



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
CONNECTPOINT
JULY 20, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- FRIENDSHIP CLUB
- SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
- SUMMER PLANS
- SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

CONNECT WITH US



**SALEM SUPPORTS ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS
AND LIFEWISE THROUGH
FREEDOM SCHOOL**

- JENNIFER HORNE

Salem has been involved with Freedom School since 2019, and we are so grateful to play a part in bringing literacy skills and new learning opportunities to students in St Louis who want to succeed in school, and, more importantly, in life.

This is our third year to support our long-time partner agency, LifeWise St. Louis, in this important work, and Lifewise has been administrating Freedom School sites since 2015. Scott Walker, CEO of Lifewise, said, "We knew at the time we started, only 33% of St Louis Public School kids were reading at grade level. Also, they lose 1.5 to 3 months in the summer, called "summer slide." And that it's cumulative. So, we changed from a "fun" camp to a literacy camp. Kids still have a blast while learning." There are now nine Freedom School sites in St Louis, and Lifewise administers six of those. Four of those six sites are housed in United Methodist Churches: The Connection UMC, Beloved UMC, Maplewood UMC and Webster Hills UMC. Walker adds, "Freedom School changes lives not only in literacy achievement but in confidence and feeling empowered. All kids deserve this support to their foundation."

The daily schedule at each Freedom School site is very similar. At The Connection, scholars start the day with a good breakfast and their opening program full of singing and chanting called Harambee, named for a Kiswahili term that means "pull together." From 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, they focus on reading and learning together and then break for lunch. Each afternoon, the scholars participate in a guided learning activity led by members of the community. At The Connection Freedom School site, these activities have included, music, STEM, movement/dance, soccer, art, and National Day of Social Action (NDSA) preparation. Each day is full of singing, working together, laughter, learning, and progress toward a better future.

Freedom School site leader at The Connection, Kallie Clyde commented, "I've been really impressed and encouraged by the emotional responsiveness of the scholars to one another.



In level 2, there is a scholar who is dedicated to assisting his friend on crutches. He keeps his friend company, serves him meals at the table, and assists him from room to room. In level 1, the scholars check in with each other when someone gets upset. They'll put an arm over their peer's shoulder and ask if he is okay. It's like they already know and believe that they CAN make a difference for somebody else, which is what this whole program is all about."

In addition to supporting St Louis Public School students, Freedom School provides an opportunity for college students to serve as interns and to give back to their community at the same time. There are two Servant Leader Interns (SLIs) at Connection. One is at the University of Missouri-St. Louis working on a degree in educational studies to become an early childhood teacher. The other is working on a degree in elementary education at Fontbonne University. The experience these college students gain as interns at Freedom School not only bolsters their resumes when looking for future work, it also provides them with a wealth of experience to draw from when they eventually enter the workforce, whether it be in the classroom or any other profession.

Salem is blessed to serve the community by supporting Freedom School, and we look forward to the witnessing its long-term benefits to the St Louis Public Schools and in the lives of the scholars themselves.

SUMMER PLANS AND PRAYER LABYRINTH

- REV. DEBORAH LEMOINE

Look around you: Winter is over; the winter rains are over, gone! Spring flowers are in blossom all over. The whole world's a choir—and singing!
-Song of Solomon 2:11-12

The flowers are in bloom and the whole world is a choir this season! Summer is a time when many of our musicians and ministry leaders can be found outside the walls of the church taking Good News into our community. Our own Pastor Nick Savage along with fellow musicians, provided pre-show music at the Munny during the production of Mary Poppins, and Salem vocal soloist, Laura McLaughlin, joined with other musicians just last week at a local event in support of our veterans. You may also see some of our Salem Orchestra at events and venues around town.

Coming up, we have the second Front Porch Concert of the season featuring our talented Salem United musicians and several guest artists that will be at Mid-County on September 11 at 5:00 pm--bring a blanket or lawn chairs and enjoy time together with friends. We have also scheduled a series of jazz concerts featuring Joe Mancuso--one on August 20 at 2:00 pm at our Mid-County Site and another on September 17 at 2:00 pm at our South-City Site, The Connection.

For children we have a Kids Night Out event on August 13 from 5:00-8:00 pm at Mid-County. Kids will enjoy an evening featuring an animated kid-friendly dinosaur movie, dinner, and activities. Cost is \$15 per child and \$25 max for a family of two or more. Registration is requested. Sign-up now at www.salemstlouis.com.

You can also encourage kids around St. Louis by donating books and support for our school supply drive for the

upcoming school year. Visit salemstlouis.com to find registration information for the movie night and details about how to donate books and school supplies.



We also invite you to pause--the first step when we PRAY, as our recent series taught us--and take time to hear God's voice in the beauty of the season. One way to do this is by walking the newly installed labyrinth at our Mid-County Site. You will find the walkway leading from the rear parking lot. No reservations are needed, and all are welcome anytime. If you are new to the labyrinth, you can meet Pastor Deb at the entrance for a quick introduction the morning of Sunday, July 24 at 9:00 am or 10:30 am, but walking the labyrinth as a spiritual practice is easy. It may look like a maze, but it is not. There is only one way in and one way out, and as long as you stay on the path you will always reach the center. It is a beautiful walking metaphor for our lives with God. You might pray about things you would like to release to God as you walk in, contemplate what you might receive from God in the center, and then think of ways you might respond as you walk back out again. There is more information available to pick up in the church office.

We look forward to singing God's praises with you this summer, in worship and throughout our community.

Blessings,
Pastor Deborah



You are invited to the reboot of Friendship Club at Salem Methodist Church. Friendship Club is a time for our retired and older friends to join together for fellowship, a time of enrichment, and a good meal. We are changing Friendship Club from a monthly meeting to a quarterly meeting, with hopes of having more friends join us and to avoid some of the winter weather!

Cost for lunch is \$10, and it will be catered from local restaurants like Sugos and SugarFire BBQ. Below are the upcoming dates and programs we have lined up. Meetings are in the Great Room at Salem from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm. To RSVP please contact Jennifer Horne at (314) 991-0546 or jennifer@salemstlouis.com.

September 1, 2022:

Join us for a lively dramatic presentation from Salem’s own Ed Burguiere. Ed is an experienced actor who always shares an entertaining presentation.

November 3, 2022:

Join Pastor Terri and Pastor Tim as they present stories and pictures of their trip to the Holy Land.

March 2, 2023:

Salem Musicians present the music of Lent and Easter.



Do you remember the excitement of getting new school supplies each year and anticipating how you’ll use them to learn? In the St. Louis area there are 90,000 children that cannot afford basic school supplies, and our church is committed to empowering 275 of them. Make a difference in the community by donating school supplies for St. Louis children. Scan the code for an online shopping list that will ship directly to Salem or pick up a tag in the lobby after worship. **Please drop off your donations by Sunday, July 31.** If you would like to make a monetary donation just include school supply drive in the memo. Thank you for helping to make this school year a success for St. Louis students!



For so many people, summer is a great time to R&R, relax and read! Our pastors and staff are reading some great books this summer. Check out our summer reading recommendations.

Children

The Good Egg (The Food Group) by Jory John
What Do You Do With an Idea? by Kobi Yamada
Ada Twist, Scientist (The Questioners) by Andrea Beaty

Christian Living

Everybody Always by Bob Goff
No Cure for Being Human and Other Truths I Need to Hear by Kate Bowler
Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer
When Helping Hurts by Corbett and Fikkert

Discipleship/Bible Centered

The Challenge of Jesus by NT Wright
Soul Feast by Marjorie J. Thompson

Families / Parenting

Foster the Family by Jamie C. Finn
How Children Succeed by Paul Tough

General Nonfiction

Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery

Outreach

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

Social Justice

Faith after Ferguson: Resilient Leadership in Pursuit of Racial Justice by Leah Gunning Francis
Faithful Anti-racism: Moving Past Talk to Systemic Change by Christina Barland Edmondson & Chad Brennan
Deep Justice in a Broken World by Chap Clarke & Kara E. Powell

Youth

You Were Made To Make A Difference by Max Lucado, Jenna Lucado Bishop



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