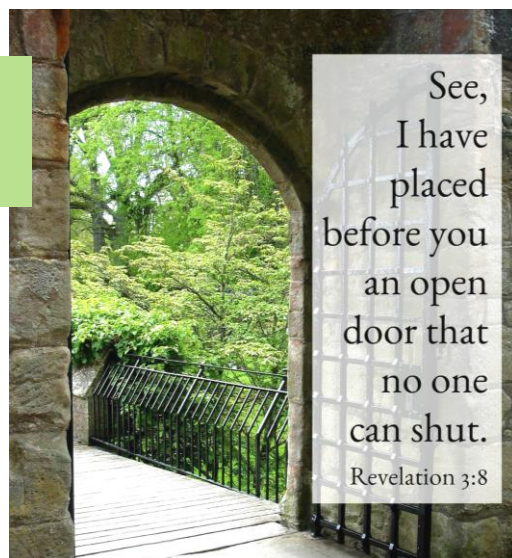


Salem United Methodist Church

August 2021



See,
I have
placed
before you
an open
door that
no one
can shut.
Revelation 3:8

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

“Behold, I have put before you an open door.”

- Revelation 3:8

If I had to choose a scripture that best describes my life for the past year and a half I would definitely chose this one. It has been truly the ‘worst of times’ personally and for our world, yet it has also been an opportunity for a clean slate, an opportunity to let go of what was hurtful and negative and enter through a new door. As scary as that may be, filled with unknowns and possibilities of failures, it is also exciting and filled with opportunities.

God is the God of open doors, ready for new and fresh. He calls us to enter through new doors as an opportunity to act with God and for God. And God is in the open-door business. This means a new way of looking at God. He prefers yes to no. He loves adventure and opportunity.

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 based on my circumstances. Each moment is an opportunity to look for a door that opens up into 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. He also sees the person He wants me to become.

Our lives are filled with doors. What doors will be open for you this year?

We are seeing doors opening here at Salem in any direction we look. Yet, it is crucial we open ourselves to the new. It is time to stop doing things the way we always did. We love traditions but not when they keep us from entering the doors God has been opening in front of us.

Please think of new ways to serve God and Salem. Consider how to invite friends to worship with you. Take part in new events. Let go and embrace the new. Our new building is the perfect image of the new that God has prepared for us.

God has placed before you an open door. What will you do?

Blessings,

Paola Denech



Worship Series

The Games: Going for the Gold!

The attention of the entire world turns to Tokyo as the greatest athletes from around the world gather to compete. Their journeys, filled with years of dedication, training and perseverance, bring them to the glory of this competition. The Scriptures in this new worship series are filled with metaphors, urging us to use the commitment of an athlete to be what God would have us be.

July 25

Perseverance, Endurance and Discipline

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Philippians 3:12-16

August 1 *Stand Alone Sunday*
Mujilia Falls Fundraiser

August 8 **The Power of the Team**

(Communion Sunday)

Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 6:2

August 15 Guest Lay Speaker

Judy McFarlane, Lay Servant serving Troy Center UMC, Spring Prairie UMC & Caldwell UMC. She is also a Lay Servant certification teacher. **Sermon: "What's In It For Me?"** (Acts 2:1-4)

It's ASK the pastor time! This is an opportunity to ask questions about God, life, and church. Pastor Paola will try to answer all of your questions during worship on three Sundays (Aug. 22, 29, and Sept. 5). Please place your questions in the box on the kiosk. Questions are due by August 15th.



Building Team Report

Join us this Sunday, July 25th after worship for about 30 minutes to receive from our treasurer Kermit, the complete summary of the finances for our building project. There will be time for questions after the presentation.

Pie Day is Back!

On Sunday August 1st we will have a Zoom visit with Temba, our missionary at Mujila Falls Agriculture Center in Zambia, Africa. He will show us around the new *Salem House* and tell us of the needs to finish the dormitory. Following worship, your free-will donation will entitle you to a delicious piece of pie provided by the Outreach Committee. Last year we donated \$1,000 for Temba's salary and \$3,000 for the dorm construction. Please join us to see how we can help finish the dorm and prepare for its first visitors! If you are unable to attend, please send your donation to church by Aug. 15th. Mark your donation with "Mujila Falls." Thank you in advance for our generous support!

***Be sure to check out Temba's missionary newsletter on the Outreach Board. Salem is mentioned in it!



Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study

Please join us on Thursdays at 6:30 PM for a Zoom Bible study. We use the lectionary as our Scripture readings. The link and password for the Bible study is found in the Pastor's weekly email. Let Pastor Paola know if you need the information to join us!



Re-dedication of Salem's Sanctuary Sunday, Sept. 12 9:00 AM "Rejoice, Remember, Renew"

Join us for a grand celebration of our new building. Bishop Jung will share the message and lead the liturgy of the re-dedication. The district superintendent will also preside at the worship service. Many special guests! Refreshment and cake to follow.

Food Pantry News

The Outreach committee would like to thank you all for the amazing support you have given to the Food Pantry, especially this past year as our community's need grew. The Pantry is still going strong thanks to your support, but they have found a slight change in what clients are requesting. If possible, purchase any items from the list below and drop them off at the store's collection barrel, at the Pantry or at Salem (collection area is being planned).

- Small containers/bottles of dish and/or laundry detergent.
- Sweet kid's cereals
- Baked beans (most request Bushes)
- Personal hygiene items like bars of soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, floss, and single packaged toothbrushes.
- As always, monetary donations are appreciated. Just write your name and Food Pantry on the envelope and drop it in the collection plate. (continued next column)

Since volunteers are still pre-packing items, **paper bags** would be appreciated. Bring them to church along with Sendik's bags and even those cloth bags you might have received as a thank you gift. All bags donated will allow Pantry money to go towards purchasing food rather than bags.

Once again, thank you for your support!

Library Corner

How to spend some time in August...

Pour a cold drink, find a porch, deck, or hammock with a little



breeze and read a NEW book. Through the kind donations of Sue Lewinski and others we have some great summer fiction!

The Creative Woman Mysteries Series (3 books) centers around Shannon McClain, a jewelry maker who lives in Scotland, but must relocate to Oregon when she receives an unexpected inheritance from a grandmother she never knew. The Purls of Hope knitting circle help her solve many mysteries that will change their lives forever.

In the **Annie's Attic Series** (13 books) the main character, Annie Dawson, inherits her grandmother's house in Maine and makes the decision to move from Texas to renovate the home where she spent many summers. (What IS it about these wealthy grandmothers?!) Each book tells of another attic find and brings a mystery for her and her new friends in The Hook and Needle Club to solve.

These books are fast-paced, full of adventure, and fun. They emphasize the importance of friendship, no matter what your age or interests. They will be found on the table in front of the library or with all other series books on the library shelves.

****Coming soon:** Fourth book in the Cities of Refuge Series and a new series by Connilyn Cossette.



Mini Olympics

Family Event at
Salem!

Sunday, August 8, following worship

We will be hosting our own **Mini-Olympic Competition** here at Salem! This will conclude our worship theme "The Games: Going for the Gold". The power of the team: we will hold relay races, compete for gold medals, and snacks. All are welcome, all ages! Please see Mary Jo Martin if you have any questions.

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

We are in need of Sunday School
and Nursery Volunteers!



Nursery & Sunday School Teacher Meeting

On Sunday, August 15 following worship, there will be a brief meeting for all Sunday School Teachers, anyone who is interested in teaching or just curious about this coming year.

Parent Meeting

On Sunday, August 22 following worship, there will be a brief meeting for all Nursery, Sunday School, and Youth Parents.

Sunday School Kickoff! September 19th

Children's Handbell Choir Practices Begin
October 3rd during Sunday School

Trustees



The trustees are announcing the operation of our new **fire alarm system** and a new **burglar alarm system**. Both of these systems are operational and armed NOW. The fire alarm system is armed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The burglar alarm system is armed daily to accommodate scheduled activities.

We are also working on cleaning up the mess on our grounds from the construction. We are looking for volunteers for small projects that have to be done (3-5 workers per project) in September. In August, please look for the sign-up board in the narthex. By signing up you are not only helping our church but also enjoying meeting new people in Fellowship!

We welcome back our custodian who is back to his two days/week keeping our newly remodel church cleaned for us and our outside groups.

Jim Seegers tore down the old wood enclosure for the garbage cans. The wood is next to the new enclosure. Please feel free to take the old wood for your fire pit or fire place.

Refreshments are Back at Salem!

It is so important for us to have Fellowship time again on Sundays

after being without it for many months. We would love to be able to have some kind of treat with our coffee (cookies, coffee cake, fruit or anything you'd like). If you could bring something to share at Fellowship time, please sign up at the coffee bar. If you don't bake or don't care to shop, please donate some money for snacks to Marlys and she will shop for you!





Salem Church Senior Softball Team
HEADING TO PLAYOFFS again!

Here is the playoff schedule:

August 3, Quarter Finals, 9:30 am

Salem team plays (#1 seed vs. #8 seed)

August 10, Semi-finals, 9:30 am (Two winners

play at 11:00 am for the championship

(If any rainouts between July 20 & Aug. 10, the
playoffs will be one week later)

ALL games played at VFW Fields at 17980 Beloit
Road in New Berlin, WI.

Any questions, see Marlys Tesch (she comes to
every game) or Kurt Guenther (920)210-2650.

****The team really appreciates the support &
special thanks to Dick & Marlys Tesch. They not
only co-sponsor with Kurt, they come to nearly
every game and Marlys keeps score every game
(right behind home plate to assist umpires).
Special thanks to Bill Watt who has come to
many games also.**



THANK YOU TO SALEM YOUTH

From Bill and Mary Watt

On May 26, Salem Youth came to our home and with wheel
barrows, shovels and rakes
and moved 4 cubic yards of
dirt from our driveway to our

raised garden beds!!!! A HUGE THANK YOU
goes to Aaron, Anna, and Franklin, who were
accompanied by Katie Martin, Mary Jo Martin
and Julie Vang. Great Job! So appreciated!!

In-Gathering Report from the Wisconsin Annual Conference

On June 23-24 the Midwest Mission
Distribution Center truck traveled through
Wisconsin and picked up items and cash
donated for the Ingathering for the WI Annual
Conference. The donated supplies weighed
7,702 pounds and included 115 cleaning kits,
6 sewing machines, 1,451 personal dignity kits
and 1,000 hygiene items. The number of
supplies gathered was three times the
weight of the 2020 collection! In addition, the
\$4,815.27 cash donation received doubled the
amount of received in 2020.

Expressions of gratitude are extended to
Conference churches that gathered supplies,
collected monetary donations, and/or delivered
them to the drop-sites. Thank you for your
generosity and cooperation!

The family of Jo
Bentley would like to
express our gratitude
for all of the prayers,
cards, and support
shown to us while Jo
was in hospice and at
her passing. We are
humbled by the expressions of love and
sympathy that were shown so generously by
our Salem family and friends. We rejoice that
Jo has entered into eternal life.

Sincerely, Rich & Amy Manns



Prayer Concerns

- Please hold in your prayers the family of Doug Lindsay at the loss of his father. We share our deepest sympathies with the Lindsay family.
- Continue praying for Richard Dick who is in hospice care.



A huge THANK YOU goes out to Mary Jo Martin who planned a wonderful **GLOW** event for us! On July 17, we had about 50 participants enjoy this fun evening of food, games, campfire and more! We really liked seeing some of our neighbors from New Perspective join us. They also had a great time. Thank you to all who participated, and especially to Mary Jo.



August BIRTHDAYS

August 2	Dick Mueller
2	Sue Yont
5	Betty Padgett
6	Peggy Barnes
9	John Klopp
10	James Agpoon
14	Gary Wollenzien
15	Bill Crusan
15	Grace Callen
18	Chase Hernandez
18	Rhena Knourek
21	Samie Seegers
27	Penny Feller

Lectionary Readings

August 1

First Reading 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-16
Gospel John 6:24-35

August 8

First Reading 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-16
Gospel John 6:24-35

August 15

First Reading 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111:1-10
Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20
Gospel John 6:51-58

August 22

First Reading 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11)
22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84:1-12
Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20
Gospel John 6:56-69

August 29

First Reading Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
Second Reading James 1:17-27
Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

