



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT
 MAY 18, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
 EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- BEING A METHODIST
- CHURCH HISTORY
- WHAT'S NEXT?
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CONNECT WITH US



SUMMER GIVING

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

If you ask anyone in the church or the faith-based non-profit sector, they will probably tell you that summer tends to be a season of low giving. It's not because people care less in the summer, it's just matter of logistics. We tend to travel more in the summer, and as a result we may not be in worship and reminded to give as often. We get distracted. This has been historically true at Salem as well.

Some organizations simply plan for this downturn in giving and lower their program ministry in the summer months. That is NOT true at Salem. For us, summer is a huge season of ministry and outreach. We host Vacation Bible School at our Mid-County Site for kids throughout the community. We host six weeks of Freedom School programming at our South-City Site to help kids learn to read and to ensure they are getting healthy meals while school is not in session. Our musical teams are busy not just onsite, but off-site as well, contributing to special events and worship services with our partner agencies to spread Good News far beyond our physical campus. The Holy Smokers are smoking meat on June-teenth. The baking teams are making meals for hungry teens at Epworth's Drop-In Center. Haven Street not only serves meals to hungry families, but it also provides a literal haven for them with personal hygiene items, air conditioning, and summer reading for kids. Our work does not stop in summer, and our giving to support that work need not stop either. Thanks to our new online worship and giving platforms, no matter where you are you can worship <https://salemstlouis.online.church> and give <https://bit.ly/givesalemstlouis> online to stay connected and be a part of this important summer work. I encourage you to simply make your online gift recurring, with the frequency and amount that fit your giving strategy. This allows you to "set it and forget it," and allows us to plan our summer ministry with confidence. Thanks to you, we never stop serving in summer!

WORSHIP ONLINE



GIVE ONLINE



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE UNITED METHODIST?

- REV. TERRI SWAN



I come from a long line of Methodists. My mother and father are United Methodists, my grandmothers and grandfathers were United Methodists. United Methodism is deeply rooted in my family tree. One of the things I have always valued about our church is its understanding of

GRACE! This grace is indeed amazing grace, as the old hymn puts to melody. It is a saving grace and a sufficient grace. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9) Grace is not a reward for the righteous; It is not something we have to work for or earn. Grace is a gift. It is offered to everyone, and it changes lives. Grace has made my family who we are, and it strengthens our efforts to love more like Jesus each year. Grace never lets us go.

Sometimes I just think of my family as Methodist, but I want to stress today why we are, and will remain, United Methodists. The United Methodist Church is founded in this Wesleyan theology of grace. It is anchored in scripture, based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives. It is a place where all God's children are welcome, not just some. Now we don't always agree on how to interpret scripture, and that's ok. United Methodists look to scripture first, then to tradition, reason, and experience to help us interpret. We study and debate and discuss and pray. It's why we value small groups and ongoing education so highly.

United Methodists also believe there is no personal holiness without social holiness. John Wesley, the founder of our church, said "The world is my parish!" That explains our focus on outreach and mission, nutrition and literacy, social justice, diversity in our pulpits, and our congregation, and our commitment to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) which allows us to work with other United Methodists around the world to do lifesaving and transforming work in times of crisis.

I wholeheartedly agree with Missouri Bishop Robert Farr's claim that we have the best approach to the Gospel. Not the only approach, of course, but the one that stirs my heart and calls me to action. The one that makes me a better person--a thinking person,

a growing person, a compassionate person. We are rooted in scripture, centered in Christ, and united in the essentials. We are a denomination that allows for unity in Christ and diversity in the kingdom.

You may have heard or read things over the last few months describing a new denomination forming, called the Global Methodist Church. These churches are leaving the UMC to form a denomination founded, in part, by the Wesleyan Covenant Association, a coalition of self-described "orthodox, evangelical" Methodists. This denomination was formed from a difference of opinion regarding not only marriage and ordination but whether we all need to think alike to do church together. When there is schism in any organization, there always seems to be miscommunication about what really is at the heart of the schism. Some have even claimed the United Methodist Church does not believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and we all know that is NOT true. If you have questions about what you have heard or read, please reach out to me. Pastor Deb will be visiting some of our small groups to answer questions, let her know if you would like her to speak to your group.

Salem is a United Methodist Church and will remain a United Methodist Church. Our clergy are United Methodist, and all intend to remain United Methodist. Our United Methodist heritage is at the heart of everything we strive to do to "connect ALL People with God's extravagant love."

i wonder...

Vacation Bible School
June 6-10, 9:00 am - Noon
\$35 per child
3 years & potty trained - 5th grade
Early drop off is available.

SCAN ME

WHAT IS OUR "NEXT"?

- TRACY BAUTISTA

SALEM LEADERSHIP BOARD, VICE-CHAIR

The Salem UMC Leadership Board recently completed the annual Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Evaluation process. In this yearly review, the Board reflected on the celebrations of the last year including our return to in-person worship, our growing online community, and our stronger-than-ever impact in Nutrition and Literacy ministries. We also contemplated the challenges of the last year such as the longer-than-we-all-expected impacts of the pandemic and the resulting changes in our attitudes, priorities, and worldviews.

With both the celebrations and challenges in our minds, we prayerfully considered "What is our 'Next?'" and identified the following goals to propel us toward our vision of "connecting all people with God's extravagant love."

- 1) Strengthen engagement and communications to further our outreach and ministry
- 2) Create opportunities to identify and remove unconscious and potentially systemic biases, enabling stronger and deeper connections across all people
- 3) Identify, align, and unleash each member of the congregation's spiritual gifts, skills, and passions to support our shared vision

We are each being invited forward in different ways to serve God, our church, our community, and the world. As you read and reflect upon the goals above, we invite you to consider and discuss: Which goal resonates most for you? What about the goal speaks to you?

Where do you feel God "nudging" you? As we're navigating the post-Covid environment, what is your "Next?" One way to help figure this out is to be in worship this month (onsite or online!) for our "Alive" series as our pastors focus on how we can faithfully serve our church and our world. On May 22 there will even be a Serve Day designed to help you find a new way to serve. Check it out!

Then the Lord answered me and said, Write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet so that a runner can read it. There is still a vision for the appointed time; it testifies to the end; it does not deceive. If it delays, wait for it; for it is surely coming; it will not be late. --Habakkuk 2:2-3

Please join me, our staff, and the Salem Leadership Board as we lean with clear vision into our "Next" during this post-pandemic time.

CHURCH HISTORY

- ELIZABETH TERRY

SALEM ARCHIVIST



Ludwig Jacoby kept fantastic records when he founded our church in 1841. Salem's Archives houses numerous books, ledgers, and documents which narrate the story of our beginning. These treasures, carefully written in old German script, have been partially translated.

These records reveal that Sunday School was rigorous! In 1849, the board of directors voted that "...any child who leaves the classroom more than twice or for more than 5 minutes shall not receive a ticket." Students with good attendance or successful religious memorization received tickets to be redeemed for an ABC Book, New Testament, or song book.

Membership to the Sunday School Society was exclusive for those who paid yearly dues: 25 cents for men and 12 ½ cents for women. Sunday School teachers were expected to canvas the neighborhood for children who might join their class. Teachers were also encouraged to develop a relationship with students' families, visiting their homes to ensure they had the proper religious reading materials. The superintendent's annual report for 1849 reported 140 pupils and 34 teachers.

Translating Salem's German documents is an ongoing process. We can't wait to learn what's else is revealed in our church's early history!



**\$10,426
EASTER OFFERING**

This year's Easter offering was designated for Nutrition and Literacy programs in 2022. Salem is committed to meeting the underserved needs of our community with food and the love of Jesus.



**HOLY WEEK AND
EASTER WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

- 328** Palm Sunday Worship
- 107** Holy Thursday Worship
- 146** Good Friday Worship
- 1010** Easter Sunday Worship



**CELEBRATING
LENT & EASTER**

- 177** Easter Hop Participants
- 12** Giving Up Racism
Lenten Study Participants
- 22** Lenten Prayer
Labrynth Participants
- 38** Easter Sunday
Hospitality Volunteers



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

- 88** Weekly Online Readers
- 98** Holy Week Online Viewers

**E
A
S
T
E
R

2
0
2
2**



1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: (314) 991-0546
Fax: (314) 991-1242
Web: www.salemstlouis.com
Email: info@salemstlouis.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 2013



CONNECT GROUPS

Discover a small group that fits your life.
Visit www.salemstlouis.com for more details.

We need each other! You are welcome to try out a few groups before choosing the best one for you. Visit salemstlouis.com for details, call the office (314) 991-0546, or contact Liz Rea at reasatsalem@gmail.com for help finding a group that fits for you.

SHARE A PRAYER REQUEST



SCAN ME

Did you know you can share prayer requests with our staff and prayer team? We regularly share a prayer list with our prayer team and staff, who will pray for your request, and will contact you if you request follow-up care.

<p>MID-COUNTY 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131 (314) 991-0546 salemstlouis.com</p>	<p>SOUTH-CITY 6701 Virginia Avenue St. Louis, MO 63111 (314) 256-0545 theconnectionstlouis.com</p>
--	---

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)

Online Worship Schedule Sundays or Anytime On-Demand
9:30 am - Modern Worship Livestream
11:00 am - Traditional Worship Livestream

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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.

- 1 WEB: SALEMSTLOUIS.COM
- 2 TEXT: "GIVE" TO (314) 888-9160
- 3 APP: SALEMSTLOUIS
- 4 MAIL: TO THE SALEM CHURCH OFFICE



SCAN ME