



The Scroll



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SUMMER PROJECTS

Message from Pastor Linda

To say life has been a little bit crazy of late would be an understatement for many of you. Step aside March Madness because the May calendar of events was over the top! As the school year winds down, the number of extracurricular activities has ramped up exponentially. There have been concerts, Senior projects, league championships, awards nights, picnics, weddings and already a few graduation ceremonies. Our days seem a blur of late.

Soon though, life should slow down for most. As the weather warms, people will be off for long-anticipated vacations, enjoying evening outdoor concerts, strolling through local farmer’s markets, or participating in any number of interesting workshops. And then there are, of course, those summer projects that have been on hold through the year, including DIY home improvements or planting vegetable gardens.

What kinds of projects do you have on your summer calendar? What will they entail? Are you excited and eager to get started? Are there any you dread having to do? As I think about the idea of projects, I am reminded of all the work, the planning, the energy expended, the cost, the wrinkles we run into and the satisfaction and/or relief we experience when they are complete. There are many benefits to projects.

Sometimes, though, we run the danger of slipping into thinking of ourselves, or others, as ‘projects’. We set out to improve in this area or that; we strive to grow or achieve. We make goals and then push ourselves to reach them. These are all good aims to have. However, when we put pressure on ourselves that we should have figured “this” out, or “arrived” here by now (wherever that may be), it opens the door for shame and self-criticism to creep in. We unnecessarily burden ourselves or others with demoralizing *should have*’s, or *should be*’s.

As is often said in yoga class, we are not human *doings*, we are human *beings*. Our lives do not follow an even, steady upward line towards at last ‘arriving’. This is especially true in our spiritual formation and in our relationship with God. Rather, as Cindy S. Lee asserts in her book, *Our Unforming*, “God is at work in us as an ever-expanding circle... As we are transformed, “we create more room in our souls for ourselves, for God, and for others.” (p. 25) Lee reminds us,

We are not “projects” to God. God is not in a hurry to be finished with us.

“There is no point where we finish or complete our

formation, so there is no hurry to be done. We are not “projects” to God. God is not in a hurry to be finished with us.” (p. 32).

My hope this summer is you are able to have the satisfaction of completing a long-awaited project or two. And too, that you enjoy time this summer to simply “be” – to relax and find contentment in the present with yourself, God and others. Happy summer!

This month’s issue of The Scroll is dedicated to **Dolly Whitney**. Our beloved Dolly was a faithful, dedicated, inspiring, generous follower of Christ. She served 40 years as a Sunday school teacher/Superintendent, sang with the choir for 60 years, and was hugely involved with our Swedish smorgasbords, Lenten lunches, tag sales, Lydia’s Circle. Quietly she blessed people who were in financial need, and regularly donated toward capital improvements for the church building. Most importantly of all, she loved God with all of her heart, soul, mind and strength and she loved us – her church family. She will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Rest in peace, good and faithful friend.



ÄDELBROOK ASKED & YOU DELIVERED!

Last month, Salem had the opportunity to welcome Kevin Cassasse of Adelbrook to one of its worship services. During the service, Kevin shared about the ongoing ministry and service Ädelbrook provides to children and young adults who are on the Autism Spectrum. It is an absolutely amazing organization (<https://adelbrook.org>) and has grown to be a flagship model for education, compassion and care for these individuals for the state of Connecticut.

Listeners also learned that Ädelbrook has just kicked off two new initiatives. The first is a food pantry for the families and any staff that may be experiencing food-insecurity. The second is the start-up of a used bookstore where their young adults can learn business skills in a safe and sensitive environment. Kevin asked Salem to consider partnering with Ädelbrook in these endeavors. That's all he needed to do: Extend the invitation. He asked for used books and Salem delivered! Over the course of two weeks, dozens of books in gently used condition were dropped off at the church. The Narthex filled up fast! The outpouring was so great, there had to be a close date for donations!

On a bright sunny day in early May, the Williams' car was loaded with books from end to end, and up to the roof. Off the books went to Cromwell, CT. You should have seen the Front Desk Receptionist Zoraida Pena's eyes when she saw how many books were being delivered! She couldn't believe how many had been donated. It took a while to unload them all. Thank you to everyone who responded to the call for books! This gift will help our friends at Ädelbrook in immeasurable ways.



CONFIRMATION CREATIVE PROJECTS AND CELEBRATION

This year's Confirmation (7th/8th grade) class had two students: Jane Light and Nathan Fisher. Throughout the year, Nathan and Jane showed up regularly at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings to study the Old Testament with Pastor Linda. Together, they covered the books of Genesis – Judges, studying the main themes, doing work sheets and utilizing excellent videos (produced by Bible Project) on each of the books. Halfway through Spring, the class changed course.

The two were asked to select a story/passage from the Old Testament and create a video lesson for others to watch. They needed to determine the 'big idea' or the main message the writer wanted to convey, write a script that summed up the story, and write a prayer to close the lesson. Once this was done, they were to create a video that illustrated the Bible lesson. They could make Claymation, draw two-dimensional art, use Legos, do a drama re-enactment, or another artistic expression of their choice.



Nathan selected David and Goliath and got right to work on creating numerous clay figures to animate the story. His version of Goliath is sensational! He patiently moved his clay figures in tiny increments as he did stop-photography for each movement. Then he meshed them altogether into a fun video with exciting music and the telling of the story.

Jane opted to focus on the story of Jonah and the Whale. She drew a number of pictures depicting the many emotions of Jonah, and other characters, along with the backdrops. (Meeche Simpson, Pastor Marlon's son, crafted the whale for her to use.) Once she was done with all the drawings, she took many photos and weaved them into an awesome, narrated video – sound effects and all! To see her video, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ru6ahuIWEXE>.



Last, but not least, on Confirmation Sunday, Nathan and Jane shared their video creations in worship much to the delight of our congregation. Then, after two years of Confirmation class/study, Jane was confirmed! Jane helped to lead the church in the Apostle's Creed and then answered all the questions for the Rite of Confirmation. Her family was invited forward to lay hands on her as Pastor Linda led all in a prayer for Jane. Following the service, there was a reception outside with a delicious cake to celebrate this significant milestone in Jane's life. We look forward to seeing where God leads Jane in her future and what He will do through her life.



GLOBAL 6K WALK FOR WATER – WE WALK SO THEY WON'T HAVE TO

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Kiersten Marich, our Missions and Outreach Chair, Salem participated in its first Global 6K Walk for Water sponsored by Covenant Kids Congo and World

Vision. Our team of over 30 men, women, youth and children along with a number of sponsors (non-walkers) joined more 24,300 other people around the country in this exciting day. Each person who registered was provided a 'bib' with a picture of the child they were sponsoring and the child's name. The \$50 registration fee covered lasting access to clean water for each child sponsored. In total over 34,730 will now have clean water for a LIFETIME!



On a gorgeous day, following the Confirmation of Jane Light, walkers garbed in bright orange shirts, orange cow bells, and pictures of their sponsored kids pinned to the front of their T-shirts, set off. The team walked up Baldwin Hill, left on Scofield, and along Popple Swamp Road all the way to Edwin and Marji Whitehead's farm. There walkers could stop for some water and a little rest before turning around. The total distance walked was 6K or 3.7 miles – the average distance, women and children must walk in some parts of the world to collect water – water that isn't safe to drink.

It was a beautiful time together in so many ways – the community-building, the laughter and conversation and doing something as a church family for a great cause!

Global 6k Walk for Water - Team Salem!



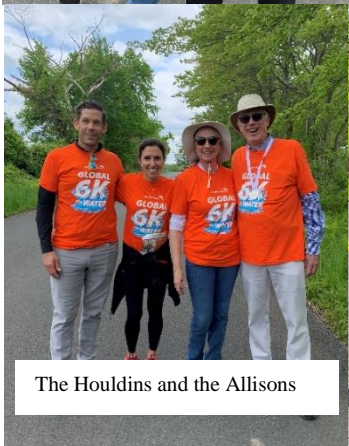
Pam Quist and Mo vanMoffeart



Pam and John Spear



Owen Light



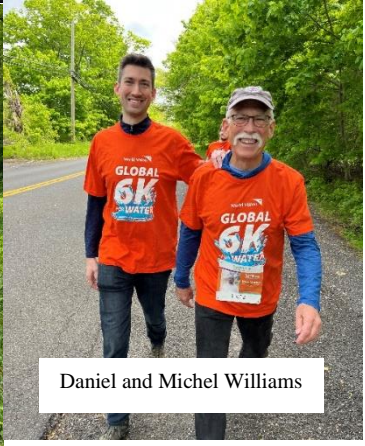
The Houldins and the Allisons



Frannie Caco & Company



Carol Maxwell & Friends



Daniel and Michel Williams



L to R: Holly Camp and her granddaughter, Lizzie; Jane, Erin and Owen Light; Diane Swanson and Marji and Edwin Whitehead; Caroline, Kiersten and Mike Marich; Diann Buro and Suzanne Drapeau

I HAVEN'T LAUGHED THIS HARD...



'I haven't laughed this hard in a long time' was an oft-said comment after our first Salem Coffee House in May. Eleven people came wandering in, not sure what to expect for the evening's gathering. There were familiar faces and some new visitors. They had heard it would be a time to relax, play games, and enjoy some snacks. The games Mexican Train and Scattergories came out. Many didn't know how to play either game, but all were quick learners. It wasn't long before the laughter began to grow, and the room got louder. Homemade cookies made the evening all that much sweeter. By the time the night ended, folks were already wondering when the next Coffee House would happen which, by the way, is this month, June 16!

THIS YEAR'S 2023 GRADUATES



Hearty congratulations to this year's Salem Graduates: 8th Grade Graduate, Jane Light; High School Graduates, William Marich (Frederick Gunn School), Cade Sivick (Shepaug) and Jamie "Keith" Swanson (Shepaug) and Seminary Graduate, Pastor Tamara Ravelo (Yale Divinity). Well Done! We are proud of each of you!!!



KITCHEN UPGRADE UPDATE

On May 17, the Town passed its proposed Budget. The budget included the needed Emergency Shelter allocations to fund our Kitchen's Commercial Upgrade. This is a huge answer to prayer! Currently, there is a septic inspection in progress. It was discovered upon the inspection that the pipe between the septic tank and the

leach field is cracked and filled with tree roots. It will need to be replaced and will run about \$1800 for the repair. How grateful we are that the septic hasn't backed up due to the blockage!

Meanwhile, Michel has removed a cabinet in the kitchen that was above the refrigerator to create a larger space for the new commercial refrigerator. We are expecting confirmation of its delivery sometime soon. Though the process is slow, we continue to make baby steps toward the dream of completing the remodel and upgrade.

PROPERTY UPDATE



Thanks to Christi and Spencer Guptill's eagle eyes, the Children's playground has a new climbing structure to complete our playground equipment. One Sunday morning, Christi spotted a gently used Little Tikes slide 'for Free' out front of someone's home near the church. Spencer let the owner know that our church was interested and could he swing by later to pick it up. The friendly neighbor said it was no problem and between the two of them, they moved the equipment out of sight. Now it is here bringing enjoyment to our youngest members.

Have you ever been in that situation where you grow so accustomed to seeing something that you stop even noticing it? Well, this was the case with our church sign. Over the years, it had grown dingy and tired looking. With a new set of eyes and a fresh look at it, Carol Allison noticed it could use some TLC. Over the course of several days, Michel Williams painted the posts, and Carol gave our church sign a fresh coat of paint and lettering. What a difference it has made! Thanks Carol for taking the initiative for this task, and to Michel and Spencer Guptill for their help getting the sign off and up again.



Finally, several weeks ago the water from our faucets was coffee brown and the water pressure seemed to drop considerably. Today Foss Well will be here to replace a tired relay switch and doublecheck on the condition of our 14 year old pump.



This month is LGBTQ+ month; just stating this stirs very strong emotions in many people – both positive and negative. In the past several decades, the Church universal has fiercely struggled with diverse views around gay marriage, gender identity and other similar issues. Denominations have split. The Covenant itself has been wrestling with this weighty matter for a period of years. Over the past several years, the ECC has provided ongoing webinars and resources through a program called [Embrace](#) (which is in harmony with the adopted position of the Evangelical Covenant Church) for churches to access. Within our own congregation, there is a wide continuum, with people able to cite Scripture that either supports or opposes their understanding of what the Word has to say regarding human sexuality and gender.

As we have been doing each month since September, we are seeking to honor people whose cultures may differ from our own but are part of God's vast kingdom. No matter where we stand on these controversial matters, the bottom line is God calls us all to love one another and to see the imago dei in each person. (There is overwhelming research showing that bullying, violence, homelessness, depression and suicide are much higher among this population. We are reminded that Jesus has a huge place in his heart for the marginalized.) For centuries, the Church has been enriched by the music, poetry, art, writing, service and other areas by these men and women and for this we give thanks. Case in point: the lives of Joan Gauthey and Charlotte Johnson. This month Deborah Griesbach interviewed the two who have been members of Salem for years and humbly served God, our church and this community.

PROFILE ON CHARLOTTE JOHNSON & JOAN GAUTHEY, by Deborah Griesbach



Years ago, when I was in a Bible Study with Charlotte Johnson, I realized that she really, really knows her Bible. So when I sat down to interview Charlotte and Joan for this profile, I started off by asking Charlotte, “How is it that you know your Bible so well?”

“From the time that Mom started to read me bedtime stories, she always read to me from Egermeier’s Bible Story Book. I was probably two when she started that, and she read to me every night. When you’ve had that every day of your life, it’s part of you. Plus, I was immersed in our church and its people from the beginning of my life. I can’t even tell you how deep the connection was.”

“Have you ever wavered in your faith?”

“When I figured out that I was gay, I was not happy. I knew I was going to hell. That’s when I tried to kill myself, and ended up in a psychiatric hospital for six weeks.”

That’s how our interview began!! Let’s step back from that emotional cliff, though, to learn more about these two ladies.

Joan Gauthey

You may know that Joan was for decades an award-winning coach at Shepaug Valley High School. But do you have any idea how good she was? Do you know, for instance, that when she logged her 300 th field hockey victory with the Shepaug girls, she made the National High School Sports Record Book and was profiled in The New York Times? If you look her up in the National High School Sports Record Book today, you will find that she is the national first place record holder for coaching field hockey, with 347 team wins.

Well, you might know that. But did you know that in the 1950s, before Joan was hired to teach physical education and American history at Shepaug, she worked for the CIA? She really did. Her work was top secret, and she never talked about it until the Reader’s Digest published an article about it, at which point it was clearly no longer secret. Joan’s specialty was Russian agricultural production.

I asked Joan to talk about her experiences of teaching and coaching. Many of the things she said will ring true to the teachers among us. For instance, she said, “You have to be in control all the time. There’s no question about that. I don’t mean that kids can’t say what they want to say. I mean in control of this whole classroom of children, who all have different opinions . . . you had to be ON all the time.”

When Joan spoke about coaching, what came through was her deep knowledge of and care for individuals (and of course, for the game). She stressed the importance of practice, and of using practice to learn what individuals can do and where they will be best placed to help the team. When I asked her to remember a situation where her team was struggling, Joan described a game at Wamogo where one player stepped up during half time and said just the right thing to turn the game around. When I asked her how you coach a team where one player is substantially more skilled than others, she talked about the need to coach others on their critical role in supporting and feeding that player so that the team can win.

I remember one former student telling me, “Ms. Gauthey wasn’t someone who just cared about the stars. She knew and cared about every single student she had.”

Charlotte Johnson

Charlotte’s roots in Washington go back to the 1800s. Her family were caretakers for the Vaillant family, of Old North Road in Washington. Charlotte and Joan live today in Charlotte’s childhood home, the home that Charlotte’s father built on land given to him by the Vaillant family. Ask Charlotte to tell you about the blizzard of ’88. 1888, that is. That blizzard was so fierce that Charlotte’s grandfather had to

stretch a rope from the house to the barn in order to take care of the cows without getting lost. Charlotte's first career was as a nurse; she earned her B.S. in Nursing and then her R.N. at North Park College and worked at Swedish Covenant Hospital. After 20 years as a nurse, Charlotte embarked on a second career as a massage therapist. She saw massage therapy as something of a personal healing ministry and cared deeply about her clients. During Charlotte's decades of private practice in Washington, she developed an extraordinarily loyal clientele.

Those deep Washington roots may perhaps help explain why so many Washington people were comfortable with Charlotte – and with Charlotte and Joan as a couple – long before women had the rights that they have today and certainly long before it was OK to be gay. Thus, for instance, in the late 1960s when Charlotte and Joan did get together and wanted to get a mortgage – in an age when a woman could not get a mortgage without a male guarantor - Bob DeCourcy vouched for them. He said they were OK. And when a long-ago pastor “outed” Charlotte to the VNA, going to the VNA office and saying “Do you know that Charlotte's homosexual?” then the two nurses and the secretary who were there said, “Yes, why are you telling us?”

Charlotte and Joan

The things that Charlotte and Joan have done as a couple are amazing. In their oral history interview with the Gunn Historical Museum, they described being in Chicago in 1968, during the riots, and being tear gassed. They describe seeing tanks coming down Michigan Avenue with machine guns. On a more positive note, Joan and Charlotte are graduates of the National Outdoor Leadership School (a 6-week course). They also took a one-week winter survival course in Alaska. They have visited and camped in an extraordinary number of our national parks.

In closing our conversation, I asked Joan (the history teacher), “With all of your life experiences and everything, how do you feel about this country today and its future?”

Joan said, “I LOVE this country. But I'm really upset with the way it's being handled . . . not so much the government, but the people who are opposing things in this country. They don't seem to understand that they have so much freedom, so much ability to say what they want to say. . . . I just think that people are abusing the United States . . . They don't seem to care about it . . . I wonder, “How can we get together and make people realize that this country has so much to give them, and so much worth, that we are free to do so much? It's amazing, and I don't think people realize that.”

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

SALEM

COFFEE HOUSE

FRIDAY, JUNE 16
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.

96 Baldwin Hill Road, Washington Depot
Lower floor

For more info, call 860.868.2794

In Loving Memory

Dear Salem Family,

Dick and I were saddened to hear of Dolly's passing to the Everlasting Arms of our Lord. Dolly was so central to Salem Covenant Church - a regular institution! Not only was she a servant in every capacity to the church, but also to the community. She and her sister, Ann, were a dynamic duo linked as one in so many ways. I remember her deep down chuckle as well as her deep-down voice. She was one of those people who smiled when she talked, regardless of the subject. She served as a church benefactor should a capital improvement become necessary; she was ready with her checkbook. She and Ann served as inspirational examples of a Christian lives well-lived. Salem has suffered a significant loss, but she will be long remembered.

Sincerely,
Ann and Dick vonHoorn

For those who were unable to come to Dolly Whitney's Funeral Service, here is the link to the digital recording. Scroll down to May 18, Funeral Service for Dolly Whitney.

<http://www.salemcovenantchurch.com/sermonmp3s...>

Thank You's

Vincent and I would like to thank the church for the lovely wind chimes. We have them in the back yard and will enjoy them for many, many years.

Thank you again, Salem Family,
Dawn and Vincent Bélanger

To All Our Friends at Salem Church ~

It is heartwarming to see all the traditions that are still carried on at Salem The outpouring of your support kind words or donations of food for the reception are overwhelming. Aunt Dolly is smiling down on us all ~

Thank you,
~ Mark & Lori (Dahl)

JUNE CALENDAR

June 4 – Worship & Communion, Family and Fellowship

June 5/12 – Hangout Haven, 2:45 pm

- Monday Bible study, via zoom, 7:00 pm

June 11 – Teacher Appreciation/Children's Sunday

June 16 - Salem Coffeehouse, 7:00 pm

June 18 – Father's Day

June 21 - Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

June 28 – Evening Prayer



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Seth Caco	6
Caitlin Cannavaro	11
Max Klein	14
Aaron Klein	14
Christine Chase	15
Patti Anderson	21
Art Bogue	21
Dorine Boesel	22
Taegan Sivick	27
Carol Maxwell	28
Ron Ames	29

IN REMEMBRANCE...

June 9, 2021 – Gerald Sivick, Mike Sivick's father

June 13, 2018 – Joe Martin, Friend of the Church

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)