

# 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

**March 2021**

## A Word From Pastor Russ

It's Lent again, and it will be our second Lent during this pandemic. It's hard to believe this month will mark a full year since we last gathered together for worship in our sanctuary.

When we last worshipped in person, Betty Black sang and prayed with us, now she and other Salem friends are no longer around. Hard to believe. We have new church members who have *only* worshipped with us online, and never in person. Also hard to believe.

When we last worshipped in person, we had no idea that in a few months, racial tensions would boil over and protests would erupt around the country, including here in Denver, protests that looked a lot like those of the Civil Rights movement in the 60s, and for much the same reason.

When we last worshipped in person, thousands upon thousands of acres of wilderness here, in California and across the western US had not yet burned and turned our skies black. We had no idea that we would be wearing masks and social distancing even now and beyond now. We also had no idea that that people would riot in our nation's capital, break into the building and urinate and defecate in its hallowed halls while yelling for the deaths of Republican and Democratic leaders.

It's been a whole year since last Lent, and more history has been made in the past year than in some past decades. It's hard to believe...

But Lent is a time for reflection, and looking back like this is part and parcel for this season. Some of us take on a Lenten discipline—something we give up or add to our lives to remind us of Christ in the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, and we do this to remember and reflect...

Remember on those we've lost.

Reflect on all that's taken place.

Remember who we were back then; reflect on how much we've grown since.

Remember the lessons we've learned in the past year.

Reflect on the journey of Christ: a journey filled with lessons and loss, growth and change; a journey not unlike our own.

I invite you this Lent to do just that: reflect and remember. Take time out regularly between now and Easter to contemplate your spirit and where the Holy Spirit has brought your spirit. Each Sunday in Lent we will be exploring "Spirit and Soul," looking at our spirituality and the ways we are a spiritual people. It's a great opportunity to look inward and forward as we also look back. Join us in worship as we discover our spirituality, and invite a friend, too.

Blessings to you this Lenten season!

Pastor Russ

## Moderator Moments

2021 is off to an energized start at Salem! We held our first meeting with the 2021 slate of council members on February 9 – with lively discussion of what's ahead with our continuing and newly revived ministries.

Christian Education is one of the “newly revived ministries” – this position has been vacant for some time, and although Christian Education continued at Salem, it didn’t have an official leader. Former pastor and new Salem member Chuck Wright has “stepped up to the plate,” and is looking to create new opportunities for Christian Education at Salem.

Chappell Kingsland, Salem’s gifted Music Director, joined Council to present an opportunity for Salem to host virtual concerts over the next several months. Salem members will be invited to attend (tickets and season ticket information will be coming soon!) It’s also a wonderful opportunity for Salem members to reach out into the broader community and invite friends and acquaintances to join us in what’s certain to be an amazing musical experience!

Our Communications Ministry, newly spearheaded by Krissy Berry, has been supporting Salem’s Facebook Page and Website – and is looking at some exciting new ways to “get the word out” about the welcoming and supportive Salem community.

As I said last month, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful leadership in our congregation at Salem!

## From Communications

Greetings Salem family!! When I stepped into this role as Chairperson of Communications, I thought it was just a monthly newsletter, calendar and Facebook. I was wrong! Salem hasn't had a communications committee in quite some time we required two meetings during the month of February. Phew! There was a lot to discuss and get feedback on! We first came up with a list of ways Salem communicates to its members. We were shocked to look at our list! We offer a lot of different ways to communicate with our members, whether it be in print; snail mail, newsletters, bulletin inserts. Or electronically; email, google calendar, website or Facebook. Then we shared our vision of what our committee should look like. In the coming months we hope to create structures that are simple, accurate and most importantly inviting to our current members and someday new members. How can you help? Share Salem's Facebook posts. If you don't have Facebook, share Salem's website! Talk about Salem with your neighbors, invite them to a Zoom church service! We can all be a part of this committee if we communicate with our friends and neighbors all the great things that Salem does! Have some ideas, please share!!

Krissy Berry



Communication Ministry meeting on Zoom-pictured from left to right, Chuck Wright, Pastor Russ, Michael Stice and Krissy Berry. Craig Wilderman was there but not pictured.

## Salem Christian Education

The current Christian Education Ministry Team members are: Chuck Wright, Polly Fumagalli, Rev. Russ Kirby, and Ean Oliver. We have been meeting to prepare distant, and in-person education opportunities for Elementary Sunday School, High School/Middle School Youth Fellowship, and Adult Education. In an effort to get input and ideas from parents, youth, and the congregation about the future of Christian Education at our church we have scheduled the following Zoom break-out room meetings following Sunday morning worship:

Sunday, March 7 – After worship break-out meeting for elementary parents and children, and interested members of congregation.

Sunday, March 21 – After worship break-out meeting for High School/ Middle School parents and youth, and interested members of the congregation.

We plan to develop ways to survey the congregation for input on times and content for potential Adult Education programs. If you have any suggestions for Adult Education programs please don't hesitate to contact one of our team's members.

### March Calendar:

**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)

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 7 pm: **Council Meeting** on Zoom\*

\*to join by Zoom, sign up on our website at [SalemUCCDenver.org](http://SalemUCCDenver.org)



March 1 ▶ Krissy Berry  
March 10 ▶ Linda Eggleston  
Chris Johnson  
March 12 ▶ Maria Fumagalli  
March 13 ▶ Kathy Baird  
March 17 ▶ Amy Smith  
March 29 ▶ Debra Mayhew

### Missions

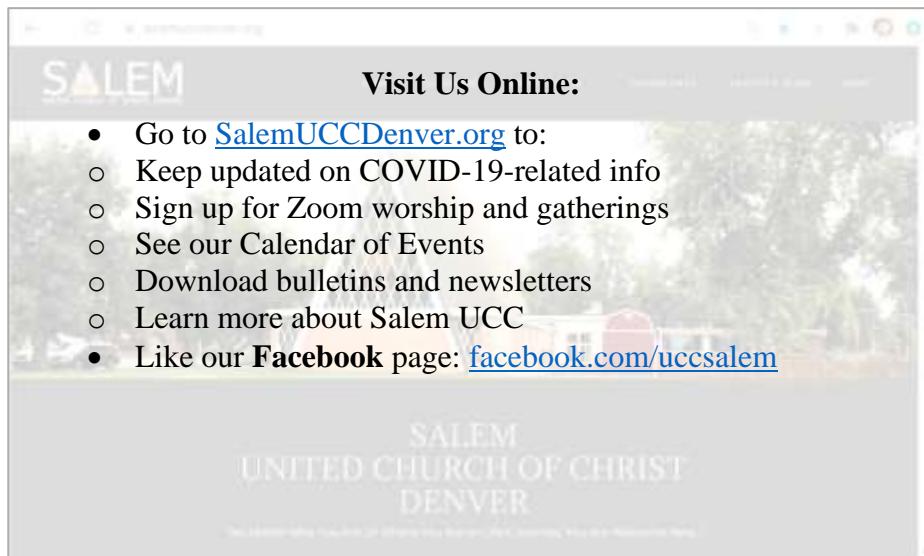
Heifer Report...Salem raised \$185.00 which was enough to buy fruit tree seedlings, honey bees, chicks and shares of a water buffalo and a heifer. Thank you, Salem!

The March Mission will be a non-perishable food drive on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-1 pm. There will be a container all of March as you enter the church to put your donations in if you can't make March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Foods will go to support Archway food bank, as well as to FISH. Please do not bring food that is expired. If you wish to make a cash donation, please mark your check on the memo line FOOD DRIVE.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the 5 for 5 UCC Mission we will support this month.

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