

The Salem Tidings, May 2019

The monthly newsletter of Salem United Methodist Church

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A Note from Pastor Paola

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

Our denomination as you may know, is undergoing a great deal turmoil, pain and uncertainty following the special session in February of General Conference where a small majority passed the “traditional plan”. This plan restricts even further the full participation of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church by continuing the ban of same sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons.

This past Friday, April 26, the Judicial Council of the UMC (the church’s version of the Supreme Court), ruled on the constitutionality of the various parts of the Traditional Plan passed at General Conference the end of February. As expected, portions were deemed unconstitutional while others were deemed constitutional. Not very surprising! The next General Conference in 2020 will review the portions that were not conclusive.

Those who were hoping the Conference and the Judicial Council would vote to make the United Methodist Church a more welcoming place for LGBTQ persons and their families, are crushed and in a great deal of pain. And those who supported the Traditional Plan are unclear about the next steps. Some people who supported the traditional plan told me: “It doesn’t feel like a victory.” How can it be? We are fractured and broken more than ever.

I truly believe that the divisions in the denomination cannot be solved by the Judicial Council nor by any rules and law. This is a matter of a different interpretation of the scripture and a matter of the heart: a common ground can only be found, through conversation, listening, humility and prayer. Nevertheless, there have been very little of any of these in the past months.

What has happened in the last couple months is that a lot of people, both clergy as well as laity, who never spoke up openly about the subject and maintained a ‘centrist’ position began to speak up openly about welcoming fully LGBTQ persons and families in the church. They speak about their broken hearts as a LGBTQ family member cannot be fully welcomed in the church. They speak about the message we are sending to the young LGBTQ people who increasingly are at high risk to take their own lives. They speak about the growing number of young adult who leave the church because they feel it is judgmental and exclusive, getting further away from Jesus’ welcoming spirit.

So what now?

Let’s remember we are not alone. Most mainline denominations have been or are in the midst of this struggle. Just like any major change in the church (for instance the inclusion of women in full ministry) it takes time, courage to speak the truth, and prayer.

I see many parallels between our time and the early Christian church. The apostle Paul was struggling with many churches who were in the midst of great conflicts based on who should belong and who shouldn’t. There are crucial times in history, ‘Kairos’ times when differences and conflicts need to come to a decision and to action. I believe this is one of them.

(continued on back)

It is very possible the United Methodist church will change in the next few years. My hope is we can remain united by allowing the local conferences to make a decision on this matter. It is also possible that one side will leave, or the denomination will dissolve giving birth to two or three new expressions of Methodism out of the one denomination.

Meanwhile...

- We continue to be in ministry. Our faith, our service, our hope in Christ save lives, bring love and compassion to many. Remember we have a higher calling that cannot be put on hold.
- We continue to warmly welcome all God's children at Salem as we always did. Remember, before anything else this is God's church.
- We continue to study and learn from the early Christian church how to become a faith community where everyone belongs (Galatians 3:28), because Christ gave his blood on the cross to reconcile **everyone** to God. He made of the two, one. He is our Peace.
- I am hopeful even though I don't know the final outcome, because the future belongs to God.

Please join us on Sunday, May 12, after church as we will have a session in the fellowship Hall to understand better what is happening and open a conversation.

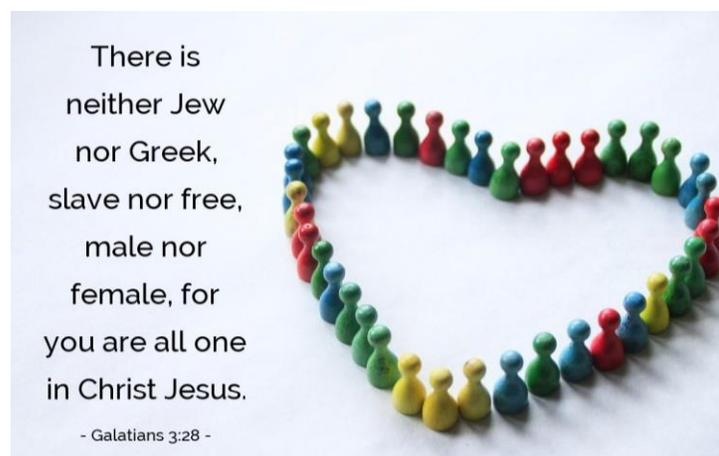
Finally, I want you to know I remain the pastor of everyone, no matter where you stand on this or other issues. As your pastor, I'll care for you, pray for you and love you just as you are. Nevertheless, as your pastor, I will never stop to challenge you to get closer to God, to let go of your old ways and grow in love and compassion toward your neighbor.

And so to be clear, this challenge begins with me.

See you in church,
Blessings,



Pastor Paola



Worship Opportunities

Salem Worship Spring 2019

May 5 Communion Sunday

What's Next?

Our denomination is divided and in turmoil around the full participation of LGBTQ persons in the church. This Sunday message will be dedicated to this issue and future in front of us.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 13

May 12 Mothers' Day 🎵 Praisefest! 🎵

Music will fill the sanctuary! Choir, Bells, Recorders, Special Music, etc.

May 19 Confirmation Sunday & Communion

Join us as we celebrate and welcome the youth who are getting confirmed into full membership

🎵 Praisefest 🎵

Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day

Enjoy this special morning as music fills our sanctuary! Choir, Handbells, Recorders, Special music



Confirmation Sunday: May 19

On May 19 during the 9:00 AM worship, we will celebrate and welcome into full membership our Confirmation Class of 2019: Zach Buxengard, Jonalee Feller, Brooke Nease, and Seth Hernandez. We are fortunate to be blessed with the gifts and graces of these fine young people who will continue their journey of faith as members of our congregation.

We Welcome New Members!

Please join us on **Sunday, May 26**, as we welcome new members joining Salem during worship!



The Power of a Team

One of the best parts of summer is being outdoors, watching or playing games with others. The scriptures teach us about the power of teamwork, on the field and in life.

May 26 Memorial Sunday

Different Roles But One Team 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

June 2 Communion Sunday

There Is No "I" in Team 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

June 9 Pentecost

One Common Goal 1 Corinthians 13

🎵 All you need is...

We need love to live.

Love is the most powerful, transforming force ever known. Nevertheless, being compassionate and loving is often a challenge. Jesus, who was the most compassionate and loving person ever existed, reminds us that love is a lot more than a feeling: it is a way of life, a commandment, a choice we need to re-make every day.

June 23 Love the Lord your God

How can we learn to love others the way they need to be loved? **Luke 15:11-31**

June 30 Love your neighbor

How can I have the courage to be compassionate? **Luke 10:25-37**

July 7 (Communion) Love yourself

Why do I sometimes feel I am "all out of love"? **Mark 1:32-37**

July 14 Love your enemy

How can I love the unlovable? - **Luke 19:1-10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL: May Teaching Plan

Sunday, May 5th

Communion Sunday - No Sunday School Classes.
Confirmation Class 10:30-12:30 – Planning for Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 12th 9:15 AM

All Sunday School Classes meet

Sunday, May 19th Confirmation Sunday

No Sunday School Classes

Sunday, May 26th

Memorial Day Weekend: No Classes



Lois Hanson & Rhena Knourek, the latest recipients of items knitted by our Salem Knitting Ministry.

What's Next?

Please join us for an important update and discussion on the outcome from General Conference and Judicial Council in regard to the portion of the United Methodist Discipline pertaining to ordination and marriage of LGBTQ persons. We'll meet Sunday, May 12, at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall at Salem.



LOVE WRAPS

Salem's Knitting Ministry invites you to bless others with a wrap of love. If you know someone who needs the comfort of one of our hand-knit blankets/shawls, feel free to take one. They can be found in a bin in the narthex. Please sign the book found in the bin with your name, date, and recipient, so that we know who is being blessed.

Thank you,
The Salem Knitting Ministry



KWIK TRIP CARDS

Please sign up in the narthex for your Kwik Trip cards. The profits from both the card purchase and purchases made in store with the card provide funds for use in the church. Most recently these profits paid to have all the upholstered chairs in the sanctuary cleaned and sanitized. Please consider supporting this project!

Coming in June: A New Class!

Our Search for Meaning:

Christianity and the Major World Religions

Please join us following worship on Sundays, June 9-July 7! We'll be learning and discussing about religions around the world. Scott McMurray will teach the class. A signup sheet will go up soon on the kiosk in the narthex. Plan to join us!

Women in the Middle

We are excited about our next session of gatherings with the theme of *WELL-BEING*.

May 2, 6:00 pm at Pastor Paola's: Yvonne Manning, counselor from New Life Resources Center in Brookfield, will talk with us about spiritual, mental, emotional issues.

May 9, 6:00 pm at Pastor Paola's: Deb Ketterhagen and Jodi Wiebelhaus, nurse practitioners, will come speak with us about physical changes and challenges as women in the middle.

May 16, 6:00 pm at Deb Culhane's home: L'Bri skin care night! We'll learn about natural skin care with botanicals that are formulated to heal, nurture and rejuvenate. Bring an appetizer to share!



Women
in the
Middle

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM



Thank you, Salem, for your generous outpouring of donations for Mujila Falls. **Our third annual Pie Day** brought in \$780, surpassing last year's donations! This money will be

used to start building a dormitory for all who come to Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre to learn from Temba and his staff. Temba is helping others learn to help themselves through education in health, agriculture, community development, evangelism and church construction. Your contributions to this project were MUCH appreciated!

Wisconsin Annual Conference Ingathering

Ingathering is a way that United Methodists support people who are in need. Salem collects for this cause every year prior to the annual June conference. This year we are seeking monetary donations to purchase **Personal Hospitality Kits for Wisconsin Conference Agencies and Projects: Harbor House, Northcott, UM Children's Services and Solomon Outreach.** Included in these kits are personal items such as: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo and deodorant.

We will be collecting funds until June 9. Please write the word Ingathering on your offering envelope. Thank you for your support and willingness to help others who have great need.



FRESH FRUITS AND VEGGIES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY!

DID YOU KNOW? The Food Pantry takes garden fresh fruits and veggies?! This allows the clients to select much needed fresh items during the summer season. So, all you gardeners out there, how about planting an extra plant or a whole row of veggies just for the Pantry! Sure would be appreciated. **Please note:** fresh garden items need to be delivered directly to the Pantry NOT to Salem.



Carpeting for the Youth Room

Don't look now, but sometime during the week of May 6th, carpet squares and vinyl baseboard will be installed in the Youth Room, completing the decorating project which reflects the pride of the ownership that the youth have taken in "their" space.



Busy Machines & Flying Dirt The moment has arrived!

Construction has begun in earnest on the land which we sold to New Perspective Senior Living. Trees and brush are gone, silt fencing and security fencing have been installed around the perimeter of the site, topsoil is being stripped, and the construction of their driveway is in progress. If all goes as planned, construction should be completed and occupancy should occur in the summer or fall of 2020.

Community Voice for Change (CVC)

What: A monthly dinner and discussion about barriers and solutions for Getting Ahead in Waukesha County. It is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to share their experiences, with an eye for change. The topic schedule:

Employment: January, February, March

Mental Health; April, May, June

Housing: July, August, September

Transportation: October, November, December

When: Every 4th Wednesday of the month from 6-8 PM

Where: First United Methodist Church in Waukesha

Who: ALL members of the community. We want all different experiences at the table. Please send an email or call to let us know you are coming.

CTGA@svdpwaukesha.com or 262-547-0654.

Please see Paul Becher for more information or check the note on the Community bulletin board in the narthex.



The Nurture Committee invites you to...

A morning at the Mitchell Park Domes!

Saturday, June 1

How long has it been since you've visited the Mitchell Park Domes? Salem's SALT group and the Nurture Committee invite you on June 1 to see their "Fathoms Below" show (inspired by the depths of the ocean, a variety of bright succulents and vivid coleus add to a decorative coral reef and sunken ship) with plenty of time to tour the other exhibits as well.

All are welcome and transportation is provided! We'll meet at Salem at 9:15 a.m. and leave at 9:30, spend a couple of hours at the Domes, after then come back to Waukesha's Pizza Ranch (their chicken and salads are yummy, too). Cost is \$25.00 which includes admission to the Domes, lunch and transportation. Please look for the poster the Narthex. Sign up by May 25th. Hope you can come!



Summer Gatherings!

This year again we are having 3 gatherings throughout the summer. It will be an opportunity to have fun, get to know each other better, and dedicate some time to find out what is happening at Salem...What is the latest news? What questions would you like to ask?

Here are the opportunities:

Sunday, June 30, 6:00 PM at Rich & Amy Manns' 2909 West View Ct., Waukesha (snacks and drinks)

Thursday, July 11, 6:00 PM at Paul & Bonnie Wojcik's W358 S2528 Hunters Lake Rd., Dousman (drinks, dessert)

Friday, August 2, 6:00 PM at Kermit & Pat Bohning's S103 W22145 Kelsey Ave., Big Bend

We'll have a poster in the narthex soon to choose the best date for you and to sign up! We had so much fun last summer...you don't want to miss this! ☺

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

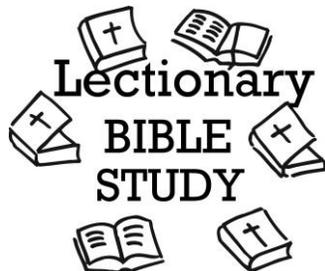
SUNDAE

Sunday, June 2

Let's celebrate the generosity of Salem! We are so grateful for the ongoing support of your time, talents, and gifts. The Salem Outreach Team wishes to honor everyone with a sundae following worship on June 2.



The Thursday morning Lectionary Bible Study group meets at The Spot Restaurant (corner of Broadway and Hartwell in Waukesha) at 7:30 AM on Thursday mornings. Please see Pastor Paola for more information. Everyone is invited!



People we are holding in Prayer:

Rhena Knourek, healing at home from four broken ribs after a fall.

Adam McMurray (Scott's son): Adam will be in Afghanistan, replacing a Captain who was a casualty. He will be going to the Kandahar region where there is a lot of fighting going on.

Eric Tesch and family: As they mourn the death of Eric's father-in-law

Lois Hanson, healing from a broken pelvis after a fall.

Marsha Everson's mom who had surgery for colon cancer.

Sheryl Crusan and her family: As they mourn the death of Sheryl's mother.

Peggy Barnes and her family: As they mourn the death of Peggy's mother.

Sharon Jackson: lack of balance, health issues

Sue Dick: G.I. issues.



Family VBS!

Mark your calendars today for our Family Vacation Bible School Sunday, August 11, from 10:30 AM until 1:30 PM. A lot fun a new surprises this year for all: grandparents, parents, and kids!!!



- May 2 Pastor Paola
- 2 Ella Loppnow
- 3 Nick Tonz
- 9 Nancy Mueller
- 19 Debbie Campbell
- 20 Isaac Chapin
- 20 Abby Buxengard
- 21 Bonnie Wojcik
- 22 Ashley Scrima
- 25 Sydney Hernandez
- 26 Kyle Callen
- 26 Cole Cochran

MAY LECTIONARY

- May 5** Acts 9:1-6
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
- May 12** Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
- May 19** Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

- May 26** Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29

Serving Salem in May

May 5

Greeters: Gary & Gloria Rongstad
Acolyte: Sydney Hernandez
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning
Liturgist: Peggy Barnes
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Dick & Marlys Tesch
Refreshments: Bohnings

May 12

Greeters: Bill & JoAnn Hauenstine
Acolyte: Cole Nease
PowerPoint: Greg Trombley
Worship Leader: Michelle Lacock
Liturgist: Bob Lacock
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Bill & Harriet Young
Refreshments:

May 19

Greeters: Brian & Eileen Fischer
Acolyte: Seth Hernandez
PowerPoint: Harriet Young
Worship Leader: Cory Buxengard
Liturgist: Aaron Buxengard
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Bob & Ruth Teschner
Refreshments: Confirmation Families

May 26

Greeters: Brian & Debbie Campbell
Acolyte: Chase Hernandez
PowerPoint: John Klopp
Worship Leader: Amy Manns
Liturgist: Paul Wojcik
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Kurt & Sue Guenther
Refreshments: