



# The Scroll



Volume 72, Issue 5 • May 2023

## JOY, HUMOR, LOVE

Message from Pastor Linda

I HATE TO BREAK THE BAD NEWS, but if you

weren't able to be in Sunday Worship yesterday, you missed something truly special. In truth, every Sunday worship service at Salem has something special awaiting all who come. It's why the Lord created Sabbath for us – when we gather together, we are blessed with the gift of community, belonging, encouragement, support and prayer. We are refreshed and grounded again in what truly matters, what truly endures in this world – faith, hope and love through Christ and expressed through one another.

For an hour or so, we have a breather from the world and all its troubles and pressures and expectations. Here we are reminded anew that we are loved by our Creator and assured no matter how much we may believe we have fallen short or not measured up, we are forgiven and accepted. We are enough just as we are. Here we can share in the celebrations – cheering for engagements, birth announcements, healing, and anniversaries. And here too, we can share our burdens and trust that others will help us carry them, through the offering of prayer and/or practical means.

“Okay, but what made **this** particular service so ‘special’? It was the message that three of our youngest members shared on Sunday. In fact, they embodied it! During the Children’s Message, I was speaking about the body of Christ; I explained we each have an important part in it, no matter what our age. Then I asked them the question: what are some of your gifts? Honestly, I thought they may be stymied by the question, or too shy to answer it aloud, or offer the typical answers such as, I draw well. But their answers were deeper and remarkably self-aware. Truly. Listen....

Nya: *I bring happiness.*

August: *Funny-ness.*

Jillian: *Love-ness.*

Joy. Humor. Love. Wow.

These are awesome gifts for the church - treasures that the world we live in desperately needs.

And here we are - blessed to have all three at Salem.



Jillian, Nya, and August earlier this year.

I must tell you, the whole Sunday morning unfolded as such. There was **happiness** before the service as our church family worked together cleaning the church top to bottom. Joy in the singing. Joy in the discovery by our youngest members when they set eyes on the new Geodome on the playground. Joy in the listening as our choir sang songs reminding us of God’s amazing grace and the freedom in that. Joy as our children busily worked on a special project in Acts of love. Joy in learning about the work that is happening through the Covenant around the globe. Joy in having old friends back in church and new folks visiting. And the list goes on.

There was **funny-ness** in the conversations as people dusted and vacuumed, as laughter erupted during the children’s message, and in the mingling in the Narthex after worship.

And most certainly there was **love-ness**, an overflowing abundance of it. You could feel it in the air. It encircled our family of faith. Love-ness in the greetings and the smiles. Love-ness spilled forth in the prayers for someone who was brokenhearted. Love-ness in the invitation to help change the future for a child by registering to walk 3.7 miles for CKC. Love-ness in the care shown toward those who are struggling with really hard situations in their lives with no quick and easy solutions.

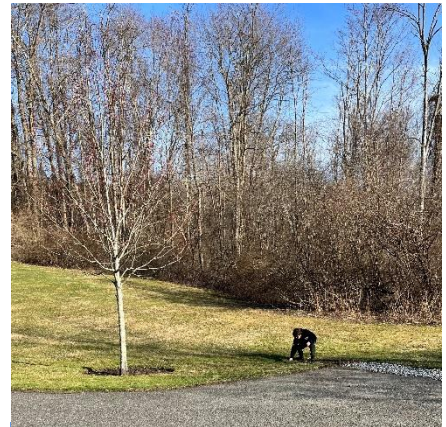
Happiness. Funny-ness. Love-ness. That’s what we all had the privilege of experiencing Sunday morning. Yes, Sabbath is made for us. Thank you, Lord! And thank you Nya, August and Jillian for reminding us of this truth, and generously sharing your amazing gifts with Salem’s family of faith!

## “EGGING” HOUSES MAKES A COMEBACK



It has been a few years since our older youth ‘egg-ed’ people’s homes, but this year the tradition was back. The Monday before Easter, our youth at Hangout Haven spent some of the afternoon filling dozens of plastic eggs with candy treats. Once they were filled, we all piled into a van and went about town visiting the homes of our younger children of Salem. At each house, the teens tumbled out of the van with eggs in hand and hid them all around the yard. (A couple of times, we were caught in the act!) Once all the eggs were hidden, a sign was taped to the front door declaring, “You’ve been egged!”

One plastic egg was intentionally left empty, symbolizing the empty tomb after Jesus rose from the dead. It was great fun for all of us and we hope for the kids who were surprised to find their house had been “egged!”



**Above:** Penny, Nathan, Jane, Jaeden, and Keith with Pastor Linda and Christi in the van.

**To the right:** Jane, Jaeden and Nathan in action and one of the eggs tucked in a bicycle wheel.

**Below:** The Easter bags filled and ready to be delivered to the homebound.



## EASTER BAGS



While the youth were adding some Easter excitement for our youngest members at Salem, Julie Fredlund spearheaded a church effort to fill Easter Bags. These bags were Easter gifts for our members/friends who are shut-in and unable to readily leave home and join us for services. Many people contributed all sorts of Goodies: candies, tissues, hard candies, homemade scones, Word Searches and copies of the Covenant Home Altar. Another group of volunteers drove about the Saturday before Easter, delivering the bags to unsuspecting folks. In total 12 bags were gifted to some very happy and surprised recipients!



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES & EASTER

Without fail, Holy Week observances and Easter is a very special time for the Church. We gathered together downstairs on Maundy Thursday, with 18 of us seated around a table, eating and breaking bread together. This special evening, the story of Jesus’ last supper was recounted, Communion was shared, songs were sung, and each person was anointed with oil, blessed as they left to serve the Lord through their gifts.





On Good Friday, the Church gathered for Tenebrae: The Service of Shadows. Through this somber worship service, we listened once again to the story of the Passion: Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion. We were reminded once more of Jesus’ sacrifice for all of us. As the readers narrated the service, the shadows grow longer and the night deeper, until only the Christ candle remained lit. Then finally as the last strains of the hymn, Were You There? were sung, the Christ candle was carried out and all was in darkness, save for the Cross above us. We left with our thoughts in remembrance of the Holy One’s suffering.

Then on Easter morning, everything was transformed. The gloom was gone – joy and exuberance erupted in color and song and pageantry. It started quietly, at first, at the Community Sunrise service at the Stone Church Green as the sun and its rays broke forth over the horizon. Five different churches’ clergy led this humble service in the early dawn with almost a hundred from around the community gathered.



As the sun rose higher, Salem gathered for a wonderful, vibrant, full of joy time of celebration of the Risen Christ. Jillian carried the Christ candle to the altar as a declaration of Christ’s victory over death. It was wonderful to see so many gathered together and fill the excitement and joy in the air. After the service, our younger children participated in the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. It was a beautiful day. Thank you’s to Susan Klein and our Choir, to Diane Swanson and Elaine Babiyan for the coordination of the Easter flowers; to those who donated candy for the Easter eggs and to Gail Covillion who filled all the eggs!



### COVENANT KIDS CONGO

As has become the Salem tradition over the last 10 years, the entire Easter offering collected was designated for the work of Covenant Kids Congo. This year’s offering totaled a whopping

**\$2121.60!**

Thank you, everyone, for your generosity and impacting the lives of children and their communities for generations to come!

## EARTH DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 22



**The Crew:** Matt, Jane and Owen Light; Crissy and James Dowling; Heather, Chase, Liam and Finn Hurley; Hayden and Nathan Fisher, Michael, Lindsay, Jillian and Dax DeRosa, Deb Houldin and Mikey Andrews, Gabby; Penny Becker, and Pastor Linda. Not pictured: Stephanie Shaw and Michel Williams

Wow! What a crew showed up for Earth Day! Twenty-two volunteers, ranging in age from 3 years old to 68 years old, turned out to help clean up Baldwin Hill and part of Popple Swamp Road. Wearing t-shirts designed by Jane Light, the crew set out to collect trash and debris strewn along the busy road. There was the usual trash of empty liquor bottles and soda cans. Some of the more unusual things found were a dead turkey carcass, the skulls of several small animals, some heavy auto parts including a hubcap and a hunting gun rest (in good shape!). In total, the group collected eight large bags of trash! The earth is breathing better now!



## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



As part of recognizing Autism Awareness Month, Kevin Cassese, Development Officer, was invited to come and speak about the on-going mission and services of Ädelbrook – an agency that provides education and services for those on the autism spectrum. At our Worship service on Sunday, April 23, Kevin talked about the number of students that they are now serving state-wide, 315, and the staff support, 600+, for them. He also shared about two exciting new developments: 1) they are just now launching a Used Book Store. This new business will serve as a hands-on job training for their transitional students. And 2) they have also initiated a food pantry for those who are coping with food insecurity in the region. Many of the families associated with Ädelbrook, either through the students or staff, will be able to benefit from this new community outreach.

Our church can help by donating used books in good or excellent condition. The books may be for any age and about most topics. If you would like to contribute your gently used books, you may drop them off at the church all the month of May. Ädelbrook will send a driver/van to come and pick them up.

## EAST COAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING, By Starr Evans

This past Saturday (29 April) I represented Salem as a delegate to the 133rd annual meeting of the East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Prior to the meeting each delegate was emailed a packet of material, a whopping 138 pages, to review before the meeting. It was a reminder that we (Salem) are part of a larger organization which requires regular care and updating in order to serve God and meet the needs of people in our communities. Just as a reminder, the East Coast Conference is headquartered in Cromwell, CT but it covers a large geographic area, from New Sweden, Maine to Newport News, Virginia.

While at the meeting I met delegates from VA, PA, NY, MA and CT - all there to do the work of the East Coast Conference and hear about the many new things happening in the our conference. One of those delegates was Bekah Lindberg, our last pastoral Intern 😊 It was so good to see her! I also met and had a chance to chat with Tammy Swanson-Draheim, the President of the Evangelical Covenant Church. I found her to be a wise, compassionate woman who really listened to my thoughts.



Part of the regular business was the election of the East Coast Conference Executive Board. I am pleased to report that Michel Williams was re-elected as the Chair of the Board and Michael Ravelo was re-elected as a Director.

Delegates and guests at the meeting heard from Jim Condap, Executive Director of Pilgrim Pines Camp and Retreat Center (an East Coast Conference agency) and Stephen Cushing, Executive Director of the New England Seafarers Mission (an agency of the Evangelical Covenant Church) about the good works done at both agencies. Each Director mentioned the ever-present need for financial support and reiterated the East Coast Conference suggested contribution of 1% of our annual budget to Pilgrim Pines and .5% of our annual budget to New England Seafarers Mission. I saw this as a reminder once again that we are called to care for others, not just ourselves.

We heard about various services and programs designed to help pastors and lay leaders and congregations grow and develop their leadership skills. We also heard about Women's Ministries led by Nan Lingenfelter. Nan sends out a newsletter *News from Nan* three times a year with information about events of interest to women who wish "to learn from one another and see how the Lord is living practically in their lives."

Howard Burgoyne, our East Coast Conference Superintendent had three questions for the delegates, and therefore our churches as well.

1. Where do you see God around you?
2. How is God meeting you?
3. Where might God be making things new around you?

These are thought provoking questions worth thinking about. I will leave them for you to ponder.

## WORKING AS ONE - GRUBBY SUNDAY



**Thank you:** (Front row) Daniel, Julie, Pier, Karen, John, Stephanie, Nya, Erin, Jane, Nathan, Carol and Suzanne, (Back Row) Spencer, Deb and Michel. (Not pictured) Steve and Peter B.

What can often be categorized as drudgery and toil when one *has* to clean, wound up being a great morning of fellowship and activity together with a common goal and a singleness of heart. It was with cheerful hearts and "let's do it!" attitudes that a crew of all ages showed up to participate in the annual Spring-Cleaning Grubby Sunday before church yesterday. Our volunteers set out with their various cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaners. They tackled the cobwebs in corners, fingerprints and grime on windows, dusty baseboards, and grit on carpets with gusto. Window screens were cleaned and fixed in the windows in anticipation of

warmer weather and gentle breezes. As folks worked alongside each other there was laughter and visiting, and some brief breaks for coffee and donuts. It was a wonderful surprise to have some of our newest visitors at Salem pitch in to help. Thank you to Spencer Guptill, our Church Trustee, for his work organizing the morning.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO ON A FRIDAY NIGHT THAT DOESN'T COST MONEY?

**SALEM**

COFFEE HOUSE

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**  
Open 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

|             |              |            |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| PING-PONG   | REFRESHMENTS | CARD GAMES |
| FOOSBALL    | CONVERSATION | BASKETBALL |
| BOARD GAMES | PUZZLES      | MOVIES     |

For Adults, 18 years and over.

 A poster for the "Global 6K for Water" event. It features a woman in an orange shirt on the left and a young girl in a purple shirt on the right. The text in the center reads "COVENANT KIDS Congo World Vision GLOBAL 6K FOR WATER Sunday, May 21, 2023".
 

Join us on **Sunday, May 21, 1-3 pm**, to walk 6K. Why 6K? This is the average distance women and girls in the Congo walk to collect water for their community. Registration is \$50. Why \$50? This sum will provide water for a lifetime for one child! (Children are \$25) We will begin at the Church and walk to halfway down Popple Swamp Road, 3.7 miles. Click [Here](#) to register today! If you need a sponsor to register, contact Kiersten Marich, Team Captain, or Pastor Linda.

## PROPERTY UPDATE

If you are under the age of ten, or the parent of a child under 10, you may have discovered our playground has a new piece of equipment. Thanks to several donations, a sturdy and bright geo-dome was purchased. Michael DeRosa and Michel Williams took a couple of hours last week to assemble the climbing structure. Yesterday Nya was the first to "christen" the geodome.



# Thank You's

Dear Pastor Linda and Salem Covenant Church,

It was great to receive an "Easter bag" from the Salem church and cards from the Sunday school. The word search book is something that I really enjoy working on. I'm working on 1000-word search book on "the Bible". Also, thank you for the beauty products and *The Covenant Home Alter* that I will enjoy reading.

Sincerely,  
Edie Johnson

Salem Covenant ~

Thank you for your wonderful Women's Health program! To all I met and all who coordinated.

♥ Sara Guillemette  
Washington Home Care, LLC

Dear Church Family,

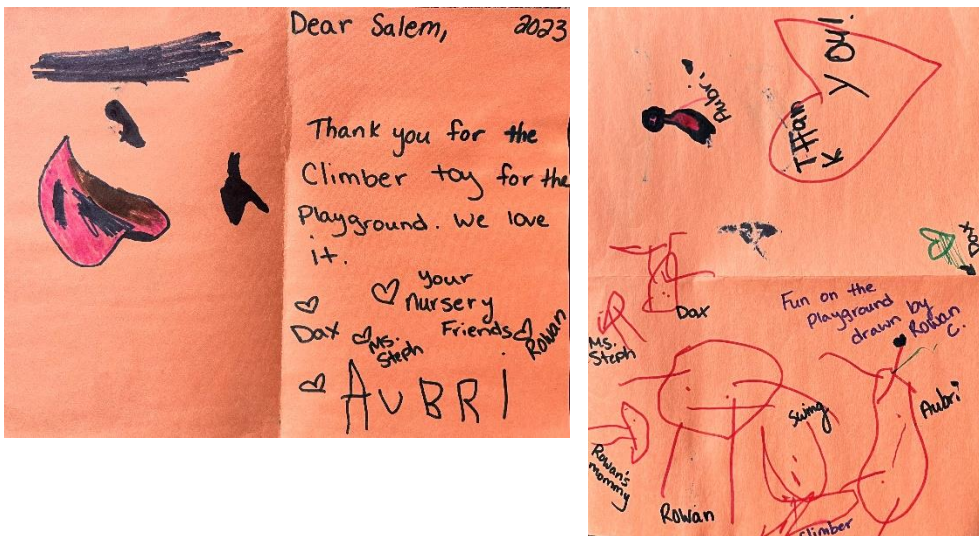
THANK YOU for your prayerful support over the last month, as I have mourned the death of my father-in-law, immediately followed by my Aunt Evelyn's stroke, fall, and passing.

I felt surrounded and supported by our church family. We are blessed to have people who when they say "I will pray for you," you just know that they are going to commit themselves to full hearted and fervent prayer.

I had come to church early yesterday for Grubby Sunday, and it was then and there that I heard the news of my aunt's passing. I am especially grateful for the kindness of all who came to my side yesterday. Thank you especially to prayer warriors Carol and Steve Allison.

Deborah Griesbach

And from our youngest Salem family members, a thank you for the Geodome....



## MAY CALENDAR

**May 5** – Loaves and Fishes, 3:30 pm

**May 7** – Worship & Communion, Family and Fellowship

**May 10** – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

**May 12** – Salem Coffeehouse, 7:00 pm

**May 13/20** – Saturday Soul Talk & Supper, 5:30 pm – Grades 6-12

May 14 – Mother’s Day

May 21– Confirmation Sunday

– CKC 6K Walk/Run, 1:00-3:00 pm

May 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

May 29– Memorial Day



|                |   |                    |    |
|----------------|---|--------------------|----|
| Lillian Winter | 2 | Terri DeWitte      | 10 |
| Lillian Ames   | 3 | Kiersten Marich    | 12 |
| Iona Dousky    | 4 | Karl Quist         | 13 |
| Betty Sutter   | 5 | Tristan Williamson | 13 |
| Luke Hoeniger  | 9 | Steve DeWitte      | 14 |
| Chase Hurley   | 7 | Diane Locke        | 20 |
| Angela Chase   | 8 | Jillian DeRosa     | 22 |

SALEM COVENANT’S CORE VALUES

We, the members and friends of Salem Covenant Church, are committed ... to loving God through worship and praise, ... opening ourselves to His Word, and ... visiting God in prayer. We are SALEM.

Showing compassion to those in need as God gives us grace and ability. (Matthew 9:46)

Accepting one another in grace and love as Christ has accepted us. (Romans 15:7)

Lending a hand to those around through acts of service in Christ’s name. (Matthew 20:28; Romans 15:1-2)

Engaging in life together. (Acts 2:42-47)

Moving in one accord. (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:2-6)

IN REMEMBRANCE...

|              |               |   |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| May 3, 2022  | Galen Quist   | Salem Friend & Barry Burr Johnson’s partner |
| May 4, 2020  | Noel Pillings | Sara Taylor’s father                        |
| May 10, 2019 | Lenny Fleet   | Jeff Fleet’s brother                        |
| May 27, 2005 | Fred Dahl     | Ann Dahl’s husband                          |
| May 29 2019  | Jean Hough    | Member and close friend to many             |
| May 31, 2013 | Louise Dodd   | Ginny Napolitano and Elaine Babiyan’s aunt  |