

Salem United Methodist Church

January 2021

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Happy New Year!

A new year is just another number on the page, but it stands for something much deeper, especially this year. We can't wait to enter into 2021!

We are filled with hope...

Hope that the vaccine will defeat the Coronavirus that stole so much of our lives this past year.

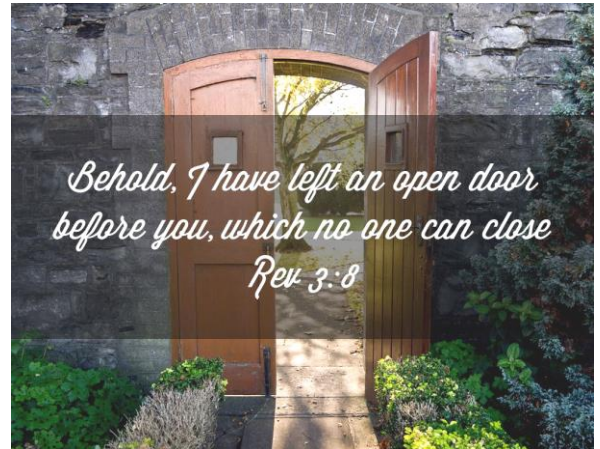
Hope that those who are suffering in body and spirit will find healing.

Hope that those who are grieving will find comfort and peace.

Hope that we will be able to come together with our loved ones, celebrate, party, travel, etc.

Hope for unity, kindness, hospitality.

Hope for a better year.



Will all these hopes be fulfilled? I don't know. But what I do know is that God is opening a new door into the New Year, and as we enter, we will discover great opportunities and possibilities that God holds out before us. Many new ways to serve a God of fresh starts and new beginnings.

Very rarely in the Bible does God come to someone and say, "Do not move. Stay!" Almost never does God interrupt someone and ask them to remain in comfort, safety, and familiarity.

He opens a door and calls them to come through it. This means a new way of looking at life. I do not have to be afraid of failure. I do not have to live in fear over circumstance. Each moment is an opportunity to look for a door that opens up to God and his presence. This means a new way of looking at myself. I am no longer limited by my smallness and weakness. The God who opens the door to me is also the God who knows how small and weak I am.

Each year we are presented with new doors. Every morning is an open door; every moment can become one. This is true for you and me, but there is more

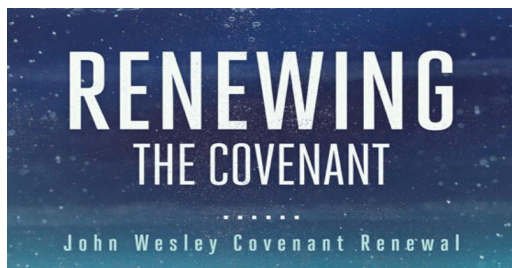
In this new year, 2021, God is opening a new door for us a church: a new great tool to serve God in new ways. We will have a wonderfully remodeled church building that will bring new opportunities to serve our community and reach out to new families in love. I am ready to enter this new door with you all!

So much is coming... I can't wait!

Blessings,
Pastor Paola



Join us for a Special Service



Sunday, January 3, Communion Sunday
9:00 AM

A Covenant Renewal Service (Live Zoom)

This service, created by John Wesley in 1755, is traditionally celebrated on New Year's Day. The heart of the service focuses on the **Covenant Prayer** and invites us to recommit ourselves to God in the New Year. It is a liturgical service, rich with hymns and scriptures. During the service, we will be installing the 2021 Lay Leadership Team.

On January 10 we will have a guest speaker.
Pastor Paola will take a few days off.
Beginning on January 17 we will begin
a new Worship Series.



Our taped Worship Services are online. Go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQY7kQoYMJH1n_XsHnetCrQ there you will

be able to find our worship services, special events, Children's Times, and youth lessons.

January 17 - February 14
Worship Series



During this past year we have been experiencing isolation, sickness, financial stress, divisions, and anxiety. How can we have a New Start? The first Christian Church, in the midst of a very challenging time, found healing, growth and future by living out the foundational commandment of Jesus: "Love one another". Let's enter in the New Year by strengthening and building one another up.

Sunday, January 17

SERVE One Another - Galatians 5:13
Live Zoom service

Sunday, January 24

ENCOURAGE & BUILD UP One Another
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Sunday, January 31

FORGIVE One Another - Ephesians 4:32

Sunday, February 7

SPEAK THE TRUTH to One Another
Ephesians 4:25

Sunday, February 14

CARRY One Another - Galatians 6:2



Building Committee Report

With the signing of the contract on December 2, 2020, with Ott Development, and with the issuance of the Building Permit by the city on December 10, 2020, the renovation and updating of Salem has begun! We want to thank everyone once again who helped to empty the church prior to the start of the construction!

A Design Team consisting of Laurie Buxengard, Amy Manns, Vicki Nease, and Gary Wollenzien are busy making decisions on the flooring, light fixtures, paint colors, and other design elements needed in various parts of the building. They have met several times in December to make difficult decisions. Some of these decisions needed to be made before the end of the year because of price increases in 2021.

Salem is now a construction site and we remind everyone to stay out of Church during this building process. This is a safety issue! Amy's office is still open and being used, but will be relocated to the youth room at some point. **We encourage you not to depend on leaving messages on the church answering machine, as the phone service may be disrupted in this moving process! It would be best to email or call Pastor Paola directly, if need be.** All other areas of the church are being worked on. With Salem being closed due to Covid 19, it allows for demo and construction throughout the building at the same time which is to our advantage.

The repair of the decaying beam and underboards of the roof outside of the boiler room is also underway. This is a separate bid outside of the remodeling project, but is an issue that needed to be resolved during the remodeling. Hopefully this will be completed before the bad Wisconsin weather sets in. It was also discovered that the old carpeting in the Fellowship Hall could not be removed without lifting the asbestos tiles underneath.

(continued next column)

(continued) Therefore, the entire area plus two classrooms and Paola's office will have asbestos removal prior to new flooring. This work should be completed during the first week of January. This is just one of many surprises that pop up during remodeling, but in the long run, it is good that this is being taken care of now! Thank you for your patience during this busy time!



Capital Campaign and Mustard Seed Contributions

The building project is in full swing with progress being made each day. The success of our capital campaign and the mustard seed pledges to support the mortgage are critical pieces of the funding. Your mustard seed commitments will support the monthly mortgage payments. Payments per each seed commitment are \$2 per week, \$9 per month, or \$104 for the year. Your timely contributions are appreciated. **Please remember to clearly designate the payment for the capital campaign or for the mortgage-mustard seeds.** If you originally did not make a commitment and wish to do so now, you are welcome to make a contribution. THANK YOU for your generous support of this project!

[Online Giving for Salem UMC](#)

We are now set up for online giving through a service provided by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. There are the steps you need to take: click on the link above to take you to the local church donations site. The first time, you will need to create your online profile in the upper right corner. You will use your email and password to log in each time. Towards the bottom of the list of churches find Waukesha Salem and enter your donation amount and frequency. Select continue to complete the payment method. **You must let us know what the contribution is for (operating, capital campaign, Christmas, etc.) because there is no way to state this on the website. Forward that information to Kermit:**
kbohning1@gmail.com.



2020 Giving Tree Results!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2020 Giving Tree project to benefit ERAS, the Christmas Clearing Council, and Hope Center underwear drive! As you know, we had a fun morning on December 13th with a

Salem Drive-Up event for the Giving Tree. Not only was Santa and Mrs. Claus in attendance, but there was yummy hot chocolate and gifts for the children! It was well attended by our Salem family and people from the community! In total, we collected \$2,325 in cash, gift cards, and stamps, plus 63 underwear items. This amount surpasses all previous years!! The breakdown is as follows:
ERAS: \$1140 in gift cards and stamps
Christmas Clearing Council: \$725 in gift cards
Undie Sunday for Hope Center: 63 items delivered, plus \$455 to be spent in a shopping event in late January or February

The need in our community is great, but Salem's love and generosity has provided so much comfort and joy to so many. Also, to date, we have received \$1795 for the Christmas offering, which will go to Hope Center. An extra amount of \$285 was received for Outreach giving, and will be donated to the Waukesha food pantry.

Thank you for your amazing generosity!!!

Report From the Trustees

You may have noticed the new concrete slab for the shed. Along with the new concrete, 15 yards of topsoil was installed. This is enough to get by for the winter, more will be needed in the spring. The shed may be delivered soon but only if the weather cooperates. Many thanks to Rob for spearheading this project. A new mailbox post was also installed just in time for the snowplows to knock it down! Not much else is happening. The building renovation is ongoing, limiting our access for any issues that could arise.



From the Outreach Team...

This will be the fourth year Salem supports the Program Assistant Director, Wilner, at St. Joseph Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti. Since Pastor Paola's daughter, Betta, served as a fellow there for Medical Missionaries, we have felt a connection to the people there and especially to the children.

On Sunday, February 21, we will have a live Zoom service with a special guest to learn more about the Haiti project, and we will be raising funds to support Wilner's salary. As in the past, any extra money will be sent for medicine and for Medika Mamba (the peanut butter-like substance the children need to grow and thrive). We are planning a drive-thru that day after church to collect donations and will have a treat for all those participating. Put Feb. 21st on your calendar and come share your love!



*Pastor Paola with children in Thomassique
February 2018*

Bible Study on Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Join us weekly for Bible Study! We study passages from the lectionary every week. It is an awesome opportunity to grow in faith. Let Paola know if you'd like to join us, and she will send out the Zoom invite by email to you.



Remembering DOROTHY

by Gladys Roszkowski

Perhaps many of you do not know who Dorothy Rohde was. She joined Salem on December 8, 2010 and died of Covid-19 exactly 10 years later, on December 8, 2020. She was a dear friend, and I do not wish her to be just another statistic of the virus, so I'd like to tell you about her. Dorothy Robinson was born in LaCrosse, WI on July 23, 1924. She was 96 when she died. She lived in Milwaukee, was married, had 3 children, divorced, and worked at Briggs and Stratton while supporting her family. She met and married Maurice (Matt) Rohde and moved to Arizona where they enjoyed their life together immensely. When Matt was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, they moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to the family.

I first got to know Dorothy when she helped serve the wedding reception dinner for Mel Henrichs. I discovered her to have a sharp wit and a great sense of humor! She was always well dressed and never looked her age. The Rohdes attended church faithfully, until Matt was no longer able to get out. After he passed away in 2012, Dorothy got a ride to church every Sunday from Sharon Jackson who also lived in the Berkshires, and the two became close friends. These two ladies sat near the back of the church with Harriet Marks, Margaret Wogaman, and Lois Hanson. I called them "The Back Row Beauties" and it was so lovely to be greeted by each of them every Sunday morning. After Sharon moved, Dorothy stopped attending church. Her daughter's only day off was Sunday so she reserved the day for her; shopping, lunch and visiting other family members.

Pastor Paola and I were in contact with her through monthly communion visits and she loved catching up on Salem news. Dorothy became a

close friend with Judy Roberts too, a disabled member of our church, who also lived at the Berkshires. Whenever Judy needed anything, Dorothy was right there to help her. I was grateful to have Dorothy assigned as one of my weekly phone calls during this year. We had conversations full of laughter, but also some sadness as she had a hard time dealing with all the virus precautions. Dorothy will be missed by her children, 5 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, as well as many friends. I consider myself to be blessed by her friendship.



(right to left) Harriet Marks, Margaret Wogaman, Sharon Jackson, Dorothy Rohde



Dorothy and Judy Roberts

Thank you so very much for the many prayers, beautiful cards, kind texts and delicious meals that have been delivered following my emergency surgery. I am overwhelmed by your outpouring of kindness. It certainly brought comfort and joy to both Paul and me; and knowing that I have all of you in my corner, makes everything so much easier now and in the future.

Thankfully, Bonnie Wojcik



♥ Thank you all for sending in your offering to the church office. Your generosity is allowing us to move forward with joy and hope, knowing the best is yet to come. More than ever our ministry is live and active, caring for our congregation and reaching out to others. Thank you!



Jan. 2 Bill Young
 5 Connor Fischer
 8 Josh Lindsay, Zachary Buxengard
 11 Ken Schimpf
 12 Carol Becher
 13 JonaLee Feller
 14 Brenda Lindsay
 15 George Agpoon, Brian Campbell
 16 Brennen Fischer
 19 Gladys Roszkowski
 30 Eileen Fischer, JoAnn Hauenstine
 31 Judy Roberts



January Lectionary

Jan. 3 Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 10 Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
 Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 17 1 Samuel 3:1-20
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51

Jan. 24 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 31 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Mark 1:21-28

So much
happening!

