

# 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

**November 2020**

## **A Word From Pastor Russ**

I love snow, always have. There's something absolutely amazing about falling snow, and absolutely wonderful about fallen snow. It changes the world, softens the hard edges, slows us down a bit, and adds magic to the mundane. As I write this, we still have snow on the ground, and a touch of that magic glimmers through my window.

It's finally November of what seems like the longest year ever. With elections this month, the political divisiveness of our country, and the "third wave" of COVID-19, it looks like no matter which way any of this goes—the politics and the pandemic—the first part of 2020 may have been a cake walk compared to the last part of this year.

I feel anxious. I feel stressed. I seem to worry more about whether I remembered my mask and hand sanitizer than what my plans for Thanksgiving are. My heart hurts from not spending time in-person with friends, church members, and colleagues, and I worry Christmas will be more about social isolation than family gatherings around the Christmas tree.

We are all stressed and worn out. We are run down and broken in our own different ways, and social isolation has isolated us from the relationships we crave. We are exhausted from trying to understand one another through masks. ("What?!" must be the most-uttered word of our time, trying to hear someone through a mask and around a plexiglass barrier...). We crave softened edges in these hardened times. We long for magic because our mundane has become such work. We need spiritual snow in our lives!

That's why this month's sermon series is "Peace and Healing." We'll be talking about snow for the soul—stuff that softens the hard edges of this life, slows us down, and maybe—just maybe—adds a little much-needed magic. And if our political or pandemic strife spirals out of control, we'll need to discover how to lean on the One who really is in control. In such times, the Church should be the voice of calm and peace in the world, and we can only do this if we ourselves seek calm and peace in our lives.

In John 14:27 Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." These words are spiritual snow for our souls, a call to seek peace and healing. My prayer in these coming days is that you will find spiritual snow—peace and healing—as we navigate the rest of 2020. May your edges soften, your life slow down, and your mundane be sprinkled with magic.



*Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:25*

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Russ

## In Memoriam

Salem's beloved Betty Black passed away Monday, October 12. She was 95. We are so grateful to have enjoyed her vivacious presence and her warm and loving smile over the years, and mourn her loss with her family and friends. She will be buried alongside her husband at Fort Logan, and Salem will hold a memorial service for her this month; that date is pending. Please keep her family and friends in prayer in this time.

## Moderator Moments

Happy Thanksgiving as we begin the month of November! Salem has so many blessings and reasons to be thankful.

We are blessed and thankful as we celebrated Rev. Russ' first anniversary at the beginning of October. With his guidance, we have only just begun to create a vision for Salem and our future as a church.

This is such an exciting time for us! We are blessed and thankful for Salem's new ways to worship and be together in a meaningful and safe manner. The outdoor worship services this fall were special and the sunsets were magical. Our wonderful technology team and new equipment will continue to improve our online experiences for worship services, Bible Study sessions, community socials, meetings, etc. We are blessed and thankful for all of Salem's staff, leaders, members and friends who have graciously offered their time, talent, prayers and resources for the betterment of our church, community, state, nation and world.

In closing, one of my favorite quotes that I ponder often comes from Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

God bless, Polly Fumagalli, Moderator

## November 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)

Monday, November 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)



November 3 ▸ Lori Carroll  
▸ Camryn Smith

November 6 ▸ Randy Johnson

November 7 ▸ Lilo Kirby

November 11 ▸ Roger Neumann

November 20 ▸ Amber Smith

November 22 ▸ Jerry Gibson

November 23 ▸ Maxine Traudt

## A Moment of Your Time, Please?

Pastor Russ has been with us for a year now, and part of our commitment to our mutual ministry together is to engage in a "First Year Review of Expectations." Please take about 10 minutes to give us your constructive feedback on Pastor Russ by filling out the short survey at the end of this newsletter. Instructions are at the top of the page.

### Conference News

Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister with the Rocky Mountain Conference, has great news! The Conference received a \$10,000 grant related to Conference Recovery from Covid-19. In summary, this grant will allow the Conference to train church/leaders in basic mediation skills. This is designed to help open communication and reduce tension. Rev. Sue Artt and Rev Erin Gilmore took this training from Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. It is this group that we would be working with to train interested church leaders. Let us know if you are interested.

Equipping for the election: All over the country, people of faith are rising up to defend democracy by being vigilant spiritual witnesses at the polls. There are strategies for monitoring precincts, best practices for voter care and tools for crisis management. This webinar on 10/25/20 was led by Billy M. Honor, Director of Faith Organization for New Georgia Project.

October was UCC Pastor Appreciation Month. Let's all send a card to Rev Russ Kirby to show our appreciation for his devotion to our church. Be creative with your card!

Deborah Barnard, Vice Moderator

### A Note from Lois

I would like to express my gratitude to Salem Church for all the love and support and help through the past few years. This has been a very difficult time and I would not have made it this far without the support from Salem. Not only leaving Ruth and Eric's was an upheaval for me, but for them as well. Please continue to pray and support us.

With much love and gratitude,

Lois

### A Note from Deb Mayhew

A big THANKS goes out to Camyrn, Eli and Beth Hansen for all the hard work done to change, refresh, clean and throw out stuff that has accumulated in the 2 Sunday school rooms. They moved cabinets, cleaned the floors and yes even laid a few tiles!! There are new painted walls a new white board, blinds and the cabinets are all organized!! Thank you Thank you Thank you. The "Nursery" room is now a new storage room!! The Sunday school room/storage room is now an actual "Sunday school room" ready for children to come together and have some great discussions!!! The pic-n-pac containers have been moved to the back hallway and we will go through what needs to be kept and tossed before the next cookie pic-n-pac!! Thank you, Chris, for working at moving them to their new home.

The library is now open and free from all the items stored for the time Beth, Camyrn, Eli, (I know Norma and Todd helped too) change, clean, repair, refresh the rooms and now they are ready for use!! You all ROCK!!

Thank you!!!

### Outdoor Worship, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7



## Missions Moments

UCC churches are participating in “The Sock Drive” the month of November. Salem will keep this as its mission along with Salem Stewardship. Socks are the #1 most requested item by the homeless. Please mark your memo line on your check “socks” if you send your offering to Nate. If you come to Salem during the month there will be a bin in the corner of the Narthex where you can drop them off.

We will distribute the socks to Archway Housing as well as an organization that serves the homeless. Your checks will be used to buy socks. Socks will be distributed in time for Christmas.

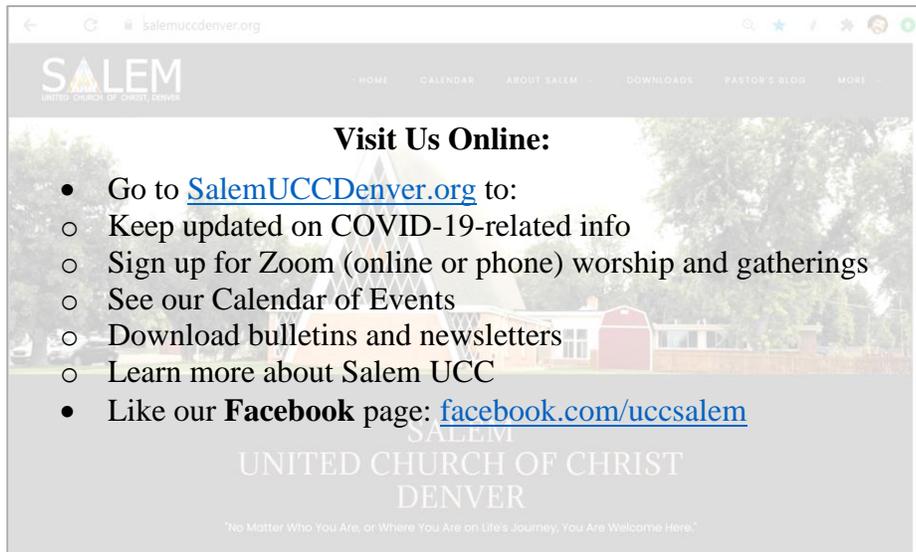
Going forward, contemplate how your stewardship to Salem will look. Salem can remain an active Mission Church despite the pandemic.

## A Different Kind of Thanksgiving!

Unfortunately, we must cancel the much-loved Thanksgiving Dinner due to health concerns with COVID-19.

However, as part of our community outreach and to celebrate Thanksgiving in a different and fun way, we would like to collect canned food items (especially meats and beans -- and nothing past the expiration date, please) on Saturday, November 14, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Please deliver the cans to Salem's front porch and we will take them to one of our local food banks that same afternoon. Please note that in case of bad weather, the backup date will be on Saturday, November 21, from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Thank you for your generosity!



The screenshot shows the website for Salem UCC Denver. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME, CALENDAR, ABOUT SALEM, DOWNLOADS, PASTOR'S BLOG, and MORE. The main content area is titled "Visit Us Online:" and contains a list of options:

- Go to [SalemUCCDenver.org](https://SalemUCCDenver.org) to:
  - Keep updated on COVID-19-related info
  - Sign up for Zoom (online or phone) worship and gatherings
  - See our Calendar of Events
  - Download bulletins and newsletters
  - Learn more about Salem UCC
- Like our **Facebook** page: [facebook.com/uccsalem](https://facebook.com/uccsalem)

The footer of the website reads: "SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DENVER" and "No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here."

### Salem United Church of Christ

5300 East Florida Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222  
Phone: (303) 759-4649

**Pastor: Rev. Russ Kirby, M.Div.**

Phone: 303.759.4649

Email: [SalemUnitedChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:SalemUnitedChurch@yahoo.com)

Website: [SalemUCCDenver.org](https://SalemUCCDenver.org)

**Music Director: Chappell Kingsland**

**Administrative Assistant: Debbie Gordy**

## **Salem Pastoral Survey (November 2020)**

As part of our process of providing positive feedback and suggestions for improvement, please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Feel free to write additional comments at the bottom of the page. Please complete this survey on or before Sunday, November 15, 2020. You may return it by mail to Kathleen King (10250 E Kentucky Drive, Aurora CO 80247), or scan and email it ([kathleen.king@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.king@comcast.net)). This is a confidential survey; however, please include your name on the survey if you would like personal follow up. Thank you for your input and comments!

On a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest, please circle the number that best reflects your experience:

**The sermons Pastor Russ gives are meaningful and thought-provoking to me.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**I like Pastor Russ' underlying theology as a pastor.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**Pastor Russ is available for me, or he responds promptly, when I need to communicate with him.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**Pastor Russ reaches out to our members who need extra support.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**Pastor Russ has actively participated in and supported church events/activities.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**Pastor Russ has provided effective guidance and leadership.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**Pastor Russ has done an effective job in moving Salem's Sunday services, Bible study, and essential church meetings from in-person to Zoom.**

1            2            3            4            5            Don't know/doesn't apply to me

**The one thing that I have liked best about Pastor Russ's ministry with us at Salem is:**

**If I could make one suggestion for Pastor Russ's ministry with us at Salem, then it would be:**

Please use this space and the back of this page for any additional comments, or to include your name if you would like follow up from someone on Pastoral Relations Committee.