



“Love your neighbor” is Jesus’ commandment for us. It is what defines us as Christians. Nevertheless, today in the age of social distancing, safe at home, necessary separation and isolation, things have changed dramatically. How can I love my neighbors if I don’t see them, I cannot hug them, I cannot talk to them, I cannot hear about their troubles?

Who Is My COVID-19 Neighbor?

You may remember how Jesus answered when a teacher of the law asked him this question. He answered with a story... the story of the man hurt on the side of the road and neither the priest nor the teacher stop to help him. Only the Samaritan stops and helps the man. Jesus then asks, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

So that is our answer, it is all about **compassion, mercy, and “going and doing”**. It is about letting our heart be moved by someone else’s suffering and to let that suffering inform our actions.

I know there are days in this pandemic when we get overwhelmed with so much suffering in the world, it paralyzes us. There are days when our own suffering disables us to a point that we cannot handle other people’s suffering. Then of course, there are days when we would like to reach out, but we can’t for safety reasons.

How do I love my neighbor in COVID-19 times?

- First, care for yourself: body, mind and soul. (Remember, “love your neighbor as yourself”) We need to pray, eat well, exercise, laugh, talk with friends and loved ones, have a spiritual friend who loves us, speaks the truth to us without judgment, and holds us accountable.
- Pray for those neighbors who are suffering. Some days the list is very long. God will lead you in finding ways to love and care for them.
- Be part of collective ways to love our neighbors. Salem provides opportunities to give time, money, and talents during this time. Together we can make a bigger difference.
- Let your heart be moved by others’ suffering and reach out directly. (Zoom, FaceTime, phone calls, cards, driving by, visiting from a distance, dropping off a little gift, help with grocery shopping, etc.) God uses compassion to move us to love, and God gives us lots of creativity to do it in new ways.
- Finally, remember that our neighbors are close and far, and loving them means to open our vision outside of the usual walls. At Salem, we will continue to reach out in love and mission as far as God calls us to, in our city, in our nation, and around the world.

And here is the best part... in loving our neighbor, in mission and generosity, we receive a gift. It is the gift of meaning, purpose, and calling. In giving, our soul finds healing.

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

Despite Covid 19, So much is happening with Salem UMC!



Mother's Day ZOOM Worship!

Please join us in worship on Mother's Day, May 10, at 9:00 AM for a special service of hope and love. Several people will sing, play instruments, or do

readings from their own homes. We will send you a Zoom invite via email, and you can participate through your phone, computer, iPad, Chromebook, etc. You can also call in with a regular phone and will be able to participate in the service through audio. Please let Michelle Lacock or Pastor Paola know if you need help to get on Zoom. It will be awesome to have everyone together live in worship!

Facebook Live!

After receiving positive feedback from our first Friday Night Live, we are planning a new one... stay tuned for date, time, and event. If you missed our first Friday Night Live session on April 24 with Pastor Paola, you can view it on our YouTube channel! See how Pastor Paola answered questions given to her about Faith and God's role in Covid-19.



Did you know?

Many of our ministry teams are continuing to meet during this time! Using Zoom, the following teams are meeting regularly:

Finance, Church Council, Building Team, Worship, and Women in the Middle.



Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible study, via Zoom. This is an open group. We read Scriptures, discuss and pray together. The Zoom invite with the Scriptures will be sent by Email to the entire congregation. All Zoom invitations for meetings are being sent directly via email and are not shared with the general public, keeping our meetings safe & secure.

Tithes and Offerings

Thank you all for sending in your offering via checks to the church office. Your generosity is allowing us to move forward with joy and hope, knowing the best is yet to come. Soon we will email you with a financial update in detail. Please continue to send in your contribution by mail or direct deposit. More than ever our ministry is live and active, caring for our congregation and reaching out to many new people.



Salem has its own YouTube channel! You can view all our worship services for the past month. Just go to YouTube.com and search for Salem United Methodist Church Waukesha. You can catch up with worship or send our videos to a friend or family member.

Do you have a prayer request? Please continue to email us your prayer requests. We will make sure to share them with our Salem Prayer Team.

Do you need groceries or other necessary items? Please call Pastor Paola at 920-420-7205 if you are in need of groceries. She will make sure someone helps you. We are here for you.

Do You Need a Mask? Please email the office or call Pastor Paola if you need a mask! We have extra available.



This is a critical time!

The number of clients at the Food Pantry have almost doubled, while the number of volunteers has dropped (to be expected, as many volunteers are older and more susceptible to the virus).

Just a reminder that it is still easy for you to donate items to the Food Pantry. Just place the items in the bin **inside the Bell Tower at Salem**, to the left of the exterior entrance doors to the narthex. A sign is on the door at the base of the tower. The items will be picked up every few days and delivered directly to the food pantry.

Monetary donations are always appreciated in lieu of purchasing items to donate. Up until May 21, a local business will be matching community donations up to \$25,000! Please send your donation to Salem (payable to Salem UMC with "food pantry" in the memo line) as it will help fulfill our community obligations through Council.

The Food Pantry is also in need of sanitizing wipes and sprays. These are needed to sanitize the carts that go back and forth from the volunteers to the clients. If you have extra sanitizer items, please drop them off in the bin at Salem or drop off at the Food Pantry inside the donation door.

Bless you, Salem, for all you do to help others in times of need!



#MaskUpMKE

Women in the Middle are taking on a project led by United Way. They will put together 700 paper masks to be distributed in Greater Milwaukee. The general goal is to create 3.5 million homemade masks for healthcare providers and other essential service providers in Milwaukee.



From Mary Jo Martin:

Hello everyone! Please put this Sunday School ZOOM on your calendar:

Family activity: Crafting Together

Between April 27-29, Mrs. Martin or Pastor Paola will drop off a package at your home. Inside will be everything you need to create a planter. We will do this over a Zoom meeting. There will be two options for dates/times. **You can choose which date works best for your family.**

- Friday May 1st at 6:00 PM
- Sunday May 3rd at 2:00 PM

Please contact me for the log-in information for these Zoom meetings.

It looks like services and Sunday School may **not** start up for a few more weeks. Watch ahead for more YouTube messages.

Starting May 10th I will have a **Rock Scavenger Hunt** on our church property. More details to come!





Building Team Report

The Building Team met last Tuesday, April 21, via Zoom with Jeff Grahl from Ott Development and Brad Kropp of Perspective Design to walk us through the rough plans they developed and the estimated costs for our project. They did this at no

cost to us. After they left the meeting, the Committee looked at our finances and unanimously agreed that we should proceed with the remodel of our Church even though we are in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We will meet again via Zoom the end of April to go over the rough plans and make changes that we feel are necessary.

Progress on the electronic signs is moving along, but slowly. Permits are needed from the City of Waukesha, which takes time, and our mason needs to give us his cost for the foundation of these signs.

Rob Roszkowski has been working on changing the dangerous entrance to our Church and has already gotten permits to proceed. However, we need to work with New Perspectives to connect with their driveway before we can start improving our entrance from Hwy 59. Otherwise, we will have no access to the Church. This driveway, however, is dependent on their construction progress.

As you can see, we have several different things going on at the same time; so keep the Building Committee in your prayers as we proceed.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

UPPER ROOM



Upper Room

Copies of the May – June Upper Room Devotional booklets are now available!

You may pick up a copy at church. They can be found in a marked plastic box inside the bin that is being used for Food Pantry donations. This bin is inside the bell tower. Please come and get your copy so that you can do your daily devotionals! 😊

TALES FROM THE TRUSTEES



The three sets of new, exterior doors (south side of the Narthex, east side of the Narthex, and east end of the building) will be installed during the month of May. Instead of keyed locks, the new locks will have keypads. Every member of the church who wishes to have access to the building will need to select a unique and personal, four-digit code that will be programmed into the lock(s). Immediate family members will be allowed to share unique and personal, four-digit codes. In order to maintain security, sharing of codes with others will not be allowed. Please email the church office with your unique and personal, four-digit code. This information will be kept confidential. Thank you.

News from the Outreach Team

What's New at Mujila Falls?

Perhaps you remember Paul Webster telling us about a woman, Mama Maloza, whose sister died in childbirth. Mama said she had no milk to give the baby, and in such a poor village, that meant the baby would be left to die. With Mama's care and Mujila Falls providing goat's milk, Mama raised a beautiful little girl and eventually 4 other orphaned children as well. Sadly, mama passed away April 15 of a stomach ailment. We share in the sorrow of the Mujila Falls community.

Now for some good news! Temba, our missionary in Zambia, Africa, has let us know that there are no cases of COVID – 19 in his District or Province so far! We are hopeful that Temba will visit Salem late summer to early fall, when we will have Pie Day to raise funds for Mujila Falls and an offering towards his salary. Stay tuned!



Halleluiah Moments!

Food Pantry

Thank you, Salem, for supporting our Waukesha County Food Pantry during the pandemic. Your generosity is deeply moving and a wonderful testimony of faith. So far this year, Salem has sent \$2,104 to the Pantry from member contributions. This compares to \$325 last year. This is in addition to the monthly support by the Outreach team funded by endowment funds.

Our local food pantry is serving a constantly growing population. Our donations are going directly to feed many families!

Easter offering

Our Easter special offering surpassed all expectations. We collected a total of \$1,785. As you may recall, this year we decided to direct the Easter offering to our Wisconsin Conference apportionment, which is about 10% of our annual budget. These days, our apportionment is supporting the pastors as they learn how to serve our churches in new ways. It also supports ministries in Wisconsin and around the world who are serving people in need. More than ever, we believe we need to send our tithe to our annual conference so we can collectively reach out on a larger scale in love and hope. Thank you for your generous Easter Offering and continued giving.

**Thanks
for Your
Help!**

We want to shout out a big "THANK YOU" to Bob Cooley who again has completed the official audit of the church accounting, finances, and investments. Great job, Bob!!



**Happy 102nd
Birthday,
Delores!**

On April 22, Delores Panahon, mother of Perla Agpoon, turned 102 years old! Congratulations!! If you want to send Delores a card, here is her address:
1835 Pilgrim Parkway
Brookfield, WI 53005

A note from Harriet Marks...

Thank you to all my church family for the many, many cheery cards, phone calls, to those who are making masks, others who have offered to help during these troubled times, and much, much more. Your thoughts and prayers are all appreciated. As I cannot see you right now, I do miss seeing all of you. I am as well as I can be, and with God's love, help, strength and guidance, He will lead us through this turmoil. I love all of you. Keep the faith!



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

MAY LECTIONARY

May 3 Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

May 10 Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5 and 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

May 17 Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21,

May 24 Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10 and 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14 and 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

May 31 Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34 and 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 7:37-39

Worship at Salem during Covid-19
(view on YouTube: Salem United Methodist Church-Waukesha)



For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38