



BLOCK PARTY 2002 AT THE CONNECTION



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
**CONNECTPOINT**  
OCTOBER 19, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S  
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

## TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- [LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS](#)
- [SALEM CARES](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

## CONNECT WITH US



## PSALMS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

- REV. TIM POWER

The more I read scripture, the more impressed I am with how "real" God's word is. This may surprise you if your only encounter with scripture has been in Sunday school or hearing Psalm 23 read aloud at funerals. Some people get the impression that the word of God is a kind of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" compendium of feel-good quotes and axioms. But look at the book of Psalms, for instance, and you'll find something very different.

"My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?" (Psalm 6:3). You're not likely to see that verse printed on a coffee cup or stenciled on someone's living room wall. But can't we all admit we've felt that way at some point? I love that the book of Psalm encourages me not only to praise God in the good times, but also to cry out, even scream out angrily in the bad.

In our upcoming sermon series "Anthems: Songs of Faith" we're going to dig deep into the Psalms. It's an ancient collection of 150 Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers. In it you'll find songs of lament, crying out to God in pain and suffering. You'll also find songs of praise and thanksgiving, recognizing all that God has done for the sake of His people. As we make our way through the book, one thing that stands out to me is that while the lament is never denied or hidden away, the songs of praise and thanksgiving very quickly outnumber them. I have found this to be true about following our Savior Jesus. We are not exempt from suffering, in fact Jesus promises' that his followers will suffer for His sake. But we find that the joy of following Jesus overwhelms the sufferings of this present world. Amid everything life throws at us, the hope of Salvation in Jesus is such good news we cannot help but praise.

Please Join us starting October 23 as we kick off our sermon series "Anthems: Songs of Faith," and rediscover with us how, in pursuit of Christ, our hope will always overcome our sorrow.

# LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS

- REV. TERRI SWAN



*"One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor, which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us."*

--John Wesley

Loving and giving is synonymous. We cannot say we love Jesus and our neighbors and not be generous. Giving is one of the ways we are called to respond as disciples of Jesus Christ. The path of discipleship is a path that takes us deeper in our relationship with Christ. This path is sacrificial. This path is more about others than it is about our own desires. This path is about making the right decisions when we are faced with life in the world around us. This path is about loving God and loving others.

In an article called "How Not to Miss Your Real Life Calling," author Ann Voskamp recalls a time when she was watching her children carve pumpkins. She noticed a scar on her child's hand from a previous year of this activity. This thought came to her mind, "Will I someday be standing with scars to give account before Him that I wasn't about my own comfort but Christ's call, that I

didn't make my life about safe living but about dangerous dying, that I didn't escape into a neat, saved American dream but into a messy, mission-driven God-sized demand."

The messy, mission-driven God-sized demand does not come without sacrifices, yet it is filled with a joy that cannot be put into words.

Psalm 116:12 says: "How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" Those who follow Christ give because we love and serve a giving God. God gives life and breath and is the giver of every good gift.

As we remember these words in John 3:16 **"For God so LOVED the WORLD that he GAVE his only SON, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have ETERNAL LIFE,"** let's pray together, worship together, serve together, give together and share together so that we can BE the BODY of CHRIST.

In Christ,  
- Rev. Terri Swan

## SALEM CARES - WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU NEED HELP FROM THE CHURCH

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."  
--John 13:34-35

When we become a part of the church, we are joining with other believers to live out our faith together. At Salem and The Connection, the church is here to minister to you. As a Christian community we share the celebrations, sorrows and challenges of life with one another. Our Congregational Care Ministry offers encouragement, practical support, and prayer to meet the spiritual, emotional, and relational needs of the Salem community.

The pivotal parts of life are important to us. When a family is ready to bring their little one into the church, our pastors welcome the opportunity to baptize babies and help to get them started on their faith journey. We are also here to offer love, encouragement, care, and

assistance to couples when they are ready to marry. For families in grief, we offer support and assistance with funerals and follow-up care for those who mourn.

For the in-between times when the daily challenges of life happen, we invite anyone with a need to contact the church with their prayer needs by calling the church office, submitting the request on a Connect Card, or through our online prayer request form. Please also contact us if you would like to be added to the prayer list so you can pray for the needs of others. If you or someone in your family is sick and would like care from one of our pastors or congregational care volunteers, we also encourage you to contact the church office. We also provide referrals for counseling for anyone in need.

To contact the church for any of these needs, visit [salemstlouis.com/care](http://salemstlouis.com/care), or email [jennifer@slmsltouis.com](mailto:jennifer@slmsltouis.com).

# ARCHIVES: TELLING SALEM'S STORY

- ELIZABETH TERRY

When Salem underwent its renovation a few years ago, I felt appreciative and heard. Salem's new Archives space is roomier, has excellent lighting, and includes built-in climate control. While the 1950s era windows remained, in keeping with the historic integrity of the building, they seemed to be airtight. Moving Salem's historical treasures into the new space after a year in temporary storage felt incredible. But then...Covid. It was another 18 months before I could return to Salem's Archives. After losing so much time, how could I possibly catch up?

Thankfully, life of the church continued to thrive during the construction and the pandemic. Newly acquired print materials and artifacts accumulated in the Archives, awaiting my return and anticipating proper archival storage. This past year has been a joyful challenge: organizing shelving, digging through administrative work, and processing materials.

Then the rains came. Even Salem's well-maintained drainage system was no match for the rain which caused devastating flooding throughout St. Louis in August. The waters poured through a window in the Archives, filling drawers containing some of Salem's historic blueprints. Salem's staff worked fast, pulling the materials out and getting them in front of fans. I literally dried the blueprints with towels, sopping up one page at a time, as hurriedly as possible. The building manager quickly followed these efforts with overseeing the replacement of drywall. This teamwork salvaged many of the items in Salem's precious blueprint collection. And while the repairs were being made, Salem's archival materials was once again in temporary storage or are carefully secured from the rigors of construction.

The onslaught of obstacles has forced me to step back and assess. How can I improve disaster preparedness? In anticipation of the return to normal, is "normal" the goal? Has the mission of the Archives evolved with the journey of the church? Many of the items have survived the lifelong voyage since Salem's founding in 1841. As I endeavor to collect and catalog current records from every department, every committee, and every board, I'm reminded that those documents tell the story of our church. These pieces of our past encompass our collective voice: every meeting minute, sermon rough draft, and photo of an event outlines our mentality as a church.

Weathering the challenges of the past few years has instilled a sense of accomplishment. Yet, the road is still rough: mold assessments will be ongoing and vital; administrative work will involve months of catch-up; and the newly acquired materials and the rescued blueprints will require make-shift protection since funding isn't available to store them properly. Regardless, our documented history provides evidence of how far we've come, and defines us honestly as who we are today. It's our responsibility as a church to use these precious artifacts to determine where we need to go.



Want the opportunity to connect more meaningfully with the text and teaching?

Join Salem pastors at an upcoming Deep Dive event!

Register online at

[saalemstlouis.com/groups](https://saalemstlouis.com/groups).



November 6, 6:00 pm – Psalms: Anthems

November 15, 7:00 pm – Generosity

December 12, 6:30 pm – Advent



## TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 29, 3:00-5:00 PM

"TRUNK" OR TREATING  
PUMPKIN PAINTING  
GAMES & MORE

SCAN TO REGISTER



REGISTER ONLINE





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

Phone: (314) 991-0546  
Fax: (314) 991-1242  
Web: [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com)  
Email: [info@salemstlouis.com](mailto:info@salemstlouis.com)

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



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
- 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>
--	---

**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