

# Salem United Methodist Church

January 2022

## Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* *1 Peter 1:3*

Here is a wonderful message I received in a card a few days ago. Reading this message made me realize how my hopes have changed over the years...

“May this year bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and many new inspirations in your life. Wishing you a year fully loaded with happiness.”

When I was young, I had incredible hopes for my life. I think this is a gift from God to all of us in our youth. It motivates us to move forward, putting our energies, talents and resources toward the person we dream to become. As we grow older, our hopes change. Of course, I still have goals and inspirations, and I wish for new achievements, but now they just don't have the same priority in my life. Now, my hopes are focused on my children, my family, my friends, all of you (my spiritual family), and this broken world. My hope feels more like a deep yearning and a prayer for healing, joy and peace.

Hopes are truly gifts from God to support us, feed our spirits, lead our choices, and keep us alive. They are essential to our existence. They are given to people of all ages, and they enable us not just to hold on, but to experience fulfillment even in times of great difficulty.

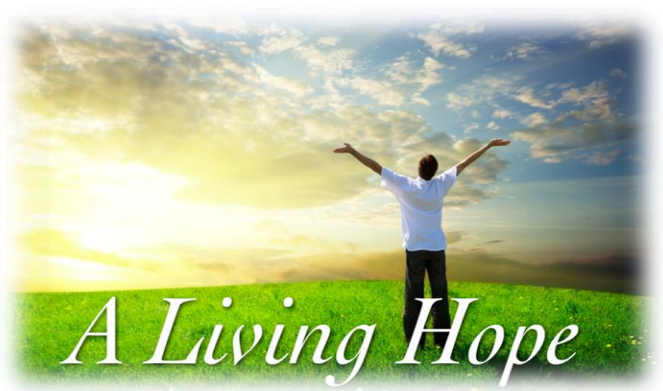
Nevertheless, more often than we wish, our hopes are crushed. It is like straining yourself to climb a steep mountain knowing that the beautiful valley you have been hoping for is waiting on the other side, but when you finally reach the top you discover that instead there is an even taller and steeper mountain to climb in front of you.

Here is the ‘not very shocking’ truth: *Sometimes life doesn't go as we hoped for.*

But to you and me is given another hope, a LIVING HOPE, a hope that is not dependent on life ups and downs, successes and failures, abundance and scarcity. This is a hope that not even death can defeat. This is the hope we welcomed back into our hearts a few days ago on Christmas Eve.

More than ever, we have no control on what the New Year is going to bring to us. For sure we will need to climb more steep mountains, but we will also be surprised by more peaceful beautiful green valleys. One thing I know for sure, nothing and nobody will ever take away OUR LIVING HOPE. In that HOPE, I invite to you to rest your soul and invest your time and resources. In that HOPE, Salem will stand in the year to come.

Blessings,  
Pastor Paola



# Worship With Us!

## Covenant Renewal Service

**January 2nd  
9:00 AM**

John Wesley introduced the annual

covenant renewal service in 1755. This service reminds us of our commitment to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world by the way we live and love every day in the new year.

**Worship with our neighbors**

**At New Perspective**

**Wednesday, January 12, at 11 AM**

Pastor Paola will lead worship (30 minutes) in the chapel. Communion will be served. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in at the front desk.

## January Worship Series

**The old has gone,  
the new is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Everything old has passed away;  
see everything has become new:  
Finding transformation, renewal & growth  
in unexpected changes**

We live in a time of changes: the global pandemic all the way to our remodeled building at Salem, so much has changed in the past couple of years. It is a new year. As a church, and personally, we are called to be transformed and renewed in our faith to take the challenge for spiritual and numerical growth.

### **January 9 Embracing Change**

The story of Mary - Luke 1:26-38

### **January 16 Preparing for the Change**

Jesus in the desert - Luke 4:1-13

### **January 23 The challenge of Change**

Walk to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

### **January 30 Facing change**

The conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1-19

*Looking Ahead  
to February's Worship Series...*

*I love you.*



*But sometimes you drive me nuts!*

During the month of love, let us take on Jesus' call to love even those who make our life difficult...beginning with ourselves all the way to family members, friends and even church members ..... Join us for a serious but also fun month!

### **Looking ahead:**

Lent Begins March 2, 2022!

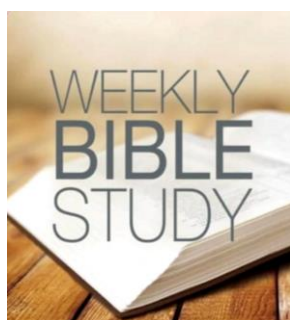
Ash Wednesday Worship March 2, 2022

Lent worship series kicks off on Sunday, March 6.



### And The Contest Is On!

On Sunday, January 23, Betty Padgett, Sharon Seegers and Mary Watt will present their culinary skills in baking banana bread to support the salary of Wilner, the Program Assistant Director of St. Joseph Hospital in Thomassique, Haiti. After a free will donation, Salem members and friends will have a small taste of each baker's banana bread and vote for their favorite. The winner will be crowned and receive a one-of-a-kind trophy. Join us for the fun and a wonderful opportunity to support a vital program for children of Haiti. Watch the bulletin board each week for new (and fascinating) facts about our chefs!



We will resume our **Thursday night Zoom Bible Study** on January 13 at 6:30 PM. If you would like to join us, please let Pastor Paola know and she will give you the Zoom link.

### GREAT NEWS!

A couple of months ago our finance team reached out to us all to let us know we were running behind and to share the concern we

might have to finish the year in red. Once again, Salem stepped up to the challenge. We closed the year in black, with all bills fully paid. Hallelujah!! We give thanks for your generosity. May God bless you with the same generosity!



### Library Spotlight on Mitch Albom

This month we'd like to draw your attention to a wonderful author. Mitch Albom has been a musician, sports writer, playwright, and radio/tv broadcaster. In 1995 he heard that his former sociology professor, Morrie Schwartz, was terminally ill. He started seeing him very often and a regular visit every Tuesday began. These regular visits gave Albom the idea to write a book, with the aim of paying his professor's medical bills. After many rejections, Tuesdays with Morrie was finally published and in six months was no. 1 on the New York Times bestseller's list. To this day it has sold over 14 million copies! We are pleased to tell you we have this book and several other wonderful books by Mitch Albom in our library. They are on display on the library table. Read one, and you'll want to read them all!





### Our Christmas Giving at Salem

The Outreach Team wishes to thank you for your generosity in support of our Christmas Giving projects!

This year, we collected 71 toys, 16 books, and \$345 in gift cards for the Christmas Clearing Council's annual Toy Shop. The Toy Shop offers needy families an opportunity to select new toys and gifts for their children. Since 1949, the Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County has promoted and coordinated giving to families in need during the Christmas season. Thank you, Salem, for your help in making Christmas brighter for the children who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience the joy of the holidays.

For ERAs, we collected 29 \$10 gift cards, and 16 books of forever postage stamps to help fill the Holiday boxes delivered to 900 needy seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties.

Thank you all for making these projects a success and spreading Christmas joy this season!



### Children & Youth News - Mary Jo Martin

- ❖ There will be no Sunday school on Sunday, January 2nd.
- ❖ We need Sunday School teachers for
- ❖ January 9, 16, 23, and 30. Please see Mary Jo if you would like to volunteer.
- ❖ Children's Handbell practice will be Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. They will perform in worship on Sunday, February 6.

### Sunday, December 5th





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Bob Lacock is still healing from pneumonia and breathing problems.
- Marsha Everson's mother who has cancer.
- Jon Nease's father, Aubrey, who fell and has returned to his senior living home and is recovering
- Those who are struggling with Covid



## Lectionary Readings

### January 2

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

### January 9

Isaiah 43:1-7  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 8:14-17  
 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 16

Isaiah 62:1-5  
 Psalm 36:5-10  
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 John 2:1-11

### January 23

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
 Luke 4:14-21

### January 30

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
 Psalm 71:1-6  
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
 Luke 4:21-30



January 2	Bill Young
8	Josh Lindsay
8	Zachary Buxengard
11	Ken Schimpf
12	Carol Becher
13	JonaLee Feller
14	Brenda Lindsay
15	George Agpoon
15	Brian Campbell
19	Gladys Roszkowski
30	JoAnn Hauenstine
31	Judy Roberts