

Salem United Methodist Church

March 2021



Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Between Ash Wednesday and Easter

About a week ago during Ash Wednesday service, we were reminded through the symbol of the ashes of our mortality, our weakness, and our failures. We were invited to confess and give it all into God's hands. At Lent we enter into a time in which we are called to reflection and transformation, letting go of what keeps us from being the person God created us to be.

During this month in worship, devotion and Bible study, we are called to walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem, knowing the cross is waiting there.

It feels in many ways we have been going through an extended Lent, a yearlong Lent. It has been a long dark year, a very long preparation to the joy of Easter.

Yet, blessings have managed to find their way to us...

- We have been walking together, praying hard for each other like never before, because forced distancing makes us starved for love and connection
- We have been experiencing the greatest and most outrageous generosity ever seen for local and international mission and outreach, as during the pandemic "our heart grew three sizes"
- We have been kicking off an incredible building renovation made possible because we couldn't use the building
- We have been learning an incredible quantity of new skills that helped us to reach out to many new people, because we had no choice but do so

It is like living between Ash Wednesday and Easter: seeing sparkles of joy and light in the midst of despair and darkness. This is an awe-inspiring gift of God. His hand has been incredibly powerful over us during this past year.

This Easter, April 4, we are going to celebrate joy and new beginning. Our building will be ready (or close to being ready), many of us are in the process of being vaccinated, and our community is healing. No one knows how long it will still take, but EASTER JOY is coming and we can begin getting ready for it.

We can see in front of us the doors of our church and our hearts opening to welcome each other and welcome those who are not here yet.

I am ready. Are you?

Blessings
Pastor Paola

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 28 2nd Sunday in Lent - Communion
Cana: Jesus transforms water into wine at a wedding (John 2:1-12)

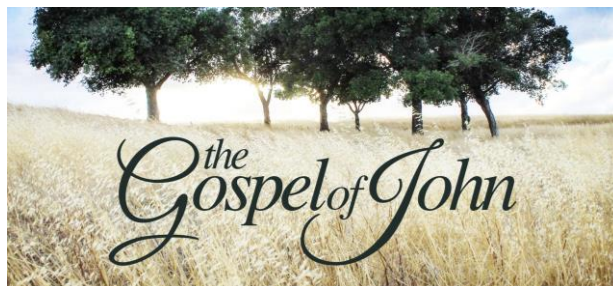
March 7 3rd Sunday in Lent
Capernaum: Jesus Heals an official's son
(John 4:46-54) Lay Speaker: Bill Pardoe

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)

Opportunities for Lent

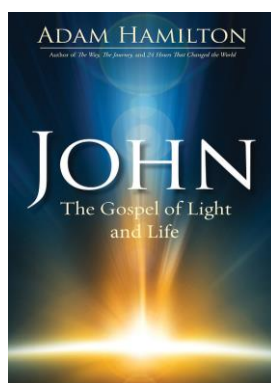


An Invitation to Read the Gospel of John

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:

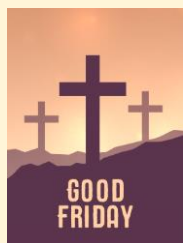
Week 1 (Feb. 17-23) **John 1** The Word Made Flesh
Week 2 (Feb. 24 – March 2) **John 2-5** The Signs
Week 3 (March 3-9) **John 6-11** "I Am"
Week 4 (March 10-16) **John 12-17** The Farewell
Week 5 (March 17-23) **John 18-19** The Cross
Week 6 (March 24-30) **John 20-21** Eternal Life



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. Please join us even if you don't have the book or if you didn't start at the beginning with us!



Good Friday, April 2

Live Zoom Service at 7:00 PM



Easter, April 4

Worship/Celebration of the Resurrection; Holy Communion. Available on Salem's YouTube channel



Reopening Task Force

During the February Church Council meeting, a Task Force was created that will meet a few times

with the goal of planning events, discuss safety and vision in preparation of the church reopening. We have not set dates, but we hope it will be in May or early June. Here is the list of the names of those who are part of the task force. It is a large group of people because there is a representative from each Ministry Team. They will report and connect with each committee where ministry and work will take place. Below you will find the events we are considering. We will keep you informed step by step.

Marsha Everson (co Lay-leader)
Sandy Pardoe (Nurture)
Anna Hobbins (Youth)
Gary Wollenzien (Finance)
Cathy McGrath (Outreach)
Marlys Tesch (Worship/ UMW)
Bill Watt (Worship/circuit)
Mary Jo (Education)
Don Callen (Building)
Maggie Bringa (Staff parish)
Julie Vang (Family/young adult)
Caryn Adair (Trustees)
Karla Henry (Marketing)
Bob Lacock (Trustees)
Pastor Paola (Convener)

Main Events

- Initial reopening celebration with the congregation
- Congregation celebration/dedication: invite contractor representatives
- Special service dedicated to inviting the New Perspectives community to join us
- A community activity to showcase the building and Salem
- Formal consecration with the Bishop and District Superintendent



Gladys and Becky collecting donations during the Drive-Thru Haiti Fundraiser

Sharing our Love with Haiti

The (Partial) Results Are In!

Our thanks go out to Pastor Paola and her daughter, Betta in organizing the Feb. 21st Zoom service. The pictures shown and the chat with Wilner and Junior gave us a good visual of our friends in Haiti. We thank Becky, Brenda and Kermit for setting up PayPal, and Carol and Gladys for the cookie treats. Salem family and friends deserve the most thanks! As usual, Salem has very generously donated, not only funds for Wilner's salary, (\$2,700) but also enough more money to purchase infant formula, medicine for the children, and also the much-needed Medika Mamba. As of this Tidings printing, we have received \$4,235 in total! If you haven't had a chance to contribute, you may send a check to Salem marked "Haiti Project", or donate at PayPal on our website by the end of February. With your help, Salem has reached out to God's children all over the world. Thank you all so much!

Confirmation

It is with great joy that I share with you we have a Zoom confirmation class! Connor Greuel (Bonnie and Paul Wojcik's grandson)

decided to start this journey. Please keep Connor and his mentor (Grandma Bonnie) in your prayers.





From the Salem Building Committee:

Exciting changes are happening at Salem. Every day you can see new progress in the remodel and update of our Church. And by the time you read this article, even more will have been completed!

Here is a brief overview of what has been happening:

In the Sanctuary, LVT (Luxury Vinyl Tile) flooring has been installed on the altar platform, ramp, and sound booth. In addition, new scone lighting has been installed on the side walls. Metro Sound will start work in the sanctuary, the first week of March.

The water-stained ceiling outside of the sanctuary has been repaired, dry walled, and the old ceiling fixtures have been replaced. It really brightens up this entrance.

The Men's and Women's restrooms look fantastic with their beautiful tiled walls and new drop ceiling tiles. The toilets and light fixtures have been installed. We are waiting on sinks and counter tops.

The kitchen walls have been painted as well as the cabinets. Gone are the two different shades of wood cabinets. There are still several things that need to be done in the kitchen but it already looks like a new area.

All the support posts in the Fellowship Hall have been boxed in and finished with a durable non-wood surface. The heat registers or shrouds in the Fellowship Hall, as well as the classrooms, will be sand blasted and powdered painted. Hopefully the same thing will eventually happen with the heat shrouds in the library and sanctuary. Presently the shrouds, besides being

faded and old, are filled with a lot of dust and cobwebs that volunteers have been cleaning. Talk about deep cleaning...it's happening!

Amy's office has temporarily been moved to the Youth Room so that her office can be updated. Her office will have safety glass installed, new dry wall, and new cabinets.

Presently, our Church worship services are video taped in the Library. But once the Sanctuary is usable, we will be able to record there. When that happens, the Library work will begin. The old kitchenette in the Library has already been removed and that entire area is drywalled; waiting for new cabinets, sink and countertop.

This truly is an exciting time at Salem with all the construction and updating while we continue many of our programs via zoom and YouTube. I think it is safe to say that none of us will forget 2020/2021, The YEAR OF CHANGE!



As the building project passes the halfway point, we would like to complete the capital campaign. If you have yet to make your contribution, please

consider doing so at your convenience. This will allow us to continue the next steps in our planning. THANK YOU to all who pledged; to date we have received over 91% of the pledged amount! Also, the mortgage is being implemented this month, so it is important that your mustard seed commitments are paid regularly to offset the monthly mortgage payments. THANK YOU to the vast majority that have already paid in full or have initiated regular contributions!

Anyone that would like to be a part of either of these campaigns may do so by simply designating your contribution for the capital campaign or the mustard seeds mortgage fund.

THANK YOU for supporting this project!
The Building Committee and Finance Committee



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

Youth: I hope everyone has received, and that you are enjoying the Booklett Lent-stagram. If you have not received one and would like one, please reach out to me. Think of this booklet as your own personal scrapbook of your faith and who has opened doors to your understanding of how faith fits into your life. Please reflect on each think question.

Children: I hope everyone has received your LENT packet. Gather Round the Cross. You should have about 13 stickers on your centerpiece.

Here is a **sing-a-long** Bill Pardoe put on YouTube. Please share a family moment and watch. Thank you, Bill. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-CVy-9Y1L8>

Families, youth and children: We are excited to open soon. We as a congregation are looking to positive changes. I would like to hear from all of you any recommendations that you would like to see made to our Sunday School curriculum. Please reach out to me:

familyministries@salemsonthehill.org

Please do not forget to put together your **“Lent in a Bag”**! Instructions were sent in a mailing in February. Let Amy know if you need the instructions again.

Have a Blessed Lent season,
Mary Jo Martin



Thank you for all the cards and prayers sent to me after my cancer diagnosis. Things are going well and I am feeling great. Radiation will start in March.

Thanks again for all the support from my Salem family.

Harriet Young

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Bonnie Wojcik, as she recovers from her 3rd surgery (breast cancer)

Harriet Young, as she soon starts therapy (breast cancer)

Michelle (Joan Callen's sister in law) was in a very serious car accident. She fractured her neck, sternum, small of her back, and front & back ribs. She is in a lot of pain, but is working with a physical therapist.

If you have a prayer concern you would like to share with our Prayer Team or with the congregation, please contact Pastor Paola.



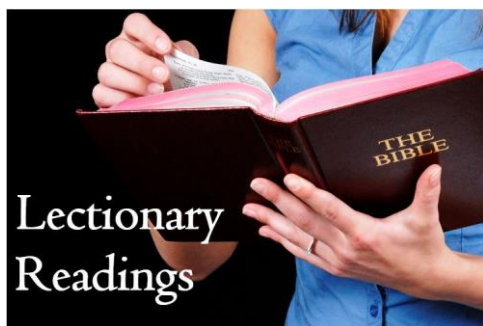
Our taped Worship
Services are online.

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.



March 9	Mary Watt
11	Sharon Link
12	Jim Seegers
20	Perla Agpoon
20	Jo Bentley
29	Rita Harasha
30	Sandy Pardoe
31	Cathy McGrath



March 7

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19:1-14
 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 Gospel John 2:13-22

March 14

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10
 Gospel John 3:14-21

March 21

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Or alternate Psalm Psalm 119:9-16
 Second Reading Hebrews 5:5-10
 Gospel John 12:20-33

March 28

Liturgy of the Palms Readings:
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Reading Mark 11:1-11
 Or alternate Reading John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion Readings:
 First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11
 Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47
 Or alternate Gospel Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

How well do you know Lent?

Here's some Lent trivia to test your knowledge.

1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
3. What is the first day of Lent called?
4. When did United Methodists start the 'imposition of ashes?' 1877, 1933, 1992, or 2008?
5. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
6. Traditionally, what do Catholics abstain from eating on Fridays during Lent?
7. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
8. What food is traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?
9. What Irish Saint's feast day takes place during Lent?
10. What day of the week is not included in the 40 days of Lent?
11. What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us?
12. How many times does Jesus fall while carrying the cross?
13. Who helped Jesus carry his Cross?
14. What color is used in the church during the season of Lent to symbolize repentance?
15. Why do some people fast or give up something during Lent?

Answers

1. 40
2. "Spring"
3. Ash Wednesday
4. 1992
5. Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras
6. Meat
7. Pretzels
8. Hot Cross Buns, pączki, or pancakes
9. St. Patrick
10. Sundays
11. The entrance into Jerusalem
12. 3
13. Simon of Cyrene
14. Purple
15. To abstain from certain things in our lives in order to become less distracted and to better give full attention to the spiritual journey of Lent. It is a way to identify with Jesus and the sacrifice he made on Good Friday.