



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**CONNECTPOINT**  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S  
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

## TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- BEING COURAGEOUS
- EMBRACING COMMUNITY
- SALEM WELCOMES JENN ADAMS
- UPCOMING EVENTS

## CONNECT WITH US



## GRAND OPENING SET FOR SALEM MEMORIAL LABYRINTH

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

We are very grateful and excited to announce that construction of the Salem Memorial Labyrinth is complete, and we will celebrate a grand opening for it on October 16. This outdoor prayer walk was installed as a reminder of the ways the people of God worked outside the walls of the church to bring hope, healing, and Good News to the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a testimony to God's presence with us at all times and in all places.



A labyrinth is not a maze, but a one-way path designed to help us draw closer to God in prayer. We enter and walk toward the center, releasing our cares to God on the way. We rest and pray at the center in the presence of God. We then walk back out towards the world--preparing ourselves to go forth in love and service to others.

We have already hosted a few introductory sessions with the labyrinth, inviting participants to learn about how walking a labyrinth can enhance their faith walk and encourage a physical connection to the spiritual act of prayer. We plan to host more events like this in the future, but we also encourage everyone to take the time to walk the prayer labyrinth on their own and to take advantage of this beautiful gift to our church community.

Please mark your calendar for October 16 to join us to celebrate the opening of the Salem Memorial Labyrinth and to thank God for it and for His countless blessings to us.

# BEING COURAGEOUS

- REV. TERRI SWAN



For years, Joshua 1:9, has been a foundational Bible verse for me:

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (NIV)*

What does it mean to have courage—to be courageous? One definition says it is “the choice and willingness to confront agony, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation.” Another says courage is “the ability to do something that frightens one or to have strength in the face of pain or grief.”

Many things in this life cause pain and grief that we must stand up to each day in order just survive—let alone thrive. As believers in Jesus, we have an advantage when it comes to courage—we have a never-ending source of courage if we are only willing to draw upon it. That verse in Joshua reminds us that God is with us wherever we go, so courage is right there with us all the time!

Personal courage is important, but as a church, we must also have courage to stand up for what is right in the face of the evils of this world. At Salem, we have been hosting “courageous conversations” for a couple years now. These times together provide us with a safe place to talk about how we can be a source of change in a world filled

with hate and division and work toward building a culture in which love and acceptance of all is the norm. These conversations provide a place for God to remind us of the courage He provides.

On October 15, we are hosting a morning of Courageous Conversations, from 9:00 am through 12:00 pm. We will welcome once again guest speaker and cultural coach Nikki Lerner to join us to talk about how each one of us can work to make room for as many people as possible in our lives, in our homes, and in our church. This will be a continuation, but not a repeat, of Nikki’s last conversation with us. All are invited to attend this free event regardless of past participation in one of Nikki’s events! Nikki will also be our guest in worship on Sunday, October 16, where she will provide special worship music for us. You can learn more about Nikki at [www.nikkilerner.com](http://www.nikkilerner.com).



Register for the Courageous Conversations on October 15 online at [saalemstlouis.com/event/courageous-conversations](http://saalemstlouis.com/event/courageous-conversations) or scan the code with the camera app on your cellphone.

Courage is enhanced through strong community, so I hope you will join me and Nikki for this time together in October.

Blessings,  
Pastor Terri

## WELCOME JENN ADAMS – SALEM’S NEW DISCIPLESHIP COORDINATOR



Jenn Adams is not new to everyone in the Salem community—she has been an active church member at our South-City Site, The Connection, since 2018, where she leads in the welcoming and hospitality ministry, and she also served as member of the church leadership board from 2020 through 2021.

For the past two years, Jenn has been attending seminary at St Paul School of Theology where she is exploring the possibilities of ordained church ministry. As a part of her theological training, Jenn has joined the Salem staff as Discipleship Coordinator to develop new programs that will encourage faith formation and enrich discipleship. Jenn has a passionate faith and a love for Jesus that she hopes God will use to draw others to Him and ignite a desire to know Him better.

Jenn’s works full-time in marketing and development for Ponybird, a not-for-profit organization that cares for

non-ambulatory individuals with severe to profound mental and physical disabilities. She brings with her a lot of organizational experience and people skills that will be put to good use leading others to Bible study and discipleship opportunities in the church.

We are excited to have Jenn on the Salem staff and encourage everyone to make her feel welcome as she helps all of us grow in our faith as Discipleship Coordinator.

Jenn has more than 20 years of professional experience in marketing and development, and she currently works full-time as Director of Development for Ponybird, a not-for-profit organization committed to enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities. She brings with her a lot of organizational experience and people skills that will be put to good use leading others to Bible study and discipleship opportunities in the church.

We are excited to have Jenn on the Salem staff as Discipleship Coordinator. Please join us in making her feel welcome as she helps all of us to grow in our faith.

# EMBRACING COMMUNITY

- JENN ADAMS

Community is deeply grounded in the nature of God. From the first decision in Genesis to not leave humankind alone to the thriving and vibrant church of Acts, fellowship has been central to the way God's Spirit moves through and empowers God's people. When attending church, it's easy to assume we have met our fellowship quota simply by showing up on Sunday morning. You wouldn't be entirely wrong! Sunday worship is a wonderful way to connect with others and spend a few moments of your week focused on God alongside fellow believers. However, may I challenge you to consider one more thing? Where in your daily life are you encountering Jesus?

When we look at the early church, we get a picture of small communities of people who followed Jesus together. Read Acts 2:42-47 to glean better understanding. These believers engaged in life together in small groups through teaching, fellowship, communion, prayer, and radical generosity. And God showed up.

Salem provides opportunities to "do church" the way these early believers did. We call them Connect Groups. Connect Groups are more than just one more social gathering. They are people connecting in response to God's call for us to love, not in abstract or superficial ways, but in deep, face to face, life-on-life, transformative ways. Connect Groups are places where we are challenged to love, forgive, serve, encourage, exhort, pray, and...yes, to laugh and cry and tell our stories and know that we are known, we are heard, and we are accepted. The best part? God shows up here too.

Not sure what's next on your faith journey, but you're ready to take another step? Join Salem pastors at our upcoming *Next Steps* which offers you the opportunity to bring your questions about faith or the church and learn about ways you can make a difference in your community.

Do you really enjoy the sermons you hear at Salem and The Connection? Join Salem pastors at a *Deep Dive* event and dig further into the text, history, and teaching you encounter on Sunday mornings.

This season, we encourage you to take next steps in your faith journey. Connect Groups are an excellent way to accomplish this and there are many to choose from. Simply visit [salemstlouis.com](http://salemstlouis.com) and click Connect and then Groups or scan the qr code. You'll find a group for any number of schedules. So go ahead and take the step. God's going to show up. May God direct all your steps as we live into our call to make disciples who go and make disciples.

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."* Matthew 18:20

Blessings, Jenn Adams



## BLOCK PARTY

8  
OCT.

1:00 TO  
4:00 PM

FREE EVENT

\* FOOD

\*FAMILY FUN

\*GAMES & MORE



SOUTH-CITY SITE

HAVEN ST. & VIRGINA AVE.



TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM

"TRUNK" OR TREATING  
PUMPKIN PAINTING  
GAMES & MORE

SCAN TO REGISTER



REGISTER ONLINE





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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.

### 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.

### WAYS TO GIVE



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

- 1 WEB: [SALEMSTLOUIS.COM](http://SALEMSTLOUIS.COM)
- 2 TEXT: [SALEMSTLOUIS TO \(833\) 834-5661](tel:8338345661)
- 3 APP: [SALEMSTLOUIS](#)
- 4 MAIL: [SALEM CHURCH OFFICE](#)

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