

Message from the Pastor: Faithfulness in the Past, Faithfulness for the Future



Recently in our Bible Study we were learning about the burial of Abraham and Sarah in the cave of Machpelah in the land of Canaan. This is what would eventually become the Israelite's homeland, but at this time it was in the hands of others. According to the culture, a person would always be buried with their ancestors. For Abraham and Sarah, that would have been in Mesopotamia. So why did they choose their burial place far to the west amongst those who were not their family?

The answer is that Abraham chose instead to be faithful to the promise of the future God had planned for His people. Abraham had been told that Canaan would be his people's Promised Land many years from then. Abraham in the past chose faithfulness for a promised future. If Abraham were choosing faithfulness to his past, he would have instructed his son to take his and Sarah's remains back to Mesopotamia upon both of their deaths. But that's not what he did. Abraham was looking ahead.

For us as God's people in this day who are seeking to serve Jesus through Salem Community Church, we would do well to not remain in the past, but look ahead to our future. For sure we respect what our past has established as a firm foundation. However, God is always calling us forward and outward. God does not call his own to lie stagnant or be stationary, but to heed His call in our day. Abraham was called out of the comfort of his homeland and into an as yet unseen promised future.

Let us continue to seek to catch the full vision of what God is calling us to step into as we serve Christ our Lord in this place.

May God richly bless you today and always.

Pastor Jane



September 2024 Dates:

September 1—Worship Service 9am with Holy Communion

September 3--Bible Study 1pm

September 4—Salem Stitchers 1-3pm

September 8—Worship Service 9am (service will move inside on this date)

---Children's Sunday School begins

---Youth Group begins, 6pm

September 10—Bible Study 6:30pm

September 15—Worship Service 9am/Commitment Sunday

September 17—Bible Study 1pm

September 18---Salem Stitchers 1-3pm

September 22---Worship Service 9am/Receiving New Members and Baptisms

---UMW meeting after worship

---Youth Group 6pm

September 24---Bible Study 6:30pm

September 29—Worship Service 9am



Sunday Sermons for September:

September 1—Luke 12:42-48; Proverbs 6:6-11 *“The Excellent Gift”*

September 8—Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 25:14-30 *“How Talented Are We?”*

September 15—Luke 19:1-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 *“How Far Will You Go”*

September 22—James 3:13-18 *“Wisdom from Above”*

September 29—James 5:13-18 *“The Prayer of Faith”*



Jen Hildebrand	September 3
Sadie Rose Keating	September 3
John McCarthy	September 9
Dawn Courtright	September 15
Sean Batzel	September 16
Easton Blake Hollister	September 16
Gayle Janoske	September 16
Rory Jordan	September 16
Ann Peet	September 16
Gretchen Thatcher	September 27

Children's Sunday School begins September 8th!

From Children's Sunday School leader, Nikki Olszyk...

We will resume Sunday School classes during church service on September 8th. As a reminder our Sunday school is for children ages 3 - 12. There are two curriculums (3-6 and 7-12) that align with single themes each week. This year our curriculum is ***Big Faith!***

Big Faith is an exciting new curriculum from the same creator of Celebrate Wonder (last year's curriculum). We will help our children grow a faith that's as big as their imagination! The program will help the children discover, develop and practice their faith in a trusted community through timeless Bible stories, hands-on activities and child-friendly themes. This program will offer faith-formation experiences that are tangible, applicable and meaningful to our children's everyday lives.

Youth Group to Begin in September!!!

From youth leader, Kristen Rock...

Our youth group will begin on September 8th at 6pm. We will meet every other Sunday at 6pm to discuss Scripture and how it relates to real life, engage in service to our community, and discover other ways we can grow our faith. Our goal is to have fun, make friends and be an active part of our church and community.

If you have a young person who may be interested, please call Kristen Rock at 570.466.8865.

Join the Family on September 22nd! Receiving New Members and Offering the Sacrament of Baptism... If you are interested in becoming a member of Salem Community Church—or—if you would like to be baptized or have your child baptized, let us know by September 8th. Please call Pastor Jane (215.313.5374) or Pastor Jeff (570.507.4276).



Wesley's Simple Rules for Money

Earn. Save. Give.

Please Plan to Participate!

Sunday schedule for the *Earn. Save. Give.* series

September 1--Money—The Excellent Gift (Earn All You Can)

September 8--How Talented Are We? (Save All You Can)

September 15--Commitment Sunday--How Far Will You Go? (Give All You Can)

Our *Earn. Save. Give.* Kick-Off Event was on August 25th. Worship, Food, and Fun were had by all...

