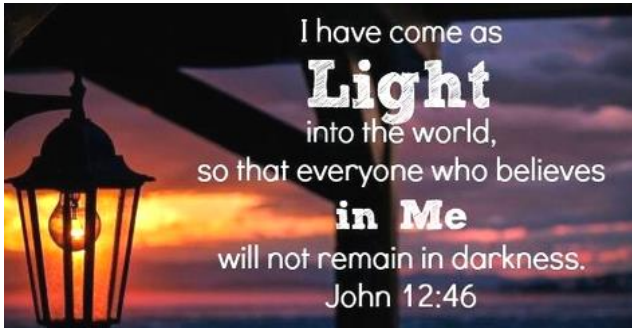
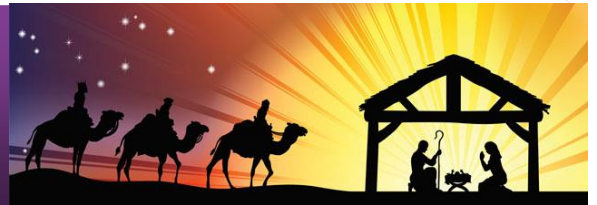


# Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



## A note from Pastor Paola

*I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.* (John 12:46)

Christ comes as light into the world. I believe this is the real reason why we can't wait for Christmas to come. I know we all get a little disoriented and out of focus because of the stress and the materialism of this season. Nevertheless, from the oldest to the youngest, we all yearn for hope and an opportunity to be transformed by the coming of the baby Jesus. God knows how much our world, our community, and our families need more of true light, more mercy, compassion, and some good news.

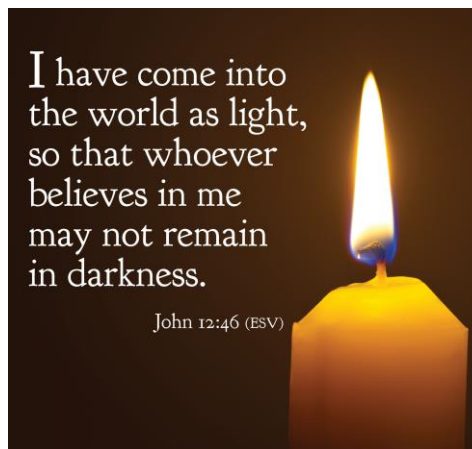
Do you remember *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, written by Dr. Seuss? Even the Grinch's heart grew three sizes on Christmas! The growth of the Grinch's heart is a wonderful parable of the transformation that happens during this time of the year. We all feel like our hearts are growing a little bit while we wait for the coming of Jesus in our lives.

It has been an exciting fall at Salem UMC. Our hearts have been growing and growing in love and generosity throughout our Miracle Sunday campaign. They have been growing in worship, service, and ministry.

During this season I invite you to listen and pay a special attention to the people around you: your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors. You will hear them yearning for light, for a transformation, for a bigger heart, for a piece of Good News in their lives. Give them the best Christmas present ever; invite them to come to worship with you at Salem.

Blessings,

Pastor Paola



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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Dec. 24, 7:30 pm

**Ask the Pastor:**  
"I don't go to church because I don't like organized religion."

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

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

## December Worship Themes



### An Extra Ordinary Christmas!

Tired of all holiday pressures and demands? Searching for a renewing and relevant way to celebrate this season? Join us this Advent as we discover how surprising and unexpected the first Christmas was.

**December 3** First Sunday of Advent (Communion)

**Hope: Joseph: Unexpected Blessing**

Matthew 1:18-25

**December 10** Second Sunday of Advent

**Love: Children & Youth Christmas Program**

**December 17** Third Sunday of Advent

**Joy: Mary's Surprising Promise**

Luke 1:26-38

**December 24** (9:00 AM) Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Peace: The Shepherds' Incredible Good News**

Luke 2:8-19

**December 24** (7:30 PM) Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting

**A Life Changing Christmas**

John 1:1-17

**December 31** First Sunday After Christmas – New Year's Eve

**Following the Star**

Matthew 2:1-12

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### December Teaching Plan

**Sunday, December 3, 9:15 am**

Christmas Program rehearsal



**Saturday, December 9, 4-6 PM**

Christmas Program dress rehearsal/Run through the entire service. Pizza Party afterwards!

**Sunday, December 10, 9:00 AM**

Christmas Program in Worship

**Sunday, December 17**

The Birth of Jesus & Teen Class

**No classes December 24 & December 31**

## January Worship Themes



### 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.

**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



### Advent Class:

#### "Bah! Humbug!"

Scrooge despises Christmas and its traditions! But if Scrooge can find the true meaning of Christmas, so can we! In this three-session study, we'll use clips from the movie, "A Christmas Carol" that will lead us to rediscover the meaning of Christmas through the prophet Isaiah's Advent Scripture.

Nov. 26 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) Isaiah 11:1-10

**The Ghost of Christmas Past: "Finding Hope"**

Dec. 10 (Second Sunday in Advent) Isaiah 40

**The Ghost of Christmas Present: "Receiving Love"**

Dec. 17 (Third Sunday in Advent) Isaiah 35:1-10

**The Ghost of Christmas Future: "Discovering Joy"**



## Breakfast with Santa

**Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am – Noon**

Salem will be hosting Breakfast with Santa at Salem on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 AM until to Noon. A hot breakfast will be served and a story time will be featured along with Christmas carols. The cost has been reduced to \$4.00 per person with any children under two will be free. A picture of your child/family with Santa Claus will be provided. If you have not reserved a spot yet, please contact Maggie Bringa or Sandy Pardoe ASAP.



Come one,  
come all to the...

## Annual Christmas Party at Salem!

**December 3rd  
4:00-6:00 pm**

Bring your family and friends!  
Hosted by our Salem UMW.

We will enjoy the music of  
the season brought to us by  
the talented Civic Broadway  
Singers from Waukesha.

Come and enjoy music, food,  
fellowship, and fun!

The Trustees would like to inform the congregation that the entrance doors at the end of the east wing of the church will be locked on Sunday mornings during worship for safety reasons.



### Food Pantry Sunday is December 10th

On the 2nd Sunday of every month, Salem takes donations of non-perishable food, personal care products, and monetary donations for the Waukesha County Food Pantry. These items are taken to the pantry by our Salem volunteers who help there once a month. Thank you for your generosity!

## children's program



### Youth & Children's Christmas Program

**9:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

Always a highlight of the Christmas season! The children & youth are inviting everyone to bring in a couple of canned goods for the Food Pantry or make a cash/check contribution for the pantry. See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!

## Christmas Outreach Opportunities



### *The Giving Tree*

The "ornaments" from the Giving Tree have disappeared fast! If you still want to help the Christmas Clearing Council, you can still bring an unwrapped gift to Salem by December 10<sup>th</sup>. We will deliver the gifts to the one-

day Toy Shop in December where parents are invited to participate if their children are not matched with a sponsor family or group. Some examples of gift ideas are:

- Mittens, gloves (especially waterproof), hats and scarves, infant to tween size
- NEW books, for ages birth to 11
- Licensed Items: Disney, Paw Patrol, Star Wars, Pokemon, etc
- Pre-teen items – blankets, DIY/craft items, hair accessories
- Infant and toddler toys



### **ERAS Senior Network (formerly Interfaith) Holiday Giving**

Each year, ERAS' Senior Network works

with congregations, businesses and community groups to fill up to 500 self-sufficiency care packages for Waukesha County seniors and adults with disabilities living on a fixed income. Recipients of the gifts must have a demonstrated need for the donations. For many of the recipients, this is the only present they will receive this holiday season. Care packages include gift cards to the grocery store and pharmacy, postage stamps, gripper socks, personal care items, and handmade gifts such as ornaments and door hangers.

Our Outreach Ministry team will be collecting gift cards and postage stamps for this Holiday Giving Program. Please see the Outreach bulletin board. The gift cards and postage stamps are due by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



### **How do you respond to the following?**

***"I am a Christian and I try to live by Christ's teaching, but I don't go to Church because I don't like organized religion."***

This is a growing trend in the USA...

Based on Barna Group research, more than 25% of Americans declare to be Christians but don't have any Church affiliation. They consider themselves spiritual but not religious. Many people, especially among young adults say, "I am not a Christian, but a Christ-follower". Most of these people feel disconnected with the Church because they find it judgmental and close-minded. They feel that this is exactly the religious legalism that Jesus confronted at his time. They didn't lose their faith in Christ. They lost their faith in Christians. They feel betrayed and wounded by the Church.

I believe this challenge and concern can become a blessing for the Church. It should be received as an opportunity for confession and revitalization; a time to go back to the very roots of Christ's message. Our time in many ways is similar to the early church: a time of new beginning, risk taking, and passionate ministry.

That being said, I also believe that faith cannot survive nor thrive in solitude. There is a reason why Jesus said, "When 2 or 3 gather in my name, there I am with them". The Christian community challenges us to grow in faith and in love, and it calls to be transformed in Christ and to act together to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth. The Christian community takes care of us and gives fellowship and support. We can't do it alone.

So to your friends who are discouraged about the church I would say: "Come and worship with me at Salem. We are not perfect, but we strive every day to love Christ and his children as they are. Come and see!"



## 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 21st and YOU will determine the outcome of this battle! We will vote for THE BEST Lasagna Chef which will also benefit Medical Missionaries in Haiti. Please read the following letter from Pastor Paola's daughter, Betta, to discover more about the wonderful work being accomplished in Haiti and how Salem can help. Watch the inserts, January Tidings, and the Outreach bulletin board for more information.

*From Betta Hobbins...*

Hello Salem UMC! For those I did not have the opportunity to meet during my trip home in October, my name is Betta Hobbins and I am Pastor Paola's eldest daughter. I would like to give you some background about what we will be fundraising for during **The Battle of the Lasagna Chefs**. I currently work as a fellow for a non-profit called Medical Missionaries (MM), which sends medical teams and supplies all over the world. MM's biggest commitment is in Thomassique, Haiti, where they fund and oversee the clinic where I live and work. My main duties include facilitating communication between the Haitian clinical staff and headquarters in Virginia, supporting the clinic in various capacities, coordinating visiting medical teams, and monitoring and evaluating community health programs in six outlying villages. I have taken primary responsibility for overseeing our "Medika Mamba" child malnutrition program, named after the "Peanut Butter Medicine" our enrollees receive.

Our Medika Mamba program began in 2008 and continues to care for children each month. Enrolled patients receive this therapeutic food, free doctor consultations, and regular home visits. Our Community Health Workers and Program Assistant

Director actively detect malnourished children during home visits, vaccine days, and weekly mobile clinics. In September we hired Wilner, our Program Assistant Director, after exhausting all other options to improve patient care despite staff shortages. We now have a staff member dedicated solely to this program, which has meant that patients receive comprehensive, high quality care. Patients are followed more closely, given health education, and visited at home more regularly. We have funding to pay his salary for 6 months, after which we will have to find an alternate source of funding. And this is where you come in! We would like to fundraise for Wilner's salary for the following 6 months (Approximately \$450.00). If we are able to do more, we could reach a more sustainable solution for his salary and even offer more services to our enrollees.

We thank you in advance for all of your work and willingness to support the children and families that benefit from our child malnutrition program. Here are some photos from Haiti and Medical Missionaries:



## Worms Come Out at Salem

(Bookworms, that is!)

The November book sale was a huge success, thanks to all the avid readers at Salem! We are happy to report that the sale total was \$281. Wow! We will be buying a copy of *The Message* for the library and then searching for other books we hope you'll enjoy. Thank you so much for your generosity and your love of books!



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Dec. 4	Sue Guenther
6	Jacques Crusan
10	Harriet Young
11	Bonnie Stuempfig
15	Jessica Tomaszczak
16	Marie Broege
16	Liz Scrima
22	Sheryl Crusan
24	Ed Padgett
27	Jenny Tonz
28	Gary Rongstad
31	Betty Henderson

### DECEMBER LECTIONARY

<b>Dec. 3</b>	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Dec. 24</b>	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
<b>Dec. 31</b>	Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

Refreshments needed  
for December!

## Sewing Salem in December

### Sunday, December 3

Greeters: Nick & Jen Tonz  
Acolyte: Sydney Hernandez  
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien  
Worship Leader: Michelle Lacock  
Liturgist: Bob Lacock  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers: Ralph & Sue Yont  
Refreshments: Paul & Carol Becher

### Sunday, December 10

#### Children & Youth Christmas Program

Greeters: Rob & Gladys Roszkowski  
Acolyte: Cole Cochran  
PowerPoint: Paul Becher  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

### Sunday, December 17

Greeters: Bob & Bonnie Stuempfig  
Acolyte: Isaac Chapin  
PowerPoint: John Klopp  
Worship Leader: Harriet Young  
Liturgist: Sydney Hernandez  
Children's Time: Pastor Paola  
Flowers:  
Refreshments:

### Sunday, December 24

Greeters: Ed & Betty Padgett  
Acolyte: Seth Hernandez  
PowerPoint: John Klopp  
Worship Leader: Marlys Tesch  
Liturgist: Kermit Bohning  
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe  
Flowers: Poinsettias  
Refreshments:

### Sunday, December 31

Greeters: Brian & Eileen Fischer  
Acolyte: Chase Hernandez  
PowerPoint: Harriet Young  
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning  
Liturgist: Sheryl Crusan  
Children's Time: Bill Pardoe  
Flowers:  
Refreshments: