

July/August 2020



Salem United Methodist Church

Growing Together on the Journey with Christ



“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer-- at three in the afternoon. While they were there, they were healing sick and speaking God’s word, and all the people were running there to see what they were doing. The people were utterly astonished. More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.” -Select verses from Acts 3 and 5

Every weekend for the past four months, I have been going to church to tape the worship service so that we can continue having a worship experience even in the midst of a pandemic.

I have been praying and preaching to an empty church. I have been trying hard every week to keep the connection with you all in my heart, imagining your faces being in worship together. It has not been easy. As time goes by, I have been longing more and more to be in worship with you all. I am well aware that we are not going to be able to be in worship together for a while; we need to put safety first. We look forward to a relevant and inspiring service when we come back, but it is just not possible yet.

I yearn to be in fellowship with all of you, and I also can’t wait to welcome new faces among us!

I was thinking about the first Christian community that was born the day of Pentecost. They were gathering in homes, and they were well aware they were the church, the living body of Christ. Nevertheless, they were going to church (to the temple) three times a day to pray, and while they were there, they were healing broken hearts and hurt bodies; they were speaking the Word of God, and many people were added to the Christian community as they were moved by the disciples’ humble service and strong faith.

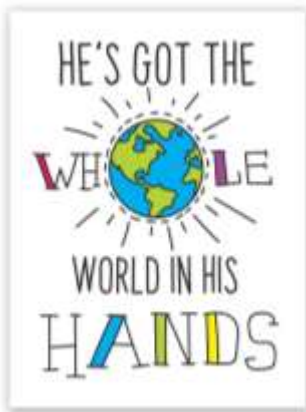
This is why we need the physical building of the church: because when we gather together in Jesus’ name, anything is possible.

For this reason, I find it extremely timely and deeply touching that, in a time like this, we are moving forward with the remodeling project of our building. It may sound like a contradiction, but in reality, it is a strong and firm action of hope and faith. In the end of the process, we will not just have a church building updated and remodeled, but we will be able to have a place more welcoming and inviting, where more broken hearts will be healed in Christ’s name.

The Salem Building Team very recently prepared a video with all the proposed changes. The drawings are in the narthex and were also sent to you all as attachment via email. Please take time to look them. Take time to pray about it, send your questions, share with the Building Team what you love about it, and more importantly DREAM BIG for Salem... The best is yet to come.

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

So much is happening with Salem UMC, despite Covid-19!!



July Worship Theme:
“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Pandemic, injustice, poverty, brokenness, polarization, uncertainty... Our world and our nation are going through deeply

troubling times. What does our future look like? Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is speaking to us about our future with words of challenge and hope.

July 5 *Don't Be Afraid; I am the First & the Last*
Revelation 1:17b-18, Virtual communion

July 12 *I Will Make Everything New*
Revelation 21:1-5

July 19 Join us in another LIVE Zoom Service at 9:00 AM - A celebration of our Salem Community and stories of faith from the pandemic

July 26 *Healing For All the Nations*
Revelation 22 1:1-5

Special Worship on August 2 (on YouTube)

led by Rev. Michelle Oberwise Lacock:

“Methodism: Past, Present and Future”

Join us for a three-way discussion with our guests:

- Rev. Joya Hardamann - Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Rev. Jeffrey Powell - African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Rev. Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock - United Methodist Church

We will be talking about our beliefs of “Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts”, how that has been lived in the past and is being lived out today. We will close with a Communion service, inviting everyone to join us. Please have juice and bread ready at home.



Continuing the Delay of Opening of our Church for Worship

Even though a group of us would be ready to return to church, the majority is not. So we can foresee, that for most of the summer, our worship services will continue online. We will be doing a live Zoom Worship service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our taped services for all other Sundays will be available on our Salem YouTube channel. For all of these services, you will receive an email for the link a day before the service.

We do have a small musical ensemble, musicians and soloists, that meet at church with social distancing to record music and hymns. We continue to strive to create worship experiences that include as many people as possible. Church council is meeting again in July to discuss the reopening. We are looking into creating a task force that will prepare for the reopening. Until then the building will be available to Salem small groups meeting. We will not yet be available to outside groups.



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/UCQY7kQoYMJH1n_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.



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. 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. Call Pastor Paola at 920-420-7205.



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

Summer with Salem!

Due to the fact we must keep ourselves and family safe, I will be hosting two Zoom get-togethers so we can stay connected. The theme will be “*Staying Strong with Jesus*”.

- Sunday, July 19th at 4:00 PM. This should take about 40 minutes. We will participate in a few games and a scavenger hunt around your home that will bring us closer to Jesus.
- Sunday, August 23rd at 4:00 PM. Community games to keep us connected. More details to come.

Rock Scavenger Hunt!

If you are bored at home, I have set up a Rock Scavenger Hunt at Salem Church. I hid 12 Rocks with Bible verses around Salem Church. ****There are no rocks near the construction**** The forms with the directions can be found at the bottom of the bell tower near church doors. After you have completed the Scavenger Hunt, replace the form with your name on it back in the envelope in the bell tower. I will check weekly and announce the winner. Since we cannot be together, I thought this might be a fun activity to connect us over summer.

*****If you would like to make a rock and add it to our scavenger hunt, that would be wonderful!*****

2020/2021 Sunday School Year

Parents, I will be hosting a Zoom meeting for parents regarding the Sunday School format and teachers for the 2020-2021 year. (More information to come.) I am hoping to have the meeting on Sunday, July 9th around 7:00 PM.



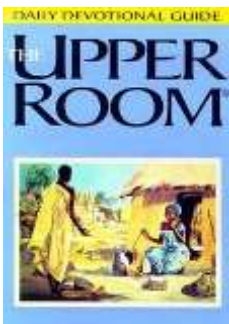
Needed: Sunday School teachers!

Only 1-2 times a month!

Mary Jo is planning our upcoming 2020/2021 Sunday School year, and she is planning to have four classes:

- Nursery through Preschool, up to age 4
- Elementary, ages 5-8
- Middle school, ages 9-13
- Teens with Bill Pardoe as co-teacher

If you are interested, please call Mary Jo at 414-630-2531, (this is the correct phone number; it was incorrect in the June Tidings) or email Mary Jo at: familyministries@salemthehill.org



Upper Room

Copies of the July/August 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! 😊

Food Pantry Donations!

Don't forget to drop off items for the Food Pantry! Place in the bin under the bell tower by the church entry doors to the narthex. A monetary donation is always appreciated in lieu of dropping off items. Please send a check made out to Salem UMC, with "food pantry" in the memo. Thank you!!

To view how the Waukesha Food Pantry is continuing with distribution of food to their clients with minimal contact, visit this link:

<https://vimeo.com/413982040>

This process will continue at least into September.



Building Team Report

Bill Dossett, our mason, and Steve from Signs and Lines are working together to get Salem's new outdoor electronic sign installed. Diggers Hotline was here on JUNE 29th. The city permit is being applied for. Signs and Lines and the mason would like to have the new sign up and running by mid-July. However, the issuance of city permits have been slow in coming since the shut down due to Covid-19. Also, since we do not have the needed electrical power for the new sign, we will have to trench a new line out there. This can all affect the completion date for the signs installation.

By the time you receive this issue of the Tidings, we hope you have had a chance to view the Building Team's video presentation on the proposed changes for Salem. You should have all received an email with the plans and drawings. If you have any questions or ideas after viewing, please forward your emails to Kermit at kbohning1@gmail.com or call Bonnie Wojcik (262-751-1590) by July 3rd. If you had trouble viewing the video, please call the church office.

The video format was chosen because most people felt uncomfortable about meeting at Church in large groups due to the virus or because of personal health issues. The Team felt the video was the best way of getting Salem's renovation information to everyone at the same time.

These are preliminary drawings not the final plans for Salem. The ideas for the changes came from you through the summer Task Force presentations, Leadership Retreat, interviews of new and potential members, and the Summer Listening Sessions. In the church narthex, you are now able to view 3-D renderings of the these improvements.

As we move forward, continue to keep us in your prayers as we try to fulfill our mission statement of *Helping Salem Shine Christ's Light of Hope and Compassion Inviting All to Grow, Connect, and Serve.*



Get to know our newest members, who joined our Salem family on Sunday, June 21:

Doug & Cathy McGrath

Doug & Cathy moved to Waukesha from Glendale, WI, after selling their house of 39 years. They have a daughter in Madison who is married and has twin boys that who are 9 years old, and they have a son who lives in LA; he's not married. They were members of the United Methodist Church in Whitefish Bay for over 30 years.

Cathy is retired from 31 years in medical records at a large hospital system. She's from Canada, moved here after high school, and grew up in the Salvation Army, where she played in the band. Cathy still plays the cornet and is currently a member of the New Horizons Band of Waukesha. She enjoys knitting and spending time with their grandsons, family and friends.

Jim, Sharon, & Samantha (Samie) Seegers:

The Seegers transferred their membership from Gethsemane United Methodist Church in Pewaukee where they were active members for over 20 years (After selling their home of 20+ years in Pewaukee, they wanted a church in the Waukesha area so they could get to know and help others in their community.)

Jim is an employee at the Town of Brookfield. He is looking forward to perhaps retiring in a year or so. When he retires, he plans to spend more time riding his Harley motorcycle, continue remodeling their new house, rebuilding old tractors, and working on small engines. Jim also plays an active part in Waukesha County Special Olympics; he was a basketball coach this year, and helps out with T-Ball When needed.

Sharon works for local financial advisors and is currently the volunteer Waukesha County Agency Manager for Special Olympics and the Special Olympics Treasurer for WSCO. When she is not working or doing Special Olympics, she loves spending with her grandsons, Mason 5 and Abel 3.

Jim and Sharon have two daughters Jennifer and Samantha. Jennifer is a special needs teacher and currently lives with her husband Matt and Mason and Abel in Germantown.

Samantha (Samie) lives at home and currently works at Oak Hill Terrace's assistant living. She loves her job, as she enjoys talking and taking care of the residents. She loves to participate in Special Olympics track, tee-ball, basketball, and volleyball. Samie loves living in the Waukesha, because she now can ride the city bus and have more independence.

The Seegers are excited about being members of the Salem Church family. Sharon and Samie love cooking and helping with VBS and Jim is willing to help when needed, and we all would love decorating the church for Christmas.

CODE Needed for Entry!

Our new entrance doors have been installed, and they are wonderful! You now need a 4-digit entrance code to enter the church. This can be a number YOU choose. We encourage **everyone** to have a code. Salem is your spiritual home, and you should be able to come and go as you wish. If you have not done so already, please email the church office with your name and 4-digit number. A family unit can share the same code. Thank you!

A Reminder From the Church Library

Hello Salem readers!

We are happy to see that even during the pandemic, some of you have been able to get to church and pick up some books from our library. We are trying to locate books from one of the new series which may have been taken out without removing and signing the card. When taking a book, please remember to remove the card, sign your name and the date and place it in the card box on the library counter. If you have books out now, that still have cards in them, please return the cards to the box in the library so we can keep track of our books. Thank you, and happy reading!



A note from Kurt and Sue Guenther

For BLESSINGS RECEIVED, Kurt & Susan Guenther have donated \$700 worth of Hand Sanitizer to Salem to "ease the transition" when we return to worship safely together at Salem!

Salem Church, on behalf of my 48th Anniversary with Fuller Brush on July 1 (I started at age 16) and God's blessings to have our best 4 months EVER, (thanks to sales of TONS of FB Hand Sanitizer), we've donated Kurt's "stimulus" check amount toward Hand Sanitizer for both Salem Church AND to the NEW "SALEM CHURCH" Senior Softball team. This team is managed by Kurt and co-sponsored by Kurt and Marlys Tesch !

We have given Salem Church 108 small hand sanitizers (one for the pocket or purse) for every person who attends church when we return. In addition, we have given 12 large hand sanitizer bottles for the church offices and entries.

We also donated a small hand sanitizer to each player in Kurt's Salem Church Softball 130-person league plus large bottles for each of 20 managers plus many umpires!

The 2020 Softball team was cancelled due to covid-19, so the **Salem Church Red Team** will debut in late April of 2021. This team includes Kurt and former Salem Pastor, Jorge Mayorga, and is 2-time "Defending Champs". We will attempt to three-peat in 2021, but mostly have Christian togetherness, try not to get injured, and have fun!

Here is a photo of the red jerseys for the new Salem Church Senior Softball team. (now sponsored by Kurt & Marlys).



FYI: My wife Sue does deserve her stimulus check, as she is, like many at Salem, out of work (despite being a 20-year Special Needs Teacher & Nurse at Waukesha West H.S.) and hopes to return to teaching in September.

For "BLESSINGS RECEIVED" in 10 years at Salem Church!
Sincerely, Kurt & Susan Guenther

A thank you note from Harriet Marks

I celebrated my 99th birthday in early June, and had a wonderful time. The biggest surprise was a visit from my daughter, Pat, and my granddaughter, Janet. We had to wear masks, but we could see and talk to each other. Our time together passed by very quickly, but we did have a good time. Other joys were felt as I read the many beautiful, cheery birthday cards that arrived each day. The phone call visits were fun, and it was good to hear what's happening in the church news. It was good to talk with you, and the gifts were fun to receive! How could I say it wasn't a good day to remember and cherish? I wouldn't dare! An unforgettable and joyful THANK YOU to one and all!

Blessings, Love, & Peace,
Harriet Marks

Words of wisdom from Harriet, based on a suggestion from the *Upper Room* devotional booklet:

**"Be content wherever you are."
And then Harriet added,
"The best is yet to be. Alleluia! Amen!"**

A Thank You from the Tonz Family...

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, cards and well wishes. Mason got his pins out and cast off on Friday, June 26th. He will just have to wear a removable splint for the next three weeks while his arm continues to heal. He is very happy and doing great!
Thank you!



JULY Lectionary

- July 5** Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45: 11-18
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- July 12** Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
- July 19** Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30,36-43
- July 26** Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

AUGUST Lectionary

- August 2** Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7,16
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21
- August 9** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33
- August 16** Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
- August 23** Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20
- August 30** Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



- July 1 Bob Teschner
1 Lenny Hernandez
1 Sue Dick
2 Kendra Fischer
5 Mary Jo Martin
7 Laurie Buxengard
9 Frank Kosednar
14 Robert Tomaszczak
17 Tina Tonz
17 Ken Bringa
21 Brooke Nease
23 Dorothy Rohde
24 Colin Henderson
27 Kermit Bohning
27 Judy Schimpf
28 Amy Manns
31 Betta Hobbins
31 Alison Campbell
31 Alexis Tonz



- August 2 Dick Mueller
2 Sue Yont
2 Katie Trombley
5 Betty Padgett
5 Bob Cooley
6 Peggy Barnes
9 John Klopp
10 James Agpoon
14 Gary Wollenzien
15 Bill Crusan
15 Grace Callen
18 Chase Hernandez
18 Rhena Knourek
27 Penny Feller