

Salem United Methodist Church

February 2022

But now faith, hope, love,
abide these three; but the
greatest of these is



Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

To be truthful when I walked into a large department store two days after Christmas and it was covered with heart shaped chocolate boxes, Valentine cards, and pink and red plates, I rolled my eyes. “Really?? They could at least wait for the New Year!”

The reality though is that I love Valentine’s Day. For some people, Valentine’s Day brings up lots of painful memories just like any other holiday. Some people hate the pressure that comes with a day like that. For me, Valentine’s Day is not tied to gushy romance or obligation or painful experiences. I love it for its core concept. It’s about love — and what’s not to love about love? It is an opportunity to be thankful for the people who love us and a challenge to love others a little more than we did before.

Mother Teresa said, “The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread”. And she knew a few things about hunger, in fact she devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the hungry.

Love is by far the deepest yearning of the human heart. The lack of love brings serious dysfunctions, along with a lack of confidence, the inability to have meaningful relationships and a joyful life. Love is by far the greatest source of meaning in life. Life is about love. Love gives joy, strength, courage, passion, significance.

"Do everything in love," (1 Corinthians 16:14) the apostle Paul says to the church in Corinth that was filled with conflict and polarization. They were much more interested in wealth and success than growing as community of Christ.

Paul reminds us that everything passes: wealth, success, talents. Only “these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love”. (1 Corinthians 13:13). The love you give and receive in life is actually stronger than death itself. The kind of love Paul is speaking about is the kind of love that creates value in those who are loved. That is a love that beyond measure turns broken and lonely souls into precious and valued souls.

At Salem we will dedicate February worship to rediscover how to love even those who are not really lovable in our lives. We will be challenged to love especially those who are hungry for love.

Let’s make February the month of love!

Blessings,
Pastor Paola

† Worship Opportunities †

February Worship Series

I love you,



But sometimes you drive me nuts!

During the month of love, let us take on Jesus' call from the Sermon on the Mount to love even those who make our life difficult. Join us for a relevant yet fun month!

February 6

The Gift Nobody Wants

(Conflict & Confrontation) Matthew 5:22-24

February 13

The Fool, the Evil, the Hurt

(Boundaries) Matthew 5:37, 43-48

February 20 *Everybody is Weird*

(Forgiveness) Matthew 6:12, 14-15

February 27

No Returns, No Refunds, No Exchanges

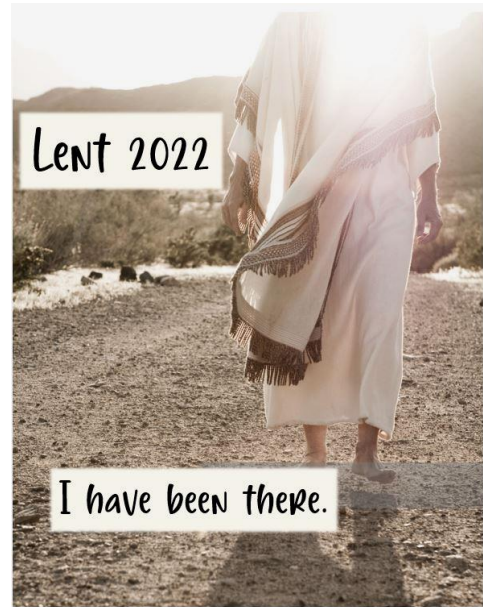
(Acceptance and Empathy) Matthew 7:1-5

Chapel Service at New Perspective

Worship with our neighbors!

Wednesday, February 9, at 11 AM

Pastor Paola will lead worship in the chapel on the 3rd floor. Communion will be served. Please arrive 15 minutes early to check in at the front desk.



Through his ministry Jesus traveled to highly spiritually symbolic places. Let's journey with Jesus, discovering these life-changing places that will deeply influence our spiritual life.

March 2 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM

March 6 1st Sunday in Lent - ***The Desert***
(Communion Sunday) Luke 4:1-13

March 13 2nd Sunday in Lent - ***The Water***
Luke 5:1-11. Lay speaker Bill Pardoe

March 20 3rd Sunday in Lent - ***The Mountain***
Luke 9:28-36

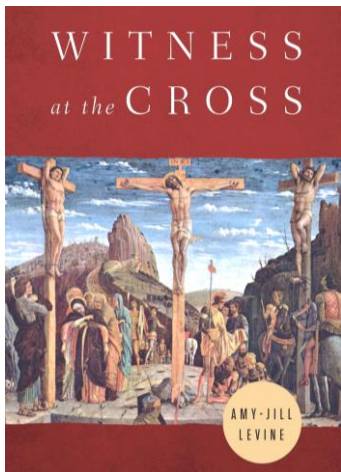
March 27 4th Sunday in Lent - ***The Temple***
Luke 19:45-48

April 3 5th Sunday in Lent - ***The Garden***
(Communion Sunday) Luke 22:39-46

April 10 Palm Sunday - ***The City of Jerusalem***
Luke 19:28-44

April 15 Good Friday 7 PM Tenebrae Service

April 17 Easter - ***He is not Here!***
(Communion) Luke 24:1-12



New Lent Study
Every Sunday
10:30 AM
March 6 -April 10

Join us during Lent as we experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die.

The story of Jesus' death is not something we only read...we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

The witnesses at the cross a story to tell us: Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

You can order the book at church (deadline to order is Sunday, Feb. 20) or purchase it on Amazon yourself. Or you can just participate in the study without reading the book. To sign up for the book and for more information, please see the kiosk in the narthex.

Trustees News

Our boiler repair company, Teko, has been called to look into the thermostats & valves in two classrooms on the north side of the church so that we can cool them down.

The water fountain has been malfunctioning. We are hoping to have this fixed by Spring.

The north side sidewalk to New Perspective is barricaded for winter. Thanks to Jim Seegers for building and placing the barricade. No agreement with NP for snow removal was possible. Paola will be contacting the activity director at NP to hopefully find a solution to transport people for Sunday Service.

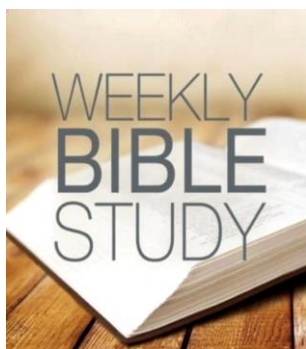
Protective covers for fire alarms were installed to prevent someone from pulling the alarm by accident.

Trustees will be holding our meetings on Zoom through March. This is preferable to driving in the snow and in the dark.



Valentine's Day is coming soon!

We still have a fair amount of Equal Exchange Hot Cocoa Mix left – both Milk and Dark Chocolate for \$6.00 a can. Buy your Valentine a tin of hot cocoa mix and share a warm comforting drink on a cold winter day! There are also some large candy bars left for \$3.00. Once these products are gone, we will not be selling them any longer. Remember when you buy Equal Exchange you are helping farmers around the world get a fair price for their products.



Have you always wanted to try a Bible Study? Why not join us on **Thursday nights for Salem's Zoom Bible Study?** We meet at 6:30 PM. If you would like to join

us, please let Pastor Paola know and she can send you the Zoom link.

2022 Haiti Fundraiser Update

A BIG Thank You and Congratulations!

Our Fundraiser for Wilner Osse's salary at the clinic in Thomassique, Haiti was a huge success!

To date, \$3,765.00 has been donated! Salem has really opened their hearts to this project, and in the process, Wilner's work will help save the lives of many children! Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

We'd like to thank several people: Betta Hobbins for her informing us more about the clinic, Kermit, Gary, and Bill P. for making a virtual visit with Wilner possible, and Pastor Paola for pulling everything together with her message, "Agents of Hope".

Behind the scenes, thanks go to the Bechers, the Watts, Becky Henderson, Jim Tonz and Rob Roszkowski for setting up Fellowship Hall and packaging all those samples of bread. And thanks to so many who put tables and chairs away after the Bake-Off.

We are grateful to our three bakers: Carol Becher (who stepped in at the last minute), Mary Watt, and Sharon Seegers.



Our Top Banana (bread baker) was Sharon Seegers! Congratulations to Sharon and all who made this fundraiser another outstanding one! If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, you have until Feb. 15 before the fundraiser ends!



Children's Handbells are rescheduled to play in church on February 27th. Practice dates for the Handbells will be during Sunday School on Feb. 6th, 13th, and 20th.

Sunday School

Themes for February:

Elementary: Animals of the Bible

Middle/High School: Exploring the Bible, Scavenger Hunts, Trivia

Feb. 6th

Elementary Class teacher: Mrs. Martin
No Middle/High School class (Communion Sunday)

Handbells led by Katie Martin

Feb. 13th

Elementary Class teacher: Mrs. Martin
Middle/High School teacher: Mrs. Wojcik
Handbells led by Katie Martin

Feb. 20th

Middle/High School teacher is needed!
Elementary: Mrs. Martin
Handbells: Katie Martin

Feb. 27th

Middle/High School teacher is needed
Elementary Mrs. Martin
Handbells: Katie Martin (We play in worship!)

From Bonnie Stuempfig...

To my Salem friends: With the costs having doubled in recent years, publishing my book *Eternal Sunshine* is not feasible at this time; therefore, one or two of its hundred or so poems will appear in each Tidings. Also, I am happy to email the book (divided into 5 parts) free of charge to anyone who asks.

bonniestuempfig@yahoo.com.

Written 10/13/2020, with thanks for all His blessing....

THE LITTLEST THINGS

The littlest things are like spring's early coming,
When the bitter winter out the door goes running,
The smile that stayed hidden – out of hiding
And the road to better days soon a-riding.

Littlest things come in quick recognition
That a sibling, thought before as competition,
Proves protector when the threat of harm is rising,
Now when spats end in a laugh, it's not surprising.

Love sometimes over years has fading light,
Often tired, petty gripes lead to a fight,
But all it takes - a little pat or sneeze God-blessed,
To halt bitter thoughts and revive tenderness.

There's no better way for making right the wrong,
In daily chatter, words "I'm sorry", well belong,
Uplifting favors can be savored here and there -
As fairy magic to those blessed with hearts that care.

Untold tragedy can burst in through the gate,
Blunted when compassion joins to motivate,
Kind folks call, or give what seems small donation,
When multiplied, their sums exceed the estimation!

"Pay it forward's" our community's way of life,
Helping the man with five kids who lost his wife,
With child care, art school cost and home-cooked meals -
All things with which that dad can't easily deal.

Through this pandemic 2020 taxed our attitudes,
Demanded more than empty words and platitudes,
Lives were lost, that chilling cost requires surrender
To the care of our Holy Father and defender.
(continued next column)

Going without smiles and hugs, it seems forever,
But our faith in Christ will keep us together,
Sacrifices for each other may be littlest things,
God knows they're everything, in fact the biggest little things.

*Thank
you*



From Healing Hearts of Waukesha County:

On behalf of the families served at Healing Hearts, thank you for your ongoing support of our mission to serve grieving families. We are committed to offering a safe place for children and families to grieve and receive support.
-Thank you, Melissa

From the Wednesday night AA group:

Thank you for letting us continue our meetings at this location! It's such a beautiful space after all the updates. We're proud to be part of your church outreach program. Many people know our meeting only by our location, and it's nice to still be here to welcome others to AA. We're a mixed group of experience, backgrounds, and church affiliations. The one common factor is our relationship with a higher power (also found in many forms and many names) who puts us where we are meant to be and do the best we can.
-The Participation Group



Prayer Concerns and Updates

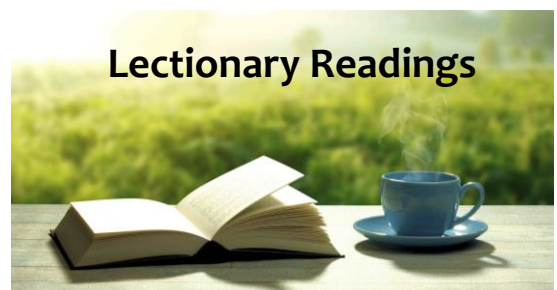
- Ed and Betty Padgett were quite ill but are both getting better.
- Marsha Everson's mother who has cancer.
- Bill Young is recovering from a broken hand he received when taking a fall
- Adeline Wojcik (Bonnie & Paul's granddaughter) has Covid.
- All others who are struggling with Covid
- Sandy Pardoe's sister, Bonnie, who has tongue cancer



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



February 9	Marsha Everson
22	Ava Tonz
25	Cory Buxengard
25	Cole Nease
28	Kim Newton
28	Bob Lacock
31	Judy Roberts



Lectionary Readings

February 6

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 13

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1:1-6
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26

February 20

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38

February 27

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)