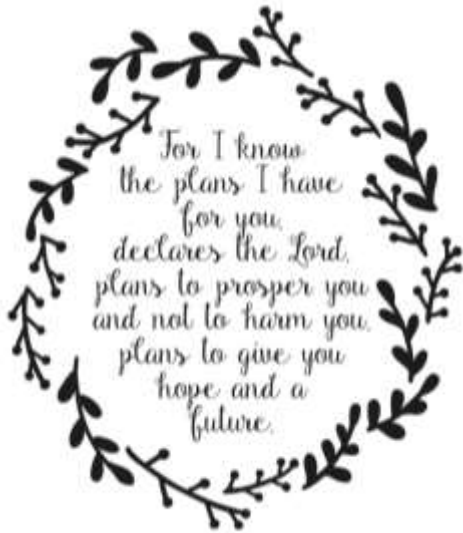


January 2018

# Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



Jeremiah 29:11

## A note from Pastor Paola

Happy New Year to you all!!

How wonderful would be to start this New Year erasing completely all those events and situations that caused us fears, worries and grief during the 2017? We can't. We enter in the 2018 with lot of darkness, concerns and burdens on all levels: personal, community and world.

Yet, God specializes in new beginnings, fresh start and new plans filled with good and hope.

As followers of Christ, we live immersed in this world, but we don't belong to this world; we live with a vision, God's vision. His vision is bigger and more powerful than any ugly that surrounds us. We live by faith. And because of faith, we embody and keep hope, not just for us but also for those who have experienced hopeless situations.

It is only in Jesus Christ where fresh starts can happen. In spite of all the complaining, failures and wrongs, God's grace is so amazing that it is given to us every day anew. God is telling you, "This year, don't turn over a new leaf – I want to give you a whole new life." It is time for a fresh start today!

This is easy to say, but it's not so easy to do! Here what a wise person told me once:

### 1. *Let go of the past.*

Stop blaming and making excuses; don't let resentment control your life; give to God your past failures and hurt and let Him heal you.

### 2. *Act in faith.*

Acting in faith simply means taking risks. Faith means stepping out, even if you don't know the outcome. If you want anything to change in your life, you have to take a risk in 2018. No fresh start can happen in your life until you take a radical leap of faith. Start expecting more out of yourself, start expecting more out of life, and start expecting more from God.

Have a blessed New Year,

Pastor Paola

## Inside this issue....

**January Worship Theme:**  
"Family Ties"

**Salem in December**  
Moments captured in photos

**New Adult Class:**  
Jesus' Parables of Grace

**Battle of the Lasagna Chefs**  
Benefit for Haiti Medical Missionaries  
Sunday, Jan. 21

**Valentine Sweetheart Dinner**  
Friday, Feb. 9  
6:30 pm at Salem

**Ask the Pastor:**  
"When & why did you decide to be a pastor?"  
"Where do you get your energy?"



### Family Ties

Families come in all shapes and sizes, bringing us great blessings but also tough challenges. Join us in January, as we learn from the old family stories of Scripture how to live a blessed family life.

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**January 7 Parenting Joy and Pain**

Genesis 21:1-7 and Genesis 22:1-19

**January 14 Parenting Our Parents**

Ruth 1:15-18

**January 21 Gifts From My Parents**

1 Samuel 1&2

**January 28 Forgiving Within Our Family**

Genesis 50:15-21

**February 4 The Blessings of Grand-parenting**

Genesis 48:8-16

### New Adult Class Begins January 7th!

## Jesus' Parables of Grace

Parables surprise us! They slip up on us and flip our values. They turn our world upside down. And the great thing about the parables of Jesus is that they are always relevant and always personal; they speak eloquently to us, here and now. Jesus loved to use parables! How do we unravel them to discover their timeless and powerful messages?

Please stop by the poster in the narthex to see more details about this new class beginning on Sunday, January 7th. We will meet after worship for 6 Sundays. Sign up for the class, and if you wish to purchase the book that goes along with the class, the cost will be \$8.00. \*\*\*Update: We ordered 10 books and they have already arrived, so see Pastor Paola to pick up your book.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL January Teaching Plan

**Sunday, January 7,**  
No Class. Communion  
Sunday



**Sunday, January 14, 9:15 AM**  
The Sermon on the Mount

**Sunday, January 21, 9:15 AM**  
Children: Nicodemus Reborn  
Teens: Honoring the Poor

**Sunday, January 21, 9:15 AM**  
Jesus Heals the Sick



### The Battle Is On!

#### The Battle of the Lasagna Chefs

Have you heard the news? There is a conflict brewing at Salem! **The Battle of the Lasagna Chefs** will be resolved on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and YOU will determine the outcome of this battle! Our chefs are Pastor Paola, Rich Manns, and Bill Pardoe. Following worship, everyone will get a taste of their lasagnas and you will vote for THE BEST Lasagna Chef which will also benefit Medical Missionaries in Haiti.

Pastor Paola's daughter, Betta, works as a fellow for a non-profit called Medical Missionaries (MM) in Thomassique, Haiti. Their child malnutrition program began in 2008. Enrolled patients receive therapeutic food, free doctor consultations, and regular home visits. This fall they hired Wilner, their Program Assistant Director, who is dedicated solely to this program, which means that now patients receive comprehensive, high quality care. They have funding to pay Wilner's salary for 6 months, after which they need to find an alternate source of funding. And this is where WE come in! Salem would like to raise money for Wilner's salary for the following 6 months (\$450.00 TOTAL!) We can do it! Put January 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar, and be ready for the **Battle of the Lasagna Chefs!**

## Salem in December...



Joseph, Jesus' father, visited Salem



Breakfast with Santa, who arrived in a firetruck!



The children & youth presented the Christmas Story



Salem Handbells sounded beautiful!



Sarah Circle enjoyed their Christmas gathering

### From Our Outreach Team: Thank you Salem!!!

On behalf of the Outreach Team, thank you all for your wonderful support of our Christmas projects! The gifts have been delivered to our three families, and the gift cards and stamps have been dropped off to ERAs (formerly Interfaith) for the Holiday Giving program as well! We collected gift cards and stamps with a monetary value of \$198!!! Thanks again!

#### Looking forward to February:

Salem will be hosting the Undie Sunday Giving campaign to help fill Hope Center's Clothing Closet again this year. More details to follow, but it's not too early to start watching for sales on socks and underwear! These are two items that Hope Center has trouble keeping in stock. All sizes are welcome. Our collection will start in February. Thank you from the Outreach team.



This month I like to answer a couple of questions I received about my calling to ministry:

**“When and why did you decide to be a pastor?”**

**“Where do you get your energy? Do you pray for it or has God blessed you with abundance?”**

I believe I always knew God was calling me to pastoral ministry. When I was very young and sitting in church listening to my father preaching, I felt, in the words of John Wesley, *my heart strangely warmed*. Nevertheless, it was during a church camp where, for the first time, I realized how that feeling was actually a call to serve in pastoral ministry. I still remember this very clearly. I was 16, we were celebrating communion on the last day of camp, and I truly felt God’s hands over me. That day I made up my mind but I kept it tight in my heart for a while. As soon as I could, I registered to enter the theological seminary in Rome. Then, and only then, I finally spoke to my dad. I guess I was a *little* strong-minded then (age has been softening me... or so I hope!)

When I told my father, he looked me and said with a smile: “I knew it all along!”

Over the years I have experienced moments of deep discouragement and uncertainty, but I have never doubted that God called me to ordained ministry. I have been truly blessed that way.

I am sure God provides us with what we need to do His work and I believe that is the source of my energy. I know this for a fact, because when I don’t take time to stay connected with His Source, I run out of energy and I lose focus. Thank God (literally) He surrounds me with people like you, all who help me to stay rooted in His love even when I get distracted.



## 6th Annual Sweetheart Dinner

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

If you’re a sweetheart (and who isn’t?), enjoy a delicious fish fry from Sunset Family Restaurant and served here at Salem, including musical entertainment, on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. This has been one of our most popular events for several years, featuring a menu of baked or fried fish, baked potato, salad, rolls and coleslaw for \$14; dessert and beverage are complimentary. Kids can choose chicken strips and fries as an alternative entrée for \$10. Babysitting will be provided on request.

Please look for reservation slips in the Sunday bulletin beginning mid-January or contact Bonnie Stuempfig 262-547-3455, text at 262-366-4174 or email to [bonniestuempfig@yahoo.com](mailto:bonniestuempfig@yahoo.com). Deadline to reserve is February 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## “Final Words from the Cross”

(Book by Adam Hamilton)

Your choice of Sunday mornings  
or Tuesday evenings

Beginning the week of February 18,  
ending the week of March 25

We will be studying the words that Jesus said during the last six hours that he hung dying on the cross:

- Father forgive them.
- Today you will be with me in paradise.
- Behold your son... behold your mother.
- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- I thirst.
- It is finished... into your hands I commend my spirit.

Pastor Paola will lead this class, and we hope you can join us. We’ll explore Jesus’ final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. We’ll talk about what these words mean for our lives today. A poster will be going up in the narthex soon. Please sign up to take the class. Choose between Sunday mornings (following worship) or Tuesday evenings (with soup supper).



- Jan. 2 Bill Young
- 5 Roy Tomaszak
- 5 Connor Fischer
- 7 Greg Lutzen
- 8 Richard Dick
- 8 Josh Lindsay
- 8 Zachary Buxengard
- 11 Ken Schimpf
- 12 Carol Becher
- 12 John Hobbins
- 13 JonaLee Feller
- 14 Brenda Lindsay
- 15 George Agpoon
- 15 Brian Campbell
- 16 Brennen Fischer
- 19 Gladys Roszkowski
- 30 Eileen Fischer
- 30 JoAnn Hauenstine
- 31 Judy Roberts

## JANUARY LECTIONARY

- Jan. 7** Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12
- Jan. 14** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51
- Jan. 21** Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20
- Jan. 28** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

## Serving Salem in January

### Sunday, January 7

Greeters: Bill & Sandy Pardoe  
Acolyte: Aaron Buxengard  
PowerPoint: Harriet Young  
Worship Leader: Bill Pardoe  
Liturgist: Terry Risic  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

### Sunday, January 14

Greeters: Jon & Vicky Nease  
Acolyte: Zachary Buxengard  
PowerPoint:  
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning  
Liturgist: Carol Becher  
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe  
Flowers:  
Refreshments: Greg & Kim Newton

### Sunday, January 21

Greeters: Dale & Karla Henry  
Acolyte: Brooke Nease  
PowerPoint: Paul Becher  
Worship Leader: Kim Newton  
Liturgist: Gary Wollenzien  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

### Sunday, January 28

Greeters: Paul & Carol Becher  
Acolyte: Chase Hernandez  
PowerPoint:  
Worship Leader: Marlys Tesch  
Liturgist: Don Callen  
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

