



# The Scroll

CELEBRATING  
**134**  
YEARS  
1888-2022

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## THE SERENITY PRAYER

Message from Pastor Linda

Last week it was shared during worship I was

headed to AZ to help in the transition of moving my mother to a higher level of care. Those who have walked this path with aging parents understand the myriad of emotions that come with it and the family dynamics that can often be triggered. As I processed some of my thoughts and concerns prior to the trip, a friend of mine made the insightful suggestion that I carry the Serenity Prayer with me as I went. If you are not familiar with it, it goes like this:

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did,  
this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it;  
trusting that You will make all things right  
if I surrender to Your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with You forever in the  
next.

Amen.

Through the sad process of packing, moving and caring for my mom in a compressed, few days, this simple prayer served as an anchor for me. In those moments when I was keenly aware of my own powerlessness or fatigue, the prayer helped me to center myself in Christ rather than in the situations I found myself. When I was too tired to find the words to express my heart to the Lord, I would pray this prayer, letting my heart linger over the words. Whether in the waiting room of the ER, or while

packing/unpacking the boxes, or even returning home on the plane, its faithful and wise words served as healing balm for my heart, reminding me over and over again to trust in the Lord, to breathe, to savor the sweet moments, and to honor the hard.

I share this personal experience because so many, many people in our small congregation are walking through hard seasons, facing all different types of situations: health issues, aging family members, challenging relationships, difficult transitions (expected or unexpected), precarious financial futures, and so forth. It's in these kinds of moments that many often find the words to pray elusive. Where to start? What to say? How do we give voice to all that is stirring inside? Our souls yearn to be in communion with the peace of God.

These are the moments we can look to saints before us, or saints around us, who have put their thoughts into words, and formed their words into prayers. Using others' sincere prayers to the Lord may be as authentic as using our own. They serve as 'bread crumbs' along the way, guiding us along paths we've never walked, or those we know all too well. Prayer books, the Psalms, and other resources are hugely helpful in these seasons.

So if you find yourself in a place of being overwhelmed, or not sure what or how to pray, consider picking up a book of prayers, such as the [Rabbit Room's Every Moment Holy, Volumes 1 and 2](#), [Praying Our Goodbyes](#), [Prayers for Difficult Times: When You Don't Know What to Pray](#), or any host of other collections of prayers. Chances are someone has been through what you are going through and has written a prayer that will resonate with your soul. Finally, it goes without saying, nothing can be better than having others and the Holy Spirit praying and interceding for you.

## CHILDREN & DIVE DEEP FALL MINISTRY, By Christi Guptill, Sunday School Coordinator

This year as part of our Sunday School/Dive Deep Kick off, the group watched the movie, *You Are Mine* based on the book written by Max Lucado. Each family has been given their own copy of the book to read and discuss at home. Please let me know if your family still needs to get a copy of the book.

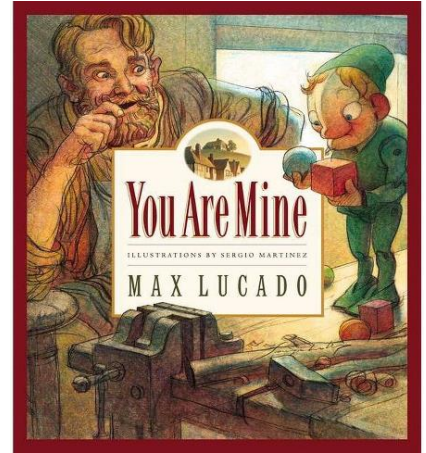
This book addresses:

Bigger allowances.

Better clothes.

More toys.

Bigger, better, more is how the world determines who's special and who's not. It's a message our kids are hearing every day. But it's not God's message.



God's truth is simple and never-changing:

**It's not what you have, it's Whose you are.**

And it's a truth that Punchinello hears again at the knee of his creator in this beautifully illustrated sequel to *You Are Special*.

- When do you feel the urge to get others' approval?
- Do you ever show off all your "stuff" to people around you?
- Do you ever buy something so you can fit in more with your friends?

Parents, Punchinello's lesson in love will help you speak God's heart to the heart of your own children:

**You are special, not because of the things you have, but because you are mine.**

In the month of October, we will be starting up our Colorful Prayer Series. This year, the first week of every month, I will be running it. Each child will be given a prayer book to use. At the end of the school year, these prayer books will be taken home to keep. Both Sunday School and Dive Deep will be participating in this

During the second and third Sunday of the month, the children will be divided up based on grade level. The Sunday School group, kindergarten through third grade, will be starting at the beginning of Jesus's Storybook. They will be watching a video and then creating an interactive craft that helps the children retell the story at home. The Dive Deep Group will start where they left off in the Journey to Justice Curriculum. Our goal is to get through the curriculum this year. Please remember that if your child is in fourth through eighth grade, they will attend Dive Deep.

The last Sunday of each month we reserve for Acts of Love. Last week, the children made brownies and froze them. They are waiting to be distributed to members of our church and community who may need a little "pick-me-up". If anyone has an idea for our Acts of Love, please feel free to share it with me or Deb Houldin, our Chair of Spiritual Formation.



### ERC FUNDS

Last year at this time, our church learned that as a non-profit organization we might qualify for Employment Retention Credit (ERC) program. ERC is a stimulus program was designed to help small businesses and non-profits that were able to retain their employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. Established by the CARES Act, it is a refundable tax credit – a grant, not a loan. The East Coast Conference referred

churches in our conference to Hundredfold Consulting LLC, which would help churches through the paperwork. There was no retaining fee for their service; they would receive 10% of the amount we qualified and paid only after these funds were received by Salem.

In spring 2023, Deborah Griesbach and Pastor Linda provided the required information to Hundredfold Consulting to submit on our behalf, with the hope we might qualify for these funds. The paperwork was filed online in June. Much to our surprise, Salem was eligible to receive \$37,370.70 + interest. In August, our church received \$40,647. After paying Hundredfold Consulting, the Church Council made the unanimous decision to tithe 10%, (\$1845.53 to Washington/Warren Food Pantry and \$1845.53 to our Benevolent\* fund). The remainder of the money will be held in our savings account at National Covenant Properties.

**\*Salem's Benevolent Fund** – This fund is used to assist our church members in need of immediate financial assistance for such things as fuel, heating oil, food, gasoline, rent/mortgage, counseling, medications and more.

### **PLANS FOR FUTURE AIR CONDITIONING**

Our congregation gathered after Worship on Sunday, September 10 for a Special Meeting to talk about the possibility of putting in air conditioning at Salem. To help prepare for the meeting, an information sheet was sent out twice in advance of the meeting to help inform the congregation of the genesis of this possible project, the costs for different options and the pros and cons of seeing this project to fruition.

After some considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve action being taken to have air conditioning installed. The motion passed with a simple majority vote in favor of this. Following the vote, discussion turned to what the scope of the project should be: air conditioning for a) only the Sanctuary; b) the Sanctuary and Lydia room; or c) the Sanctuary, Lydia room and Fellowship room. Some discussion ensued and it was agreed that more information was needed regarding the additional cost of the electrician's work for each possibility, and an estimate of how much it will impact our electricity bill.

A motion was made *“to charge the Council with securing more specific information for each of the three (3) scenarios, to further clarify pricing, funding options, and logistics, and return to the Congregation with final recommendation to vote on, and rational behind the recommendation.”* It passed unanimously.

To this endeavor, work has begun to gather more details and proposals for the A/C installation, the electrical work, and the cost estimations for use. The Council has met once for further discussion and will meet on October 18 with both the A/C rep and Electrician to go over specific numbers/costs of each option. It is the intention of the Council to be fiscally responsible as the church moves forward on this. The Council will keep the congregation posted about the next Special Business meeting to discuss its recommendation.



### **MEET OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Do you ever wonder who exactly serves on our Church Council? Do I know him or her? Well, I am happy to introduce you to the men and women who have been faithfully charged with leading and guiding our church ministry and business. Each one is uniquely gifted to their specific positions on the Council, sharing their skills talent and wisdom for the good of the Church and the sake of the Gospel. I give thanks for the many hours they give behind the scenes, to help keep our church running smoothly. It is a privilege to partner in the gospel with them here at Salem.



#### **Elliott Fisher, Church Chair**

Elliott lives at The Frederick Gunn School with his wife Morgen, their three kids, one cat, and a dog. He is a corporate pilot, which unfortunately takes him away for extended periods of time, but also allows him to scope out cool places he hopes to visit with his family at some point. Domestically, his current favorite spot is Steamboat Springs, Colorado, although Antelope Canyon in Arizona is spectacular, too. When he is not working, Elliott tries



to spend as much time as possible being active outdoors with his family, whether that is hiking, biking, skiing, or just going for a quiet walk in Steep Rock.



**Christine Chase, Vice-Chair**

Christine has been a member of Salem for about 13 years and through those years Salem church community has been such a blessing to her family. She is happily married to Jeremy, and together they have two delightful daughters: Angie (15), and Lily (11). They also have two dogs, Henry (16) and Homer (2), and a bearded dragon named Lemon (4). The Chase family splits its time between Westchester County and Washington, CT. Christine is a stay at home mom, and she occasionally works as a personal organizer. In her free time, Christine enjoys reading, going to art museums, and walking in nature.



**Donna Alex, Chief Financial Officer**

Donna has been an active member of the Salem Church family since 1970. Her husband, Michael, was born in their home on Old Litchfield Road, where the two raised their three children. Jessica, Ted, and Greg were confirmed at Salem and participated in all youth programs. Donna has been serving as Salem's Chief Financial Officer since March of this year and Washington's Tax Collector for the past ten years.



**Julie Quist, Secretary**

Julie (Quist) Fredlund was born, raised, baptized, confirmed, and married in this town and Church! Married to her husband Joe for 40 years, they have two grown daughters, Kate and Sarah, who are married and live in Atlanta. Her grandchildren George, Caroline and Honor are a source of pride and joy. Julie serves as Council Secretary, serves on Fellowship, and is a member of the Choir. Rumsey Hall School has been her workplace for the past 34 years where she is an Executive Assistant to the Head of School, Director of Secondary School Counseling, Athletic Director, Board of Trustees, and is the Registrar. Though she loves her work, retirement in a couple / few years looks pretty appealing. Julie will conclude her Council position as Secretary at the end of this year after serving on the Council for 10 years.



**Spencer Guphill, Trustee**

Spencer is currently serving as the trustee here at Salem. He describes himself as happily married to his wife Christi for 34 years. Their immediate family is made up of Lindsay, and her husband Arian, and daughter Olivia), and Zachary. He is very proud of his family and is happy being a grandpa. Spencer has worked at Sikorsky Aircraft for almost 15 years and enjoys his career as an Engineer. His hobbies include yard work, spending time with his family and recently working on his golf game. He is happy that he and his family can worship and be a part of the Salem family.



**Deb Houldin, Spiritual Formation**

Deb loves God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit, my blended family and the people God has shared with her! She is married to a patient, kind, compassionate and fun guy who shows her daily how to be uniquely herself, enjoy time and not just spend it! She's learning daily how to draw near to God to serve others. She believes spending time with God daily, not taking herself too seriously and laughter is truly her best medicine and secret to life. God has blessed her with some hilarious and epic people in her life who love the Lord. They laugh, serve and get to do life together! One of her favorite questions to ask people is "What May I pray for you!" So when you see her, please feel free to answer this question!



**Susan Swanson, Diaconate (Congregational Care) Chair**

Susan oversees the Diaconate\* arm of the Church Council. She and her family have been a part of Salem for over 20 years. She has taught in public schools for many years and is currently teaching in New Milford. Presently Susan lives with her mom, Ursula. She has two grown children, Sarah and John, both married and living out-of-state. In her free time, Susan enjoys taking walks, reading, cooking and baking, and doing puzzles with her mom. As Diaconate chair, she appreciates being able to work with members of our church family to positively impact the lives of our fellow parishioners.



**Robin McHan, Fellowship**

Robin has been married for 42 years to Doug. They have 3 grown children and 2 granddaughters. Robin was born and has lived in Washington/New Preston her whole life. She first came to Salem in 1994, which was the church her Grandmother Swanberg was raised in. Robin has been involved with Fellowship, which was formally called the Lydia Circle, since she came to Salem and has served as its Chairperson for six years.



**Kiersten Marich, Outreach and Mission**

Kiersten is married to Mike and is mom to Will (18) and Caroline (17). Professionally she serves as the Senior Director of Advancement working with alumni and families on their philanthropic support of the Taft School. In her spare time, she delights in cooking and being in nature – walking and hiking while catching up with her close friends. Kiersten has a deep passion for serving others and seeking ways to support our community, both local and at a distance.

**\* Diaconate** - This particular ministry (with the funny name) is committed to caring for those who have had recent surgery, are home-bound or have suffered a significant loss. The Diaconate celebrates milestones in people’s lives such as a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, a wedding or a new baby. It also oversees the birthday card ministry and the service of Communion in Worship.

**KITCHEN UPGRADE UPDATE, By Michel Williams, Kitchen Project Manager**

Our temporary gas stove/oven have been installed as well as the propane tank supplying fuel for its use. It should be functional by this week

Long response delays for the final exhaust hood and fire suppression drawings have delayed a complete review of our full kitchen plans by the Washington Building Department. These delays have occurred despite many requests to get this information for our fall application. It has been promised now for early in the first week of October. Keep praying that this promise is realized!

**Next steps:**

- Once the above drawings are received and our complete proposal is submitted to the Town Building Department, their full review will begin. When the proposal is approved (pending any changes or requirements for code compliance), we will begin our next steps to prepare for the dishwasher, exhaust hood and fire suppression system that will protect the stove area in the unlikely event of a fire in that location.
- All of the equipment for the kitchen upgrade has been ordered and will be delivered and installed as the work in the kitchen is made ready for each item.

**PROPERTY UPDATE**

A Replacement window was installed in the children’s classroom after what was possibly an errant rock from the lawn mower hit the glass and cracked it.



## THANK YOU, SALEM!

Dear Salem,

On behalf of the Warren Washington Food Bank, I would like to thank all of the Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, The New Preston Congregational Church, and the Salem Covenant Church who attended the services on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. at the Washington Pavilion. The cash donations for the Food Bank amounted to \$468.00.

The food bank is open every Thursday from 10:00 to noon, at the Warren Community Center across the street from the Warren Congregational Church for any Warren or Washington resident. Checks can be made out to Town of Warren and marked Food Bank. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Woodward at either Town Hall or myself.

Thank You

Craig B. Nelson

Co-chair Warren Washington Food Bank

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Dear Salem family,

Thank you so much for the farewell lunch - always delicious vittles from that kitchen! The lamp is a precious reminder of the 'light' Salem has been for us. We will always remember the blessing the choir was for all those years. Ron misses that relationship!

We are slowly finding our way and praying for another 'family' like Salem. Thanks for the cards which keep us connected for a time. Peace and Joy to all!

Fondly,

Ron & Lillian

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Dear Salem Covenant Church,

On behalf of the students, residents and staff of Ädelbrook thank you for your generous gift. At Ädelbrook we specialize in extraordinary kids. Because of donors like you our organization has been able to promise our students and residents a future filled with achievement, happiness and hope. From our individualized education services to residential and therapeutic supports, we aim to provide a continuum of care and meet the ever-changing needs of the amazing people we serve.

Your gift will be used to enrich the lives our individuals and to enhance the programs we provide. Once again, thank you for your kindness and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Goduti

President and CEO

### **OCTOBER CALENDAR**

**October 1** –Worship & Communion Service, Baptism of Sadie Rebillard 10:30, Family and Fellowship,

**October 2/9/16/23/30** – Hangout Haven begins, 2:45 pm, for Youth, Grade 6-12

**October 6** – Loaves and Fishes

**October 18** – Council Meeting, 7:00pm

**October 27** – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

SALEM COVENANT CHURCH  
WOMEN'S GATHERING 2023  
NOVEMBER 4, 9AM-1:30PM

We have freedom now, because Christ made us free.  
So stand strong in that freedom. ~ Galatians 5:1a

## Happy Birthday! OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill Hurley	1
Aubrielle Cannavaro	1
August Cannavaro	5
Edward Caco III	6
James Dowling	6
Barbara Went	8
Lindsay DeRosa	8
Jean Monteleone	18
Heather Hurley	20
Donna Alex	25
Taylor Cannavaro	25
Rolf Anderson	28
Don Ukers	28
Jeremy Chase	31

## REMEMBRANCES

October 3, 2015	Matthew Totten	Alma Fleet's Nephew
October 5, 2019	Ben March	Heather Hurley's Brother
October 5, 2019	Richard Hollister	Holly Camp's Brother

October 7, 2019	Audrey Wright	Long time member of Salem
October 18, 2019	Fran Whitehead	Edwin Whitehead's Mother
October 18, 2006	Marion Woodruff	Long time Member of Salem
October 19, 2020	Dolly Varley	John and James Varley's Mother
October 19, 2007	Ralph Quist	John, Julie and Betsy's Father
October 25, 2015	Kevin Klein	Susan Anthony-Klein's Husband