

THE MUSTARD SEED



Pastor Dwight's Upcoming Sabbatical – August 1 to October 23, 2022

In the call contract that Salem UCC and I agreed to when I was called here included the benefit of a 12-week sabbatical after every six years of ministry. I have been gifted and privileged to take sabbaticals previously in 2008 and 2014. They were a great benefit to me and to the energy I was able to bring back to my daily ministry at Salem UCC. Plans had begun to put into place a third sabbatical to begin in August of 2020, but we know how so many plans were changed or canceled because of the pandemic.

So now two years later and after an interval of eight years of ministry since the previous sabbatical, thanks to the Pastoral Relations Committee and our church Council, a third 12-week sabbatical will take place from August 1 to October 23, 2022.

The concept of sabbatical is based on the biblical idea of sabbath rest. The example of Jesus, who frequently sought out a quiet place where he could meditate and pray, away from the constant demands of the crowds is a strong biblical model for the sabbatical.

A pastoral sabbatical is different from sabbaticals you may be familiar with in the academic world of college professors, where an expectation of an end product is the goal in the form of a book or published articles. The Alban Institute offers a structure for pastoral sabbaticals as “rest, renewal, reentry.” Rest in the sabbatical-sense is a time of decompression, regular prayer and healing, physical rest for pastors from their normal schedule of being on-call 24/7 and often changing plans because of emergencies or church schedules. Such stress can take its toll on one's body and spirit. Renewal means engaging the spirit and mind with activities such as travel, study for both personal and professional growth, and engaging in old hobbies and interests or learning a new one. Reentry means preparing for returning to the church work and integrating experiences from the sabbatical into a pastor's and congregation's daily church life.

The counselor I see regularly suggested another “R” word for me and that was “reconnect.” There are family members and friends that I haven't seen in person since before the pandemic. Recently, I was able to connect with a few and it gave me great energy and a sense of peace and hope. So, I hope to integrate such reunions into my sabbatical plans as well.

Specific plans that I've developed so far for this sabbatical using these four “Rs” include:

- spending time with family and friends, incorporating those reconconnections.*
- exploring modern church vitality practices by reading books on this topic, interviewing pastors and church members engaging in unique ministries, and visiting churches' worship services and mission projects as a participant.*
- attending a Penn Central Conference “Poetry as Prayer” group retreat and regularly reading and writing poetry as a spiritual practice.*
- Attending virtually the UCC Summit, “The Space Between: The Emerging Church in a Post Pandemic World,” a 3-day denominational event in September.*
- A unique trip to Campbeltown, Scotland, our sister town in the United Kingdom since the HMC Campbeltown was renamed in connection between our two towns before World War II. Did you notice the one “L” in the name and not two?*
- Use “Pilgrimage of Practice” piano curriculum by Charles Hulin. An improvisational piano spiritual practice course inspired by the life of St. Columba, who brought Christianity to Scotland, first landing on the Mull of Kintyre, where Campbeltown, Scotland is located today. St. Columba founded the Iona Monastery. (continued on next page)*

I realize that we all could use a gift of time to recover spiritually and emotionally from the last two-plus years of the pandemic. And I wish I could gift every church member and every individual such a sabbatical. So, I do not take this gift of time for me and my family lightly. I will leave you in the good hands of Rev. David Bushnell, who returns as Salem's sabbatical interim, like he was in 2014. I was overjoyed for you all when he agreed to serve the church in this way again. He'll be planning and leading worship at Salem during those 12-weeks, including the annual Outdoor Service and Picnic on August 7. He'll also offer an elective class on Creation Action that you'll not want to miss, based on a curriculum he himself developed. Rev. Bushnell's contract states he is part-time and we'll be in the office only one day a week and we will publish his contact information and his office hours soon for the congregation.

All the other ministries of daily church life at Salem UCC will continue as usual led by members of our faith community, staff, committee leaders/members, and your church Council. You'll see more notes in a "Salem Sabbatical Guide" to be sent/mailed to everyone at the end of July about who to call for pastoral care emergencies and who to call for other questions about our ministries here.

On July 31, we'll have a "Service of Parting" as part of that Sunday's service as we prayerfully support each other on the next step of our faith journey. In time, I'll return to the office on Monday, October 23 and lead worship on Sunday, October 30 which also will be Reformation Sunday.

I thank you all so deeply for this gift of time and opportunity for rest and renewal. I promise to truly trust God to guide me to new experiences to refresh and revitalize my spirit. I'll trust in Christ as my example to engage in spiritual practices to refill the well of my soul. And I'll trust in the Holy Spirit to keep us connected beyond time and place. Thank you.

In Peace,
Pastor Dwight

Former Salem UCC Pastors Recognized at PCC Annual Meeting



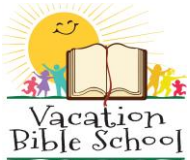
As is tradition at the Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference (PCC), which was held online on June 11, 2022, ordained ministers with standing in the PCC who are celebrating significant anniversaries of the ordination this year were recognized. This year there were four former pastors who have served at Salem UCC for different periods of time were recognized. We give thanks for their service to God, the church and to Salem CC. We certainly celebrate these important anniversaries with them! Rev. Dave Bushnell – 50th anniversary (Sabbatical Interim 2014 and 2022); Rev. David Gockley -- 60th anniversary (pastor 1964-1968); Rev. Rodney Henrie – 65th anniversary (Interim - 2002); Rev. Paul Gerhart – 70th anniversary! (Interim - 1988-89, and former member of Salem UCC).



ALTAR FLOWERS: There is a new Flower Chart posted on the Bell Tower Bulletin Board for anyone who would like to decorate our altar or chancel table with flowers in memory of honor of someone or special occasion. As with much else now, the prices have gone up the cost for the vases is \$40 for both vases and Chancel Table arrangements start at \$40. There is now also a delivery charge of \$9.95.



Our **Little Free Library** which was opened in 2015 continues to be a very popular outreach in our community. Just a reminder that our Little Free Library is a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all. Your support of the Little Free Library has touched many people not only in our local communities but also travelers who have stopped by to "take a book...share a book." Currently, we are in need of **children's books (picture and chapter)**. Please place donations for our library in the collection bin in the west foyer. Thank you very much as we continue to promote literacy and the goal that **Reading Changes Lives**.



“Spend a Saturday with the Good Shepard”.

We are partnering with Campbelltown UMC to hold a one day VBS outdoor event on Saturday, July 9th. Hours are from 10am-2pm, lunch included. Ages 4 through grade 7 are encouraged to register with our church office but walk-ins will be welcome! The format for the day will include an opening/closing time then rotating through stations of Storytelling, Crafts, Music and Games.

Volunteer opportunities are:

- Registration
- Games leader (youth are welcome and encouraged!)
- Small group shepherds
- Help with setup and tear down
- Provide desserts, packaged for ‘grab and go’
- Provide a shade canopy (6 total needed)

Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute to this community outreach event. A separate sign-up sheet will be posted. Please reach out to Lisa Smith with any questions, thanks!

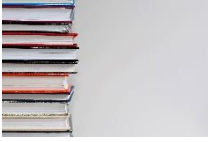


Invitation to Wittel Farm for a Volunteer Day. You are invited to take a trip to a unique part of the UCC/ELCA camp partnership and volunteer on Saturday July 16th from 9a-12p, or for any part of that morning that you can attend, at Wittel Farm. The food grown at Wittel Farms is donated to people experiencing food insecurity in Lancaster County. Families with children are welcome to volunteer and work together that day. Those who wish to carpool that day should meet at the church parking lot at 8:30am. Our tasks will not be determined until we arrive but they will likely include weeding, harvesting, and general gardening. People should wear clothes appropriate for yard work. A sign-up sheet and waiver forms are on the bell tower bulletin board. Please sign up by Sunday, July 10.

Hooray for VBS!

For many churches, vacation Bible school is a summer highlight. The event leads to lasting memories and changed hearts. It also sparks laughter. Maybe you’ve seen VBS humor online, such as the quote, “I’m tired, I mean like ... vacation Bible school kind of tired!” Another post reads, “You know you’re obsessed with VBS when ... you’re excited about cardboard on the side of the road.” And anyone with an earworm at week’s end can relate to this meme: “My parents hid my VBS CD. It’s for the best.”

For hungry young learners, snacks make an especially big impression. One excited preschooler shared that she enjoyed “juice and Billy Graham crackers” at VBS. Another boy raved about the first day, saying, “We heard stories and drew pictures. Then we went to play, and when we came inside, God had juice and cookies waiting for us!”



The Book Club is tentatively scheduled to meet Monday, July 25th, They will meet in person! Please bring a chair and if it's nice they will meet outside, but also bring your mask in case they are inside. The book July is "Fire Keeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley. For August "Mercy House" by Alena Dillon (Lebanon County Reads selection for 2022 <https://lclibs.org/lebcoreads/>) and "Around the World in 80 Day" by Jules Verne for September. If you have any questions, please contact Carin Kaag her e-mail is cas207@yahoo.com. Fire Keeper's Daughter is a YA novel, so feel free to invite the young people in your life to join them.



In the Mailbag!

The Caring Cupboard would like to thank you for your gift of \$576. With donations like your recent gift, they have been able to continue providing food, day in and day out, to those in need in our community.

The Lebanon Rescue Mission thanks you for your gift of \$260 to support their ministries: Men's Ministry, Agape Family Shelter, Lebanon Free Clinic, Agape Christmas outreach to seniors, Back Dock ministry and Mobile Senior Pantry.

United Church of Christ Homes would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$270 which was placed into their benevolent fund. They are able to meet the funding needs of residents who are unable to pay for the cost of their care and who do not have access to governmental assistance programs because of your commitment to their ministry to the elderly.



Sharing God's kingdom

When Jesus, in the Nazareth synagogue, read from Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news" (Luke 4:18) and declared the prophecy fulfilled, "all spoke well of him" (v. 22). But when he then said God's favor was not *just* for Israel, they grew angry. How quickly we can change our minds about leaders — sometimes in the span of a short sermon! Yet Jesus simply meant that God's grace is so plentiful we can share it without fearing that if others benefit, we won't.

It's been said you can't share light without some falling on your own path. Ministers can't baptize new followers of Christ without getting wet themselves. And neither will any of us miss out on the kingdom of God if we opt to share it with others — both in and beyond our community, people similar to and different from us.

What is Jesus challenging us to do right now? If it's something that benefits others, we'd do well to peel off from the angry mob (vv. 28-29) and think again. Perhaps not just a human being but the Spirit of the Lord is announcing good news in our hearing today.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Sunday	July 3	Worship 10:30 a.m.
Saturday	July 9	Sunday School after Children's Time Vacation Bible School Day at Campbelltown United Methodist Church with Salem 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday	July 10	Worship 10:30 a.m. with Communion
Monday	July 11	Council Meeting 7 p.m. Hybrid Format
Saturday	July 16	Wittel Farms Volunteer Day 9 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	July 17	Worship 10:30 a.m. History of Campbelltown Program at Salem 2 p.m.
Monday	July 18	Membership Committee 7 p.m. – Hybrid Format
Tuesday	July 19	PACC at Palm Lutheran 7 p.m.
Sunday	July 24	Worship 10:30 am. 125 th Anniversary of Cornerstone Dedication
Tuesday	July 26	Christian Education Committee 7 p.m.
Thursday	July 28	UCC Homes Board Meeting 6 p.m.
Sunday	July 31	Worship 10:30 a.m. with Service of Parting for Sabbatical

**All Worship Services will also be livestreamed on Facebook Live and our web page
www.salemucccampbelltown.org*



- 1** Gregoy Miller
- 3** Matthew Kaag
- 5** Carolyn Albright
- 5** Darrell Woomer
- 5** Myron Comanitsky
- 6** Grace Frew
- 9** Julia Fuhrman
- 10** James Binkley
- 18** Sophia Southers
- 20** Barbara Kauffman
- 21** Joanne Longenecker
- 22** Debra Weidler
- 29** Patricia Flanagan
- 31** Shirley Dupert
- 31** Tara Jankouokas

- 1** Karen Bell
- 1** Milesta Weidler
- 3** Katy Kaufmann
- 4** Donald H. Umberger
- 5** Abigail Aungst
- 6** Matthew Waller
- 10** Melissa Gainer
- 11** Melissa Kreider
- 13** Chessie Kauffman
- 14** Samuel Weidler
- 16** James Flanagan
- 17** Alice Yeich
- 19** Jewel Gravely
- 20** Skylar Thomas
- 22** Carin Kaag
- 23** Ashleigh Aungst
- 25** Kelly Smith
- 25** Katie Umberger
- 26** Jeffrey Steely



WORSHIP SCRIPTURES

July 3

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 17

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

July 31

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11

August 7

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1,10-20
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 14

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80: 1-2,8-19
Hebrews 11:20-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16
Luke 14:1,7-14

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Like us on Facebook!

SALEM COLLECTIONS -

The Caring Cupboard is a community food pantry, that has grown into a community necessity, that currently serves over 350 families living primarily in the Palmyra and Annville-Cleona School Districts. Product to be given to the Caring Cupboard may be placed on the designated shelves found at the end of the northwest hallway of Salem Church.

Community Aid (Missions Committee) is a nonprofit organization with the primary purpose of raising funds for distribution to local schools, churches synagogues, temples and nonprofit charitable organizations. A complete list of items accepted is on the west wing table. Our collection bin can be found in the rear of the Salem Church parking lot on Horseshoe Pike between the Campbelltown United Methodist Church and The Londonderry Inn. All donations must fit in the collection bin. Proceeds from our collection bin benefit the Caring Cupboard.

Pop Tab Collection Program (Matt Waller) Ronald McDonald House. The collection of aluminum beverage tabs began in 1996. The aluminum tabs are sold to a local recycling company; and their proceeds help with daily operating expenses at the Ronald McDonald House. The generous amount from the tabs collected has been very beneficial to the House and the families they serve. They are averaging \$1,000 monthly just from these tiny tabs. You can help raise money by pulling tabs from any aluminum container. Pop Tabs may be placed in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance.

Redner's Cash Register Receipts (Florence Umberger) By using the Save-A-Tape card you picked up at Customer Service Desk each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. When you come to Salem Church, place your **entire register/sales receipt (DO NOT CUT!)** in the designated box on the shelf above the coat rack in the bell tower entrance. Salem Church will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of tapes submitted, excluding items controlled by the government, such as tax, milk and tobacco products.

Clothing Recycling We are again collecting old clothing for recycling. These should be clothes that are too worn to be passed along. No underwear. Simply place your worn-out clothes in the box in the west narthex and we will do the rest! (Clothing in good condition should be donated in the collection bin in our auxiliary parking lot.)

Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!