

Salem United Methodist Church

January 2024

Thoughts from Pastor Paola...

Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. From Colossians 3



Did you make New year resolutions? I did. Am I going to keep them? Probably not!

Do you know what are this years top 3 New Year's resolutions? Better finances, physical health, and mental health. Not surprises there. People has been making New Year resolutions for 4,000 years. The Babylonians first recorded people setting New Year pledges. An average of 44% of Americans make a New Year's resolution every year. Only 31% of people stick with the promises they made to themselves the prior year. A whopping 81% fail by February.

We all feel the New Year is an opportunity to make things better, change bad habits, and embrace new habits. Yet we seem to struggle to keep any resolution. Why?

James Clear in his book "Atomic Habits" explains the reason we don't keep our resolutions is because we focus on the outcome (goal) process (how to get there) instead of our identity. Outcome and process are external and don't give us the power to make real changes. When instead we focus on our identity and the person we want to become then we gain the power and the patience to start the process and work toward the goal of changing the habits I need and want to change. I don't need to do everything at once. Changes will happen on the long haul.

We can begin by reflecting and praying about the person we want to become this year. It starts from within. It starts in my soul and slowly embraces the rest of me, my goals, my choices, my habits.

It is not so much about losing weight, being healthier, and becoming financially more stable. It is about becoming the person we want to be and the person God created us to be. Starts by clothing ourselves with love.

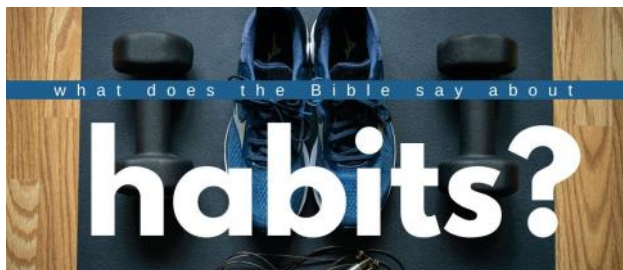
During the month of January and part of February every Sunday in worship we will have the opportunity to unpack the various areas of our life discovering what are the habits we need and want to change by becoming the person we want to be.

Everyone can relate to this worship series. Take this opportunity to invite friends and family to be part of worship with you.

See you in worship.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Paola



NEW YEAR, NEW HABITS

Join us as we learn how to bring God into our habits, one day at the time.

January 7 - Bringing God into our Habits

Epiphany Sunday

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-31

January 14 - Soul Habits

Psalm 62:1-6; Psalm 105:1-3

January 21 - Relationships Habits

Colossians 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;
Ephesians 4:15

January 28 - Body Habits

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

February 4 Bill Pardoe - Money Habits

Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Matthew 6:19-24

February 11 - Rest habits

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 11:28-30



Chapel Service
Next Door

January 17, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hymn Sing at 10:30 am

Come worship with our neighbors at New Perspective! 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: Feb 21 and March 20

A special thank you to Susie Brown for playing piano for us at the Chapel service at New Perspective.



Join us this Lent as we discover how Jesus brings the new life of Easter into each of us.

February 18

First week of Lent: Forgiveness

The Woman with the Jar of Oil
Luke 7:36-50

February 25

Second week of Lent: Haiti Fundraiser

The Miracle of the 5 Loaves and 2 Fish
Luke 9:10-17

March 3

Third week of Lent: Healing

Woman Restored to Life
Luke 8:40-48

March 10

Fourth week of Lent: Compassion

Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-24

March 17

Fifth week of Lent: Acceptance

Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-8

March 24

Palm Sunday: From celebration to grief

Jesus cries over Jerusalem
Luke 19:28-44

March 29

**Good Friday: Travel With Us
The Way of the Cross**

March 31

Easter: He is Not Here, He is Risen

The women at the Tomb
Luke 24:1-12

Baptism

BRADY DAVID BROOKINS



Something New with the Choir in 2024!

If you've ever been interested in singing with the choir we will now have rehearsals on Sunday after church twice a month. When we sing on Sunday we will practice as we have done in the past before service at 8:30 am.

Contact Michelle at 630-336-2317 if interested in joining on Sunday or just show up.

We welcome all those who are interested!



January Rehearsal Schedule

Jan 14th 10:00 am

Jan 21st 10:00 am

Jan 28th 8:30 am

***We will be singing on
Sun, Jan 28th!***



Did your New Year's resolutions include learning something new? Maybe you would like to learn how to play Handbells! Salem's Handbell group practices every Wednesday night at 6:30, and we play one Sunday a month. For more information contact Brenda Lindsay.

Children's
CHURCH

Happy New Year!!!

In the New Year we will have Sunday School every week following Children's Time. All are invited, please feel free to bring friends and family from all ages.



SAVE THE DATE:



We will be having a Super Bowl Party on Sun Feb 11th. A sign up sheet is in the Happening Center.

Fun Christmas Happenings



Youth Overnight



Blessing of the Toys



New Perspective Friends



New Perspective Friends



UWF Sponsored Concert

Many thanks...

A special thanks to the all who participated in our "Blessing of the Gifts," including the youth, children, and Santa! Your love and generosity will provide to so many in our community

Thanks to Salem's generous support, we were able to provide for

ERAS Holiday giving:

24 \$10 gift cards

8 books of stamps



For the **Christmas Clearing Council's Toy Shop**, we collected:

\$160 in gift cards

33 books

134 toys



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

A very special thank you....

To those who gave to the special Christmas offering for Healing Hearts of SE Wisconsin.

Salem has donated \$2,035. This donation will make a big difference in their work with children struggling with grief and trauma.



www.healingheartswisconsin.org

(262) 751-0874

Healing Hearts
of Southeast Wisconsin



A NOTE FROM TEMBA

Check out the bulletin board to read Temba's end of the year newsletter, complete with pictures. You will learn he had a little difficulty getting back home to Zambia! However, he arrived on time for his son's fourth birthday!



The **FOOD**
Pantry
SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

Please pray for the Pantry as they are working hard to make food available during this increased demand. With everything costing so much more these days, it's difficult for many in our community to provide food for their families.

Join the Salem Food Pantry team!

We have a great need for volunteers. Our group of 5 or 6 has dropped to 2-3. We volunteer on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Please contact Debbi Oswalt for more information regarding volunteering at the Pantry.

Snack Collection



The need for snacks continues throughout the school year. Please bring snack items and place them in the basket at the Happenings Center.

They are delivered to the school on a regular basis.

Hadfield School Support

In addition to providing nutritional snacks through the year, Salem has also supported the school with additional items. Through a grant from the WI United Methodist Foundation, we have provided winter clothing and items for the health room and classrooms. Recently, we delivered dozens of board games for indoor recess and family nights.



Happy New Year 2024!



NEEDED FOR OUR ANNUAL COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER for the **St. Joseph Clinic** in **HAITI**

Save the date and call for bakers for our
7th annual fundraiser for Haiti!

On February 25th, Salem will be holding our annual fundraiser to help support the Child Malnutrition Program at St. Joseph Clinic in Thomassique, Haiti. The clinic provides numerous other invaluable programs including Maternal and Infant Care, vaccines, Dental Hygiene, Chronic Disease Treatment, Birth attendant training, and community health worker program.

The program that we support is the Child Malnutrition program, which is run by program coordinator Wilner and a nurse Surzy, whose salaries we have been supporting. The mainstay of treatment is providing Medika Mamba to enrolled children, a fortified peanut butter substance that has been shown to restore 90% of severely malnourished infants to health.

We will be hosting our **annual bake-off** to help raise funds for this great cause and are **looking for three bread bakers** to enter this year's contest. Who will "rise to the occasion" and volunteer to be our bakers?!? All bread types are welcome so feel free to get creative and throw your (chef's) hat into the ring.

Reach out to Amanda Rogers (708-710-2610) if you are willing to help as one of our bakers or if you have any questions. And **save the date on 2/25** after worship to try some delicious breads and help support this important program.



Volunteers Needed



We have a need for Greeters and Fellowship Snacks in the month of January. Please check out the sign up for fellowship refreshments at the snack counter and the greeter sign up at the Happenings Center. **Thank you!!!!**



Special Super Bowl Sunday February 11th

The children's Sunday School program will have their own Football Game during church.

We will be serving NACHOS during fellowship hour after church.

Find out how you can help...see the sign up sheet in the Happening Center.



See Sharon Seegers if you have any questions.



When people who serve refreshments bring extra beverages, they are often kind enough to leave them for the next refreshment hosts. However, the next hosts may not realize this. If you are bringing something you think the hosts following you might want, please let them know or take home any leftovers. This will help keep the kitchen fridge clean and avoid waste. Thanks for helping with this.



Salem's Knitting ministry invites you to bless others with a wrap of love. If you know someone who needs the comfort of one of our hand knit blankets, feel free to take one. The love wraps are located on the counter (right side) in front of the Sanctuary. We ask that you please sign our book, so that we know who is being blessed. Thanks!



Send a senior a card

Let a senior know you are thinking about them.

Please put your signed cards indicating the occasion on the front of the envelope in the box on the counter in front of the office. We will deliver them to a senior center. ***Thank you!***



**Women In The Middle Retreat
February 23-February 24**

Reminder! Registration forms for the upcoming Women in the Middle retreat from 2/23-2/24 are at the Happenings Center.

Please submit your form and the \$20 deposit to the office no later than this Sunday, Jan 7th.

Thank you!



Congratulations Bill Pardoe



For fulfilling the necessary requirements to become a Certified Lay Speaker in the UMC.



We were able to reach and exceed the goal for the extra mile reaching \$6,330.

We give thanks to God for your generosity!

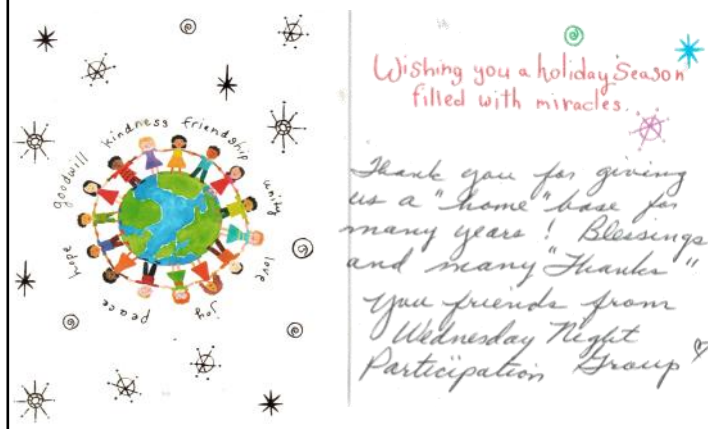


A BIG THANK YOU TO ROB ROSZKOWSKI

For your wonderful, loyal, and knowledgeable service as a trustee for the past several years.

We give thanks to God for your ministry here at Salem.

A THANK YOU CARD TO SALEM



New Books for a New Year!

Thanks to your wonderful donations to our book sale, we have taken some of the books that didn't sell and placed them in our library. These include the following and many more. Also, many new books are in front of the bulletin board.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz – a story of hope and courage based on interviews with Holocaust survivors.

Hearts of fire: Eight Women in the Underground Church and their Stories of Costly Faith. From around the world, these women overcame extreme adversity to become leaders and ministers.

Hiding in the Light – Rifua Bary makes a spiritual journey from Islam to Christianity making life changing sacrifices to follow Jesus.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek and The Book Woman's Daughter Two books of historical fiction based on the true story of a Pack Horse Librarian in Appalachia who has a rare genetic blood disorder which makes her skin blue-tinged. Cussy Carter (nicknamed Bluet) and later her daughter show courage and independence amidst racial discrimination as they travel through Kentucky delivering much needed reading material to her community.

Parts 1,2 and 3 of the Jerusalem Road series. These three books tell the stories of Bible people in a very interesting way. In Daughter of Cana, you will learn about Thomas and his twin sister hosting a wedding where the wine ran out. After Jesus' miracle, Thomas left his home to follow Jesus and his sister also followed to keep an eye Thomas. In the Shepherd's Wife, the story of Jesus' two sisters; one married to a simple shepherd who plans how to save her husband from a life in prison. A Woman of Words tells the story of Jesus' mother, Mary, who tries to get help from the disciple, Matthew, to record the stories of Jesus. They face some opposition, especially from Caligula.

The Scottish Bakehouse Mysteries is an enjoyable series if you love mysteries.



Update Needed...

Our outdoor sign needs an update to fix a connection issue. We will be sending a part to the manufacturer and it may take up to 3 weeks to be updated. The sign will be off during that time.