



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

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CONNECT WITH US



WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

- REV. ELISABETH DANIELSONS

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This is a bold statement; but have you ever wondered what a disciple is? We often talk about disciples as the followers of Jesus in the Bible, but we are called to be disciples, too! As followers of Christ, we are ALL called to continue to learn and deepen our faith. One of my favorite things to say is that I am a life-long learner, and by that, I mean that I am always finding ways to grow as an individual in my connection with God and my connection with others.

As we move forward as a church, we will continue to seek opportunities for everyone to grow as disciples. At Salem, we believe that you have a purpose and call specifically designed by God to be lived out every day. As a church, we hope to empower you to identify your strengths, equip you to serve God in alignment with gifts and talents, and unleash you for fruitful ministry to connect ALL people with God's extravagant love.

This fall season, I invite you to check how you are connecting to God and others. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, believed that people should balance their faith with acts of worship and acts of mercy, meaning we deepen our own faith by both taking time with God and time in service to others. There are four core areas of focus that we believe will help you continue to grow in faith—worship and prayer, learning and study, service and outreach, and generosity. I look forward to walking this journey with you all, as we continue to grow in God's love and share it with others.

Take some time to review the list of Connect Groups, Bible Studies, and other learning opportunities included in this newsletter, and look for a place to plug in that will help you grow as a disciple of Jesus.



SHARING OURSELVES AND OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

- REV. TERRI SWAN

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. ~ Acts 4:32-33

As I reflect upon the years I have been in ministry and the years I have served Salem, I have been blessed to meet many people along the way! It has been a joy to serve alongside this community of faith as we seek to be a light in the City of St. Louis!

Fred Rogers once said, "If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."

This week I traveled to The Connection (Salem's South-City Site) to have a wonderful conversation with two long standing members, Jane Roedner and JoAnn Rogers! We talked for over an hour about our faith and our church community. They both shared memories of living out their faith and serving the church that began as Haven Street over 150 years ago, and then became Mellow Memorial UMC, and then finally The Connection UMC. Jane Roedner shared a picture with me from the Palm Sunday service in 1956 at Mellow Memorial UMC (now The Connection). She pointed out her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins in the picture. Jane was baptized and confirmed in this church, married in the church, and raised her family in the church. She cooked dinners, ran rummage sales, and taught Sunday School as she served God and

her neighbor. By the same token, JoAnn Rogers shared many memories she had of living out her discipleship with this faith community.



When I asked JoAnn what it meant for her to be United Methodist she said, "When I became an adult and came to the Methodist Church, I became aware that if you believe in the basics of our faith-- that Jesus paid the price and is your Savior, and you believe in the Holy Trinity, then the Methodist church gives you room to develop your own faith." What a wonderful expression of how being a Methodist has been instrumental in growing her faith in Christ!

We will be having more conversations with others from our community about what it means to be United Methodist and how we can be a witness for Jesus Christ. My hope is that hearing these stories of faith will encourage us all to grow more in grace and truth.

On Monday evenings in October at 6:00 pm, I will be leading a class about who we are, what we believe, and how we can continue to be THE CHURCH. You can register for the class online at salemstlouis.com/groups.

You are important. In every conversation you have an opportunity to be a witness and to leave a bit of yourself with another person. May God bless the conversations!

~ Pastor Terri

SALEM HISTORY

- ELIZABETH KURRUS, SALEM ARCHIVIST

Salem's timeline parallels another church, Eden. Both churches were founded in St. Louis as German Methodist Episcopal Churches in the 1840s. In spite of their early challenges, each church grew into thriving congregations by the late 19th century. Both churches became members of the St. Louis Conference when their longtime St. Louis German Conference disbanded in 1925. And, both churches were knocked to their knees with the onset of the Great Depression.



Salem at Kingshighway & Cote Brilliant, built in 1925

Like many churches in the 1930s, Salem and Eden struggled to keep their doors open. Salem was crushed from the weight of financial debt while Eden's sanctuary emptied with a declining membership. Eden lost a beloved pastor in 1933 which furthered their despair. The

responsibility of the building's maintenance fell to a few families.

In October 1937, Salem issued an invitation to Eden to acquire their congregation. Within ten days, Eden accepted and both churches voted to ratify the acquisition. In addition to their new cadre of grateful members, Salem obtained ownership of Eden's church. The building, constructed in 1883 at Nineteenth and Warren Streets, was described as a "Gothic structure of brick and stone." Salem sold their newly attained property, welcomed their new members, and the church began to rebound.

Salem's pastor wrote in 1939, "The work of weaving together the two congregations of Eden and Salem has consumed much of our time during the past two years." With their debt finally under control, Salem was able to renovate their choir loft and purchase one hundred hymnals to accommodate their larger congregation.

LIVING GENEROUSLY

BY REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. – Proverbs 11:25, CEB

One way that we reflect our love for God is through imitation of his gracious nature. We have been blessed by God with every good gift, and when we share with others, we are showing them how much that grace means to us.

On Sunday, October 22, Salem will welcome Rev. Laura Murphy to our Mid-County Site for a full morning of special adult programming. Laura is the Director of Development for the Missouri Methodist Foundation (which manages Salem's endowment) and a valued consultant to Salem's Leadership Board on issues related to generosity and long-term strategic planning. She has graciously accepted our invitation to spend a day at the Mid-County Site to help us think about these issues in our own lives. At 9:30 am that Sunday, the Contemporary Seniors Connect Group will host Laura in the Great Room for a discussion entitled "Putting Your House in Order" which focuses on long-term financial and estate planning from a spiritual perspective. At 10:45 am, the Young Households Connect Group will host Laura in the MPR for a discussion entitled "Generosity as a Spiritual Practice" which focuses on ways to integrate all types of generosity (not only financial) into your spiritual practices as a Christian. Both sessions are open to everyone, and a great chance to learn more about generosity and connect with others in the congregation. There will be extra doughnuts for both groups and childcare will be available!

Sunday, October 22 - Presentations by Rev. Laura Murphy

9:30 am // Great Room // Putting Your House in Order

Long-term financial and estate planning from a spiritual perspective

10:45 am // Multipurpose Room // Generosity as a Spiritual Practice

Ways to integrate all types of generosity (not only financial) into your spiritual practices as a Christian



Scan Code to
Register Now

Laura is a warm and funny speaker, and an experienced church leader who approaches generosity with a pastor's heart. Please join us as we welcome her on October 22.

Scan the QR code above to complete the requested registration to attend one of Laura's presentations. If you have any questions in advance, please reach out to Pastor Deb at deborah@salemsltouis.com or (314) 991-0546.

CONT. pg. 2 - Salem History

Today, Salem's Archives houses records of the former Eden Methodist Episcopal Church. Those documents tell the tale of a church that was grateful to Salem for taking them in. However, Salem is forever indebted to Eden's contribution in our journey of becoming the vibrant church we are today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss our
upcoming events.
Scan the code to
check out our featured
events and get more
information.



Scan Me ↘

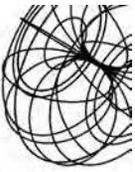
Block Party // October 14, Noon-3:00 pm // South-City Site // Don't miss the annual Block Party on October 14, from Noon-3:00 pm. Reconnect with friends, enjoy games, crafts, music, and food as we celebrate together. You won't want to miss this free event! Volunteers are needed to help make this outreach a success. Sign up online.

Trunk or Treat // October 28, 3:00-5:00 pm // Mid-County Site // Join us for an afternoon of fun and games at Trunk or Treat. Decorate your trunks, dress in costumes, and share candy with the kids. It's happening at Mid-County's back parking lot, and it's free! Registration is requested. Donations for Salem's Nutrition and Literacy Outreach are welcome. Volunteers are needed to decorate your car and hand out candy to the children.

Women's Fall Fellowship Event // October 12, 6:00-7:30 pm // Mid-County Site // Women's Fall Fellowship: All Salem women are invited to come together for an evening outdoors on the Salem campus. We will have the opportunity to use the outdoor prayer labyrinth, try some traditional fall treats, and get to know one another better and support each other. Cost is \$5, and don't forget to register at salemsltouis.com.

Women's Fellowship // October 21, 3:00-5:00 pm // South-City Site // Join us on Saturday, October 21st, from 3:00-5:00 pm at The Connection Cafe for a Women's Fellowship. In the company of fellow Christian women, experience God's intervention during challenging times. Let's build connections, deepen our faith, and provide mutual support. This event is free, but registration is requested.

American Chamber Chorale Concert // Saturday, October 7, 7:30 pm // Mid-County Site // Experience an enchanting night of music featuring favorite selections from past seasons. From Bach to Vivaldi, Copland to Thompson, this concert is a curated journey through timeless classics. Admission is FREE!



CONNECT GROUPS

BOLD CONNECT: 1st & 3rd Sundays, 9:30 am // Online
Facilitated by Irene Graham // A community that reflects on life's challenges as they relate to Christian teachings.

CONTEMPORARY SENIOR CONNECT: Sundays, 9:30 am
Mid-County Site // Facilitated by Gene Sehl // A group for senior adults that discusses issues of faith and life & learns together.

HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE: Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm
McQuiggan's Home // Facilitated by Ralph & Susan McQuiggan
6-week study - October 24-December 5 (not November 21) //
Join us as we explore the major themes of the Gospel of John: questions of life, reality, and truth. Based on the book & video series *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* by Rev. Adam Hamilton.

MONDAY BIBLE CONNECT: Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm // Online
// Facilitators: Phil & Susie Cooper // In-depth Bible study on the book of Deuteronomy: September 11-December 18 and Joshua & Judges: January 8-March 25. Discussions held via Zoom with occasional in-person opportunities.

YOUNG HOUSEHOLDS: Monthly on Sundays, 10:45 am (September 17, October 22, November 19) // Mid-County Site // Facilitated by John and Kelsey Koenig // Connect with other members of the community who are seeking to build a household upon the foundation of Christ. Childcare is provided during the group meeting, followed by a shared meal with all the families and children together.

COVENANT GROUPS

COVENANT is an eight-week in-depth group Bible study. Through the COVENANT experience you'll explore the BIBLE through personal study, video, and group participation. There are three COVENANT study sessions.

COVENANT 1: New to COVENANT
Tuesday Covenant 1 // September 26, 10:00 am // Mid-County

COVENANT 2: Completed COVENANT 1
Thursday Covenant 2 // 7:00 pm // Online
Sunday Covenant 2 // 9:45 am // South-City Site
Sunday Covenant 2 // 10:45 am // Mid-County Site
Wednesday Covenant 2 // 6:00 pm // Mid-County Site
Friday Covenant 2 // 10:00 am // Mid-County Site

COVENANT 3: Completed COVENANT 2
Groups launch in 2024 // Details TBA



EMBRACING COMMUNITY

DISCOVER A PLACE TO GROW, LAUGH, AND SERVE ALONGSIDE NEW AND OLD FRIENDS

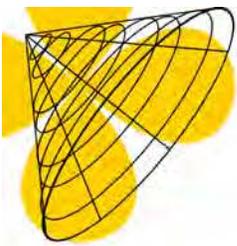
We need each other! At Salem we offer many ways for you to explore the Bible, experience community, connect with others, and grow deeper in your relationship with Christ. Consider joining one of our groups today! Connect Groups can be centered on Bible study, discussing the weekly messages, books, hobbies, or any activity that brings people together consistently in community and fellowship.

If the first group you visit doesn't seem to be the right fit, don't give up! We offer a variety of groups, and with more forming all the time, you're bound to find one that is perfect for you.



Mid-County Site: 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131
South-City Site: 6701 Virginia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111
www.salemstlouis.com | (314) 991-0546





FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: Second Thursday of the month, 11:15 am – 1:00 pm // September 14, October 12, November 9 // Mid-County Site // Group meets for lunch, fellowship, and a time of learning or entertainment. Cost is \$10.

CONNECTED: Second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm (beginning September 12) // South-City Site // All are invited for shared meal, a devotion, and fellowship.

MEN'S GROUPS

SAMSON SYNDROME: Saturdays, 8:30 am // South-City Site Cafe Join us for a men's Bible study of the book of Judges influenced by the book *The Samson Syndrome* by Mark Attebery. Facilitated by Ron Hendricks and Rev. Nick Savage.

HOLY SMOKERS: First Saturday, 8:00-10:00 am // Mid-County Site // Men's ministry focused on fellowship and serving. Group meets for breakfast and fellowship monthly and smokes barbecue meats as fundraisers throughout the year.

SHORT TERM GROUPS

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A UNITED METHODIST: Mid-County Site // Mondays, 6:00-8:00 pm - October 9-30 // Led by Salem Pastors // Discover what makes United Methodists unique in this 4-week class. All are welcome whether you've been a Methodist your entire life or want to learn more.

BOOK GROUP: Online // Led by Rev. Deborah LeMoine Join us for online book discussions at 7:00-8:30 pm on: September 28, October 26, November 16, December 14

WOMEN'S GROUP

FRIDAY FRIENDS CONNECT: Fridays, 9:30-11:00 am // Mid-County Site // Facilitator - Kate Fox // Tight knit group of women that meet seasonally in fall, winter, and spring for 6-8 week sessions. Typically book based topics.

KIDS

KIDS NIGHT OUT: September 29 & December 15, 6:00-9:00 pm // Mid-County Site // Children 6 weeks - 12 years old // Register at salemstlou-is.com // Kids enjoy dinner, games, and fun. Cost: \$20 or \$40 per family. Registration is required. Staff and volunteers have been background checked and trained.

KIDS CONNECT: Sundays, 9:30 & 11:00 am - Mid-County Site & 11:00 am - South-City Site // Kids programs at Salem are designed to work alongside families as each child begins their unique life-long journey of growing in Christian faith. Kids Connect (K-6th grade) and the Nursery (infants – four years old) are available during worship services. Classrooms are located in the education wing, downstairs past the office. Staff and volunteers have been background checked and trained.



YOUTH

IMPACT: Monthly // Mid-County Site // September 29, October 20, November 17 & December TBD, 6:30-8:30 pm // Students enjoy a special activity (Inflatables, 9-Square, Basketball, DJ), dinner and prayer time. IMPACT! events are free and all are welcome.



SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS





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We have a variety of teams and ministries that will help you find a place to serve and use your skills and passions. We think you'll find that the time and energy you invest will offer returns in new friendships, spiritual growth, and personal satisfaction through seeing the impact you can make to our community.

YOUR GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN TRANSFORMING LIVES

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. Check out the easy ways to make your gift.



Scan Code // Scan the qr code to give online now
Text to Give // Text salemstlouis to (833) 834-5661
In-Person // Place in the giving box during worship
Online // Visit salemstlouis.com and click give
Mail // Send donations to the church office

KIDS & YOUTH EVENTS

Kids Night Out // September 29, 6:00-9:00 pm) // Register online // 6 weeks-6th grade // The cost is \$20 per child, \$40 max for a family (includes: dinner, crafts, games, specialty classes, etc). Registration is required.

IMPACT Youth Night // Monthly // Dates: September 29, October 20, November 17 (6:30-8:30 pm) // Register online // IMPACT! features a special activity, dinner and prayer time.

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)

Online Worship Schedule Sundays or Anytime On-Demand

9:30 am - Modern Worship Livestream

11:00 am - Traditional Worship Livestream