

# Salem United Methodist Church

March 2023

*Thoughts from Pastor Paola...*

**Won't you be my neighbor?**



Yesterday I was reminded that twenty years ago Mister Rogers passed away. I remember watching him with my kids every afternoon after school. The show was not glamorous and colorful like the Disney movies, yet we were glued to the TV. I think the reason was that Mister Rogers created an intimate space filled with kindness and warm hospitality toward everyone. He was bringing a sense of calmness, peace, and love that is often lacking in our lives and in our world.

In 1997, Mister Rogers received a lifetime achievement award for his work in TV. And instead of a long speech he chose to use his time to invite the entire audience filled with famous actors, producers and directors to take some time in complete silence to think of the people who helped them to become who they are. Those who cared about them and wanted the best for their lives. In seconds, tears start flowing in the theater. Kindness and hospitality are contagious.

On the other hand, some days we get caught in negativity. We see the worst in the people around us and in the world where we live. That too is extremely contagious. Before we know it, the worst of us comes out in words, looks, thoughts... We become unkind and judgmental. Pain, struggles, worries and hurt tend to intensify our unkindness. We constantly fall in patterns we hate, hurting others and ourselves. We try to change and improve, but those changes last a very short time.

We cannot do it alone, but Jesus can, if we let him.

The Lord said:

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

There is nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. This is our saving Grace.

During this season of Lent, let's turn into God's hands all your negativity, malice, resentment, anger and ask Him to change our heart with His Grace. You will know it is working when you start seeing people around you the way God does.

Have a kind day,  
Pastor Paola



# GOOD GRIEF!!!

## The Season of Lent

How God Brings New Life

Out of Loss and Grief

*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.

### 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

*"Jesus wept"*

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

### March 19<sup>th</sup> Fourth 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 26<sup>th</sup> Fifth week of Lent

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

**The Loss of Relationships, Hopes, and Dreams - John 14:1;16:16-24; Matthew 27:45-46**



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

Temba on Zoom - Worship dedicated to Mission

### 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**

*Join us Easter morning for special music and an egg hunt after the service*



Bible Study on ZOOM

**every Thursday**

**from 6:30 to 7:30**

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



Remember to read your daily devotional "The Sanctuary for Lent 2023" by Josh Scott. Please call the church office if you need help downloading the file.



Chapel Service  
*Next Door*

**March 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: April 19th & May 17th*



**Confirmation**

Upcoming Class

March 19th from 10:30 - 12:30

*"Tough question...tough decision"*



## Easter Flowers



Purchase flowers in memory of or in honor of someone. Order forms will be available Sunday, March 12th at The Happenings Center.



## What is Lent?

Sunday School is scheduled for March 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th for all ages. The theme this month is "What is Lent?"

Class will start after Children's Time.



Children's Handbell practice will be incorporated into every Sunday School class.

This will hopefully support everyone's schedules. It is not mandatory to attend every practice. The Children's Handbells will play on Easter Sunday. A special thank you to Katie Martin for helping with this.



On Easter Sunday, we will have an appearance from the Easter Bunny to help us kick off our Easter Egg hunt after the service! Please invite your family and friends for this special event. We would love to have you join us!



We will be having a pop up choir on

**March 26, 2023.**

Everyone who would like to sing may come. Practice is at 8:30 am before the service starts.

We would LOVE to have you join us.

## ♥ HOSPITALITY ♥ UPDATE

Thanks so much to all who have been sharing insights on how to improve our hospitality.

Church Council started the process of implementing the changes by assigning them to the various competent committees. If you are interested in seeing the changes in the making, they are posted on the wall in the conference/bells room.

( the last room on your right)



There is currently a need for greeters and after church snacks.

Snack sign up at the snack counter.

Greeter sign up at the Happenings Center.



**SNACKS NEEDED**





## THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR LOVE, SALEM!

Congratulations Salem!

Our sixth annual fund-raiser for Haiti exceeded all our expectations! We raised **\$7324** to pay for the Program Director's salary and probably the nurse's salary, some Medika Mama, formula or medicine needed at the clinic. The cookie bakers were Mary Watt, Amanda Rogers (with the help of her children, Maura and Logan) and Gladys Roszkowski. Mary got the most votes for her tasty Snickerdoodles, but since the votes were close, all bakers received a unique trophy this year. What



a fun-filled morning with such generous donors! Certainly, the video of Wilner, Junior, and Surzy, as well as the information given us by Betta and Paola's message inspired many to open their hearts to this wonderful cause.



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MUJILA FALLS?

The Mujila Falls Agriculture Center was started in 1995 by Paul and Roxanne Webster, in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and was dedicated to helping the Lunda tribe move from a hunter-gatherer existence to one of permanent, sustainable, commercial agriculture. Over-hunted, the land couldn't support the growing population. There was also a need for income to support families, buy medicines, and send children to school. Due to poor diets, the Lunda people had a 50% infant mortality rate and life expectancy of less than 35 years. Civil conflict in the Congo caused the relocation of personnel to Zambia and the reconstruction of a food security ministry at Mujila Falls with 250 acres of land donated by Christian Chief Kanyama of the Lunda people. The chief's condition was that the center would teach basic sound agricultural principles to the residents of his chiefdom.



Since Paul Webster retired, the agriculturist at Mujila Falls is Temba Nkomozepi, a remarkable young man with the mission statement "to help people help themselves with dignity." Temba takes part in a range of agricultural, education, and health projects, as well as church growth. Mujila Falls raises essential crops, such as corn, and engages in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, fruit culture, tree nurseries, fish culture, and research. In 2020, Salem helped fulfill Temba's dream of a small dormitory for high school and college students who visit the Center, as well as Peace Corps volunteers who are helped to get a feel of their future work in Africa.

The dorm has been called "Salem House" in honor of our support for so many years! Watch your bulletin insert to see what project we will help Temba with this year!

***On Palm Sunday we will have our annual pie fundraiser for Mujila Falls. We are hoping to have a video chat with Temba at that time too.***





# Please Pray for our 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.**

*A special thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising for our trip.*

## WHO NEEDS A CARWASH?



### **Viva Italia dinner and Silent Auction**

Thanks so much for the many of you who have been purchasing the tickets for the dinner. We are completely sold out.

A big thanks also to many who have been donating items to our silent auction. It will be awesome!!

We are looking forward a wonderful night of great food and fun.

***Please keep in mind only checks and cash for the silent auction.***



Our youth has an amazing fundraising opportunity to raise funds for the mission trip to Italy. Spring is just around the corner.... at least we hope it is! How about purchasing Kwik Trip Car wash cards to get all the salt and dirt off your cars!

It is a GREAT deal! **For just \$36, you get 5 car washes - WOW!** That is just a little over \$7 a wash - you can't beat that. You can use it at any Kwik Trip that has car washes. AND the best part.... A huge profit goes to benefit our 4 youth going on the mission trip.

Please see the following youth to purchase a card (Abigail, Franklin, Anna or Morgan).

**WE THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!**



## Volunteer Opportunity

**Monday, April 17**

Salem will be serving a meal for Healing Hearts participants on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at First United Methodist Church in Waukesha. This is a church wide Intergenerational meal to be provided and served by both the youth and adults. We will be serving approximately 60-70 people.

### Coming soon:

Sign-up sheets for servers, and for food items at the Happening Center!

*As many of you are aware, Healing Hearts is an organization whose mission is to serve and support grieving children and their families. In 2009, Salem was one of 6 churches and two funeral homes that started Healing Hearts to provide a safe place for children and families to grieve. They recognized the many types of loss including death, divorce, trauma, and other life altering events, and hope to offer support, hope, and joy to the children.*



Waukesha's Overflow Homeless Shelter is OPEN and will stay open until April. This shelter is available to men and women (different floors) and families (3 rooms so families can stay together). ***They would welcome some help with cleaning supplies and client snacks. Check out this link for their items.***

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

## Snack Collection



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 SPRING months. Look for the basket in the Narthex.***



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Salem volunteers at the Food Pantry in Waukesha. We meet at the Food Pantry the **2nd Monday of every month** **between 12:15-12:30.**

We stock some shelves and then have a brief meeting to discuss what's available. Client doors open at 1 pm and we work until 3 pm.

Visit <https://www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/> for an explanation of volunteer positions available. If interested you need to set up a training appointment with the Food Pantry prior to volunteering.

Thank you! We would love to have you join us. For more info, please contact Debbi Oswalt.





- Please pray for the Newton's unborn grandbaby who has some kidney issues.
- Healing prayer for Pat and Jim, friends of Gladys and Rob Roskowski.
- Please pray for John Anastasi's friend Florian who had two heart attacks within a week.
- Please pray for Kim, Cathy McGrath's niece. She has lost her partner.
- Please continue to pray for Sue Lewinski. She finished radiation.
- Pray for Bonnie, Sandy Pardoe sister as she is walking toward the last part of her life.
- Please continue to pray for Marcy, Lisa VandeYacht's friend. She is recovering from surgery. Her cancer has spread and she will need additional treatments.



### THE LATEST FROM THE TRUSTY TRUSTEES

- *A Hot Box was picked by Dave Pauly and is in the kitchen, thank you Cory for helping with removing the stickers.*
- *The kitchen will be getting a new recycling bin. Let's keep an open mind. And use all the recycling bins we have around our church.*
- *New under-counter lights were purchased by Caryn and Dave Pauly will install the lights shortly.*
- *Pastor was concerned about the three steps by the south door, different people fell recently. Thank you, Dave Pauly, for installing non-slip tape on the 3 steps in the Narthex. It looks beautiful.*

## MARCH Birthdays

- 2 Matt Henderson
- 8 Brian Hintze
- 9 Mary Watt
- 11 Sharon Link
- 12 Jim Seegers
- 15 Pastor Pete Peterson
- 18 Damian Padgett
- 18 Owen Padgett
- 20 Dr. Perla Agpoon
- 30 Sandy Pardoe
- 31 Cathy McGrath



#### March 5

Genesis 12:1-4  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

#### March 12

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

#### March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

#### March 26

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45



**Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>** Praise Fest  
Celebration of Mother's Day

**Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Confirmation Sunday

**Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>** Pentecost

**Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>** Communion Sunday

**Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>** Annual conference

**Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Celebration of Father's Day