



Salem United Methodist Church

September 2020

Jesus said: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Luke 6:38 NRSV).

Once again, this past Sunday I witnessed with my own eyes the miracle of generosity and how Jesus' words, apparently illogical, are actually one of the most incredible truths of life: When you give, instead of losing you actually gain beyond expectation.



During worship this past Sunday, we welcomed among us Temba our missionary from Mujila Falls Agricultural Centre in Zambia, Africa. He told us about how Salem's generosity over the past 15 years have been helping to create jobs, life and hope. Then we were invited to give generously, and WOW!! We came through, beyond expectation! And those who could participate to the tailgate lunch after the service could personally experience it: It was pure Joy and Blessing!

Jesus was right when he spoke of the blessings of giving. The blessings span the gamut from health to meaning to fulfillment to joy. Nothing can stop the blessing of giving, not even a pandemic!

We were created in the image of God, and God is generous — a generosity seen most clearly on the cross, where the selflessness and love of God were poured out for all humankind. Because we were created in the image of a generous God, we were created for generosity to be the regular rhythm of our lives. When we are generous, we walk closely with God, our generosity touches the heart of God, and we become what God made us to be.

On Sunday, September 20th, during our monthly live zoom service, we will be able to kick off a new opportunity for all us... an opportunity for blessing, joy and generosity related to the dream of the remodeled church building we have been working on. A place filled with warmth, hospitality and comfort for us and for all of those who will be joining as soon as we can reopen our doors.

Someone asked me recently: "Are you crazy to start a building program during the pandemic...?" I answered, "Isn't it what Jesus calls to do: live and act in hope and generosity?" And so we are. Please plan to join me on Sunday, September 20, live on Zoom at 9 AM as we let the practice of generosity (instead of despair, anxiety and hostility) lead our lives.

May God Bless you,
Pastor Paola



Our next Worship Series:



Where Goodness Grows

In a time of great struggles, anxiety, polarization and hostility for our country, God calls to let the *Fruits of the Spirit* grow in our lives.

Sunday, August 30 - Galatians 5:1; 13-21 (NRSV)
The Practice of Lament – **When freedom is self-serving**

Sunday, September 6 Galatians 5 (NRSV)
The Practice of Goodness: **Love, Joy, Kindness**

Sunday, September 13 Galatians 5 (NRSV)
The Practice of Modesty: **Peace and Patience**

Sunday, September 20 Galatians 5, Matthew 13:31-32 **LIVE ZOOM worship**
The Practice of Generosity: **Seeds to Fruit (Capital campaign kick-off)**

Sunday, September 27 Galatians 5 (NRSV)
The Practice of Purity : **Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control**



Our Worship Services are all online! Have you missed one? 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 or, if requested, with the entire congregation. Call Pastor Paola at 920-420-7205.

The Salem House at Mujila Falls Agricultural Centre in Zambia, Africa

Temba, our missionary at Mujila Falls, made a special video announcement on Sunday, Aug. 9. Check it out on line if you missed it!

<https://youtu.be/dfguTC4m9NE>

Because of our past moral and financial support, the new dormitory at the Agricultural Centre will be named **Salem House**. What an honor! Temba also participated in our Zoom service Aug. 23rd. This was a great way to get to know a bit about Temba and hear directly from him what wonderful work is being done there.



15,000 bricks were molded and fired.



Foundation was laid for the dormitory



Walls are going up!

This dormitory will provide shelter for people training for the Peace Corps, students from high schools and universities who wish to learn about many different aspects of agriculture, and other guests. Find out all the up to date news about the work at Mujila Falls at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MujilaFallsAgCenter/>

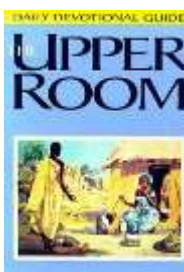
We thank you for your generous donations towards Temba's salary and the dorm project. If you did not get a chance to make a donation and would like to do so, send a check to the Salem office: 541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, 53186. Make the check payable to Salem UMC, with "Mujila Falls" on the memo line of your check. Please have your donations in by September 6th. Watch for an email after Sept. 6th for the grand total!

Defibrillator at Salem

As some of you may be aware, we have a newly installed defibrillator in the narthex. If we need to use the defibrillator, we need to know who to call on. Near the unit, we will post a list of members/friends who are First Aid and Certified defibrillator operators. If you are willing and able to operate the defibrillator, please call Marsha Everson at 414-698-6716 or email her at marshaeverson@hotmail.com. Please include your name and the expiration date of your certification. This will help us to keep the list up to date and ensure that have operators available. We may also consider a group training session, so if you don't have certification but would like it, please let Marsha know that also.



Upper Room



Copies of the Sept/Oct 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 continue with your daily devotionals! 😊



From our Children, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator, Mary Jo Martin:

Our SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF!

There will be a live Zoom on Sunday, September 13, as our Sunday School Kick-Off. (Time and Log in to be announced)

Until we are back together to worship in our sanctuary, one Sunday per month will be a live Zoom, and 3 Sundays per month we will have a recorded video attached to our Facebook page.

I am looking for volunteers to help make and participate in the video! If you are interested, please call me at 414-630-2513, or email at familyministries@sailemonthehill.org
Hope and prayers to worship together soon!
Mary Jo Martin

DISCIPLE

*"If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples."
John 8:31*

Joan Callen, Salem member and lover of the Scripture, is inviting you to consider a wonderful opportunity for Spiritual growth: **Disciple Bible Study**. Disciple was an extremely impactful part of Joan's faith journey. She is a certified Disciple teacher. During this time of Covid19, the class would be on Zoom, with the hope that we might be meeting in person in the future.

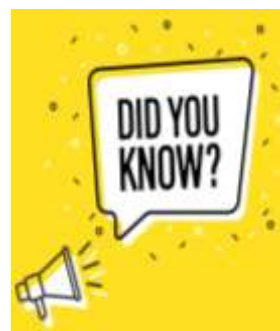
The Disciple Bible Study is a 34-week study that covers over 70% of the Bible: 16 weeks Old Testament, 1 week intertestamental period, and 15 weeks New Testament. The last 2 weeks we will be identifying our spiritual gifts, leadership roles, and celebrating Holy Communion.

Participants commit to approximately 30 minutes of study per day, 6 days per week, and attendance at and participation in all 34 sessions. Participants will need to purchase the study manual and possibly a study Bible.

We will be having a Zoom meeting for more information. Please let Pastor Paola know if you are considering participating or have questions about the Disciple Bible Study. This may just be the perfect time to go back to the very source of our faith!

Renewable Electricity - Update

Three years ago, at the encouragement and support of Betty Henderson, we enrolled in the use of 100% renewable electricity. She was a strong advocate of green energy and actively supported our project. This has an additional cost of about \$25 a month and is supported in total by individual contributions. Over the past three years, funding has been adequate to continue this without any budget support. Our balance in this account is now down to just two months of funding. Those who personally value and support the green energy initiative are encouraged to consider contributing to this funding in order to continue. Thank you!



KWIK TRIP cards...

Did you know that after 12 months of non-use, a \$2.00 service fee will be deducted from the remaining balance of each card every month! Use your cards before they lose value!



Building Team Report

The Building Committee would like to thank the Congregation for its vote of confidence in passing both questions in the Preliminary Vote. The count was as follows:

Question #1 To move forward with the construction plans and get bids: 78 YES, 5 NO.

Question #2 If the project exceeds the cost of land funds, would you support a capital campaign and/or mortgage: 60 YES, 14 NO.

The passage of these two questions allows the Building Team to move forward to get detailed construction plans and bids for the various areas (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc). Then you, the Congregation, will have another opportunity to vote on the project before remodeling begins.

As we move on to the next phase, we will be kicking off a capital campaign on Sunday, Sept. 20 via Zoom during the worship service. More details will be available at that time.

In making decisions, the Building Team is always keeping in mind what would be best for everyone in the Church; not only now, but also in the future, as we grow, connect, and serve others. Compassion and Compromise will become very important as we address the needs of the many different ministry groups at Salem. We pray that the Lord guides us in this effort of Shining Christ's Light.

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!!



During this time of Covid19, **Healing Hearts** is continuing to provide grief support using virtual programming. In addition, webinars and online training will be offered to members of the community to help them provide support to others who are challenged and overwhelmed by the impact of the pandemic and other life-altering events.

2020 marks Healing Heart's 10th year! The annual fundraiser (Celebration of Hope) had to be cancelled last spring due to Covid19, but they are excited to announce a special event for the week of September 21-26. They will be hosting a Virtual Auction and their popular balloon pop. We will share additional information as it becomes available. For now, mark your calendars for this new event to help fund Healing Hearts for the coming year!



SALEM GARDENS

Did you know we have a Gardening Task Force at Salem? And they are going to be very busy the next few weeks! Sophie's Garden (east end of the education wing) will be getting a much-needed make-over: the dying pine trees will be removed and replaced with new trees, weeding will be done, plants will be added/removed as needed, and possible replacement of the stone mulch. Other garden areas that will be spruced up (shrub-trimming, weeding, planting, mulching) include the area outside of the youth room, in front of the pastor's office/entry to narthex, and the garden in front of the lounge. Yes, they are going to be VERY busy. If you have any questions, please contact Marsha Everson (marshaeverson@hotmail.com)

A thank you note from Cole Cochran

Dear Salem,
Thank you for the good wishes for my high school graduation and for the gift card (Kwik Trip). I will sue the gift card for gas to commute back home from college. Thanks, Cole Cochran

Prayer Requests

***From Don Callen, who recently drove through Iowa: "Please remember the people of Iowa in our prayers. The utter devastation of crops and trees is too extensive to even comprehend. Buildings in all the towns in the Derecho's path suffered at least minor damage. The winds reached CAT II hurricane in some areas, but hurricanes lose force over land. This storm swept 700 miles through Iowa into Illinois and Indiana leaving a path of significant damage nearly 400 miles long by 75 miles wide. I've never seen anything like it, and it broke my heart."

***Please keep the city of Kenosha, WI, in your prayers as they struggle with the events of this past week. Pray for Jacob Blake and his family.

***Please keep in your prayers the people who will be affected by Hurricane Laura, an extremely powerful hurricane with a storm surge of up to 20 feet when it reaches the Gulf Coast this week. It is expected to bring fierce winds, flash flooding and extended power-outages to Texas and Louisiana.

***Prayers for Caryn Adair's friend, Christal Bindrich, whose husband Jerry died from Covid19. Christal is a pastor not serving a church at this time.

Milestone Anniversaries

Ralph & Sue Yont celebrated their **60th Anniversary** this week! Happy Anniversary, Ralph and Sue!

Dale & Karla Henry just celebrated their **50th Anniversary**. Congratulations, Dale & Karla!

If you have a special anniversary you want to share with us, please email or call the church office.

September Birthdays



| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Sept. 4 | Clarisse Crusan |
| 5 | Don Callen |
| 6 | Doug Lindsay |
| 7 | Kurt Guenther |
| 8 | Edna Lesada |
| 9 | Pat Bohning |
| 10 | Dick Tesch |
| 10 | Maggie Bringa |
| 18 | Marlys Tesch |
| 19 | Bob Stuempfig |
| 19 | Michelle Lacock |
| 20 | Noah Mitchell |
| 20 | Eve Paddock |
| 22 | Jacob Lindsay |

September Lectionary

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|-----------------|--|
| Sept. 6 | Exodus 12:1-4 Psalm 148 or 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20 |
| Sept. 13 | Exodus 14:19-31 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35 |
| Sept. 20 | Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16 |
| Sept. 27 | Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32 |