

The Salem

Stimulus

A Publication of Fishing Creek Salem UMC

July 2021

Vol 49/Issue 7



Summer Hours
Memorial Day—Labor Day
Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm
Office is closed Monday, July 4th

Growing up, it felt like time passed very slowly. I was always looking forward to the next stage of life: growing up, graduating, going to college, getting married, and having children. I wanted time to move faster! However, now that I have my kids at home and I love this season of life so much, I want time to slow down! But time moves quickly these days.

So I cry out, "Slow down summertime! My family needs you!" We need time for long walks on the beach, time to sit around the table for dinner, and time to play games until late at night. We need time for ice cream after long, hot days. We need time to be with friends, family, and our church family.

Summer should be a time to slow down. Breathe. Take it all in. Not rush around at the school-year pace.

God whispers to me, "Rest." In Psalm 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." We can find rest in God, any time of year. What does it mean to "be still and know God?"

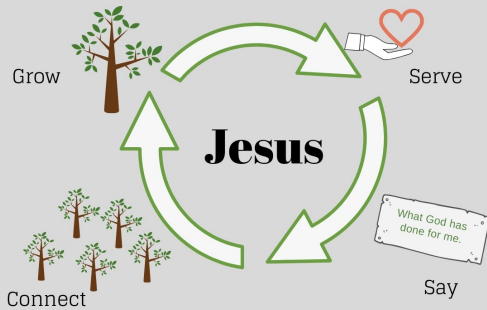
To "be still" means to cease striving or literally "to sink." Imagine a person sinking down into a comfortable chair in order to relax.

In This Issue:

- ◆ Upcoming sermons
- ◆ Ways to serve
- ◆ Annual Conference Update
- ◆ Library updates
- ◆ And more

(Continued on Page 4)

Discipleship Path



Disciples: Get Closer to Jesus & Become Like Jesus



The Salem Stimulus
July 2021
Vol 49 No 7

Contact Information:

Les Towsey, Lead Pastor (ltowsey@fcsalem.org)
Jenny Thomas, Community Pastor (jthomas@fcsalem.org)
Sandy Herman, Office Manager (office@fcsalem.org)
Tracey Michelsen, Office Assistant (assistant@fcsalem.org)
717-938-1928—www.fcsalem.org

Staff:

Gina Curtis, Director of Salem Community Nursery School
Michael Hayes, Building Coordinator
Jess Husman, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Tracey Michelsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Tracey Michelsen, Michelle Rich, Bonnie Gruver, Church Sextons
Kelsey Robertson, Director of The Gathering Worship, Keyboardist
Derek Sandstrom, Director of Worship Ministries

Sunday Service Schedule (subject to change—watch announcements):

8:15am in the Sanctuary
9:30am in Fellowship Hall (also live-streamed)
11:00am in Fellowship Hall



The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in Truth (Psalm 145:18 NIV)

Please lift-up the following in your prayer time during the month of July.

- ◆ July 4th– Independence Day as we celebrate our great nation and enjoy the benefits of the freedom that comes with the event that made this day so special.
- ◆ Safety in gathering– as more places of worship and businesses are easing restrictions on gathering in larger numbers, that we stay safe and healthy and we can enjoy being together again.
- ◆ July 30th– International Day of Friendship, a day of respect for others and a day to celebrate diversity. Take time to prayerfully promote and encourage friendship among peoples, cultures and countries; encourage efforts toward peace and build bridges among different people.



Jarod Armes
Billy Carlisle
Peyton Etter
Silas Marakovits
Penelope Martin
Grace Michelsen
Colton Rose
Penelope Schroll
Kylie Smith
Connor Stank
Warren Wolf
Bryce Zeiders

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all of those who prayed for the young hearts and souls that attended Salem's Vacation Bible School. A huge thank you to those who designed, built and painted the many sets that we have in the various classrooms to bring the Bible stories to life. A huge thank you all the leaders and volunteers who devoted their week to these children and youth to give them a fun, faith filled week. It was truly amazing!! There were God Moments all through out. Over 150 children ages 4 years through 5th grade, 75+ youth ages 6th grade through recent high school graduates participated and deepened their faith journey. What a blessing it was that a few friends from the BICC ministry also were in attendance each night.

What a blessing the week was for all of us !

continued from page 1)

This reclining posture allows the person to let go of their tension and be at peace. Then, "know that I am God."

This means that God is on the throne, all things are under his power, and he has a plan for us. There is no panic in heaven, God rules. Therefore, this verse is telling us to relax because God is in charge.

I want to encourage you in the busyness of summer, to be still and know God is God. Take time to relax and feel the peace wash over you knowing our God rules and reigns. This of course won't stop the rush of summer, yet it will slow you down to experience God's peace.



FOR EVERY
SET BACK,
GOD HAS
A MAJOR
COME BACK

JULY 4TH GOD IS WITH YOU.

God promises to be with us; always! Always means always. Through scripture, testimony, and application we will strive to understand what it means for God to be with us; especially during a comeback.

JULY 11 GOD FORGIVES YOU.

God promises to forgive us. When we are forgiven, our sins are erased and gone forever. Through scripture, testimony, and application we will seek to know God's forgiveness for us: especially during a comeback.

JULY 18 GOD STRENGTHENS YOU.

God promised to give us strength. When we are at our weakest, God offers us his strength. Through scripture, testimony, and application we will learn how to receive God's strength: especially during a comeback.

JULY 25 GOD FORMS YOU.

God promises to form us into his image. As part of the body of Christ, people have been serving the Lord through Salem Church for hundreds of years. Through scripture, testimony, and application we will experience how to God form us into the body of Christ: especially during a comeback.

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY, FISHING CREEK SALEM CHRISTIAN LIBRARY!

submitted by Kathy Alford

This article is actually a reprint of an article I wrote for the *Stimulus* five years ago.

Forgive me if you are already familiar with this story, but I think it is a wonderful example of how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, and I want to share it with as many people as possible.

It started with a dream. I was a 35-year old stay-at-home mom to two rambunctious but adorable boys, one a toddler and one a preschooler. Teaching had always been my passion; however, I knew that when God blessed me with children that I would take time off work. I loved being home with the boys, but I was looking for a way to use my teaching degree in my spare time that wouldn't involve babysitters. Then one night a path opened up for me.

The dream presented itself as a tutorial of how to set up a church library. Details flashed in my mind of how to organize the books with every detail. I woke up around 6:30AM and sat straight up in bed. Adrenaline rushed through me as I shook my husband Brent up and started giving him elaborate details about the dream. Brent told me that he only heard half of what I was saying; I was so excited that I was hardly making sense.

Without thinking about what time it was, I flew into the kitchen and proceeded to call Conrad Page. For those of you who never knew Conrad, he was the lay leader of our church for years, and he was well-known among pastors and other lay leaders of the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Conrad listened patiently as I shared with him all the details about my library dream. When I was finished, he said to me, "Kathy, it is evident that God is at work today. Last night we had a meeting, and we decided that it was time for our church to have a library. You were the first name on our list to call to see if you would be interested in being our librarian. I was going to call you as soon as I had my breakfast." I still get shivers when I think about that morning. I don't know who else was at the meeting or even what type of meeting it was, but Conrad and I were both shocked at what had happened. I didn't know anything about the plans for a library. Conrad didn't know about my prayers for a way to use my reading specialist degree while staying at home. Why did I call Conrad and not our pastor at that time, Mike Minnix? Was God involved? To Conrad and I, it was clear that God was working through us. Twenty-five years later I am blessed to still be our church librarian. Many individuals have helped in so many different ways.

BACK TO THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NEWS

By Kathy Alford

For the first two weeks of July the Back to the Bible Sunday School Class will continue studying Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*. Beginning the third week of July and continuing through August we will be studying Max Lucado's *Jesus*. *Lucado explores the life and character of Jesus. By exploring Jesus' life, death and resurrection as well as specific details like how he interacted with his friends and his enemies, what he did with time alone, how he acted at a party, this compilation from Max Lucado gives readers the chance to become more familiar with the man at the center of the greatest story ever told. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, the reader will understand more clearly the person they were created to be. Max writes "Don't settle for a cursory glance or a superficial understanding. Look long into the heart of Christ and you'll see it. Grace and life. Forgiveness of sin. The defeat of death. This is the hope he gives. This is the hope we need."*



Visitors are always welcome. Materials are provided. We meet every Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 in room 210 upstairs.

Why don't you give us a try?

Continued from page 10

The library has grown from a small room off the hallway (now Pastor Jenny's office) to where we are now upstairs off the front stairs in room 213. In fact, that room is busting at the seams to grow into a new space! If you have not visited the library in a while or never, please come up and check it out. There are over 7,500 items cataloged and displayed. There are books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and games for all ages. There is a play center in the library for children with puzzles, puppets, and Biblical character toys.

Charlotte Brame and I have been working every week in the library for the past few years inventorying our materials, covering hard-back books, adding new materials, and transferring out card catalogs into an electronic format.

Every time I see someone using our library, I get a smile on my face. I pray the materials in the library help strengthen people's faith. Thanks for trusting me to lead this mission and please continue to pray for our church library.

SERVE

BE the church

Summer is here! As restrictions have all been lifted, life at Fishing Creek Salem is coming quite busy again! There are many programs beginning to start back up as well as new ones being created. It is such an exciting time in the life of our church! As schools are out and the long summer days are upon us perhaps you are looking for a place to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Pastor Jenny, our community pastor has identified many ways for us to be involved. Feel free to reach out to her if you have any questions. jthomas@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928.



SALEM SHARES FOOD POP UP

will distribute food boxes on
Thursday, July 1st at 4pm.

WE NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!!

As families have come back to church the children's Sunday School classes have grown so much we need additional teachers! What a wonderful problem to have! Won't you prayerfully consider being a teacher or a classroom helper? The program is flexible. You can serve one Sunday per month or more! The choice is yours. Please contact Tracey Michelsen if you are interested. tmichelsen@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928



HELLO

JOIN OUR TEAM OF SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

GREETERS: Salem Church is in need of greeters at the 8:15 and 9:30 am services. If you have a heart for guests and a desire to extend hospitality to all; you will make a great greeter. You can be the first point of contact with a guest that will not only encourage them to return to Salem church, but God may also use you to bring them back to Himself. Is God calling you to be a greeter? Please contact Pastor Les for more information. 717-938-1928 ltowsey@fcsalem.org

SUMMER GRAB N GO LUNCHES AT BICC

WSSD is partnering with Salem this summer in the distribution of Grab n Go Lunches at the Budget Inn from 11am – 1pm Mondays through Thursdays beginning Monday, June 14th. This summer meal program will end on Thursday, August 26th. A sign-up genius will soon be posted! So, grab a lawn chair and a partnering adult* and pick a time this summer to serve others!

Questions? Contact

Pastor Jenny

jthomas@fcsalem.org

**to serve in ministries with children, all adults must submit clearances and be Safe Sanctuaries qualified.*



Report on 2021 Annual Conference

The theme of this year's conference was:
A Vision of the Beloved Community

As Bishop Jeremiah Park explained, the Beloved Community is all about love and fulfilling the vision that Jesus has for how we live together. In this vision, we would understand that, as a human race, we share a common destiny and that whatever affects one of us directly, affects all of us indirectly. He reminded us that, above all else, we are to love God and love others as ourselves.

In keeping with this vision, several resolutions were passed by majority vote. They included:

Mental Health: The Conference will observe Mental Health Awareness Month, Suicide Prevention Month, and National Recovery Month as well as Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Disability Awareness: The Conference will celebrate the contributions of the disabled in our congregations through a Disability Awareness Sunday.

Call Toward Unity: Members are asked to work toward unity and creating space for every church, lay person, and clergy person to live out our convictions, as we wrestle with different understandings of human sexuality and sin. We are also asked to do no harm in words or actions toward fellow United Methodists during disagreements.

The Good News: The Conference renewed its commitment to reach all people with the Good News of Jesus Christ, Hope of the World.

Unity in Mission: Among other things, this one asks us to “live out unity in diversity for the sake of our mission and as an answer to Jesus’ prayer that we may be one.”

Conversion Therapy: The Conference is asked to urge the PA State Legislature to ban conversion therapy in the state in order to protect and uphold the dignity, rights, and liberty of the LBGTQA+ persons in the commonwealth.

Bishop Park, who is retiring, introduced Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball who will replace him. These two will share episcopal coverage for the Susquehanna Conference, the Western Pennsylvania conference, and the West Virginia Conference. There is no plan to join these conferences. Bishop Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Steiner Ball reiterated the importance of the beloved community and shared a vision of collaboration and innovation.

There were also reports and actions by the Council on Finance and Administration, the new Laity Board, the UM Stewardship Foundation, the Nominations Committee, the Board of Pension and Health, Trustees, the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Leadership, and the Young People's Ministry Council. As there is not enough space here to detail all of these reports and actions, we refer you to <https://susumc.org> for more information on these or the resolutions described above.

The first day of the Conference concluded with a service of remembrance for all those who passed away or were impacted by COVID-19; and the second day opened with a Juneteenth worship service which included words of love for all, no matter the difference, no matter how hard it is. There was also time taken to honor Bishop Park as he retires and for him to say goodbye to the Conference. In his concluding remarks, Bishop Park said,

"The only way to be a church in Christ is to be Alive!"

May we at Salem be Alive!

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Derrick and Kathy Alford
Lay Representatives to the Conference





402 Valley Road Etters, PA 17319

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED