

Salem United Methodist Church

February 2021

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said:

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. -John 8:12

This is what I need today, the light of life.

As we are approaching one year from the beginning of the pandemic, we look back and see so much darkness in our world and often in our hearts. It has been a long dark year.

Jesus makes a bold statement here: I am the light of the world, and if you follow me, you will never walk in darkness. Jesus didn't say admire me; he didn't invite us to join a church or a religion. He said *follow me*, and following Jesus simply means: I will do what he says.

So...

- When I have in front of me someone who has different opinions from mine, I will remember Jesus saying: "love your enemy".
- When I am feeling anger and revenge rising in my heart, I will remember Jesus words: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth".
- When I am becoming arrogant, boastful and self-centered, I will remember that Jesus said: "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
- When I see someone in need and I am tempted to look to the other side and walk away, I will remember Jesus' call: "Give, and it will be given to you."

"Follow me and you will never walk in darkness and you will have the light of life."

As Lent approaches this year I would like to invite you, for 40 days, to make a deliberate choice every morning to follow Jesus. I promise you, you will be surprised by the power of light entering in your life.

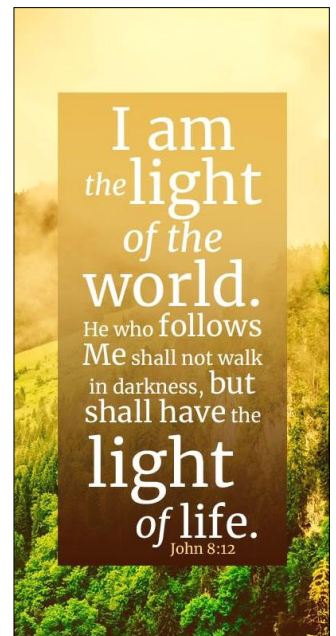
In worship during Lent, we will also follow Jesus step by step, from Galilee to Jerusalem, with messages from the miracles in the Gospel of John. We will study the Gospel of John in our Thursday Bible study, and we are extending an invitation to everyone to read this entire Gospel (see more information in the following pages).

Finally, we will have the opportunity on the first Sunday of Lent to follow Jesus by showing our love toward the babies in Haiti by supporting the malnutrition program at the St. Joseph Clinic in Thomassique.

The darkness will not overcome. Let us walk in the light.

Blessings,

Pastor Paola



Worship Series Through February 14th



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.

Remaining dates...

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



Lent Worship Series

On the Road to Jerusalem

Follow Jesus' footsteps from the Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem through six stories of His miracles. Each miracle is a sign that calls us to conversion and joy.

February 21 1st Sunday in Lent

Live Zoom Service - Haiti malnutrition fundraiser
Mountain by the Sea of Galilee: Jesus feeds five thousand (John 6:1-15)

February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

Cana: Jesus transforms water into wine at a wedding (John 2:1-12)

March 7 3rd Sunday in Lent - Communion

Capernaum: Jesus Heals an official's son (John 4:46-54)

March 14 4th Sunday in Lent

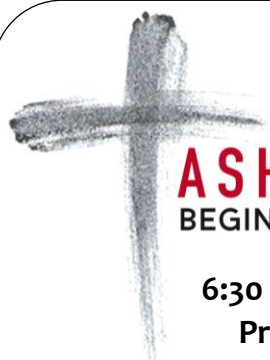
Sea of Galilee: Jesus walks on the water (John 6:16-21)

March 21 5th Sunday in Lent

Jerusalem: Healing the man born blind (John 9:1-7)

March 28 Palm Sunday

Bethany: Jesus brings Lazarus to life (John 11:1-45)



February 17

ASH WEDNESDAY
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

**6:30 PM Live Zoom
Prayer Service**

Let us enter together into the Lenten season

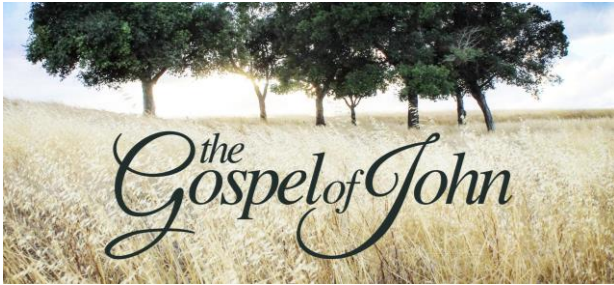
Good Friday, April 2

Live Zoom Service at 7:00 PM

Easter, April 4

Worship/Celebration of the Resurrection
Available on Salem's YouTube channel

Opportunities for Lent



An Invitation to Read the Gospel of John

This Lent, Pastor Paola is inviting all of us to join her in reading the entire Gospel of John. From its first page, the Gospel of John is a journey leading to Good Friday and Easter. This spiritual practice will unite us even if we are physically separated and will prepare us for Easter.

Here is the weekly guide to your reading:

Week 1 (Feb. 17-23) **John 1** The Word Made Flesh

Week 2 (Feb. 24 – March 2) **John 2-5** The Signs

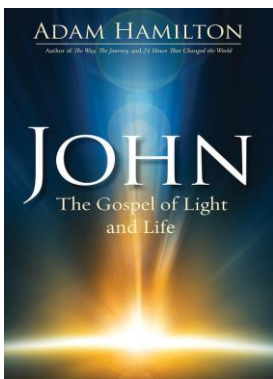
Week 3 (March 3-9) **John 6-11** “I Am”

Week 4 (March 10-16) **John 12-17** The Farewell

Week 5 (March 17-23) **John 18-19** The Cross

Week 6 (March 24-30) **John 20-21** Eternal Life

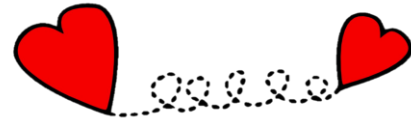
All are Welcome...



Lenten Zoom Bible Study Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Please join us this Lent on Zoom for a special study of the book of John. We will kick off the Bible study on Thursday, February 18th and continue for six

meetings in total. We will be using a Book by Adam Hamilton entitled, John: the Gospel of Light and Life. You can purchase this book for \$11.59 on Amazon. Let us know if you have problems purchasing it, and we can help you out.



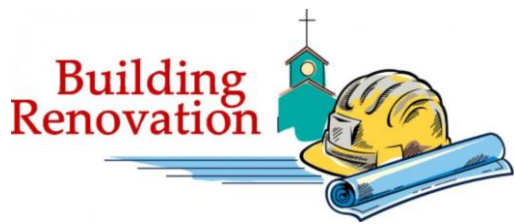
Sharing our Love with Haiti

Soon Salem will have the opportunity to share our love for children in Haiti. **On Sunday, February 21, we will have a live Zoom service to learn more about St. Joseph Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti.** We will be joined by Paola's daughter, Betta, who worked at this clinic for a year. The clinic serves Thomassique and its outlying villages of about 125,000 people. There are numerous programs under the auspices of the clinic, but the program we have focused on is called the Medika Mamba Child Malnutrition Program. Medika Mamba is a peanut butter-like nutritional supplement given to severely malnourished children. It restores 90% of these children to good health in a short amount of time!



*Wilner (Medika Mamba Program Coordinator)
with Djeniflore (program enrollee)*

Salem has committed to fund the \$2,700 yearly salary of Wilner, the Medika Mamba Program Coordinator, who will also be joining us for the live Zoom service on Feb. 21. You may mail a check to Salem marked for Haiti, donate using PayPal (a link will be available on our Facebook page), or bring a check or cash and drive through at Salem on Sunday the 21st from 10:30 – 11:30 AM. If you drive through, we will have freshly baked cookies to thank you for coming out! Hope to see many of you at the drive through!



The remodel and renovation of Salem is moving along as planned. According to the latest weekly construction schedule, the demolition work in the front part of the Church is completed with all the necessary doorways and windows filled in.

All the asbestos has been removed in the hallway, Fellowship Hall, Mary Jo's office, and Adult Classroom 1. This, as you know, was not part of the original plan, but we are happy that this safety issue is taken care of.

The framing-in of closets, the sound booth and new walls where necessary, is on-going. The main restrooms have been dry-walled as well as some areas in the sanctuary. The rough electrical is also being completed in these areas.

Roof penetration and duct work for air conditioning of our building is moving forward as planned, despite the wintery weather. The duct work for the HVAC will be visible on the roof over the Fellowship Hall. Since our Church has no basement or attic to hide this duct work, the roof was our only economical option. Our HVAC is a conventional forced air system. So expect to see HVAC duct work from ground level. We are in the process of discussing what can be done to improve the view.

Our new outdoor Church sign is now up and working. Messages can be placed and changed from a computer anywhere! We no longer have to go out and manually change our sign. ☺ Next time you are driving by, be sure to take a look. Thanks to Kermit for taking the lead on this part of the project.

The Design Committee is continuing to meet as needed to make decisions for the interior of the Church. The Committee has selected paint colors, laminate tops for cabinets, restroom tile, door handles and continues to make many more

decisions as they arise. A big thanks to Laurie Buxengard, Amy Manns, Vicki Nease, and Gary Wollenzien for their time and expertise.

As in all remodels, there are always surprises and day to day decisions that need to be made almost immediately. Our Building Committee is filled with many able and capable members that have come together to meet these challenges. Perhaps, some of you have heard about the small leak over the altar in our temporary library chapel. Luckily, our Salem singers were there that evening to move the altar and put a bucket under to catch the dripping. A call was placed that very night to the construction company. The next day it was taken care of by our contractors with no real damage done. We continue to monitor the building process to the best of our abilities and thank all the members of Salem for their continued support and trust.

Sincerely, Your Building Committee

Becky Henderson (chair), Laurie Buxengard,
Dave Pauly, Don Callen, Nick Tonz, Kermit
Bohning, Bonnie Wojcik, Pastor Paola



Time to treat your sweetheart, a friend, or yourself!

Valentine's Day will soon be here. Pick up some individual candy bars for \$3 (Mint, Orange, Dark

Chocolate with Almonds or Caramel Crunch) or for \$5, a bag of mini chocolate bars for your Valentine. A can of delicious hot cocoa mix (milk or dark chocolate) for \$6 would be a great treat for the cold winter days yet to come!

By purchasing Equal Exchange products, you will not only receive a delicious product, but also give a fair price to small scale farmers all around the world thus enabling them to build a better future for their families.

Report From the Trustees

Q: What's new with the Trustees?

A: The trustees!

January marked the beginning of new terms for existing trustees and a new view of Salem for the four new trustees.

New trustees are Caryn Adair, Sharon Seegers, Doug McGrath, and Bill Hauenstine. Bill is actually a former trustee who has re-enlisted for another tour.

Existing trustees are Rob Roszkowski, Dave Pauly, Bob Lacock, and Bonnie Wojcik. New officers are Chair Rob, Vice Chair Dave, and Secretary jointly held by Doug and Sharon. With snow on the ground and our building torn apart, the only tangible accomplishment we've had is the installation of the storage shed next to the east parking lot. Most of these days are spent working with the building committee, repairing or removing items to keep the contractors working without delay. We are also coordinating with a new snow removal firm to make sure access to the renovation is maintained. Here is the new storage shed:



Serve One Another

Once again, Salem has come through with extremely generous donations to the Undie Sunday campaign. In December, 63 items of underwear were donated at our Giving Tree event. We received monetary donations of \$455. The Outreach Shopping team has just finished purchasing more underwear with this money. We are pleased to announce we have purchased a total of 192 more items for the Hope Center, for a grand total of 257 pieces of underwear. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the needy in our community. Salem is truly serving others!

Salem Renewable Electricity Funding

Long-time Salem member, Betty Henderson, believed that part of our Christian service involved protecting and caring for the world that God created for us. With her encouragement and support, Salem Church decided to purchase all our electricity from a renewable energy source. This was possible through WE Energies' relationship with Arcadia Power, a solar and wind farm company. Purchasing renewable electricity costs Salem an additional \$25 a month. Many members give donations to cover this cost so it does not need to be a budget expense. Unless we talk about it, we may forget that we made this commitment. Currently we have funds on hand to pay two more months of costs. If you believe this is an important way we can care for our world, consider making a contribution to this fund. Thank you!



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

Please enjoy the following activities for all ages.

As February nears we start to think about Valentine's Day. I would like you to read and reflect on this scripture: 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, 13
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

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It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **Love** never fails.... And now these three remain: faith, hope and **love**. But the greatest of these is **love**."

Here is a video Bible story:

<https://www.sharefaith.com/video/1-corinthians-13-love-is-bible-video-for-kids.html>

God has proven his eternal love for us by sending Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Lord's guidance and promises daily assure us of his love. There is different kinds of love. I would like you to focus on "self-less LOVE". Selfless love is patient. Selfless love is kind. Selfless love is not jealous or envious and does not boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. Selfless love does not rejoice in wrongdoing. It rejoices with the truth. Selfless love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

For the next 4 weeks I would like you and your family to reflect on each of these:

Loving my neighbor: Mark 12:31 "Love your neighbor as yourself"

- Commit to praying for a family in your neighborhood.
- Write a note of encouragement to family, a friend, or neighbor.

Loving How God Made You: Zephaniah 3:17 "The Lord God is with you. The mighty one will save you. The Lord will be happy with you. You will rest in his love. He will sing and be joyful about you."

Read 1 John 4:7-21 and/or 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 with your family.

Repeat the scripture and replace all the "you", with "I and Me".

Loving my enemies Matthew 5:44 "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Give a kind word or complement to someone you find challenging to be friends with.

Pray for those around the world who make poor decisions, and ask God to fill their hearts with love.

Loving My Friends and Family John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend."

(Jesus Christ showed His love (agape), by sacrificing Himself on the cross for you and me to have eternal life.)

Give a Valentine Card to friend or family.

(Handmade is best)

Help make a special Valentine family meal.

Offer to do a chore for one of your siblings.

Loving God Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Try this at home: an activity that shows what happens when we let "GOD" in to our hearts.

Blooming Hearts: Activity

First, you'll need the following supplies:

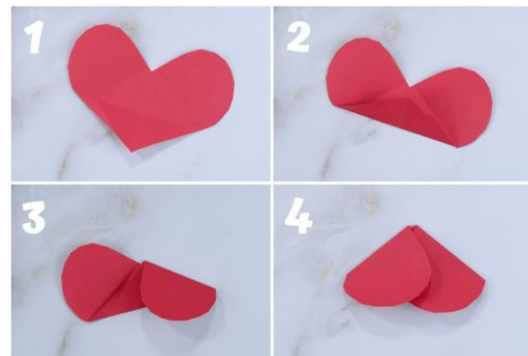
- construction paper or Thin paper is best
- scissors
- a shallow pan of water

Cut a bunch of hearts out of construction paper.

You can use red, pink, and purple paper. The thinner the better.

Next, fold the hearts like so: *Pointy end up

*Left and right wings down over the folded pointy end



Once the hearts have been folded, you're ready to experience "God's Love".

Drop the folded paper hearts into the pan of water.

Youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP2NPospZII>

Blessings and prayers we will be together again soon to worship,

Mary Jo Martin



ONLINE WAY OF GIVING

Exciting News!

You can now give online with PayPal!

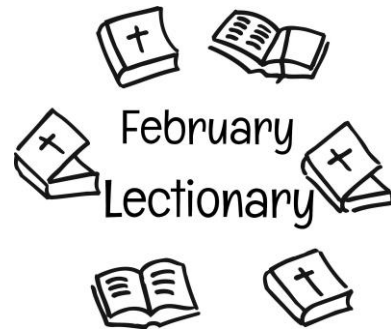
- Go on our website: salemonthehill.org
- Click on donate toward the top of the homepage
- Click on yellow donate button
- Type in the amount you would like to donate
- Chose where you would like your donation to go to (Operating, Haiti, Mujilla Falls, building Mortgage , capital campaign)
- Click on donate



Our taped Worship Services are online.

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.



Feb. 7 Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 14 2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

First Sunday in Lent

Feb. 21 Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent

Feb. 28 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38



February
BIRTHDAYS

February 7	Ken Reichert
9	Marsha Everson
15	Brian Fischer
21	Greg Trombley
25	Cory Buxengard
25	Cole Nease
28	Kim Newton
28	Bob Lacock

