

Lent
letting God lead



Salem United Methodist Church
Growing Together on the Journey with Christ

A note from Pastor Paola



Time for our Yearly Check Up!

I was reading an article not long ago about how often people avoid going to the doctor. They avoid getting checkups to find out the status of their health. The craziest part is the number one reason people avoid going to the doctor is they are afraid that the doctor might tell them bad news. Of course this is not a very a good idea, and the consequences can be pretty devastating.

I think we actually make similar choices when it comes to our spiritual health. We put it on a back burner and, especially when we don't feel our soul is doing very well, we avoid getting a check up. The consequences of this avoidance are very serious for our ourselves, our relationships, and the well-being of our body and spirit.

You may have already heard that John Wesley opened every small group meeting asking people to consider this question: "How is it with your soul?"

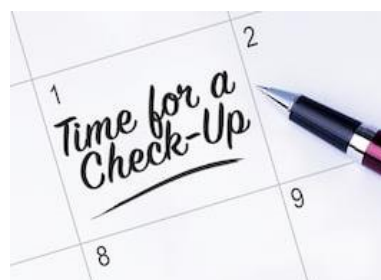
I am blessed to have people in my life who are not be afraid to ask me this very question every time they see me. Sometimes my answer is filled with joy, sometimes with fear and anxiety. Always though, this question requires me to stop, reflect on my life, and consider how close or far I am from God. This question always leads me to discover how great is the need for God's grace in all the spheres of my life in order for me to be well.

Lent is a perfect time to stop and answer in truth and honesty the question: "How is it with your soul?"

During Lent, please make time daily to check in with God. Also, come to worship! Each Sunday during Lent, we will be reflecting over one area of our life and bringing it to God.

Please invite a friend to worship with you. It may just be exactly what that person needs: a safe, loving, and grace-filled place where they can rediscover God's Grace in their life.

Have a blessed Lent,
Pastor Paola



Inside this issue....

Lent Worship Series

"Yearly Checkup"
How it is with our soul? How is it with the many areas of your life?

Maundy Thursday

April 18, 7:00 pm
Service with Communion

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 19, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday
Celebration of the Resurrection:

April 21, 9:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt!

Following worship on Easter Sunday

Food Pantry
Sunday March 10

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Spring Ahead!
Daylight Savings
Time begins Mar. 10

Worship Opportunities



We are invited to attend an **Ash Wednesday Potluck and Worship Service** at First United Methodist Church in Waukesha on

Wednesday, March 6th. Potluck will be at 6:00 pm, and the worship experience with the imposition of ashes will begin at 6:45 pm. Please meet in the Asbury Room to the side of the sanctuary. Pastor Greta Hietpas from First UMC will lead the service, and Pastor Paola will also participate.



Lenten Worship Series: "Yearly Check Up"

By choice or by compulsion, many of us get a yearly physical to

check the state of our health. As important as it is to monitor your physical well-being, it is infinitely more important to monitor your spiritual well-being. This Lent, we will take some time to check how it is with our soul throughout the various areas of our lives.

March 10 - 1st Sunday in Lent

How is it with your communication with God?
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) Guest Preacher: Scott McMurray

March 17 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

How is it with your relationships?
(Colossians 3:12-14)

March 24 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

How is it with your giving?
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

March 31 – 4th Sunday in Lent

How is it with your body?
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

April 7 – 5th Sunday in Lent

How is it with your time?
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

April 14 – Palm Sunday

How is it with your calling?
(Romans 12:1-8)



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday April 18

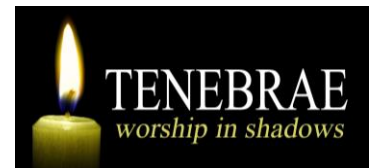
7:00 pm Service
with Communion
at Salem



The word "Maundy" is an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin word, "mandatum," which means "commandment." It refers to when Jesus, in the Upper Room during the Last Supper, said to his disciples: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." Our friends from First United Methodist Church in Waukesha will join us. Pastor Dan Schwerin will preach. The Choir will be singing.

Good Friday April 19

7:00 pm Tenebrae



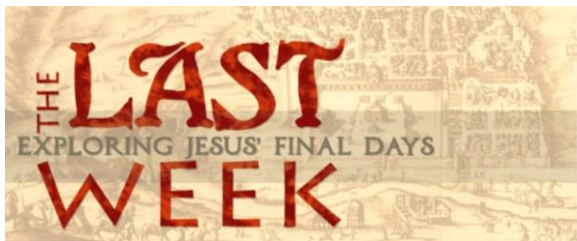
The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness and silence, with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. The service will include our choir and other special music.

Easter: April 21

9:00 AM
Celebration of the
Risen Lord

Followed by continental
breakfast & Easter Egg
Hunt





Lenten Bible Study on Sundays after worship:

On Sunday mornings during Lent, Pastor Paola will be doing a bible study about the last week of Jesus' life. This will be a wonderful journey during Lent in preparation of Holy week. As general guidance for the class, Pastor Paola will be using the book, "Jesus' Final Week" by [Cindy Bunch](#). The book is \$9.00 on Amazon. You don't need to buy it for the class, but if you wish, please do so. Please sign up on the kiosk if you are interested in taking the class.

March 10, First Sunday in Lent

Triumphal entry: Matthew 21:1-11

March 17, Second Sunday in Lent

Clearing the temple: Mark 11:12-19

March 24, Third Sunday in Lent

The last supper: Matthew 26:17-30

March 31, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Betrayal and arrest: Mark 14:43-72

April 7, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Trial: John 18:28-19:16

April 14, Last Sunday in Lent -Palm Sunday

Crucifixion: Matthew 2

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March Teaching Plan



Sunday, March 3rd

No Class. Communion Sunday

Sunday, March 10th 9:15 AM

Children: Joshua and the Sun; No Teen Class

Sunday, March 17th 9:15 AM

Children: Joshua Warns David; Teen Class
11:30 AM Confirmation Class visits Hindu Temple

Sunday, March 24th 9:15 AM

Children: The Pool of Bethesda; Teen Class

Sunday, March 24th 9:15 AM

Children: Young Jesus



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It's easy! Here are the simple steps:

- 1) Go to **smile.amazon.com** from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.
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Here are some common questions:

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations? Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

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How much of my purchase does Amazon donate? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price, excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

If you are going to purchase through Amazon, please use:



And if we all do this, it will make a difference!



Chili Cook-Off Results: The Real Winners!

The Outreach Team would like to give a big thanks to our three chefs: Scott McMurray, Bill Pardoe, and Doug Taylor for providing three delicious chilis to sample at Salem for our Chili Cook-Off held on February 3rd. Congratulations to Bill, who was declared Best Chili Cook!

The real winners, however, are the children in the malnutrition program in Thomassique, Haiti! Through Salem's support, we raised **\$2,048** to provide for the yearly salary of Wilner, the Program Assistant Director of the Medika Mamba malnutrition program. Through additional funds and donations that came in later, in all, we were able to send **\$2,700** to Haiti!!! The additional funds will be used to purchase formula and other nutritional items for the clinic.

Once again, Salem has shown great generosity reaching out to God's children in another part of the world. Thank you Salem, one and all!



Salem Youth Root Beer Float Fundraiser

Following worship on **Sunday, March 17**, the youth will serve up delicious root beer floats! Proceeds will go toward scholarships

to attend the Wave Soccer youth event, remodeling the youth room, and purchasing a new TV. See you there!



Thoughts from Pastor Paola on our Church Finances

Last Fall we had a wonderful stewardship campaign with an outstanding financial commitment. Based on the commitments, we were able to create a budget for 2019 that not only can pay our bills but also grow our ability to reach out in our congregation and community. It takes a great deal of generosity, faithfulness and vision to step up in faith the way we did this past fall. Our giving allowed us to close well the year 2018.

Nevertheless, January and February 2019 giving has been greatly below what we need to fulfill our financial needs. Sometimes we all forget that the church has weekly bills to pay just like we all do at home. You will soon receive a letter via postal mail or email from our Church Treasurer highlighting our monthly expenses. At this time, I would like to encourage all of us to catch up with our commitment if it is possible.

We do understand you may have reasons why you cannot catch up with your pledge that at this time. If that is the case, please let our financial secretary, Marlys Tesch, know by emailing her at marlystesch@gmail.com

I am also always available to get together to discuss any stress and burdens that may be part of your family life and lead you to change your giving. We are family. We support each other and are here for each other.

Blessings, Pastor Paola

From March 4th to 14th Pastor Paola will be traveling to Italy to visit her family and help her mother move. She will be able to see her emails regularly. If you need to get ahold of her during this time, you can call the church office. If there is a need of pastoral care, please contact our Staff Parish Chair, Cory Buxengard (262-442-1355). Our guest preacher on March 10th will be Scott McMurray.



While the Pastor is away



2019 General Conference United Methodists Seeking a Way Forward



On February 23-26 in St. Louis there will be a special session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the 32-member *Commission on a Way Forward*. This Commission was authorized by General Conference in 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

In the United Methodist Church, we have different opinions about human sexuality. This is a very painful and personal issue not matter where we stand on it. During the 2016 conference the United Methodist Church came close to a schism because of it.

This is a critical time for our church as it is and has been for many other denominations. It could lead to a deep crises or to an opportunity to find a New Way Forward to be ONE in Christ speaking the truth in love. Prayers are highly needed as well as a great deal of hope.

Our own Michelle Lacock will be at this special session in St. Louis. She will be sending us updates during each day. We are planning to forward her emails to you.

On March 6, our Bishop with the cabinet and the conference leadership will be meeting to process the results of General Conference and to prepare a plan of action in whatever way might be needed for the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

On March 30, mostly likely there will be a South East District Conference from 9 am to Noon on the results of General Conference and the following steps of action for our district.

Pastor Paola is asking for prayers for our church and General Conference during this crucial time.



Salem Volunteers at the Homeless Shelter

The Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County has received permission from the Waukesha Common Council to open the former Waukesha Fire Station at 1210 Sentry Drive — so it can serve an overflow shelter for women and children through April 30. Several people from Salem volunteered on February 19th to help clean in preparation for the opening date of February 25. We will keep you informed of items that the shelter may be putting on a “wish list”.



Tales from the Trustees

From the Trustees

Salem's Trustees have been busy as can be handling as much interior work as possible. The work includes many small updates promoting appearance & creature comforts in our church. For instance, if you trip a breaker, the trustees can get you turned back on. Notice plaster chipping? Let a trustee know. Clocks not reading the correct time? The trustees can make time for that too! ☺ Like any good family, the Salem family has each other's best interests in mind.

Proverbs 16:3

*Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established!*

Our Trustee Ministry Team: Brian Fischer, Rob Roszkowski, Bonnie Wojcik, Bob Lacock, Bill Hauenstine, Greg Trombley, Greg Newton, Bill Crusan



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 AM. Turn your clocks FORWARD one hour!

Salem is Planning for the Future!

Leadership Retreat

We began the planning process with a leadership retreat at the end of January, with 21 members of our congregation gathering on a very cold Saturday.



Our work focused on the areas of service, worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care, and stewardship. We began by identifying possible directions, strengths, and weaknesses. Our next step was to identify our priorities. Our final work of the day was to develop tentative goals that reflected those priorities. Participants worked hard together. Although the goals were an important outcome of our work that day, even more significant was the fact that church leader spent the day working together and sharing their hearts and dreams for our church.

Mission Statement

Church Council has approved a task force that will develop a mission statement that will guide our planning work. The task force includes Laurie Buxengard, Becky Henderson, Bill Pardoe, Chris Taylor, Greg Trombley, Bonnie Wojcik, and Pastor Paola.

March 3 Informational Meeting

Immediately following the service on March 3, we will hold an informational meeting that will provide more detail about the goals as well as inviting feedback from the congregation.

Planning and Implementation

Once the mission statement is approved, we will review our goals to ensure that all goals support the mission and add goals as needed. Then we will turn those goals into plans, with concrete steps and target dates.



You are invited!

Jo Bentley is turning 90 years old, and we're having a birthday party! Amy & Rich Manns are hosting an Open House birthday party at Three Pillars (Compass Point) in Dousman, where Jo lives. It will be held Saturday, March 16 from 2-4 pm. No presents please. See the kiosk for more information, and please sign up if you are planning on attending. Come wish the birthday girl a HAPPY 90TH!!



Palm Sunday

Missionary Fundraiser

Watch for an event on Palm Sunday to benefit Mujila Falls Agricultural Centre. Missionary Paul Webster has retired, and in his place is Temba Nkomozepi, the new missionary at Mujila Falls. He is from Zimbabwe and is a graduate of the School of Agriculture at Africa University.



March BIRTHDAYS

March 9	Mary Watt
16	Lois Hanson
18	Ben Manns
20	Jo Bentley
20	Perla Agpoon
29	Rita Harasha
30	Sandy Pardoe
31	Doug Taylor

MARCH LECTIONARY

- March 3** Exodus 34:19-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
Luke 9:28-43
- March 10** Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13
- March 17** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 28
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 13:31-35
- March 24** Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
- March 31** Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sewing Salem in March

Sunday, March 3

Greeters: Rich and Amy Manns
Acolyte: Cole Nease
PowerPoint: Gary Wollenzien
Worship Leader: Doug Lindsay
Liturgist: Peggy Barnes
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments: Stuempfigs

Sunday, March 10

Greeters: Ken & Maggie Bringa
Acolyte: Sydney Hernandez
PowerPoint: Harriet Young
Worship Leader: Michelle Lacock
Liturgist: Bob Lacock
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers: Bob & Michelle Lacock
Refreshments: Bob & Michelle Lacock

Sunday, March 17

Greeters: Kermit & Pat Bohning
Acolyte: Seth Hernandez
PowerPoint: Paul Becher
Worship Leader: Doug Taylor
Liturgist: Becky Henderson
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments: Root Beer Floats

Sunday, March 24

Greeters: Ralph & Sue Yont
Acolyte: Chase Hernandez
PowerPoint: Greg Trombley
Worship Leader: Cory Buxengard
Liturgist: Aaron Buxengard
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments: Debbi Oswalt

Sunday, March 31

Greeters: Bill & Harriet Young
Acolyte: Aaron Buxengard
PowerPoint: John Klopp
Worship Leader: Kermit Bohning
Liturgist: Bonnie Stuempfig
Children's Time: Pastor Paola
Flowers:
Refreshments:

