



First Notes

by Rev. Jim Hoppert

As I wrote in last month's newsletter, the time would be coming soon when many (if not all) aspects of church life would return. At the July 12 meeting of Salem's Worship Team, the recommendation was made (and approved by the Consistory the next night) that the 10:30 a.m. worship service will move indoors beginning Sun., August 1. The service will have the full range of worship elements including singing and liturgy. Seating will not be assigned (we trust that people will not crowd unnecessarily into other peoples' spaces). Masks will not be required, but it is our strong suggestion that unvaccinated persons should mask; persons not comfortable with in-person worship in this format should feel free to continue using the live-stream worship option.

Beginning September 5, in-person worship will move from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., with the same provisions. At that time, we will start to assess whether or not a second service should be added, and if so, when. Since we will continue to live-stream worship at 8:30 a.m., we will need to determine how to set the sound system for both live-stream and live worship at the same time, and the month of August will allow us time for a dry run or two before September arrives. By the time we get to the second week of September we should have a full range of worship and Christian Education available to us.

I recognize that the changes may be too soon for some, and not soon enough for others. However, it was a format that all of the persons on the Worship Team and the Consistory could agree on.

First Notes (continued)

Before leaving the topic of worship format, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the team of folks that made live-stream worship a reality since late March, 2020. When it was apparent that we were not going to be able to have public, indoor worship, this group of persons—technical and musical—kept the flame of worship going, without missing a beat, for sixteen months. They kept it going every Sunday, without fail, plus Lenten and Holy Week services, even when illness thinned our ranks on occasion. It was a small group by design, since the early lock-down restrictions would not permit more than 10 people in an enclosed space. It was a group that limited their daily in-person contacts as much as possible. We could have just recorded the pastor handling liturgy and preaching, as many other congregations did during the pandemic, but we wanted to provide our congregation and the community around us with a quality worship experience that contained music, even if producing that music was riskier to the participants. Until recently, it was simply not feasible to open up the live-stream service to more persons.

I know that the persons who were involved in this ministry did not do it for praise or recognition, but I do want to thank them for their faithful work for well over a year. We discovered, in the process, that our live-stream worship experience was reaching people we hadn't reached before and for that reason we will continue to use this tool going forward.

One other note: I have set a performance date for the Jonah musical—October 22 - 24. It has been a project four years in the making (we had plans to try it last year, but you know how that story ended) and I am eager to get this off the ground. More details will follow in the weeks ahead.

Again, to repeat what I wrote last month, we will need to be intentional about inviting people of our church community to come back into the life and ministry of the congregation. More information will come out on that in the weeks ahead, as well.

Shalom aleichem—Peace be with you.

Rev. Jim Hoppert



Friends,

Thank you all for your generosity, prayers and support of our Back Bay Mission Trip. We look forward to sharing our experience with you all in the near future.

The 2021 Mission Team, Morgan Clarke, Tom Daigle, Megan Fontany, Karlee Hartmann, Cora Meyer, Marsha Meyer, and Jennie Schoenefeld



O1 Annabelle Wykuis
O1 Savannah Johnson
O4 Ruth Miller
O5 Joe Ausloos
O6 Ava Mahler
O6 Gavin Gebler
O7 Addison Groene
10 Addison Fink
10 Liza Wilson
11 Olivia Titel
11 Sharon Schicker

12 Mariann Picard

12 Peter Meyer

13 Erica Helmer
13 Josh Bender
13 Paige Miller
16 Kaylee Maxwell
16 Pat Wachter
18 Brynn Quade
18 Peggy Ellis
19 Allie Iserloth
19 James Wachter
19 Tim Miller
20 Lois Faas
21 Andrew Helmer
21 Barbara Webb
21 Kyle Odekirk

22 Aubrey Fischer
22 Katy Fischer
22 Zack Schwantes
24 Jason Knuth
25 Kally Pratt
26 Barb Hengst
26 Lorayn Vick
27 Chase Markus
27 Margaret Johnston
28 Taylor Knuth
30 Austin Hartmann
30 Jody (Helmer) Pratt
30 Marvin Paulson
31 Roger Eldredge, Jr.

WISHING YOU A Happy Birthday



August Anniversary wishes go out to:

Scott & Annette Bunyea on the 1st
Jay & Peggy Ellis on the 5th
William & Laverne Eickberg on the 8th
Brian & Kim Pagel on the 10th
Peter & Lynell Jenquin on the 11th
Kevin & Michelle Mauk on the 16th
Marvin & Judy Paulson on the 21st
Jarred & Jennifer Velier on the 21st
Roland & Kathryn Bruggink on the 23rd
Ted & Diane Kaczmarski on the 24th
Wade & Gail Kleinhans on the 24th
James & Karen LeMahieu on the 24th
Donald & Bonnie Laack on the 25th
Robert & Eileen Metze on the 31st

Happy Anniversary. May your love shine brightly.



Youth & Family Ministries News

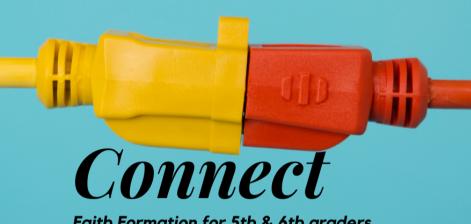
are welcome to join us for Kids Camp **August 8 & 22** 10 am - noon

Sunday School

We plan to resume in-person Sunday School this fall for children and youth 4k-6th grade beginning Sept. 12 from 9:45 -10:45 a.m. Registration information will be emailed to families in mid-August. Families new to Sunday School are asked to contact the church office to receive additional information.



Confirmation Classes begin for all students Wed., Sept. 15.



Faith Formation for 5th & 6th graders

Wednesdays at 4pm

Come over after school and join us for faith formation on Wednesdays. We'll begin at 4pm and conclude at 5pm. Connect is designed to make connections between the teachings of our faith and how we live our lives today.



Students entering 7th grade are eligible to begin the Confirmation process. Please contact the church office if your son/daughter plans to begin the program this year. An orientation for parents and students is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 8 from 6:30 - 8 pm. Our classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 pm. More details will be available at the orientation.





Sunday, Sept 12 from 6-7:30pm Join us for a campfire

(hot dogs and smores)

Bring a lawn chair and dress for the weather

@ Salem UCC 217 Salem Drive, Plymouth
Youth grades 7-12 are welcome!

About the movie:

After running away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler, a man who has Down syndrome befriends an outlaw who becomes his coach and ally.





Sunday, Sept 12 from 10:45-noon

Join us as we plan and set goals for our program year to explore our faith, serve others, and build relationships.

Kids grades 3-6 are welcome!



READINGS FOR AUGUST

Sunday, August 1 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scriptures: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel: John 6:24-35

Sunday, August 8 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm: Psalm 130

Epistle: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday, August 15 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm: Psalm 111

Epistle: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Sunday, August 22 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

Psalm: Psalm 84

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel: John 6:56-59

Sunday, August 29 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Scripture:Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Epistle: James 1:17-27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Bulletin Deadline Consistory agenda items due 10am Staff	4	5	6 Hiroshima Day of Remembrance 7pm N Anon	7
8:30am Worship (Stream) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Al Anon Kids, & Camp (VBS) 10-12N 7pm N Anon	9 Marsha vacation	10 Bulletin Deadline Marsha vacation 10am Staff 6:30pm Consistory 7pm N Anon	11 Marsha vacation	12 Marsha vacation	13 Marsha vacation 7pm N Anon	14
15 8:30am Worship (Stream) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Al Anon	16	17 Bulletin Deadline 10am Staff 7pm N Anon	18	19	20 7pm N Anon 8pm Drive-in Movie	21 Newsletter Deadline for September Chapel Chimes
22 8:30am Worship (Stream) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Al Anon Æddž,ž Camp (VBS) 10-12N 7pm N Anon	23	24 Bulletin Deadline 10am Staff 7pm N Anon	25	26	27 7pm N Anon	28
29 8:30am Worship (Stream) 10:30am Worship (InPerson) 7pm Al Anon	30	31 Bulletin Deadline 10am Staff 7pm N Anon				