




SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT
September 15, 2021

*CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE*

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE
- COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS EVENT
SEPTEMBER 18 - REGISTER NOW
- IMPACT! STUDENT MINISTRY EVENT
SEPTEMBER 24 - REGISTER NOW
- OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the entire Salem UMC board, I hope this letter finds you well, and I thank you for your commitment to our church and our mission. The last 18 months have been challenging for us all, and we continue to face more challenges ahead. I want to express how incredibly grateful we are for the tireless work of our pastors, staff, volunteers, and congregants; because of your efforts, our mission and outreach programs have thrived even during these unprecedented times.

I would also like to welcome all the members of Salem's newest location: the Salem virtual community. We continue to see more and more engagement from new worshipers through this platform, some of whom have even begun to join us physically on Sunday. No matter where, when, or how you choose to worship with us, we look forward to incorporating your gifts and faith within our community.

The Salem Board is here to represent you, the congregation, and as a part of this effort we would like to undertake more routine conversation and create open lanes of communication. We have had to make some difficult decisions as a board since the start of the pandemic. Like all difficult decisions, they have been met with mixed emotions. I want to assure you that the Board has continued to place the physical and spiritual health of our church at the heart of every decision we have made.

To help us communicate more fully with the congregation, we have a dedicated email address: salemboard@salemstlouis.com. This email address will allow you to share your thoughts and suggestions directly with the Board. Additionally, we intend to post photos of the board to the website so that you can recognize us within the congregation and communicate with us in person as well.

Again, thank you for your continued faith, engagement, and generosity to Salem and our mission.

In Christ,
John Koenig, Board Chairperson

DWELLING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- REV. TERRI SWAN



September usually marks the beginning of a new season, Fall! Fall often marks many new things, like the beginning of a new school year, and the return to church and Sunday school. New seasons always bring new opportunities.

We began a new sermon series for September entitled "Dwell." Psalm 91: 1-2 gives us an image of what it means to dwell with God.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Recently my granddaughter Addie came to stay with me for a whole week. There was not a corner of my home she did not touch. In fact, she left a trail of toys, clothes, and crumbs for me to track her! Joe and I have had a wonderful time just being with her. What I found most endearing were the times she would just say, "Hey Tee Tee, I love you!" or "Papa, I love you!" This little mess-maker trusts us to love her with the same devotion she loves us, and what she doesn't realize is that we love her even more!

A tidy home and a quiet environment have often become my comfort in the midst of this messy season we have found ourselves in over the last few years. Yet, relationships are rarely tidy! Being with Addie always reminds me that she is more important than anything or any place in my home could ever be. My

mother-in-law used to say, often when her grandchildren were visiting and something would get broken, "that is just stuff and stuff can get replaced."

The shelter the psalmists speaks of isn't made of stone or wood, or covered chairs! The shelter is a relationship with God that covers and rescues us from the storms of life. A relationship that shouts out, "I love you."

Have you found yourself sheltered under the wrong source of refuge? "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) In this relationship we abide and dwell with the one that can calm any storm and tell the wind to cease. And it is only in this relationship that we find rest.

Can you name the false shelters in your life?

As we begin a new season, I invite you to an intentional time of dwelling with God. New Bible studies and Connect groups are beginning, pray about joining one this year. There are Bible Apps that have a plethora of reading plans and devotionals for your daily reading, like YouVersion. I invite you to find a time to read God's Word and dwell in His presence. The mess of this life will still be there, but you will find that it is easier to pick up the pieces and the crumbs.

I pray that you will find shelter – the unshakable, steady strong shelter of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Dwelling with you,
Pastor Terri

SALEM AND THE CONNECTION
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

FREE EVENT

DATE « Saturday, September 18: 10:00 am - Noon

LOCATION « Salem United Methodist Church

REGISTER « Register online at salemstlouis.com or call (314) 991-0546



FEATURING
NIKKI LERNER
Culture Coach



IMPACT!

SEPTEMBER 24, 6:00-9:00 PM
6-12TH GRADE

» SIGN UP ONLINE
@SALEMSTLOUIS.COM



OUTREACH UPDATE

- ROY JONES

These words from Matthew 25 have been inspiring me since I began working at Salem this year: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see



you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The only way for Outreach to work is for us to bring, find, and get JOY-in it! Without JOY, none of these works will work. The way we serve others is an important part of how we connect all people with God's extravagant love! One of our volunteers said it so well recently, "Even though the pandemic shifted How we serve, the priority of serving is still paramount. Feeding those who are hungry in a safe way, & trying to provide other services as well, as we identify the next format of service & what is truly needed in Carondelet. I know a shift is coming. Not just meals & toiletries, socks or blankets, but new ways to connect folks & raise some awareness..." — R.A. [Salem-Connection member/Haven St. volunteer]

I'd love for you to join us as a volunteer at Haven Street (sign up online) or help support the ministry with a special monetary gift (personal hygiene items and cases of bottled water are always needed). But I'd also love to have you join us for the Connection Block Party and get to know our neighborhood better and celebrate this part of the Salem community. The event is October 23rd from 1:00-3:00 pm and we could use extra volunteers to help with set-up: 11:00 am-1:00 pm and breakdown from 3:00-4:00pm (sign up here). We'll have great music, games and food from our own Holy Smokers – come join us and celebrate Salem's work in the Carondelet neighborhood!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

- EMILY SMITH



Hello church families! As school is back in session and we are ramping up and making plans for the fall we have some awesome opportunities we are excited to share with you all. First, we are welcoming all students from nursery through 5th grade back for age level KidsConnect each Sunday from 9:30 am- 10:30 am and an option for fellowship for kids during the 11:00 am service as well. Nursery care and PreK will still be located in the same classrooms and for elementary kiddos we will have a room for K-2nd graders and another for 3rd-5th graders with age specific content.

As previously mentioned, we have adopted a new fantastic curriculum for KidsConnect groups. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 12th at 9:30 am. Growkids curriculum follows a sequence of God's story and within 3 years, each part of the Bible is covered, this will give kids a great foundation for their work and studies during Confirmation. Each unit has a theme, unique focus, activities, lessons, and includes family involvement elements to bring their learning home with them each week. Our first unit is Famous! A unit diving into Solomon, here is the description of the Unit from the curriculum: "Lots of kids dream about becoming famous... and why shouldn't they? It sounds awesome to have fans who celebrate your wins with you! On the flip side, it would be pretty tough to have people always watching, even when you're not having the best day. In Famous, we are going to talk about a family in the Bible who lived in such a spotlight. Through their stories, kids will learn that no matter our celebrity status, we can make things right, God gives us friends, we can ask for God's guidance, we can give God what we have. Fame and fans may come and go, but you don't need to be liked by everyone when you're loved by God!"

We have some amazing volunteers to teach KidsConnect but in order to keep their commitment to once a month, we need more teachers! If you or anyone you know is interested in a once a month commitment to teaching in the K-2nd grade or 3rd-5th grade please reach out and we can get you plugged in!

We have also started a new Parents Morning Out ministry on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:00 am-Noon. Our first group went wonderfully, we love to fill our space with laughter and play. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 6th, be sure to sign up online! Our next big event is Trunk or Treat! On Saturday October 30th, we welcome families to Salem Mid-County for trunk or treating, games, and exciting prizes, more details to come!

VOLUNTEER IN KIDSCONNECT

Make a difference in the life of a child! Consider serving once a month on Sunday mornings at KidsConnect. All lessons, materials, and training are provided. Contact Emily Smith for more details (314) 991-0546 or emily@salemstlouis.com.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss out! Join the Salem St. Louis Parents group on Facebook for upcoming events, parenting resources, and more! Just visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/salemstlouisparents> to join the group.



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YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Your ongoing giving helps us continue to be the church in our community. Together we can make an impact in the lives of our neighbors and continue the ministry of spreading the extravagant love of God to all people.

Give Online // visit salemstlouis.com/give

Secure, quick, and easy. One-time and recurring gifts may be set up using a bank account, debit, or credit card.

Text-To-Give // Text "Give" to (314) 888-9160

Salem App // Search Salem Church - St. Louis

PayPal // Go to your PayPal account and send your donation to the email address: info@salemstlouis.com.

Mail // Send checks by mail to the Salem church office

NEED HELP? LET US KNOW.

INFO@SALEMSTLOUIS.COM // (314) 991-0546
VISIT: WWW.SALEMSTLOUIS.COM/GIVING-HELP



MID-COUNTY

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

SOUTH-CITY

6701 Virginia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63111
(314) 256-0545
theconnectionstlouis.com

**PLEASE SEND ALL MAIL FOR BOTH SITES TO
THE MID-COUNTY ADDRESS. THANK YOU!**

WORSHIP IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

In-Person Worship Schedule

Mid-County: 9:30 am - Modern Worship (Multipurpose Room)

Mid-County: 11:00 am - Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

South-City: 11:00 am - Modern Worship (The Connection Sanctuary)

Nursery care available at Mid-County. Register online.

Online Worship Schedule

Sunday, 9:30 am - Modern Worship Livestream

Sunday, 11:00 am - Traditional Worship Livestream

