

Scenes from Salem

Salem United Church of Christ

April 2021

From Sue to you

“Dream Team”

Happy Spring everyone! With the buds and bulbs popping out, and the vaccines available to so many I’m feeling hopeful, which is wonderful after a long winter and pandemic!

Since December, my focus has been in helping to create and provide online worship services. Now that we are back in the building and things are feeling a bit more “normal”, I find myself asking, “What’s next?” What does God have in mind for Salem in the next few years? How best can we use our resources (location, building, and all of us with our gifts and networks) so that Salem continues to be a place of meaningful worship, deep friendships, and empowering community engagement?

To begin to address these questions Bob Charles and I will be hosting a “Dream Team” gathering on April 25, after the Sunday worship. If you would like to be a part of this discerning process, could you spend the next few weeks praying about Salem, and then come prepared to share the thoughts that have come to mind? Although we won’t be coming to any conclusions at this time, we will be gathering information that will help us in next steps.

I’m looking forward to what God is putting in our hearts. We are God’s community, created to love and enjoy God, and to do good works that have been prepared in advance for us!

Random Acts of Kindness



I was reminded last week of the idea of “random acts of kindness” when I was reading about a church in Florida that was reaching out to its community. I thought, what a wonderful way to celebrate the season of Easter! So, here’s the challenge for this month – let’s try to do some random acts of kindness in April. To help you remember you can cut out the little box below and put it somewhere you can see it. Then we can share our experiences in next month’s newsletter.

The York Association

of the Penn Central Conference,
United Church of Christ
and the members of

Dover

United Church of Christ

35 West Canal Street, Dover,
PA 17315

Invite your presence for the
Service of Ordination of

Sue Schmidt

Sunday, April 18, 2021

3 P.M. (Sanctuary)

**In-Person or by Facebook Live or
Zoom**

**All are invited to a time of
fellowship**

RSVP – 717-292-3743

To be able to assure seating

(Outside in the parking lot)

**Masks and social distancing
required**

April News



Symbol

*“My faith is all a doubtful thing,
Wove on a doubtful loom~
Until there comes, each showery spring,
A cheery tree in bloom.*

*And Christ who died upon the tree
That death had stricken bare,
Comes beautifully back to me,
In blossoms everywhere.”
~ David Morton*



READINGS FOR APRIL

- APR 4:** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18
APR 11: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; John 20:19-31
APR 18: Psalm 4; I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
APR 25: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; I John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

SALEM AT 2021 HELPING HANDS

We cannot be there in person this year, but you can participate in the Silent Auction fundraiser from home. There are always an interesting group if items included. Salem’s contribution to the auction is a \$50 gift card for Panera Bread. Please consider a donation toward the cost of this gift card. Your contribution may be included in your offering, with a notation “UCC Homes gift card.” Thank you for your support of the UCC Homes.

Darlene Hillegas

2021 UCC Homes 25th Anniversary Helping Hands Event Goes Virtual

UCC Homes is excited to announce that our 25th Anniversary Helping Hands event will happen in 2021...just in a different way! On behalf of the Board of the Directors and Special Events Committee of UCC Homes, we invite you to support our VIRTUAL 25th Helping Hands event.

Our virtual event will offer a variety of ways in which you can uplift and support our mission, including participating in our online auction. Gathering together was fun and exciting but the real focus for this event was always on mission...serving those in need within the communities of UCC Homes. The need to underwrite residents who are no longer able to pay for the cost of their care and who are not deemed eligible for governmental assistance continues to grow and is very real. While it is not a guarantee, it is our intention to never have to ask anyone to leave because of his/her inability to pay for the cost of care. Building up the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund will assist UCC Homes in providing financial assistance in future years.

You won't want to miss out on the fun of the online auction and you can do it all from the comfort of your own home! We are using ReadySetAuction secure software to conduct the online bidding via computer, tablet or smartphone. To participate in the online auction, you can register at no cost online after March 17th at our special Helping Hands website:

<https://events.readysetauction.com/unitedchurchchristhomes/helpinghands>

A preview of the amazing auction items will be available from April 12th to April 18th and online bidding will open on April 19th and close on May 1st at 4:00pm. Monetary donations are currently being accepted on our Helping Hands website for those who may not wish to participate in the auction but want to support our mission.

It is our hope that the virtual format will enable more people to share their passion for helping others by participating at a level that fits their giving objectives and supports our mission!

Thank you in advance for your support!

Consistory Highlights

Consistory met again in March for the first time since November, its members full of ideas and enthusiasm for the coming months.

Most importantly, we welcomed the presence of our new pastor, Sue Schmidt, and agreed to reopen the church for in-person services beginning on Palm Sunday.

While we still need to be mindful of all the necessary precautions (social distancing, face masks, etc.) we look forward to gathering together for worship once again.



Now that the Third Street entranceway near the office area has been repaired and painted, we look forward to finishing several other projects, such as the men's restroom near the gymnasium stairs. The bulletin boards will be rehung in the hallway and installing a new, metal prayer box.

Consistory agreed to gather information and estimates for future projects - that are still in the discussion phase - such as painting the Sanctuary and refurbishing the gymnasium. We also are investigating a potential new, electronic sign for outside the church, painting and installing new floors in the restrooms.

Pastor Sue will be ordained at Dover UCC in York County at 3 p.m. on April 18. The service will be livestreamed so that all may attend, at least virtually.

In the spring, she will be welcoming new members and resuming Sunday School before the start of service. Pastor Sue is also contemplating organizing smaller groups for gathering outside of the church. If you're interested in any or all of these ideas, please see the Pastor.

Parking, the perennial problem, is something we are still working on. Richard Veet has been in discussions with the city about possible solutions.

Anyone who needs to park close to the church on Sunday morning for health or other reasons, may use one of our four parking spaces at B'nai B'rith. Please talk to the Pastor about this process.

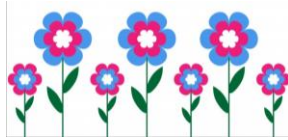
On a sad note, our administrative assistant, Deitra Jones, has resigned because of her ongoing health challenges. We thank her for her service to Salem and will keep her in our prayers. Volunteers will be picking up her tasks, so if you are interested, please see the Pastor or a member of Consistory.

Janet Kelley, consistory president

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers for the altar, please sign your name to the sheet on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. The cost of altar flowers is \$33. Please make all checks payable to Salem UCC. If payment is included in the offering envelope, please indicate "altar flowers" on the envelope.

APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER



April 4, Sunday,	Easter Sunday – Communion
April 11, Sunday	<i>Consistory meeting after worship</i>
April 18, Sunday	Pastor Sue’s ordination at Dover UCC at 3 p.m.
April 25, Sunday	“Dream Team” meeting following worship in the Chapel

On-going events

AA - Meeting 6:30 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday in the chapel.

