



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER **CONNECTPOINT** JUNE 15, 2022

CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S  
EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

### TOP NEWS & EVENTS

- KEEPING FAITH ALIVE THROUGH SERVICE
- NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHING SOON
- SUMMER AT SALEM AND THE CONNECTION
- WELCOME NEW STAFF

### CONNECT WITH US



@SALEMSTLOUIS

## SERVING ST LOUIS CHILDREN THIS SUMMER THROUGH FREEDOM SCHOOL

Summer ministry at Salem is off to a great start. We just finished up a week of Vacation Bible School at the Mid-County Site—our first since the pandemic. It was so wonderful to hear the voices of children in the hallways at Salem once again.

This week, at our South-City Site, Freedom School begins. Freedom Schools are a program of the Children's Defense Fund, and in St. Louis, our partner agency LifeWise St. Louis facilitates the program through staffing, training of staff, and administration. Freedom Schools provide food and education to young students over the summer to keep them advancing in their reading levels. This summer, over 180 students will be a part of Freedom School in St. Louis, and The Connection is one of six LifeWise host sites across the City. This is Salem's third year to host a Freedom School site, and we are thrilled to be a part of this important supportive work for students and their families. Freedom School students in the past have averaged an eight-month gain in educational progress after only six weeks in this summer program.

Freedom Schools also provides opportunities for college students to serve as interns who work with the children over the summer. Through this program these students not only gain valuable life experience and insight into possible career choices, they are also given an opportunity to see the needs of children in our community. This experience will shape their character in ways that will hopefully give them passion to serve others for the rest of their lives.

Salem will also provide a day of outside fun at our Mid-County Site for all 180 Freedom School students. We are excited to host these children from our community in this way as well!

Freedom Schools also need volunteers to read to students and to provide enrichment programs each week. You can learn more about how to volunteer contact Emily Smith, Salem's Director of Children's Ministry at [emily@salemstlouis.com](mailto:emily@salemstlouis.com) or register at: <https://www.salemstlouis.com/freedom-school>.

# SUMMER AT SALEM AND THE CONNECTION

- REV. TERRI SWAN

I know summer has arrived because this past week I heard lots of children enjoying themselves as they learned more about Jesus during IN PERSON Vacation Bible School. Just over 70 students and 50 volunteers were at our Mid-County Site taking in lessons about the wonder of God's creation and the amazing world we live in. The "I Wonder" theme focused on how early church leaders like Paul, Peter, John, and Timothy, who helped the first Jesus-followers explore what made their stories unique, what gifts God gave them and how to use those gifts best in service to others, what they could learn from others, and how they could spend time with God. I am so grateful for the children of Salem and our community, and it was a joy to be among them this week!

Another sign of summer is the gathering of clergy and lay delegates from around the state for Annual Conference. Last week, we met together in Branson, Missouri, to do the work of building relationships among Methodist churches. New clergy were ordained, and clergy assignments were made, moving some into new situations. (All clergy at Salem's will continue to serve at our Mid-County and South-City Sites.) Budgets were set for summer camps, mission work, disaster relief, and more. Annual Conference is a crucial part of the "connectedness" of methodism, and while the business part is not great fun, it is important, and the times of

worship, prayer, and precious fellowship among those who serve God and lead His church, energizes us to continue in the work set before us. A special word of gratitude goes to the lay delegates from Salem and The Connection who took the time to attend Annual Conference with me, Pastor Tim, and Pastor Nick. Jenn Adams, Kathy Farache, Donna LaVoie, and Jim Marchbank represented our faith community well, and they deserve our thanks.

We have some fun times of fellowship and music from our own talented musicians in the works for summer. Be looking for details about these church-wide events in the coming weeks. I also hope you will join friends from other local congregations on Saturday, June 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, for a block party celebrating Juneteenth and Jackie Robinson in the parking lot at 4234 Washington Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108. This family-friendly event will include a book giveaway, crafts, and a visit from Fredbird®! Enjoy music from Pastor Nick Savage's jazz quartet and free hot dogs, nachos, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and snow cones courtesy of Salem's Holy Smokers.

I am also looking forward to some down time in July, and as we move through the rest of summer, my prayer is that you will enjoy times of rest and joyful fellowship with family and friends.

## KEEPING FAITH ALIVE THROUGH SERVICE

- REV. TIM POWER

"My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. James 2:14-17 (CEB)

During the month of May at Salem and The Connection, we explored the book of James with our "Alive" sermon series. Together, we encountered this vital truth: Faith without Action is dead. With this truth in mind, on May 22 we hosted our first Sunday morning serve day. We had a shorter 9:30 service and invited people to stay to serve in a variety of ways. Some folks sorted clothing for Out of Our Bounty, others made meals for the Epworth Drop-In Center, and still others sorted school supplies for our backpack giveaway. It was exciting to see people of all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels, reach out in extravagant love together.

But it's my hope that serve day was just a beginning for many people--a chance to dip their toes in the water of serving. When we serve, our faith is alive and vital. It changes how we experience the world and how we impact it. So, I would like to invite everyone from Salem and the Connection to continue to look for ways to serve. This summer presents several opportunities: We will be hosting Freedom School in June at our South-City Site, and we need volunteers to read to the children. We also could use your help on a regular basis to hand out meals on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings at Haven Street. If you have time on Monday morning or Friday afternoons, we would love to have you join us in cooking meals for the teens at Epworth Drop-In Center. There are so many ways you can serve and if you're interesting finding the right fit for you, please reach out to me at 314-537-0897 or by email at [tim@salemstlouis.com](mailto:tim@salemstlouis.com).

Let's keep our faith alive by continuing to reach out with the extravagant love of our Savior Jesus Christ.

# NEW STAFF FACES AND ROLES AT SALEM



We are blessed at Salem and The Connection to have talented and dedicated staff who serve the church well. We are pleased to welcome two new staff to Salem this summer. Solomon Davis is our most recent addition as a technical multimedia worship specialist. Solomon joined us as an intern in February, and in May we invited him to this permanent part-time role. Solomon brings a strong church background as the son of a United Methodist pastor in Oklahoma. He just completed his degree in music industry from Oklahoma State University and is well-versed in many areas of technical production that come into play in our in-person and livestreamed worship services and special events hosted in our spaces. In addition, Solomon is gifted with a beautiful bass voice, and he sings with the Salem Chancel Choir and the American Chamber Chorale. We are excited to see how God will use Solomon as a part of the Salem team and in lending his talents to our worship experiences.

We are also pleased to welcome Salem church member Deveion Griffin to the role of summer intern with the technical team. Deveion has been a part of the Salem community since 2015 when he and his family began attending the church. He was active in our youth ministry, and he started working as a volunteer media assistant while he was in high school. He then joined us as part-time Sunday media staff, and this summer he will work with our communications and technical teams. Deveion plans to attend St Charles Community College, and he is still exploring career options to pursue.



Along with staff additions, we also made a staff change in May when Jacob Davis, formerly our part-time production engineer, became Technical Director over all the video and audio operations at both sites. Jacob joined us at Salem in 2018 first as a choral music assistant and choir singer. Jacob graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2018 with a degree in music business. Since Jacob joined us, he has played with the Modern Worship bands at both sites, and he leads worship when he is called upon to do so. He was also crucial to our technical team as the church pivoted to online worship when the pandemic hit. The brother of Solomon Davis, he is also the son of a United Methodist pastor who has been a part of the church community his entire life. Jacob is a gifted tenor who shares his talents with Chancel Choir and the American Chamber Chorale.

A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM & THE PROMISE OF HOPE FOR  
**ALL GOD'S PEOPLE**

**JUNE 18th**  
**2-5 pm**

**New Horizons UMC**  
4234 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

**BREAKING BARRIERS**

**JUNETEENTH & JACKIE ROBINSON**



**Food by the Holy Smokers**

**100% FREE!**  
**Nachos & Hot Dogs**  
**Book Giveaway**

**Kid's Crafts**  
**Snow Cones**

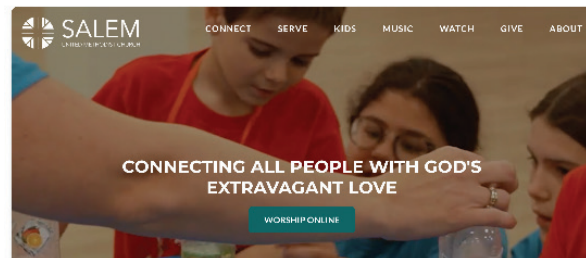
Take a selfie with me from 3-4 pm!

## COMING SOON: NEW SALEM WEBSITE

After several months of hard work and dedication, Salem is very excited to announce the upcoming launch of our newly designed website! Insert loud cheering here!

In a digital world, it's vital that we make information regarding our Church location, services times, ministries and sermons easily accessible for our Church members as well as people who may be searching online.

The new site is expected to launch mid to late June. Here's a sneak peak preview. We can't wait to connect with you and people in our community online. The new site will be located at [www.salemstlouis.com](http://www.salemstlouis.com).



### Welcome Home

At Salem, our mission is to connect ALL people with God's extravagant love through worship, service, learning, and community – empowering each person to experience and share the transformational love of Jesus Christ.

[MORE ABOUT US](#)

[SCHEDULE](#) [SERVICES](#)

### Join Us This Weekend

Join us this weekend for our special event. We will have a special service with a special message from our pastor. We will also have a special meal and a special gift for everyone who attends.



7:00 am  
Salem Community Church  
St. Louis, MO



11:00 am  
Salem Community Church  
St. Louis, MO



11:00 am  
Salem Community Church  
St. Louis, MO





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)

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We need each other! You are welcome to try out a few groups before choosing the best one for you. Visit [salemstlouis.com](http://salemstlouis.com) for details, call the office (314) 991-0546, or contact Liz Rea at [reasatsalem@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### MID-COUNTY

1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
(314) 991-0546  
[salemstlouis.com](http://salemstlouis.com)

### SOUTH-CITY

6701 Virginia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63111  
(314) 256-0545  
[theconnectionstlouis.com](http://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

## 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.



SCAN ME

- 1 **WEB: SALEMSTLOUIS.COM**
- 2 **TEXT: "GIVE" TO (314) 888-9160**
- 3 **APP: SALEMSTLOUIS**
- 4 **MAIL: TO THE SALEM CHURCH OFFICE**