



Salem United Methodist Church

November 2020

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100:4

It is that season. Thanksgiving is in everybody's mind. However, this year is nothing like before.

Families are cancelling their traditional celebrations. People are not traveling. The news is suggesting alternative ways to celebrate Thanksgiving: dining virtually, scaling back, perhaps celebrating outside (that would be difficult in Wisconsin!). I even heard an interview with turkey farmers concerned that they will not be able to respond to the high request for very small turkeys this year!

Some of us may feel sad.

I know I am. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, but this year is going to be a challenge to be thankful. My family is scattered and will not gather for Thanksgiving or for Christmas for that matter. The level of pain, worry and grief in our country and around the world is just too much to bear some days. The spread of anger and hatred feels unstoppable.

Yet, psychologists remind us that God wired us for gratitude.

Gratitude improves our physical, mental and spiritual health as well as our social connections. It enhances compassion and even helps us to sleep better. God knows how much we need all of this. If we give up on expressing gratitude, we truly give up on hope.

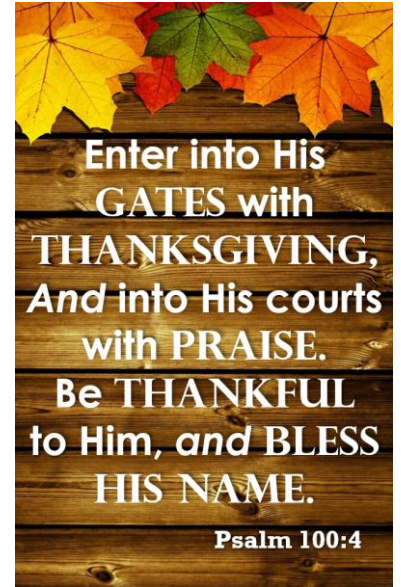
Albert Schweitzer, a theologian, musician and physician who spent a big part of his life taking care the dying and very sick, as medical missionary in Africa in the midst of war and extreme poverty, said: *"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."*

I will start right here, and I hope you join me can too, by expressing deep gratitude for all those people in our lives who have rekindled the spark in our lives during these past few months. They have been lighting the flame within us and leading us to hope, have faith and even laugh and have good time during the last difficult months.

Among those people, I give thanks for you all, the family of Salem. You showed me one miracle of hope and love after the other during this time.

Salem has been our spark and flame within us.

May God bless you all,
Pastor Paola



November Worship Spiritual Lessons from the Pandemic:

We are reflecting on what we've learned so far from the pandemic, as we look at stories of Old Testament characters who lived in times of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety.

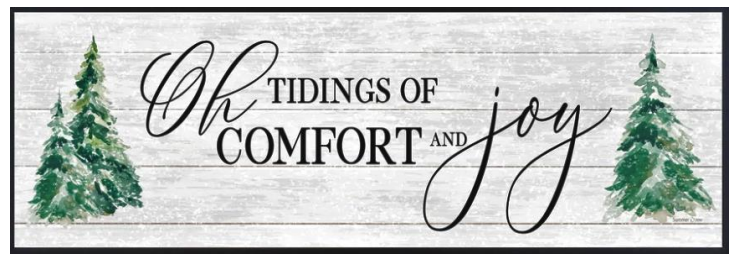
Sunday November 1 Speaker: Bill Pardoe
New Open Doors

Abraham: Courage to embrace new opportunities
Genesis 12

Sunday November 8 Rest!
Replenishing mind, body and soul brings peace
Genesis 2:1-3, Matthew 11:28-29

Sunday November 15 Giving brings healing
Joseph: Generosity bears hope
Genesis 45, Proverbs 11:24-25

Sunday November 22 Give Thanks
(This will not be live Zoom)
Don't forget to count your blessings.
Hannah: The Joy of Gratitude



Advent and Christmas 2020

Oh Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Sunday November 29 1st Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 6 2nd Sunday in Advent
Communion

Sunday December 13 3rd Sunday in Advent
Live Zoom Worship at 9:00 AM

10:30-11:30 AM Salem Giving Tree at church:
Drive-thru donations of Outreach giving (see article in this Tidings) with Santa, Hot Chocolate & Cookies

Sunday December 20 4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 27 A Service of Carols



4:00 PM Family Service
Live Zoom
Children friendly
service with message



**9:00 PM Traditional
Candlelighting Service**
Facebook Live from
church

Readings and Carols with
Christmas message





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.



Join us Thursdays at 6:30 PM (unless otherwise announced). We send out the Zoom invite by email each week. We study 2 passages from the weekly lectionary every week. It is an awesome opportunity to grow in faith. Let Paola know if you'd like to join us!

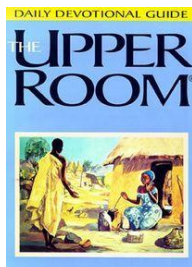
Tithes and Offerings

We are so thankful for your gifts of tithes and offerings! 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.



A Reminder...

Copies of the Nov/Dec Upper Room Devotional booklets are now available! You may pick up a copy at church. They are on the kiosk in the narthex. Carve out a few minutes of each day for a time of devotion. Let yourself in the church and pick up your copy today!



Advent Wreaths

Would your family be interested in creating their own Advent wreath? During the week of November 15-

22, there will be wreath kits available at church. We are looking for families to celebrate the Advent season at home. Create your own family Advent wreath and light the candles weekly. We ask you take pictures and send them to Pastor Paola to be used in our you-tube services. The kits will consist of foam wreath base, 1 bow, greenery, 3 purple and 1 pink candle, and 4 candle holders. You will be asked to supply any other embellishments if you like. Please just text me, "yes" at 414-630-2531 so I can put enough kits together to leave at church.

Thank you, Mary Jo Martin

Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator



TRUSTEES' TASKS

- ☒ Fire extinguishers have been inspected and tagged for 2020-2021.
- ☒ Our security system obsolete. This means that sensors on new doors would have to be part of a whole new system.
- ☒ Three dead trees have been removed from east end building. Plants from Sophie's garden are temporarily stored until new tree can be planted as a replacement. Expect new tree next week.
- ☒ Finalizing plans for a shed to replace garage lost to New Perspective's construction.
- ☒ Our connection to City sanitary sewer has been relocated to our north property line, as per overall New perspectives plan. This will allow us more leeway in potential development of our north yard landscaping.



The Pandemic Hasn't Changed EVERYTHING!

There are even more needs to be met in our community, and this Christmas, Outreach is still supporting our

usual projects with a few changes. The charities we usually support during the holidays have almost made it easier for Salem to donate!

Eras (formerly Interfaith)

In order to distribute equal amounts to seniors and disabled folks, Eras will be collecting only: Books of Forever Stamps and \$10 Gift cards to Walgreens, Pick and Save, and Walmart.

The Christmas Clearing Council

They will not be collecting toys, but instead: \$25 gift cards for Target or Walmart only.

Undie Sunday

Since we were not able to have our usual Undie Sunday Collection this year, you may also contribute underwear for the Hope Center: Underwear for kids, size 2T-4T, Men's medium and large boxers, Women's size 4-7 hipsters or low-cut briefs, long underwear for Men and Women. NO Socks are needed at this time.

Outreach has tried to simplify this for you. Mail in your monetary donations to church (make check out to Salem UMC, with memo: Outreach). Also specify if you want to give gift cards or underwear, and Outreach will purchase them for you. If you'd rather, you can buy your own cards, stamps, or underwear. You can mail them to the church OR drop them off at church on Sunday, December 13th, (10:30-11:30 AM) outside at the SALEM GIVING TREE. Thank you in advance for making Christmas a little brighter for those in need!



Salem's GIVING TREE and 3 Pines



Salem's Worship Committee is planning for Advent and, while disappointed that our traditional indoor celebrations must be postponed, we're hopeful to offer a beacon of light, rather than a dark church, to passers-by during the Christmas season. We would like to put Christmas lights on the three pines near the northwest corner of our church. To make this possible, we are asking for donations of sturdy Christmas lights (possibly commercial-grade) for the pines.

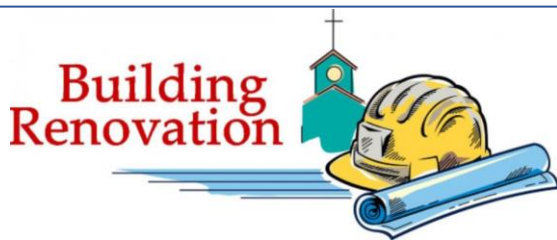
In addition, we are also looking for a tree for our GIVING TREE. This tree will be set up near the church and parking lot. The artificial tree that we use in our narthex for Christmas is not suitable, but if you are willing to donate either a real or artificial one, sturdy enough to handle winter winds, that would be fantastic! We'll also need dependable outdoor lights and hands to anchor the tree securely. Perhaps more than one family could take on this task together, of course while observing COVID 19 precautions.



Should it be impossible for you to help us with these wishes, your prayerful response with ideas, or monetary donations toward Christmas lights and/or a tree are welcome. Please contact Pastor Paola or Bonnie Stuempfig. Thanks in advance!



Women in the Middle will be providing items needed for hygiene kits and packaging them for the overflow shelter in Waukesha. We are glad we can help in this small way.



Building Team Report

The Building Committee is overwhelmed by and grateful to the congregation for its support of the Capital Campaign and the Mortgage. It exceeded anything we could have imagined. Thank you so very much!

Presently the Committee is waiting for bids from various trades (plumbing, masonry, carpentry, flooring, HVAC, etc.) on the different parts of our project. We hope to have these bids in early November. This will give us a better idea of costs of our project.

A copy of the 95% floor plans are now on display in the narthex for those members interested in the full scope of the project. Thank you again Salem Family for your continued support of this major renovation and updating of our Church!



Salem Task Force for Re-Opening

COVID-19 has given us many challenges in 2020.

Ongoing changes and adjustments have included

YouTube & Zoom Live worship services and Zoom meetings for Bible Study and all of our committee meetings.

Our willingness to be flexible has helped us continue Salem's ministry in new ways. Eventually COVID-19 will be under control and we will again be able to be worship together in the Sanctuary. To prepare for that day, the Church Council has created a Re-Opening Task Force to research and develop the procedures we will use for safe worship.

Currently the task force has two members: Karla Henry and Gary Wollenzien. More members are welcome! If you would like join this effort, please contact Pastor Paola, Karla, or Gary.



Equal Exchange Returns to Salem!

Equal Exchange products are returning to Salem. As you know, Salem United Methodist Women have sold Equal Exchange products to benefit small farmers around the world. Through Fair Trade, these

farmers can receive a better income and support their families. It seems such a shame that we have products available and nobody is purchasing them.

Now UMW members will be implementing a purchase and pick-up system! Now you can order Equal Exchange products by emailing Gladys at eaglerosz@gmail.com or calling 262-594-5099. The items will be put in a bag with your name and placed on the library counter. Please put the money in an envelope with "Equal Exchange" with your name on it, and place it in the UMW mail slot. In November, orders will be due by November 19th and orders may be picked up from Nov. 22nd to 27th.

The following items are now available:

\$5 - 25 Mini Dark Chocolate bars

\$3 - Large candy bars are Dark Chocolate including: with Almonds, with Orange, Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt, or with Mint Crunch

\$6 - Hot Cocoa Mix (Dark or Milk Chocolate)

We are so grateful to our callers who stay in touch with the congregation weekly. A another heartfelt thank you to Bill Pardoe and Gary

Wollenzien who work tirelessly with Pastor Paola to provide our worship services. There is a lot going on "behind the scenes" that make it possible to provide worship to us every week. Finally, our deep gratitude for everyone who is doing "invisible work" that allows Salem to function and stay connected during this very challenging time.





November 2	Paul Wojcik
7	Bill Hauenstine
7	Bill Watt
13	Karla Henry
13	Rich Manns
13	Elliot Agpoon
14	Joan Callen
15	Aaron Buxengard
16	Rob Roszkowski
20	Jim Prescott
20	Bill Pardoe
21	Ruth Teschner
22	Todd Cochran
24	Margaret Wogaman
26	Aimee Agpoon
27	Dale Henry

November Lectionary

Nov. 1	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thess. 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12
Nov. 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thess. 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 15	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 or Psalm 76 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Nov. 29	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Practice Gratitude This Thanksgiving

The holidays are going to be different this year. The pandemic will be changing the way we gather (or not gather) but the practice of giving thanks and being grateful is as important as ever. As Pastor Paola's letter said, gratitude is vital to our our physical, mental and spiritual health.

Here are some ideas (choose one or more!)

1. Start a gratitude journal. From now until Thanksgiving, write a sentence or draw a picture of something you are grateful for each day. Be specific – the more you pay attention to details, the more you'll start to notice the positive things in your life.
2. Make a gratitude chain. This crafty gratitude journal gets the whole family involved. Set up a station with precut construction paper, markers, and tape or glue in a high-traffic spot in your home. Ask family members to pause every time they walk by to jot down something they are grateful for – then fasten it as a link on the chain. On Thanksgiving, plan "gratitude breaks" to read links aloud.
3. Write or draw Thanksgiving cards. If you and/or your child are sad about not getting to see a family member or friend this holiday season, channeling it into writing or art can be soothing for them – and a sweet surprise for the recipient.
4. Make a list of people who have done something nice for you lately. Then set aside time on Thanksgiving to call them and say thanks.
5. Decorate the front yard with thank-you signs. From essential workers and healthcare heroes to teachers and neighbors, many people deserve a special thank-you. Get your child involved in drawing or painting signs to decorate your yard.
6. Many of you have heard of kindness rocks. Try a twist on this. You and/or your child can paint rocks with images and messages that inspire gratitude. On Thanksgiving Day, take a walk to work off that turkey, and set the rocks in special places to surprise other walkers.

