

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

*Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUGUST:

### **Week of Aug 2:**

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### **Week of Aug 9:**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

### **Week of Aug 16:**

Genesis 45:1-5  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:10-28

### **Week of Aug 23:**

Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

### **Week of Aug 30:**

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

## MARK-ET PLACE

John Charles Frémont followed Lewis and Clark by some decades, but he had much the same purpose as they. He explored the American west on behalf of people in the east, with an eye on the best routes for travel.

Though Frémont's explorations took place 180 years ago or so, I find one of his experiences in particular to be quite contemporary in that it offers insight for today.

In late November of 1843, Frémont and those he was leading left the Columbia River in Oregon to begin making their way back to St. Louis and, ultimately, Washington, D.C. Since it was an exploratory expedition, they did not travel by any known road, at least no road was that known to them. It is said that the main feature of the landscape they entered was its size.

Weeks passed and their journey kept taking them in a southerly direction. No path to the east was found. Mountains loomed large around them. Temperatures dropped. Snow deepened. Early in the journey, Frémont and his men made 30 miles a day. Then it dwindled to 3 miles a day. By early February 1844, they were still in the same mountain range and making just 1 mile a day.

At last Frémont decided that the thing to do was to abandon, for now, their attempt to find a way to the east and to turn to the west, to where they knew the climate would be warmer. But had they turned then they would have met with greater disaster than the one they were encountering.

What averted disaster was that they encountered the Washoe tribe, a group that made its home in that rugged territory. There was no common language between the Washoes and those with Frémont, but each side made itself understood to the other through hand motions. When the Washoes learned Frémont's plan was to head west from there they worked adamantly to convince him otherwise. Not far from where they were, they gestured, the snow would be up to the explorers' necks. There would be no path and no food. The Washoes wanted Frémont's team to stay safely with them until the winter passed; but the explorers kept pushing south until they could go west into California's warmth.

The parallels I find between this story from 1843/1844 and our time line out like this. Like those nineteenth century explorers, we know where we are and where we want to go, but, to date, we haven't the slightest idea how to get from here to there. This is true whether we are dealing with the Coronavirus, the state of racial justice, or the troubles of the economy. We do not seem to be making in any case the progress we thought we were once making.

If we are going to make any progress without courting further disaster, we have to listen to the best experience of those who are knowledgeable. They can keep us from

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getting up to our necks because of mistakes we might make in territory we do not know as well as they know it. Here, with regard to the virus, I refer to the medical experts and, with regard to racial injustice, I refer to those who have been on the brutal receiving end of it. We simply cannot let ourselves stomp ahead in our preferred direction.

Frémont got out of the trouble he was in but not with bluster. And not without difficulty. There wasn't anything easy about getting out of the snow and cold and deprivation of those mountains. But there was a way out and it began with listening to and learning from those who knew something he did not.

We will get through, too. But it will take work. And we will have to be teachable.

MEY

The facts on Frémont's expedition are from Steve Inskeep, *Imperfect Union* (New York: Penguin, 2020), p. 73ff.

## THE CHURCH IN RECOVERY MODE:

*Sermons to anticipate the end of our quarantine*

We are nowhere close to returning to the church's full life of in-person worship and in-person group activities, whether for service, study, or fellowship. It is too early to project a date as to when we will be in a position to restore that kind of congregational life. But it is not too early to reflect upon the spiritual attitudes and qualities the church should put into practice now as well as when it re-opens. Though they do not line up as a sermon series in the conventional sense of that term, the topics for August will explore some of these attitudes and qualities the congregations should think about as they anticipate being in recovery mode. The topics, texts, and dates are listed below.

- August 2:** A Faith Unashamed, Romans 1:16
- August 9:** The Scribed Trained for the Kingdom, Matthew 13:52
- August 16:** The Power of Personal Testimony, Luke 24:36
- August 23:** The Blessedness of Giving, Acts 20:35
- August 30:** Holy Boldness, Acts 4:29



The bell choir is planning how to make music together again in a safe way and welcome anyone who would like to join. Contact Carrie Coenen if you are interested.  
[coenenbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:coenenbuddy@gmail.com)



Come visit "The Patio" at Salem. Meet a friend for conversation or enjoy this space for a time of reflection. On The Patio is an interactive Prayer Wall for individuals and families to use. Be sure to check it out.

## FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

At this time of year, the Mission Committee is typically sponsoring a school supply drive. With many school districts starting the year with virtual instruction due to COVID-19, needs have changed. The Mission Committee is shifting its focus to getting masks to families in need, especially so that families have access to multiple masks so that they can be washed and so that children have masks when they start in-person school. The Mission Committee is looking into working with a local group that makes and distributes free masks. Details will be coming soon. There will be an opportunity for sewers to make masks and for non-sewers to contribute financially for materials. Watch for email or Facebook updates.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Colleen Bass
- 5: Madeline Moll
- 7: Debbie Bass
- 8: Owen Luginbuhl
- 13: Gladys Schmid
- 14: Bake Adams
- 15: Isaac Bahr
- 16: Katherine Shubak
- 17: Michael Fiez
- 22: Dawn Lingard
- 23: Verlis Luchsinger
- 27: Lena Woodis
- 29: Melissa Remus
- 30: Heidi Hodel
- 31: Krista Nechvatal

*\*Congratulations to Eric Hauser and Maddy Farrell who were married in our sanctuary on July 11th.*

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education

608-692-3239 or [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org) *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. - Matthew 7:7(NIV)*

*19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

This scripture passage is pertinent to our current circumstances in more than one way. First, we are called to lead others in faith, and it begs the question of how we do that when we are required to remain socially distant. The second is that Jesus is with us always and we need that message now, more than ever.

When the shut-down occurred in mid-March, we successfully switched to online worship and virtual Sunday school classes and small groups. Every month we will be evaluating the safety of holding programs in person. Until then, we need to continue to rethink how we maintain our familiar programming in "new" ways.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During the summer, I am usually seeking new volunteers to teach Sunday school and serve in other ways during our program year. While this coming school year will not be "normal", I am still looking for volunteers to lead online classes (all ages), small group discussions, and join the BoCE in January. Please contact me if you are comfortable in the online setting and would like to lead classes, groups, or join the BoCE. Resources, support, and training are provided.

## VBS: A Great Big Beautiful World

Adults, youth, and kids have enjoyed exploring God's creation through scripture, music, and activities. The Summer fun continues until Aug. 9 . Every Sunday is an independent unit, so feel free to join via zoom at any time. Contact Sarah Pundt to request a link to the Zoom invitation.

Children preK-grade 5	Sundays @ 9am
Adults	Sundays @10:15 am
Youth	The youth program is individualized for the participants. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested in joining.

## VBS "On Location"

VBS is traditionally a time of group activities and games. This year we can't physically be together, but outside activities at church are available for families. VBS families should have received an email from me regarding logistics for this activity. If your family is not participating in VBS but would like information on this part of the program, please contact Sarah Pundt.

# LOCAL RESTAURANTS TO SUPPORT FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

One of the highlights of our annual intergenerational VBS is the community meal. Since we are unable to physically gather for our meal, the BoCE would like to encourage the people of Salem to patronize local restaurants. These businesses have struggled during the pandemic and we would like to be good neighbors and support them. Our goal is for everyone to support at least one restaurant per week during VBS (July 12- Aug. 9). Below are some local options to choose from but feel free to patronize your favorite establishments (please focus on locally owned businesses).

## **El Charro**

Curbside or delivery within 10 miles  
Hours 11:30am-7:30pm  
608-497-0165  
elcharromexicangrillrestaurant.com

## **Jordandal Cookhouse**

Curbside- daily lunch and dinner special menu  
Hours 12-6:30pm Tues-Fri  
Dinner orders must be placed by 2pm  
608-352-0408  
jordandalcookhouse.com  
Check Facebook for daily updates

## **Dragon City**

Carry out  
Hours 12-8pm Monday thru Friday  
2-8pm Sat-Sun  
608-845-3398  
dragoncitychinese.com

## **Sugar River Pizza**

Delivery or curbside  
Hours 11am-8pm Mon-Thur  
11am-9pm Fri- Sat  
Closed Sunday  
608-497-1800  
sugarriverpizza.com

## **Avanti's Italian Restaurant**

Curbside  
Hours 4-8pm Wed-Sat  
608-848-3315  
avantisverona.com

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

August 2020

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.* -Acts 4:13

On a quiet morning recently, I was cruising around the internet, reading bits and pieces of national news. There was one story that wasn't especially surprising or dramatic, but it stuck in my mind and kept bothering me.

The story was about a physician named Dr. Anthony Fauci. Maybe you have heard of him? He is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He has worked there since 1968, longer than I have been alive on this planet! In his career with NIAID, he has seen and responded to many global epidemics from AIDS to Ebola to swine flu.

And along came COVID-19.

President Trump invited him to serve on the White House Coronavirus Task Force. He agreed to do that. Then the trouble began. In Washington, D.C., you not only can't please everyone. You can barely please anyone. He has been threatened with everything from the loss of his job to the loss of his life. People were upset that he changed his mind about the wearing of masks. Liberals didn't like his warnings about the spread of COVID-19 at racial justice protests. Conservatives didn't like his warnings about big political rallies. Neither side liked the uncertainty that goes with a new and deadly virus. Neither side liked the large numbers of people losing their jobs or, especially, the numbers of people getting sick and dying of the virus. Like many people working at the White House, Dr. Fauci has fallen out of favor with the President for his cautious approach. In the news story that I was reading, President Trump had tweeted a threat to fire Dr. Fauci.

Why did that bother me so much? I guess it's because Dr. Fauci has become something of a hero to me. He is a dedicated, compassionate, and decent man who seems to have a deep well of courage. I wish I had that kind of courage. I sent him an email at NIAID to thank him and ask him to keep fighting the good fight. That made me feel a little better.

Who are your heroes? What is it about them that inspires you? Do you think that you could ever have the qualities that you admire about them?

Take a look at the verse at the top of this page. Really think about it. The writer of Acts is telling us something remarkable. We don't need to be born with courage. We don't need to earn it through our own efforts. Like Peter and John, perhaps we could just spend so much time with Jesus that we come to desire his truth more than the approval of other people.

Praying that we may all know Christ and the power of his resurrection,  
Cathy Kwilinski, on behalf of the Salem Youth Ministry Team:  
Janet Dahl, Cara & Nathan Bahr, and Sarah Pundt

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him.* -Colossians 3:17

# A NOTE FROM YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Hello Salem Youth! The YMT is thinking of you and praying for you. We hope that you and your families are enjoying a summer that is fun, healthy, and safe in spite of the ongoing viral pandemic. We were looking forward to sharing a midsummer safely-distanced outdoor hike with you in mid-July. Just before then, the news came out that infections in Dane County were starting to increase at an alarming rate. With disappointment we canceled the hike. But the YMT is still meeting virtually through the summer. We are actively making plans for programming in the fall and winter. Watch your email (parents especially) for more information in the weeks to come. We look forward to connecting with you again very soon!

Janet Dahl  
(Director of Youth Ministry)  
Cara Bahr, Nathan Bahr, Sarah  
Pundt, and Cathy Kwilinski  
(your adult leaders)

## Social Justice Corner

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.*  
--Psalm 133:1

Amid all the chaos and division of this political season, something surprising happened a few weeks ago.

First, China passed a new security law which took away virtually all rights to free speech or assembly for the people of Hong Kong. They began enforcing the law immediately, by arresting journalists and human rights activists. That part was not surprising. The Chinese government has been moving to clamp down on civil rights in Hong Kong for a long time.

The surprising part was that the Trump administration responded decisively by threatening to revoke the special trade status between the United States and Hong Kong. Together with Congress, the administration also threatened to freeze some Chinese assets and block the billionaire owners of certain Chinese corporations from traveling to the United States. The Chinese government is furious. They have responded with sanctions on several American leaders including Republican Senator Ted Cruz and Democratic Senator Marco Rubio.

It's a complicated situation. For example, blocking trade with Hong Kong affects China, but also hurts businesses in Hong Kong. No one knows for sure what the end results will be or if they will help the cause of freedom in Hong Kong.

But still. Republicans and Democrats are working together to stand up for innocent people who are being mistreated. When traditional enemies work together to help others, who knows what might happen next? Social justice could start breaking out all over the place. God's will could get done on earth, as in heaven.

Justice work doesn't always have to involve complaining (though it often does). At a time like this, it could mean sending a message of thanks. Visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> and send a message to President Trump. Tell him you are on board with efforts to support human rights through peaceful means.

You can also contact our Wisconsin delegation in Congress by entering a comment on their official websites: <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/>, <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/>, <https://pocan.house.gov/>. Let them know that you want them to work across the political divide to protect the human rights of people in Hong Kong, mainland China, and everywhere else.

# AUGUST 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 9AM - Pre-K-5 VBS 10AM- Adult VBS 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9AM - Pre-K-5 VBS 10AM- Adult VBS 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>12</b> 6PM - YMT	<b>13</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6PM - Men's Fellowship 7PM - Women's Fellowship (Koinonia)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>24</b> SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>31</b>					

# AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2020



## Devotional Booklets Available

Our Daily Bread, These Days and The Upper Room Devotional Booklets are available in the information box located next to the outdoor labyrinth. We can also mail them upon request. These booklets are provided by the Women's Guild.



## Lawn Chairs

While you are on the property enjoying our outdoor labyrinth, feel free to make use of our new lawn chairs next to the labyrinth and on the patio.

## SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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### Choir Director:

Janet Dahl

### Bell Choir Director:

Carrie Coenen

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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