

THE CROSSROADS

February 20, 2019

Love One Another

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. - 1John 4:7 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

A few days ago, we received an email from a church family that warmed our hearts. "We were just having brunch," the email read, "and discussing the LGBTQ issues raised for the church at the conference and realized we didn't have any idea what Salem's position was on this issue. We know it's a 'loaded' question . . . has Salem taken any position here?" We love it when people are willing to talk about tough issues together over a friendly Sunday brunch. These are exactly the sorts of conversations between spouses and friends, parents and children, neighbors and faith communities that help us to think through challenging questions. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, envisioned these types of discussions when he encouraged his followers to use scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to think through the 'loaded' questions we would face as a church. Loaded questions, and this is not the first one the church has ever faced, have no simple answers. Scripture, tradition, reason and experience help us to find answers to tough questions, but even when utilizing these guiding principles, different people may come to different answers.



Many people are asking if Salem has a position on this issue. Technically, Salem cannot have an official position on the issue. **As the primary legislative body, General Conference is the only entity with the authority to speak on behalf of the entire United Methodist Church.** Thus, the special General Conference that meets later this month in St. Louis is the only body that can speak on this issue for the whole church. What is this General Conference, and what might they say on the issue? Elected delegates will be traveling from all over the world to discuss an issue that has been debated for over 40 years. General Conference will be meeting specifically for one reason, to discuss and vote on "The Way Forward" related to LGBTQ inclusion. The Way Forward addresses our conversations of same-gender marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ persons.

"We are called to welcome, to love, to serve. We are called to connect ALL people with God's extravagant love."

"The Way Forward" will bring to the floor three proposals:

1. The Traditional Model (which basically keeps things the way they are).
2. The One Church Model (which, in short, says that Annual Conferences, Churches, and Pastors can agree to disagree on this issue and move forward exercising individual conscience. This model finds middle ground by allowing conferences and churches to adopt different rules and policies on these issues.)
3. Connectional Conference Model (which basically restructures the United Methodist Denomination allowing traditional, unity, and progressive conferences based on theology rather than geography.)

Salem will not be voting on these proposals. Your clergy will not be voting on these proposals. You will not be asked to vote on these proposals. Only the delegates to the General Conference will be voting. We will share outcomes from the General Conference votes with you as we learn them, and we will work together to determine how those decisions might impact our community.

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FROM PASTOR TERRI

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Love One Another Cont.

No matter how they vote, we are called to be the church. Salem is a welcoming congregation, and we strive to be inclusive in all ways. We are called to welcome, to love, to serve. We are called to connect ALL people with God's extravagant love.

Sometimes when we are faced with a difficult issue we think of the lawyer who challenged Jesus to tell him the most important of all the commandments. Jesus answered him clearly, and his answer hangs on Pastor Deb's office wall. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two command-

ments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 In the Gospel of John, Jesus says it another way, "a new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Love one another.

When faced with a tough question, we try to use this command as the basis for thinking about an answer. Study scripture and the traditions of the church. Use your reason and learn from your own experiences and the experiences of others. Talk to people about it over brunch. Listen to other people's stories. Ask questions in your Connect Group. These conversations help us to learn and to grow. Know that your clergy are learning and growing too. We

don't have all the answers either. But through it all, we hope that the church remembers the answer Jesus gave when asked about the most important thing, "love one another." Pray for one another. Serve one another. Listen to one another. Love one another.

With Love,
Pastor Terri



OUTREACH



EPWORTH
Children & Family Services

Outreach Ministers, Young & Old Burst into Service & Fellowship at Epworth's Youth Drop-In Center!

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 59 Salem members, families, and friends, put ministry into action by becoming the hands, feet, and love of Christ at Epworth's Youth Drop-In Center. They participated in the "Make-A-Meal, Give-A-Meal" event. Guess what? Not only did they produce enough food to feed 320 needy Youth in St Louis over the upcoming months, they also created portable bags of hygiene supplies and snacks for 80 Youth who need those items right now!

"Outreach Ministers, did you say?" Yes! Each person who participated demonstrated God's love by taking action and trusting that "nothing is impossible with God" [Luke 37:1]. Here's what they said when asked if they felt God's love there that day.... "Yes! ...

- in fellowship
- through giving
- everyone working together for a good cause is God's love in its fullest
- by helping a lot of people
- all the helping hands
- everyone was so nice and eager to help
- seeing smiles and hearing laughter showed so much joy!
- the outreach to the community to help Epworth provide to the youth and spread God's love

These Outreach Ministers, ages 6 to 60 and beyond, agreed that they would go a step further, by inviting others to join them the next time there is an opportunity to help in the community. Want to know why? "It was family-friendly and hands-on." "Wanting others to be able to help people too." "The people and how fun it was." "I would invite others because I had such a great time!"

So, stay up-to-date with Salem and The Connection for opportunities to become an Outreach Minister with others eager to help and "Connect All People to God's Extravagant Love." You are officially invited! Want to know more about Epworth Children and Family Services, a local agency with Methodist heritage, providing services to Youth and Families throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area? Visit Epworth.org. Browse and sign-up for outreach opportunities at Epworth through our website at salemstlouis.com, or contact Salem member, Lynne Cannon, lynneannon@outlook.com, for more information on how you can make a difference.



March 6, 7:00 pm
Salem Sanctuary

Join us for a special worship service on March 6 at 7:00 pm in the Salem Sanctuary. The service will feature an imposition of ashes, a variety of musical selections, Holy Communion, and message. All are welcome to join us as we mark the beginning of Lent. Transportation from The Connection will be available. Contact the office to sign up.



Visit salemstlouis.com for details

HOLY SMOKERS

MEN'S MINISTRY BBQ FUNDRAISER

10LB ROAST - \$50 // 5LB ROAST - \$25

ORDER FOR YOUR FAMILY OR DONATE A ROAST
PICK UP ORDERS ON MARCH 24

ORDER ONLINE AT SALEMSTLOUIS.COM
OR CONTACT JOE SWAN

Salem United Methodist and Tate's Chapel United Methodist men's groups will be BBQ'ing Pork Boston Butt Roasts at Salem on March 23-24. You have the option to purchase a 10lb BB roast (\$50) or a 5lb BB roast (\$25). You can pick up your wrapped & sacked BBQ at Salem beginning at 9:00 am on Sunday, March 24. Thirty roasts of BBQ will be donated to: Haven Street ministry, Kingdom House, and Epworth Children & Family Services.

Summer Fun for Kids

Vacation Bible School 2019

June 3-7 // 9:00 am-Noon // 3yrs-5th grade // \$30
Mid-County // Register at www.salemstlouis.com

At ROAR Vacation Bible School children will have tons of fun during this epic African adventure as they play games, sing songs, explore the Bible, make friends, and more.

Summer 2019 Eagle Lake Day Camp

June 17-21 // 9:00 am-4:00 pm // \$200 // Mid-County
Register at www.eaglelakecamps.com/salemstlouis

Children will enjoy fun activities like tie dye, capture the flag, gaga ball, water inflatables, and bungee trampoline! Exceptional counselors will help your child(ren) explore more about their faith and lead them in lots of fun experiences. Early drop-off and late pick-up available.

COMMUNITY

ZEALOUS



Justice Ministry Book of the Month

Each month Salem's Social Justice Ministry presents a featured book of the month. One copy of each book will be available in the Salem library. February's book of the month is *Zealous: A Practical Guide to Social Justice* by Mike and Danae Yankoski.

Practical Guide to Social Justice
Mike and Danae Yankoski
Executive Editors
Foreword by Eugene Peterson



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SIGN UP TODAY

Do you want to serve our community? We're looking for volunteers to help at our upcoming Children's Ministry special events. Options available for both youth and adults. Visit salemstlouis.com for more details or contact Patty Peterson at (314) 991-0546 or patty@salemstlouis.com.

Breakfast with Bunny: Salem (April 13)

Vacation Bible School: Salem (June 3-7) & Kingdom House (July 8-12)

Eagle Lake Day Camp on Location: Salem (June 17-21)



Breakfast With Bunny: April 13, 9:00-11:00 am

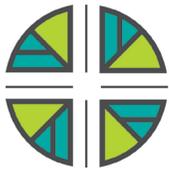
Cost: \$8 (adults) & \$5 (children)

Join us for Breakfast With Bunny on Saturday, April 13, at 9:00 am. All children are invited to join us for a story time, pancake breakfast, balloon artist, and an outdoor (weather permitting) or indoor Easter egg hunt. Please bring your camera and Easter baskets. Register at salemstlouis.com. All are welcome. Invite your friends to join us for morning of fun for the entire family.

OUTREACH TEAM

Hello from the Outreach Team (formerly known as the Missions Team)! When we think of Missions, we may think of specific people, "missionaries," who are called to serve. The name change came from discussion of how to reflect the team's mission statement to Demonstrate God's love through connecting, educating and engaging to reduce poverty and strengthen spiritual maturity. We want to be clear that we are all called to reach out to our neighbors, our community and our world. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

The Outreach Team is working all year to provide ways for us at Salem/The Connection to make a difference in people's lives. We need your help! Together, we can build relationships to create positive and lasting impact with individuals and our partnering organizations. The current team members are Bill McClure, Donna Yakel, Karen Knoll Puyo, Kate Steele, Kathy Farache, Lynne Cannon, Mary Jarvis, Rich Sutton, Sean McIntyre, Susan McConnell, and Tim Jarvis. We look forward to growing in relationship as we share God's love with others and ask that you prayerfully consider the many ways that you can be involved, and Save the Date for the next SERVE Day on May 4!



SALEM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Return Service Requested
February 20, 2019

ONE CHURCH - TWO LOCATIONS

MID-COUNTY

1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
(314) 991-0546
www.salemstlouis.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am Chapel
9:30 am Modern
10:45 am Traditional

9:30 am Classes for adults & children (2 years-6th grade)

8:30-11:45 am Nursery for infants & toddlers

WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

6:00-6:30 pm Chapel

SOUTH-CITY

6701 Virginia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63111
(314) 256-0545
www.connectingnow.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 am Celebration

10:30 am Kids Connection for children & Nursery for infants

SAVE THE DATE

February 22: Praying the Way Forward Service, Mid-County
March 2: Holy Smokers Breakfast, 8:00 am, Mid-County
March 6: Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 pm, Mid-County
March 16: ACC Concert, 7:30 pm, Mid-County
March 24: Holy Smokers BBQ Pick-Up Day, Mid-County
April 13: Breakfast with Bunny, 9:00 am, Mid-County

For more details on upcoming events visit us online at salemstlouis.com.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

- > Listen to Messages
- > Calendar & Sign-Ups
- > Read the Bible
- > Give
- > Connect Card

Search
Salem Church - St. Louis

