



# Scenes from Salem

January 2021

Vol. 29 - No. 1

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## Highlights

### Consistory Highlights

The subtitle for this month's article should be "Good News/Bad News."

The good news for Salem (in addition to the birth of Jesus Christ, of course, which is the best news) is that we finally have a new pastor: Sue Schmidt.

We are excited and grateful to at last have found a shepherd to lead our humble flock and we look forward to many years of working together with Pastor Sue for the good of our God and our church.

The bad news is that because of the Covid-19 virus we decided to temporarily stop having in-person worship services. The increasing numbers of people who have the virus, poses too great a risk for those attending our church.

We pray for all those who are ill, those caring for the sick and thank God for the hope of a vaccine to end this pandemic. We promise to keep in touch and will meet again when we feel it's safe to gather in church.

Thank you to Darlene Hillegas for making an abundant supply of holiday face masks to share with those attending church these past months.

Thanks also to Caleb Sisak, Joe Sobel and Pastor Sue for coordinating a beautiful Christmas Eve service, recorded by Steve Nelson, to bring some sense of Salem's tradition into our homes as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

During this past month, we were able to accomplish a few things on our to-do list including the plastering and painting of the Chestnut Street entrance hallway. Part of that project was to remove the old inclinator, the mechanical chair, outside the sanctuary. Thanks to Rick Moore for accomplishing that monumental task and to Jeff Smith for coordinating the work crews for the painting and plastering. It looks clean, fresh and beautiful once again.

Although Salem's Closet was unable to host its annual children's Christmas party, Sandy Sgrignoli and her volunteer elves provided hats, scarves, blankets and assorted goodies for women and children in local shelters. Thank you!

Let's pray for a healthy and peaceful new year and God bless us everyone!

*Janet Kelley,  
Consistory President*

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*“<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.  
<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall take your tambourines,  
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.*

*(Jer 31: 2-4)*

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year. Salem has a new pastor and I have a new church home! As we read from Jeremiah 31 last Sunday, I couldn't help but sense that God is going to be doing a new and joyful thing at Salem in the months ahead. This will happen as we each commit to growing in ways that God is calling us to grow. Jesus came as a baby, but before he became a man he had to grow. Think of it – Jesus was willing to learn! Jesus did not come knowing everything. I imagine that it took a while to learn his way around a carpenter's shop! And he had to learn to pray and hear God's voice. But he also learned that he could always count on the Spirit to lead him.

I know I will be learning and growing as your new pastor. I hope that you will be open to learn and grow as well. Together, as we are open to God's Spirit doing new things in us, God will be able to do new things at Salem. We may not grab our tambourines, but we will surely have songs of joy.

Although I'm your pastor, we are in this endeavor (adventure?) together. Along with the consistory, I want to know what you're hoping, seeing, wondering, or concerned about so we can pray and ponder together how best to move forward. As I've become older I've come to believe that the process is more important than the product – and so, as we move forward, we will do so with a commitment to listening to, understanding and honoring one another. We'll agree and disagree as friends, and trust God's spirit to keep us united as a community of Shalom.

I look forward to the year 2021 – God is with us!

Pastor Sue

### Stewardship Statistics

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
December 6	No Service	
December 13	17	\$
December 20	17	\$
December 27	20	\$
December 24		
December 30		



### Winter Snow Emergency

Just a reminder, if there should be inclement weather, such as snow or ice, and the worship service would have to be cancelled, please check the following radio and/or TV stations: WHP AM 580 and WHTM TV Channel 27 (9). Please use precaution as the weather may be worse where you live even if worship has not been cancelled.





**JANUARY 2021**

**Worship Calendars**  
**Sunday Worship Service is 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, Jan. 3 - Epiphany**

*Jer. 31:7-14, Ps 147:12-20, Eph1:3-14, John 1:1-18*

**Sunday, Jan. 10- The Baptism of Christ**

*Gen 1:1-5, Ps 29, Acts 19:1-7, Matt 1:4:11*

**Sunday, Jan. 17- 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

*I Same 3:1-10, Ps 139:1-6, I Cor 6:12-20; Jn 1:43-51*

**Sunday, Jan. 24 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

*Jon 3:1-10, Ps 62:5-12, I Cor 7:29-31, Mark 14-20*

**Sunday, Jan. 31- 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

*Deut 18:15-20, Ps 111, I Cor 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28*

**January 2021 Calendar of Events**

- Jan. 3 - Epiphany Sunday
- Jan. 10 - First Sunday after Epiphany  
- Baptism of Christ
- Jan. 17 - Second Sunday after Epiphany  
February Newsletter Deadline
- Jan. 18 - The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 24 - Third Sunday after Epiphany
- Jan. 31 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**January Birthdays**

- January 2 - Ralph Gardner
- January 10 - Richard Veet
- January 15 - John Sisak
- January 16 - Mary F. O'Keefe
- January 18 - Laurie Sisak
- January 20 - Bob Deibler
- January 21 - Betty Miller
- January 30 - Sherrie Veet



**On-Going Events**



**AA** - Meeting 6:30 pm -  
9:00 pm every Tues.  
Thurs. & Sat. in the chapel.



**Bible Study** - No Bible Study  
until further noticed.



**Salem's Closet** -. Donations  
always accepted, especially  
pillows, sheets and blankets.



### Salem's Closet News

Salem's Closet: even throughout the pandemic, Salem's Closet has been serving to meet our community's needs:

JUSTICE YOUTH CENTER---97

2ND CHANCE MINISTRIES----42

MORNING STAR PREGNANCY CENTER---11

SOCIAL SERVICES----492

GROUP HOME FOR SPECIAL NEEDS----23

DAILY BREAD----19

BETHESDA MISSION---37

WOMENS SHELTER----112

OTHERS----218\*

We always need blankets, pillows, men's socks, belts and gloves. Reminder, you can make a cash donation, just note on your offering envelope "Salem's Closet." Questions and to volunteer, please call Sandy Sgrignoli at 717-635-0569.

### UCC Homes

#### Christmas For Residents

Thank you to all who donated to help make Christmas merrier for residents at UCC Homes Kindred Place Harrisburg.

Thank you,

Darlene Hillegas,

Salem's Keyperson of UCC Homes' Auxiliaries

### Wellspring Pastoral Counseling

Did you know there is pastoral counseling at Salem church?

Pastoral counseling services are available for individual, families and couples

with concerns, such as:

Anxiety

Depression

Feelings of shame and guilt

Spirituality

Grief and loss

Appointments are available Monday - Friday

10am – 6pm

(evening hours are also available).

For more information, contact:

Scott M. Watts, MS, LPC, NCC

717-433-7426

wellspringpc@outlook.com



### “ Ark of the Covenant”

Exodus 25:10 A gold covered wooden chest with lid: contained two stone tablets of “ THE TEN COMMENDMENTS”. God pronounced His law directly to the people

Exodus 20:18-22

Today God speaks through Jesus, who at various times and ways spoke to the prophets, and in these last days speaks to us by his son Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2

And they ask Jesus a question (to trap Him).

“Which is the greatest commandment”

Matthew 23:36

And JESUS said

“Love the Lord thy God “ the 1st commandment, and then Jesus gave us a 2nd commandment or as I call it is. “love thy neighbor as thyself”

Matthew 23:38-40

For on these two commandments hang the LAW and the teaching of the profits.

BUT WHAT ELSE WAS PLACED IN THE ARK?

A pot of manna Exodus 16:32-34

It was a remembrance a reminder to show what God has done. And Jesus said

“DO THIS IN REMEBRANCE OF ME “ I Corinthians 11:24 Holy Communion

ALSO

Aaron’s Rod That Budded.

Numbers16:17

Numbers 17:5 God Chooses His leaders

The HOLY SPIRIT has made us overseers

Acts 20:28

The contents of the Ark of the Covenant have great lessons for us—

GODS LAW 10 Commandments

GODS LOVE pot of manna

GODS LEADERSHIP rod of Aaron

**Continued from page 5**

Conclusion (a new covenant)

Hebrews 8:12-13 and chapter 9

Jesus is much better than Judaism and the ark of the covenant.

The OLD covenant was fading away including the temple service.

So what happened to the ARK of the Covenant?

2nd Chronicles 35:3

Placed in Solomon's Temple

But Solomon's Temple was destroyed

Just as Jeremiah had said ( Jeremiah 25)

Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and destroyed the city of Jerusalem & the Temple, all was taken away to Babylon, but no mention of the Ark of the Covenant, so did Jeremiah hid the Ark of the Covenant or did he carry it to Egypt.

2 Chronicles 36:1-21

OR DID GOD TAKE IT

Revelation 11:19

Rick Moore

## **CONTACT Helpline**

CONTACT Helpline

provides free, confidential listening, Health and Human Services information and referral 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for over 40 years. CONTACT Helpline is looking for volunteers to answer calls. Training will be provided and shifts are flexible. Please consider helping this community organization and gain rewarding work! Questions? Call Kelly at 717-652-4400 or visit [www.contacthelpline.org](http://www.contacthelpline.org).

## **Sign- Up for Our E-Newsletter**

Please share your email with us so we can communicate upcoming events and announcements to you via email.. By sharing your email address, Salem could also email you the newsletter (and save a stamp). Usually the newsletter via email comes out a little earlier than the paper copy and is in full color! Please call the office (or email us at [salem@hotmail.com](mailto:salem@hotmail.com)) and let Deitra know you'd like to give her your email address.

Church Office: 717-232-7145      Church Email: salemucc@hotmail.com  
www: www.salemucc-harrisburg.org

Susan Schmidt, Minister  
Janet Kelley, Consistory President  
Deitra Jones, Church Secretary  
Caleb Sisak, Organist  
Sandy Sgrignoli, Custodian

**Salem United Church of Christ**  
**231 Chestnut Street**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17101**  
**Bible Study 9:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.**

**SALEM'S MISSION STATEMENT**  
"Historic Salem, in the heart of Harrisburg, seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance in welcoming all people to worship God; by encouraging participation in the ministry of Christ through Christian outreach with the city's heart."

### ***January 2021 Newsletter***

Salem United Church of Christ  
231 Chestnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101