



Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



Pentecost

“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Acts 2:2-4

This Sunday, May 31, we are celebrating at Salem. We are celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the church. We will have a Zoom service (live on the internet) at 9:00 AM. (We will email everyone the log-in information to access the Zoom service.) During the next few days, you should be receiving a note in the mail that includes a red balloon. For our Zoom service, wear a red shirt (you can wear your pajama pants, none will ever know!), blow up your red balloon, and join us with your computer or over the phone. It will be a fun service filled with surprises!

The red balloons will remind us of the tongues of fire that came over the disciples on Pentecost, firing them up with passion, power, vision and purpose. On that day, they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and they start growing the Christian community around the world. Everyone from the youngest to the oldest, women and men, slave and free, together they became the body of Christ, all empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We have a lot to celebrate at Salem. During the last two and half months, in the midst of fear and uncertainty, we have been caring for our community and each other in new awesome ways. We have been growing in generosity. We have been reaching out with our weekly worship beyond our walls like never before. Our Building Team decided to move forward with the remodeling plans and has been working hard toward a plan that will be presented to all of us at Salem.

We continued, and even increased in numbers and frequency, small group meetings, thanks to technology. We truly have a lot to celebrate this Pentecost.

These words come to me from the apostle Paul to the church in Thessalonica who grew in spirit during the most challenging time:

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Lets keep up the good work, Salem!

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

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



Pentecost ZOOM Worship!

Please join us in worship this Sunday, May 31, at

9:00 AM on ZOOM to celebrate Pentecost! This week you will receive by postal mail a note with a red balloon. This balloon symbolizes the day the church was born, Pentecost.

For the Zoom worship on May 31, please blow up the balloon before the service and put it somewhere so that it can be seen with you while on Zoom. If you join us by phone, you can enjoy the balloon beside you also.

We will send you the Zoom invite via email, and you can participate through your 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 for this special day of PENTECOST celebration!



Worship Theme for the Next Three Weeks:

Life Together:

Could the loneliness of the pandemic create a revival of authentic community?

Jesus created a new kind of community never seen before: a community of joy, healing, service and generosity. Today in the midst of social distancing, we are called to break isolation and to grow as a community across differences and separations.

May 31 (Pentecost) *Be Welcoming*

(see article above) Acts 2:1-21

June 7 (Communion) *Grow Generosity*

Acts 2:43-47

June 14 *Bring Healing*

Acts 3:1-10

Decision to Delay the Opening of our Church for Worship

From our Church Council Chair, Marsha Everson...

On May 22, President Donald Trump called on local officials to reopen churches and other places of worship. Even though we recognize church as an essential service (more than ever) and we are beginning to reflect when and how to reopen, we decided not to rush to hold worship in our building. We do not make this decision lightly. Your Church Council discussed and agreed to this at our Church Council meeting on Sunday, May 17. There are several reasons for our decision:

- Our YouTube and Zoom services have been very well attended. We do not have the ability to hold a live service in church and broadcast/record it simultaneously. For that reason, we feel that we may exclude some of our families from worship altogether.
- We have many elderly and “at risk” parishioners who may choose not to attend live service.
- And finally, the following advice from Bishop Jung:

“The highest expression of loving God is how we love our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us. For this reason, I am asking that Wisconsin United Methodist Churches not put people most at risk of severe complications of COVID-19 in peril, by holding worship in our buildings prior to June 15. We remain a connectional body, connected to one another in a covenant of Christian love. Let us live out this covenant together with the spiritual fruit of patience by refraining from holding worship services in our buildings until at least June 15.”

Please contact Marsha Everson if you have questions about the delay of opening Salem for worship.



Missed one of our worship services since we went online? It is not too late to view it! Go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQY7kQoYMH1n_XsHnetCrQ

Or Google search: YouTube Salem United Methodist Church Waukesha. There you will be able to find our worship services, special events, Children's Times, and youth lessons.



So many people are working hard "behind the scenes"! Special thanks to:

- Our awesome Team of Callers: Becky Henderson, Sharon Link, Amy Manns, Mary Jo Martin, Sandy Pardoe, Gladys Roszkowski, Bonnie Stuempfig, Marlys Tesch, and Bonnie Wojcik. They have been consistently and faithfully calling all our members during the last 2 months to check on their spiritual and physical welfare and to see if they have any prayer concerns.
- Special thanks to Marlys and Dick Tesch who have been going to Salem faithfully every day to check the mailbox for the tithes and offerings that are coming in.
- Special recognition to Bill Pardoe and Gary Wollenzien who have been working tirelessly, long hours for two and half months with Pastor Paola to produce the weekly worship service with the church's limited technology equipment that is available.
- Thanks to members of our Outreach Team who have been consistently collecting food in the bin under the bell tower and delivering it to the Food Pantry.
- Thank you to all who have been working faithfully behind the scenes to make sure that our building is cared for and ready for us as soon as we return!

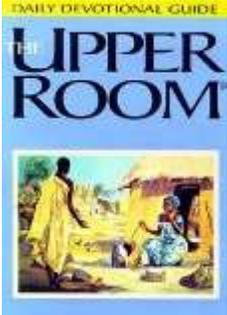


Everyone is invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for Bible study, via Zoom. This is an open group. We read Scriptures, discuss and pray together. The Zoom invite with the Scriptures will be sent by Email to the entire congregation. All Zoom invitations for meetings are being sent directly 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.

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.



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! ☺

Children & Family Ministries

From our Children & family Ministries Coordinator,
Mary Jo Martin:

Thank you to everyone who could join us for our **Planting a Seed of Hope** Zoom meeting. Please let me know how your plants are growing!

Sunday School has come to an end for this school year. Unfortunately, it came to an end with our quarantine with having a few video lessons. When we are able to gather again, I hope to have a celebration one more time this summer.

Things to look forward to:

VBS is still being planned for August. Let's keep that in our prayers. If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact me.

I had promised a Rock Scavenger Hunt outside of the church, but with construction nearby, I had to put that on hold.

For Our congregation: I am looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School 1-2 times a month. I am hoping to have four classes:

- Preschool-Nursery, up to age 3
- Elementary, ages 5-8
- Middle school, ages 9-13
- Teens with Bill Pardoe as co-teacher

If you are interested, please call me at 414-630-2513, or email me at:

familyministries@salemonthehill.org

Hope and prayers to worship together soon!
Mary Jo Martin

Food Pantry of Waukesha County
Please place your non-perishable food donations in the bin inside our church bell tower entrance. If you are a gardener, consider planting extra for the Pantry. The clients LOVE fresh foods. If you have time on the second Monday of the month from 12:45 to 3:00, consider volunteering at the Pantry to help distribute food. Contact Debbi Oswalt at 262-782-5357 for more details.

The Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for their response in supporting the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and for the Ingathering for WI Annual Conference. Next month we'll give you the totals on the donations.

Building Team Report

The Charge Conference on Sunday, May 17, 2020 voted unanimously to approve the members of the Building Team: Becky Henderson, Kermit Bohning, Lori Buxengard, Don Callen, Nick Tonz, Bonnie Wojcik and Paola Benecchi. It also voted unanimously to approve the Letter of Intent.

The Letter of Intent allows Ott Development, Inc. and Perspective Design, Inc. to begin the cost estimating process. To do this, they will prepare preliminary architectural floor plans after having the opportunity to take accurate measurements in our building. From these plans, Ott Development will attain bids from various qualified sub-contractors.

The Letter of Intent allows the Building Committee to begin this very important first stage in the renovation of the Salem Church. More news to follow.



Congratulations, Cole Cochran!

Cole is graduating from Waukesha North High School. We wish you the best, Cole! God Bless!

Please let us know if you have a child or grandchild who is graduating from high school or college, so that we can recognize him/her. Thank you!

A reminder from the Trustees...

Our new entrance doors are being installed very soon, and you will need a 4-digit entrance code to enter the church. This can be a number YOU choose. Please email the church office with your name and 4-digit number ASAP. A family unit can share the same code. Thank you!

Sharing Words from the Salem Family “God-Moments”, Lighthearted Stories, Encouraging Thoughts...

We are hoping everyone will consider submitting a short story or words of encouragement, especially during this time of the Coronavirus. For this edition of the Tidings, we have two to share! Here they are...

From Bonnie Stuempfig:

Thinking how blessed Bob, Patches (our cat) and I have been since our move to an apartment in the Nease household, I'm enjoying the cat's soothing purrs on my lap and the pair of Baltimore Orioles on jelly-filled oranges outside the window. I think we all have a wonderfully accommodating nature! Our son Michael, daughter-in-law Jen, and little Nathan are also 20 miles closer, and we'll soon have Fridays again with our grandson in a low-traffic area, with 3 acres, pool and trampoline to boot. Thank you, God.

The single disappointment is that Patches, while welcoming new humans into her life, hates the other animals in the Nease household. Sadly, the princely poodle Odie, golden-doodle Lola, beautiful black felines Jynx and Jack, and sweet Moxi, all of whom we adore, are not welcome downstairs. ☹️ We've had a couple “close encounters of the fur-flying kind”, so we're ever mindful of doors being closed. Next problem: Odis and Jynx know how to open them!

Hence the recent scene: It's getting dark, Bob is outside painting the entry door, Vicki at his side holding a flashlight. I'm in the kitchen getting supper ready and Patch is mouthing off with her sometimes weird meowing. I start imitating her, I hear Vicki doing the same, and soon we're carrying on a pre-dinner “catophany”. I'm chuckling when I hear a new low-pitched meow from the hallway door behind me that sends chills down my spine. Uh oh! “No, Jynxi, go away,” I call out.

Scratching and pawing ensue, and I'm getting really alarmed. “Stop, Jynx!” What to do? As I dread the nasty situation about to happen, the door suddenly bursts open. It's Jon, roaring, laughing, being the “fungi” I've always loved! - Bonnie Stuempfig

From Amy Manns

Some of you know that our daughter, Allyson and her fiancé Daniel had planned for a big wedding on May 9, 2020. Well, Covid-19 changed all of that. The venue in Minneapolis where the wedding & reception were to take place had to follow state guidelines and would not allow us to hold the wedding there, even with only immediate family (10 people). We were left scrambling for a place to hold this intimate wedding. We had looked all over the twin cities area, trying to find a place that would allow us to gather, but also would be a beautiful backdrop for their once-in-a-lifetime special day. We just couldn't find anything that would be appropriate or that we would even be allowed to use, due to Covid-19.

Whatever happened, it was already going to be a huge downscale of their original plans, but we still wanted Allyson & Daniel to have a wonderful wedding that would leave them with only happy memories. As it was, aunts & uncles, bridesmaids & groomsmen, and best friends would not be able to share this day with them.

So one week before the wedding, I went to bed, frustrated and sad. I literally said to God, as I climbed into bed, “I am tired of trying to find a solution to this. I am just done. I need YOU to find us a place.” I fell asleep quite fast (which is not always the case) and slept very well. The next morning, I started searching again on the internet for a place for the wedding. I'm still not sure how or why I missed this place in all the days of searching, but sure enough...there it was...the PERFECT place for an intimate wedding. A boutique hotel (a mansion built in 1915 on one of the most picturesque streets in St. Paul, MN) that had a suite we could rent through Airbnb. A true God-send!! Finally, we could plan the last-minute arrangements and everything fell into place.

What a perfect day it turned out to be! The bride and groom were beyond happy. There was even a mini-grand piano in the suite which we used for the ceremony. It was magical!

I just know that God sent us to that perfect place. It is truly amazing what happens when we hand things over to God.





Our pianist/organist, Sue Lewinski, is downsizing and needs to find new

owner for the following:

A Baldwin organ that has two keyboards, foot pedals, percussion, and lots of extra things to add while playing. She would really love someone to have the organ who wants to sit & enjoy the music. She even has a lot of helpful books! All of this is free, but you will need to come and get it. Please call Sue at 262-547-1969.



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| June 7 | Harriet Marks |
| 11 | Jim Tonz |
| 12 | Gloria Rongstad |
| 12 | Jose Agpoon |
| 13 | Anna Hobbins |
| 15 | Mary Fischer |
| 17 | Paula Cooley |
| 19 | Giovanni Hobbins |

A note of thanks

A note from Delores Panahon...

Thank you for the many greetings on my 102nd birthday! I feel so blessed for the long life God has given me and for being a part of the Salem family. I look forward to seeing you again in church after this lockdown is over.

JUNE Lectionary

- June 7** Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13,
Matthew 28:16-20
- June 14** Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
- June 21** Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39
- June 28** Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

What Makes a Dad?

**God took the strength of a mountain,
the majesty of a tree,
the warmth of a summer sun,
the calm of the quiet sea,**

**The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagles flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,**

**The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
the depth of family need,
Then God combined these qualities.**

**When there was nothing more to add,
He knew his masterpiece was complete,
And so,**

He called it.....DAD

Author: Unknown

Happy Father's Day!

June 21