

THE SALEM TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2011



SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

No matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!

5300 East Florida Avenue

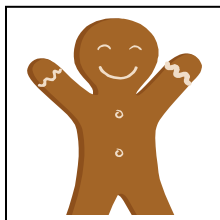
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Hall (revthomashall@yahoo.com) Ministers: All members of Salem

HOLIDAY COOKIE PIK N' PAK COOKIE SALE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 8:30 AM TO 1 PM.



It's Pic-n-Pak time at Salem. Members have been asked to make homemade Christmas cookies and deliver them to the church on Friday, December 10th or by 7:30 am on Saturday, December 10th. The sale begins at 8:30 am. The tables will be full of the best cookies; containers will be available; excitement will prevail and the sale begins. This is just a reminder of our last fund raiser of 2011. Small flyers are available for you to share with your friends. Santa will be present for pictures. Cost is \$2.50 for a 4 x 6.

AHHHHHH..... THE UNEXPECTED!

Experience the unexpected Sunday December 18, 2011 as the Sunday school classes present their adaptation of the Christmas story. We will begin our worship in the community room with coffee & cookies. But beware! The unexpected is around every corner. Share this time with our youth, your family & invite your friends.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2 PM

People will meet at the church to go caroling around Salem's neighborhood. If you have a special friend or would like us to carol at your home, let us know. People will return to the church for warm apple cider and cookies. The Youth Group invites everyone to join them! Dress warmly!

SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS 7 PM

Salem will hold one service on Christmas Eve, December 24 beautiful service includes reading of the Christmas story, Carols and special music. Come, bring the family and soloist again is Lauren Germinario who will sing "O Holy The choir will also be singing. Invite the whole family.



beginning at 7 pm. The singing Christmas children. Our guest Night" and "Ave Maria." Refreshments follow.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

We will hold our regular service of worship on Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day at 9:30 am. It will be a briefer service, but the joy and warmth of the Christmas event will be present and evident. We'll be singing the traditional carols and a very brief story sermon will be heard.

LEAF RAKING

Join us as we rake the leaves around the church on Sat. Dec. 10. Stop in for the cookie sale too. We'll meet at 8:30 am. Bring rakes and some leaf bags.

NEW YEAR'S DAY GATHERING SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2 PM.

Join us on Sunday, January 1 for taking down the Christmas decorations. Because it is a Sunday, the Korean Presbyterian Church and the So. Asia Church meets. We'll come in at 2 pm to take the decorations down and then go to a 3:30 pm movie of our choosing.

FROM YOUR MODERATOR....Kathy Carroll

Council has set a date for the annual meeting at the end of January. Between now and then we are searching for people interested in having the honor to serve as your representatives for a few positions.

Council representative for the Personnel Ministry and the Vice Moderator were the only two positions not originally filled when the bylaws were approved so, those two positions are open. Despite this, the Personnel Ministry is very active. The Worship Ministry representative is open after the death of Julie McHenry. Open for the new term will also be the Moderator position.

These past 8 months have been interesting, exciting and challenging as we learn to work with the new bylaws and the new ministries. We are not by any means experts in doing this but, we are getting there. We are open to new ideas and methods. With the new bylaws, the duties, goals and missions of each ministry were more defined and focused. We hope this helped to clarify the positions. Information on each were shared with the congregation this past spring but if you are in need of a review, we are more than happy to provide that information.

The point is to serve God and community with this church's mission statement as our guide. It is truly an honor to do this work; with this group of people in this church.

That being said, if you have an interest and or a talent to share; we invite and welcome you to contact a member of the current council; we can give you more specifics on the positions and ministries. This speaks to not only Members of Salem for council positions; but also any person interested in helping any of the ministries. You do not need to be a Member of this church to serve God through our ministries. We need you if you are so moved or called to carry this forward.

Again, it is truly an honor –so please contact us.

GROCERY CERTIFICATES FOR CHRISTMAS

Buying grocery certificates is a way everyone can help contribute to Salem's operating budget and not have to give extra. You can use either King Sooper's or Safeway's certificates to not only buy your groceries but also to purchase the numerous gift cards to stores and restaurants that these stores sell. It would be wonderful this year to meet the goal of 2000 that is hoped for each year, but we've not be able to do. This year we have a good possibility of being successful. If June's not at church to sell the certificates, Mary will be there, so come see us at the certificate table. June Seppa.

JUST COFFEE

Coffee makes a wonderful Christmas present! Many of you have shared the coffee you've purchased at Salem with other family and friends! Share those stories and let Erin know what brews you would like to have available. We have placed our third order and we are helping many people stay with their families through our support.

MEMBERSHIP – WHAT IS IT?

The Church Vitality Ministry asks this question of all of us. Beginning in January we will look not only at the answers you provided, but at the way membership is described in scripture (or is it?), what the UCC says about membership, and what the Salem by-laws say about membership. Look for inserts in your bulletin and let's talk about it!

CROP WALK FOR SALEM...FANTASTIC!

Greetings CROP Walk Churches and Recruiters! We had an outstanding year of collected pledges for the 2011 Southeast Denver CROP Walk, our total in pledges to date is **\$12,267.00**. Our recipients this year sharing 25% of our total are Clothes To Kids and The Jewish Family Services. An individual confirmation of your organization's collected totals will be arriving in the mail soon. Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to this important effort of serving others. **Everyone did a wonderful job!**

Crosspoint Ministries \$210.00

Grant Avenue United Methodist Church \$1355.00

Clothes To Kids \$100.00

Washington Park United Church of Christ (East Denver Fish) \$737.00

University Park United Methodist Church \$2318.00

Kirk of Bonnie Brae United Church of Christ \$300.00

Calvary Baptist Church \$1872.00

Calvary Presbyterian Church \$1509.00

Salem United Church of Christ \$648.00

Eyes of Compassion \$1300.00

Mountain View Friends Meeting \$75.00

Epiphany Luther Church \$170.00

Jewish Family Services \$322.00

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS, CHILI SUPPER

Members and friends will gather on Saturday, December 3 to finish the decorating of the church, inside and out. A chili supper will be enjoyed at 5 pm after which we'll continue to complete the beautifying of the sanctuary. People are invited to come at 3 pm on Sunday at which time we'll decorate the outside, put up the crèche and hang greenery around the outside and inside of the church. The Worship Ministry is coordinating with help from the Christian Education Ministry.

CRAFT FAIR A SUCCESS!!

The Craft Fair and Cookie Sale was a great success, raising over \$950! There were many crafters who took part, those who had been here in years past and some new ones also. Many thanks go to June Seppa and Polly Fumagalli for taking the task of promoting the fair and also to the faithful few who worked the bakery and the "cafeteria" at dinner and lunch and helped with the "cleanup". We also thank those who provided the "goodies".

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY by Jim Dean

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to oversee the property at Salem. We welcome help in this area. The offers for assistance from several members has been appreciated. Rev. Tom managed to clean the gutters after water was leaking into the church. We hope the leak has been repaired. The gutters will be cleaned once again when all the leaves have fallen.

Weather permitting, there will be a leaf raking day on Saturday, December 10, starting at 8:30 a.m. when the cookie sale commences. If anyone is available, please, come and if you have a leaf blower or a rake bring it along. Bags for the leaves will be furnished. Guys, you can rake leaves while the ladies are handling or shopping at the cookie sale. We might even be able to grab some cookies for those who are raking. If it is snowing or icy, the raking will postponed to another day but because of the holiday season no additional day has been picked but we might look to December 17 after the Men's Breakfast.

Just west of the sheds, you may see some pretty bad looking chicken wire. Within its confines are twelve very tiny blue spruce seedlings that need to grow for two years before being planted permanently. The chicken wire is an attempt to keep the "varmint" from eating them. Kurt Freiburghaus has offered to provide sturdier poles for the wire which will be put in when there is a warm day after Thanksgiving.

With some frosty nights having occurred, it is likely that the crab apple trees at the church entry will be trimmed soon by Swingle once the sap is down.

We continue to monitor the temperature in the church with the new furnaces and thermostats. Please, let Rev. Tom or Jim Dean know if you are uncomfortable in the church because of it being too hot or too cold.

Guido Fumagalli and Miro Subotic deserve expressions of appreciation for a number of things they have been doing around the church.

THANKSGIVING DINNER BROUGHT COMMUNITY

It was a huge success! Our Thanks to Pam Neumann, who coordinated this event and to the cooks, servers, and all who helped setup the dining room for all of our guests, and of course to all of you who contributed turkey, and other food for our meal. We don't want to forget the cleanup crew. Over 100 people enjoyed the repast!

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- 1 Jewell Traudt, Nate Reiser
- 7 Julie Loder, Frank McCall
- 18 Ellie McHenry
- 19 Mildred Dolph
- 22 Michelle Curtin
- 24 Jason Morrison



SPECIAL OFFERING LOCALLY

The Mission Ministry is encouraging members and friends, along with the Christmas Fund, to have a special offering for Linda Eggleston's son, Jay. He suffered a traumatic brain injury. He will need long term therapy and this is expensive. Money, or buying a grocery certificate to either King Sooper's or Safeway would greatly help ease the financial burden. This mission will be to care for one of our own.

A CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM OUR DENOMINATION

Salem received a congratulatory letter from The Pension Boards of the United Church for being only **one of 51 congregations in the United Church (yes, one of 51 UCC churches)** who have attained the status of "Rising Star Congregation for the Christmas Fund, for **tripling our giving to the Christmas Fund**. Because of this, the financial support provided to the retired and active clergy and lay employees of the UCC was increased. Last year, the Pension Boards raised 1 ½ million dollars, the highest amount ever raised for the Christmas Fund in one year! There are over 1600 families within the UCC who benefit from one of the assistance programs of which 94 cents of every dollar goes out in direct assistance.

What an honor! Again, during the month of December, the special offering is for the Christmas Fund.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The Mission offering for the month of December is the Christmas Fund formerly known as the offering for the Veterans of the Cross. This offering supports retired clergy and spouses who served before there was a pension and who may need assistance. The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance Program to provide some form of Ministerial Assistance to approximately 1,600 persons during 2009:

- Monthly pension supplementation is provided to 450 persons. These gifts total \$101,400 per month (\$1,216,800 per year). A significant part of the annual total of \$1,216,800 comes from the Christmas Fund.
- Quarterly health premium supplementation is provided to 294 families, totaling \$165,200 per quarter. All of the funding for health premium supplementation is derived from the Christmas Fund.
- Emergency Grants have been provided to 44 individuals and families, which totaled \$61,716 in the first eight months of 2009.
- Christmas Gift checks were sent to approximately 900 persons in 2010. Of those who receive checks, 20 are over 100 years of age. The oldest person is 107. One person has received Christmas checks continuously since 1976.

REMINDER OF LIFE SAVING SCREENINGS AT SALEM

Life Screening will host an all day event at Salem on Thursday, Dec. 22 to provide to all people at a cost, preventive health screenings. The screenings can include Stroke, Heart Rhythm, Abdominal, Aortic, Peripheral, and Osteoporosis. Flyers are on the table which include prices. For more information, call 1-800-679-5192.

FROM YOUR PASTOR.....rev tom

This is the season for hope! Salem's presence here is a much needed sign of God's love, grace and care. We may be small but we are faithful and trusting. In a recent article I read about church renewal being focused on smaller churches which create a deeper sense of belonging and connection. The Christmas season is one in which we are reminded of God's closeness to each one, and to all of creation. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, a reminder of God's touch on all of creation, I want to express my thanks to all for your ministry here at Salem. We're still learning and growing (see - Vernita Carroll, your good words). We're updating membership lists, connecting with young and old, looking for a new Church Secretary, and planning for 2012. Lots of wonderful things happening. And if you haven't shared a gift to Salem through your pledging for 2012, it is still not too late. Our Finance Ministry sure can use your estimate, hope to give, pledge cards. Blessings to each and every one, and echoing Tiny Tim's words "God Bless Everyone."

MEN'S BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, DEC. 17, 8 AM AT CHURCH....ALL MEN COME!!!!