None of this is very easy, let me tell you!

And then you have to put it on people without getting it on yourself. I usually wear an alb, the fancy name for a white robe. (White again. I can't seem to get away from white when I'm messing with ashes!)

Ashes are messy. Ash Wednesday is messy. That's why I say "yuck."

But I guess when you think about it, we as people are pretty messy, too. We have messy relationships, messy mistakes, messy struggles... And sin is messy, too. No matter how hard we try, we still, well, mess up.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday begin the Christian Season of Lent, and it's their symbolic messiness that Lent is really about: the messiness of God's people, of relationships, and of sin. It's a time to reflect on our humanity, our imperfections, and our need for a God who loves us through it all. We can do that by some sort of Lenten discipline, such as giving up something between now and Easter (like coffee or chocolate), or adding something (like a daily devotion or doing something for someone daily), or even eating a certain thing (like fish) or fasting a certain day each week. In the busyness of our lives, these disciplines remind us to pause and reflect on ourselves, on others, on God, and on our relationships. Lenten disciplines remind us how messy we can be.

And I'd like to think that God—who created the palm leaves and the fire that burns them, the oil that's mixed in, as well as the people marked with a cross by them—calls us to remember who we are, and also *whose* we are in this Journey of Lent.

I look forward to our Lenten journey together. And if I'm wearing white, and you see some ash on me, know that as hard as I try, I, too, can be messy.

Reflectively,

Pastor Russ Kirby

## **March Sermon Series: “Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?”**

March 1: “Intro” Luke 10:29-37

March 8: “The Devoted” Luke 10:38-42, Matthew 14:25-31

March 15: “The Demoted” John 8:1-11, Mark 1: 40-41

March 22: “The Promoted” Mark 15:1-5, Luke 5:18-25

March 29: “The Questioners” John 3:1-9, Matthew 9:10-15

## **Moderator Moments:**

Happy March as we have started to observe the holy time of Lent -- from Ash Wednesday (February 26) to Maundy Thursday (April 9) -- as we pray, reflect, repent and prepare for Easter Sunday (April 12). Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm for our Soup Suppers followed by a Lenten Study at 6:30 pm. Come to one or all of these special evenings and please sign up to contribute a pot of soup, sandwiches, crackers and/or drinks. The next Salem Council Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, March 5, at 7:00 pm in the church library. Please note that Daylight Saving Time will begin on Sunday, March 8 -- set your clocks to spring forward one hour on Saturday night, March 7. Easter will be here soon and Salem needs your help to clean and prepare our sanctuary on Sunday, March 29, around 11:00 am following our worship service and fellowship time. We will enjoy a potluck lunch when the work is done so bring something delicious to share.

God bless, Polly Fumagalli, Moderator

## **A Special Request for Salem's Spring Craft Fair:**

Our semi-annual Craft Fair will be held on Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4. Please note that Polly Fumagalli will not be able to participate in the bake sale, taco salad lunch, and clean-up this time because she will be working those days to move her office from downtown to Arvada. Please sign up to help at the bake sale and/or ask June Seppa how you can assist with this vital fundraiser for Salem. Thank you very much!

## **BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH**

## **ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!!**

1<sup>st</sup> Krissy Berry

10<sup>th</sup> – Chris Johnson & Linda Eggleston

12<sup>th</sup> – Maria Fumagalli

17<sup>th</sup> – Amy Smith

29<sup>th</sup> – Debbie Mayhew

## **Gonzaga Returns to Salem**

We will be welcoming, once again, 11 students from Gonzaga University on their Spring Mission trip. They are aware we no longer have the Manor but after many missed calls and playing telephone tag we have set the schedule for them to use the church as their home base for the Week of March 7 - 14, 2020. At the moment we are unsure where they will be putting their sleeping bags and personal items but they WILL be here for that week. Come join us on Saturday, March 7 at 5:30 pm to welcome them with a pot luck dinner as well as a meet and greet. They have also been invited to attend Sunday worship on March 8 and our Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday, March 11 so welcome them at any of these activities or if you happen to see them around the church!

## **MISSION NEWS**

The mission for March is One Great Hour of Sharing. This is one of the UCC's 5 for 5 missions. Administered by Wider Church Ministries, resources are channeled for agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster responses. Please mark the memo on your check OGHS. Thank you.

Salem sold over \$200.00 worth of products for The Women's Bean Project. The "Souper Bowl" Sunday raised \$76.00. We collected enough trial size toiletries to provide 70 showers for homeless women using the facilities at The Gathering Place. The final tabulation of funds collected for these agencies will be posted in the April Newsletter. MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE 😊

## **SALEM'S SPRING CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE**

It's right around the corner...Friday April 3rd 2:00 pm -7:00 pm and Saturday April 4th 9:00 am-3:00 pm. **This is a big fundraiser for Salem so PLEASE participate in whatever way you can.** We will need volunteers to bake items to be sold, people to work the Bake Sale in 2-hour shifts, and people to help set up and take down the Craft Fair. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or please see June. Please mark the dates on your calendar. We need everyone to help make this a success 😊😊😊

## **41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT**

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Salem will hide eggs at 9:00 am and the hunt will begin at 10:00 am. This is for kiddos 2 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Donations of candy are being accepted to fill the eggs, as well as volunteers to help. Please come out and support this wonderful tradition!

## **Parsonage (Manor) Update**

In January, the Church signed an agreement with Ryan Kimmel to not only manage the Manor, but to repair, replace, or update the Manor to rent it. Areas were painted, patio doors replaced, front and back doors repaired, toilet repaired, etc. Deb Mayhew bought blinds for the Manor to replace any blinds that needed to be replaced. By the end of January, before the work was completed, Ryan already had a sign out front advertising the rental. Also, Buildings and Grounds met with Dave Beaudoin to work on repairing the Manor's driveway, which should be finished by the time this newsletter is printed. Miro cleaned out the remaining "stuff" from the garages so that the house was empty of all church stuff. Ryan found renters, who will be moving in February 25. They have signed a yearlong lease for \$2,500 (minus \$100 commission) per month. A big thanks to Jim Dean and Deb Mayhew who worked on getting the Manor rented.

## **Replating the Church Property**

With the votes of approval by the Church Council and the Congregation last year, a committee of the Johnson's (Chris and Randy) and the Mayhews (Deb and Kurt) was formed to begin the process of replating the property in the event of selling the manor and/or the back half of the backyard. The Buildings and Grounds Ministry met on February 24 to determine where the new lines should be drawn. This process does NOT mean we are selling any of the properties, only as a necessary first step that has to be completed before entertaining any vote of selling. Jim Dean has also volunteered to counsel the committee in the replating process. This replating ordeal could take anywhere from 6 to 18 months.

## **Parking Lot Update**

Along with the Manor driveway replacement estimate, we received an estimate of what it would take to replace the back 2/3 of the parking lot. It was determined that to do it properly, the top layer of asphalt must be replaced, the underneath layer graded and compacted, and 4 inches of new asphalt put on. Also, the estimate included replacing the south entrance by the dumpster and painting the entire parking lot. The estimate was \$46,500! OUCH!

Buildings and Grounds will keep this estimate, but if anyone else knows of a good company to give us another estimate, we would appreciate it. Obviously, this will have to wait till at least spring and only after a vote of Council and then the Congregation approving this very large expenditure.

## **Manor Keys**

Anybody who has a Manor key, please return it to Debbie Gordy, Russ, or Randy. Since we have renters, there is no reason anybody should be in possession of this key. Thank you!

## **Save The Date. . .Save The Date. . .Save The Date**

March 5<sup>th</sup> - Council Meeting 7:00pm in the Salem Library

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Gonzaga arrives at Salem thru the 14<sup>th</sup>

March 8<sup>th</sup> - **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!!!**

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 20<sup>th</sup> - First Day of Spring!!

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Newsletter Articles are due 😊

March 29<sup>th</sup> - "Grubby Sunday" clean up the church & potluck lunch

April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> - Salem's Spring Craft Fair & Bake Sale

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Salem's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

