

# Salem United Methodist Church

February 2023

*Love as God loves...*



*Thoughts from Pastor Paola...*

***Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*** Philippians 2:12-13

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lent journey that will end on Sunday, April 9th with the Easter celebration. My invitation to you all is to work on our spiritual growth this Lent. Some people believe spiritual growth is our job, our discipline, our commitment while others believe it is God's job, the work of his love and Grace

Whose job is spiritual growth?

**It is actually a joint project between us and God.**

Our spiritual growth is empowered by God; it's impossible without him. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit is powerful and mysterious. We can't control or manufacture it. It's not about us coming up with a program with predictable results we control. On the other hand, we're not passive. Our job is to discern where the wind of the Spirit is blowing and know how to catch it. It is like sailing. When I'm sailing I am utterly dependent on the wind. Without the wind I don't go anywhere. I don't have any control over the wind. Nevertheless, I'm not passive, I have a role to play - I hoist the sails and steer with the rudder. I have to catch the wind.

For this reason, Lent is a wonderful opportunity to take time to pay attention to the Wind, let the Wind work through us.

This Lent we will be sending a daily Lenten devotion email to you. Make room during the day to read it and reflect about it. Consider joining our Thursday night (6:30-7:30) ZOOM Bible Study. It is a wonderful group that studies the scripture and prays for each other. Participate in worship. This year the Lenten worship series is about the new life that comes out of grief and loss.

Take time to serve, be hospitable, open your heart to those in your life and in your community who are in need of your love, time, and care.

This is the part we play in our spiritual growth.

God's intent is to sanctify you so you can love as God loves.

May God bless you,  
Pastor Paola

## February 5 - Worship & Fundraiser

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

## Children's Malnutrition Center



During the service we will welcome among us Wilner, the Malnutrition Program Director and Junior, the Clinic Manager directly from Thomassique, Haiti.



Wilner



Junior

We will also receive an update about the malnutrition program. Medika Mamba provides a nutritional supplement that restores 90% of severely malnourished infants to health over a two-month period.

And after service... It will be time to taste and judge delicious cookies from our secret bakers.



If you cannot be at church on the 5<sup>th</sup> or know someone who is interested in donating, you can send a check directly to Salem (Haiti in the memo) or go on our website and make your donation through PayPal:

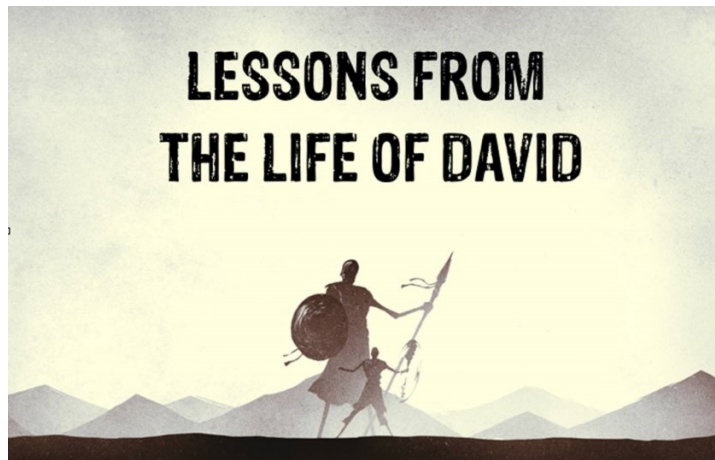
<https://www.salemonthehill.org/haiti-malnutrition-ministry/>



### Confirmation

Upcoming Class

Feb 12th from 10:30 - 12:30



### *Spiritual Lessons from the Life of David*

Join us as we learn Spiritual Lessons from David.

- Jan 29 **God is Bigger than Your Fears**  
The Story of David and Goliath  
1 Samuel 17  
**Pastor Pete Peterson**
- Feb 5 ***Worship Dedicated to Our 6th Annual Haiti Fundraiser***
- Feb 12 **Trusting God in the Midst of Transitions and Transformations**  
1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23
- Feb 19 **Finding God in your Lowest Points**  
2 Samuel 12:1-15, Psalm 51



### Chapel Service *Next Door*

**February 15th  
11:00 – 11:30 AM**

#### **At New Perspective**

Come worship with our neighbors! 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.

***Future services: March 15 & April 19***



**February 22, 2023**

6:30 pm Worship



# GOOD GRIEF!!!

## The Season of Lent

A Study of Loss and Grief  
from the Book of John

*Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24*

We all suffer tremendous losses during our life. Can the pain of grief become a gift of new life overtime? Let us walk with Jesus this Lent through the book of John as we discover how God brings new life out of loss and grief. Every week we will start the message time with a personal short story of someone who experienced different kinds of loss and grief in their lives.

### **February 26<sup>th</sup> First week of Lent**

*"Unless you are born again,  
you cannot see the kingdom"*

**The Loss of the Person We Used to Be - John 3:1-9**

### **March 5<sup>th</sup> Second week of Lent - Communion**

*"If you drink my water you will not be thirsty again"*

**Stuck in Loss and Pain - John 4:1-15**

### **March 12<sup>th</sup> Third week of Lent**

*"I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life."*

**The Loss of our Health & Autonomy - John 9:1-12**

### **March 19<sup>th</sup> Fourth week of Lent**

*"Jesus wept"*

**The Loss of a Loved One - John 11:14-15; 32-44**

### **March 26<sup>th</sup> Fifth week of Lent**

*"You will weep and mourn,  
but your pain will turn into joy"*

**The Loss of Hopes and Dreams - John 14:1;16:16-24**

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday - Communion**

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

**The Loss of a Vital Relationship - Matthew 27:45-46**

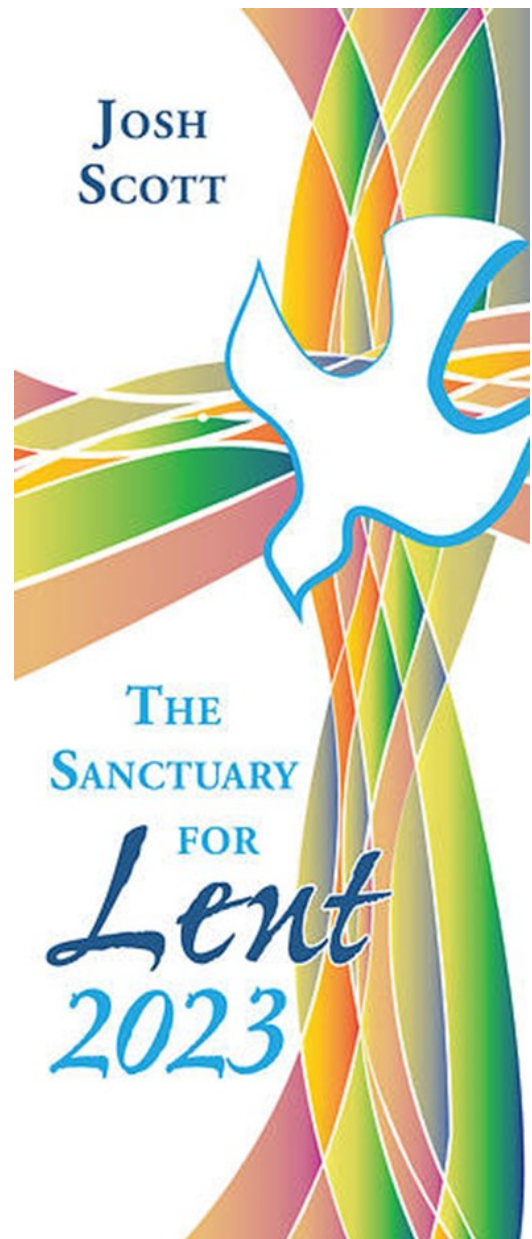
### **April 7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday**

**7PM Way of the Cross**

### **April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday - Communion**

*"Woman why are you weeping?"*

**New Life Raised from Grief - John 20:11-1**



During lent, you will receive a daily email with a small meditation that will help you to walk step by step throughout the entire season of Lent.



Bible Study on ZOOM

**every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30**

Join us on zoom for the study of scripture of the week as we prepare for the cross and the Resurrection. A wonderful way to grow spiritually as a group.

# ♥ HOSPITALITY ♥

**During the month of January, we focused on the theme of Hospitality. Our church council dedicated a big portion of the meeting** brainstorming on hospitality at Salem. The Church Council would love to hear your feedback! Please let Becky Henderson: [bhenderson46@hotmail.com](mailto:bhenderson46@hotmail.com) know if you have any other ideas.

***Below are the ideas we shared:***

## **How hospitable are we to members and visitors?**

- Have greeters
- New members state they feel welcome
- Narthex well used for meeting/greeting/eating
- Bathrooms great
- New Perspectives door
- Friendly people/not forced, sincere and real

## **What do we do well in hospitality?**

- We are genuine
- Respect people's space
- Infrastructure in place
- Welcoming
- Try to follow up with visitors and pastor visits
- Information and good communication
- Welcoming spirit throughout worship
- People visit with all (sit at different tables, people sit if open chair)

## **How can we improve our hospitality in the following areas?**

### **Building**

- Signage: horizontal signs down the hall for restrooms, adult classrooms etc., in addition to signs on doors
- Bench in bathroom
- New garbage cans and locations
- Better lighting at all entrances
- Covered entrance at handicap accessible door
- Charging station
- Need more narthex space:

### **Solution:**

- Remove the kiosk, perhaps use the triangular top
- Better utilize "Happenings Center." Large letters/banner above it, so people become aware of it...bigger sign
- Adult classroom: have basic supplies such as pens, paper and Bookends or bookshelf on counter for bibles etc.

### **Parking lot**

- New stop sign and post at highway (old, bent, rusty, ugly)
- Salt is a problem for people with walkers
- Umbrella crew to welcome when you arrive in rain
- Canopy for front door, over parking lot
- Welcome flag at entrance of the parking lot

### **Landscaping**

- Weeds in landscape and parking lot
- Refresh parking lot lines

### **Welcoming at the door**

- Greeters need to be comfortable with interacting and even seeking info of new visitors
- Have a meeting for greeters
- Welcome station: something for kids?
- Wear your name tags each Sunday

### **Welcoming to all ages and to all needs**

- Something fun for children in the narthex
- Helping people to know room locations (restrooms, child care/Sunday school, sanctuary)
- Personal tours

### **Marketing**

- "Salem" pens
- Newspaper exposure: picture of Healing Hearts donation and activities
- Happenings Table: announce in email and bulletin, make it more visible

-continued on next page-



# ♥ HOSPITALITY ♥

## How can we improve our hospitality in the following areas?

### Communication

- Website action
- Utilize Message board in narthex with events and happenings
- Bigger sign at Happening Center

### Following up with new visitors

### Worship

- Involving people in comfortable roles
- Learning peoples' strengths

### Refreshments

- Have a "real" coffee bar/tea/hot chocolate
- To go cups

### Community

- Hospitality beyond our building: New Perspectives

### Other

- General awareness of people with isolation

The Church Council would love to hear your feedback!

Please let Becky Henderson: [bhenderson46@hotmail.com](mailto:bhenderson46@hotmail.com) know if you have any other ideas.

## Our New Members

On January 8th, with great joy we welcomed new friends to full membership at Salem. We are so glad you are here!



**Back Row:** Franklin, Pastor Paola,

Ramona Liegel, Kristen Hintze,

Jim and Sherrie Kellogg, Joy Peterson

**Front Row:** Julie Vang, Kara, Illyana, Isley

## Greeters Needed



### 15 minutes Sunday Mornings

Greeters provide a positive first impression and give people a warm, "happy to see you" feeling. Being a Greeter is more than smiling and shaking hands. Greeters engage in the ministry of **hospitality**. Greeting is an opportunity to invite people into God's house and express His love.

**Sign up & information at The Happenings Center**



## THANKS A LATTE!

A special thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring after church snacks. The month of February is completely covered!



**Ways to help the homeless in Waukesha.**

**Amazon Wishlist**

<https://a.co/705Z9gM>

**Meal Train Sign-Upz**

<https://mealtrain.com/703om9>

Gift cards to local groceries stores  
should be mailed directly to

**Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha Co.**

1210 Sentry Drive

Waukesha 53186

## Birthday Bags for The Food Pantry

We received \$62 and about a dozen cake mixes/frosting! By combining our donations (\$185 = \$62 & \$143 from honey sales) with their on hand supplies, the Pantry will be able to provide children with birthday cakes for several months! **Thank you!**

Happy Birthday!



## Snack Collection



**For Hatfield Elementary**

Salem is having an ongoing snack collection to provide low-income children snacks throughout the school year. There will be a basket on the counter in the narthex.

**Snacks ideas include:**

Individually packaged Goldfish, Animal Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Granola Bars, Apple Sauce

*For more info contact The Outreach Ministry*



**Deliveries are made on an ongoing basis.**

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR  
YOUR DONATION!**

**MORE snacks are needed for the WINTER  
months. Look for the basket in the Narthex.**



This past Christmas, Salem United Methodist Church of Waukesha dedicated its special Christmas offering to support Healing Hearts of SE Wisconsin. Healing Hearts is a community-based organization whose mission is to serve and support grievingv children and their families. Salem was one of the original founding partners of this organization and continues that partnership today. In the picture is Healing Hearts Executive Director, Melissa Minkley, receiving a check for \$3569 with deep gratitude from Salem's Pastor Paola Benecchi.

# Mission Trip to Italy

Our mission trip to Italy will leave on June 30th and will return on July 14th.

It is an intergenerational team with 5 youth.

For the mission part of the trip, we will be working with 50 children coming from low income families. The children attend the United Methodist center near Naples (<https://www.casamianitti.com/>) The center cares for children all year long. They feed them two meals and snacks every day, provide for clothing and other needs, supports them with school work and organizes activities and games for their entertainment.

***Our intergenerational team of 15 will work daily with the children bringing special activities, games, music, and supply resources etc.***

Our fundraising has the goal to decrease the overall cost of the trip and make it more affordable for our team to go.



Thank You FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Please pick up some flyers to share with others!  
Located in the Happenings Center.



Join us, **Friday, March 10th at 6:00 pm**  
for a night of  
food, fun, and a silent auction.

***Tickets for VIVA ITALIA! will be  
available starting on Sunday, February 5th and  
in the church office thereafter.***



We are still looking for some silent auction items to help support our travel expenses. If you feel so called we would love to have your donation. Donation will need to be in by **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

For questions or for dropping off items please email Laurie Buxengard:

[buxengardlaurie@gmail.com](mailto:buxengardlaurie@gmail.com)

100% of profits will go to help support our team's travel for our mission trip and is tax deductible.

***Thank you for considering!***

## Examples:

### Service items

- Babysitting for a night
- One homemade pie/dessert each month for a year)

### Sports Memorabilia/Tickets

### Beauty/Pampering:

Nail/Salon Service, massage or hair care

Car : Oil Change, Car Wash

### Themed baskets

- Game Night
- Workout basket
- Movie Night
- Pet Supplies
- Kitchen/baking supplies
- Car Wash Products etc.

### Gift cards



# Prayer & Praise

- Pray for Catherine Lamb who's surgery has been postponed.
- Please continue to hold Bob and Michelle Lacock and the entire family in your prayers for the loss of their daughter Cheri. Pray for Cheri's daughter Savannah.
- Please continue to hold Paul Wojcik's family in your prayers.
- Pray for the family of Rhena as they continue grieving her loss.
- Please continue to pray for Sue Lewinski.
- Pray for Bonnie, Sandy Pardoe sister as she is walking toward the last part of her life.
- Praise from Bob and Michelle for all cards and calls they received in the loss of their daughter Cheri.
- Praise for all those who have been helping in preparing and serving the meals after the recent funerals.
- Praise for a good outcome for Ed Padgett's knee surgery.
- Praise for New Horizon for providing special music in January.
- Thank you to Joy Peterson and Susan Brown for sharing their gift of music during the month of January.
- Thanks to Pastor Pete for leading worship the last week of January.

## February BIRTHDAYS

7	Ken Reichert	25	Cory Buxengard
9	Marsha Everson	25	Cole Nease
20	Margee Klecker	25	Dolores Wuttke
22	Ava Tonz	28	Bob Lacock
24	Ramona Liegel	28	Kim Newton
25	John Anastasi		

## Lectionary READINGS

### February 5

Isaiah 58:1-12  
 Psalm 112:1-10  
 1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
 Matthew 5:13-20

### February 19

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 99  
 2 Peter 1:16-21  
 Matthew 17:1-9

### February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
 Psalm 119:1-8  
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
 Matthew 5:21-3

### February 26

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
 Psalm 32  
 Romans 5:12-19  
 Matthew 4:1-11



## THE LATEST FROM THE TRUSTY TRUSTEES

Our church now has a Geocaching on church property; it was Voted and passed it for both the Jamboree and the ong term.

*If you notice any issues, please let one of the trustees know about them.*

Jim Seegers has built and installed a metal frame for the protection of the Exit sign near the kitchen.

*We still ask that you be careful when getting the chair rack out to avoid hitting the Exit sign.*

To help keep our Natural Gas down, if you turn up the thermometer, please remember to turn the thermometer back down to 60%.