



January 2018

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Salem

United Methodist Church

Forecaster

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Committing Ourselves to the Lord for the New Year

Let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, created a Covenant Service for the early Methodists to renew the commitments that bind them in covenant with God. The first Covenant Service was held on August 11, 1755 with 1800 people present. Soon, however, the British Methodists made it their custom to use the Covenant Service in "Watchnight" services on New Year's Eve as a way of renewing their commitment to Christ at the beginning of the new year.

The climax of the Covenant Service is a prayer that captures the radical commitment of the early Methodists and continues to challenge us in our commitments today. Perhaps you would like to use this prayer at the beginning of this new year to renew your commitments that bind you in covenant with God:

"I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for

you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

"And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

Tremendous possibilities await us in the year 2018. None, however, are more important than our resolve to be in covenant with the Lord our God. What habits will you practice this year to be formed in the way of Jesus and be a part of God's mission to transform the world?



Big News About Giving!



John Louk, Pastor

100%
of Our
Apportionments

I have great news to share. We're paying our apportionments in full this year!

First, if you don't know, apportionments are the way we United Methodists give financial support throughout the world to things like new churches, missionaries, Justice for Our Neighbors, Africa University, ministerial education, and the cost of bishops. Bishop Lindsey Davis says "Apportionment giving financially underwrites United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church." Currently, Salem's apportionments are a little under \$3,400 each month, \$40,527 for 2017.

A little history may be helpful. Until 2010, Salem always paid its apportionments. They were even paid fully in 2008 and 2009 right after the flood, but doing that hurt the church. We used up \$29,000 in cash reserves to pay our apportionments those years when we were dealing with terrible destruction and it left us in a very difficult situation in 2010 and 2011.

In hindsight we realized it was a mistake to pay our apportionments those first two years after the flood. So in 2012, when we began to rally, we had to make a decision. The Leadership Board decided to not begin paying our apportionments in full too quickly. We knew our facility and congregation had to recover from the flood disaster and that we would need money for that immediately. We believed that if we had some room to grow stronger and healthier again, then we'd be able to again take on the responsibility of paying our apportionments in full.

Over the next four years we paid 40% of our apportionments, including 100% of our general church apportionments. And we gave tens of thousands of dollars each year for mission. During that time we went through the Healthy Church Initiative church consultation, held our first capital campaign, *Salem Rising*, and built a brand new facility which opened in early 2015.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced! (Psalm 126:3) Therefore, right after that, the Leadership Board made a stewardship goal for 2016 to begin increasing our giving towards apportionments by paying 50% that year and then another 10% or more each year thereafter until we'd be back to paying them in full. We stayed on track, paying 60% so far this year.

Now at the end of 2017, our treasurer, Linda Curson, gave us the good news. Because of your faithful and generous giving, we have enough this year to pay our apportionments in full. Therefore, the Leadership Board decided to pay 100% this year and stay with our plan for next year, paying 70% with 10% increases. Of course, we hope to be in the same position and pay them in full in 2018 and going forward. We're just taking it one step at a time, but this is a huge step!

I also want to let you know where we are with our Generation to Generation 2.0 campaign this fall. We are very grateful for the responses we have received so far. At this point, we are approximately \$68,000 behind what was pledged a year ago for 2017. The main difference is that some who pledged a year ago have not pledged this year. There could be any number of reasons for this, and the good news is we continue to grow in our giving. We just want to let the congregation know where we stand from the stewardship campaign.

If you haven't made a financial commitment yet, you still can. While not binding, pledges are helpful tools, giving us a good sense of how much we'll receive. That makes it much easier to plan for the year financially.

Thank you for your faithful and generous giving. God is good. All the time.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 9:30 AM Prayer Room	3 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 1 PM Mission Team 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals	5 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	6 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast (Hy-Vee on Oakland Road and 32nd Ave.)
7 Epiphany Sunday 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	8	9 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	10 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 7 PM Bell Choir	12 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	13
14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 12:30 PM Women's Care Group 5 PM Salem Son Walkers	15 Pastor John begins month long renewal leave <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u>	16 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board	17 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 7 PM Bell Choir	19 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	20
21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	22 6 PM Women's Small Group	23	24 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals 7 PM Bell Choir	26 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	27
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connecting Point 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 1:15 PM Leadership Training 5 PM Salem Son Walkers	29 6 PM Women's Small Group	30	31 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal			Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)

Worship Series — Ordinary Time

In January we conclude the twelve days of Christmas with the celebration of Epiphany (January 6). The season after Epiphany is ordinary time and begins with Baptism of the Lord and ends with Transfiguration Sunday (February 11). It is a season of ordinary time and growth. Therefore, the liturgical color is green (except for Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration when the color is white). We will remember our baptisms and our covenant with God. Come and worship!

Jan 7 **Baptism of the Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5	The Beginning of Creation
Psalms 29	Ascribe to the Lord Glory
Acts 19:1-7	Baptized in the Name of Jesus
Mark 1:4-11	The Baptism of Jesus

Holy Communion

Jan 14 **Ordinary Time**

1 Samuel 3:1-20	The Lord Calls Samuel
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Inescapable God
1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Glorify God in Body and Spirit
John 1:43-51	Jesus Calls Disciples

Jan 21 **Ordinary Time**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10	The Conversion of Nineveh
Psalms 62:5-12	Song of Trust in God Alone
1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Present Form of World Is Passing Away
Mark 1:14-20	Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Holy Communion

Jan 28 **Ordinary Time**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A New Prophet Like Moses
Psalms 111	Praise for God's Works
1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Food Offered to Idols
Mark 1:21-28	The Man with an Unclean Spirit

Come and Worship!

Sundays

9 AM—Modern

11 AM—Traditional



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Jodi Anderson
- 2 Amy Schilling
- 3 Sheilah Perry-Rosales
- 6 Glenda McMillen
- 6 Ann Louk
- 7 Kory Thomas
- 7 Ausha Ayers
- 7 Grant Schilling
- 8 Mark Lindo
- 11 Jordan Jacobus
- 12 Harley Tunis
- 15 Barb Soukup
- 15 Gary Warmbier
- 18 Jack Schilling
- 19 Norman Schade



- 21 JoEllen Jacobus
- 22 Richard Whittlesey
- 25 Donald Kamara
- 27 Jace Jacobus
- 29 Tim Soukup
- 29 Lydia Whitaker
- 31 Billie Tessendorf

Anniversaries:

- 20 Dave & DeAnn King

Salem's Website has a New Look!

Have you heard the news? Our website has a bold and brand new look! It's the same address, but with a user-friendly layout that highlights Salem and its people. Check it out at: <http://www.salemchurchcr.com>.



Robert and Josephine Lanz's 70th Anniversary Celebration



Everyone is invited! Robert and Josephine Lanz will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary here at Salem Methodist Church on Saturday, February 17, from 1-4 PM in Fellowship Hall. Their children are hosting the event. The favor of a reply is requested. Please RSVP by February 1 to Cindi Duncan at 312-989-3123 or duncan6747@sbcglobal.net. or to Josie at 319-362-3859 or bobjolanz@aol.com. No gifts please.

January Mission Focus: Ecumenical Center

Joni Salazar



What sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Serve the Lord this year out of love and devotion instead of guilt or obligation. Share the faith with others during the New Year. We should make sure we do not share the Gospel ONLY with people whom we think are good enough. We should share Jesus with anyone who will listen and trust God to draw sinners to Himself and change them in His time. Giving to missions, is one way to serve the Lord. Whether it is financial donations, tangible donations or preaching the Lord's word, we are serving God.

Starting the month of January 2018, we are focusing on the Ecumenical Center. Helping hands, which is housed inside the Ecumenical Center, serves people with limited material assistance on an emergency basis,

Women's Care Group

Women's Care Group meets monthly to encourage and care for one another and to extend that care beyond the walls of Salem.

Please plan to join us Sunday, January 14, at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

helping with rent, utilities, and/or supportive services and advocacy. They help clients prioritize needs and work with community agencies and funding sources to meet those needs. Compu Place provides abilities-based computer access and training to people with disabilities. Their primary focus is on Cedar Rapids area adults over the age of 21 with intellectual disabilities who are working on basic skills, and on those who are likely to benefit from Assistive Technology. Compu Place is a unique and specialized learning center.

The Ecumenical Community Center provides low-cost office space to nearly a dozen other non-profit agencies. These agencies in turn provide a variety of services to the Cedar Rapids community. The reduced rent offered by the ECC allows these agencies to focus more of their precious dollars on direct help to the groups they serve.

If you would like to find a place to serve at the Ecumenical Center or Compu Place, please contact Joni Salazar at 319-362-3943 or salazar412@mchsi.com.





The people of Salem are welcome to participate in FPU at Trinity-St James. Here is the information from their invitation.

What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked? With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future.

Date Night With Your Money Starts Friday, January 5 at 6:30 pm at Trinity-St James UMC, 1430 Ellis Blvd NW. We will begin with a shared meal (please bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided) followed by video lesson and discussion.

9 Week Lesson Plan Overview – Class time 7:00 – 8:30

- Lesson 1 - Super Saving
- Lesson 2 - Relating with Money
- Lesson 3 - Cash Flow Planning
- Lesson 4 - Dumping Debt
- Lesson 5 - Buyer Beware
- Lesson 6 - The Role of Insurance
- Lesson 7 - Retirement and College Planning
- Lesson 8 - Real Estate and Mortgages
- Lesson 9 - The Great Misunderstanding

Winter Weather Alert

Winter is here. Snow, ice, and severe cold can make travel treacherous. We offer this reminder on how you can know if events are canceled at Salem due to safety concerns. Watch for cancellation notices on the bottom of your TV screen on KCRG (9), KWWL (7), and KGAN (2).

In general, when the Cedar Rapids Public Schools cancel due to dangerous

For more information, contact Denise Fuller, FPU Coordinator at 319-721-5864 or FPUCoordinator@TrinityStJamesCR.org.

To register online <https://fpu.com/1053170>

Cost \$109 - Free Shipping

Your Financial Peace University membership now includes:

- NEW One-year access to online video lessons
- NEW One-year subscription to "EveryDollar Plus", our premium budgeting tool (\$99 value)
- NEW Debt snowball tool and other resources
- Member workbook for all nine lessons.

Remember, this course will be held at Trinity-St James.

weather conditions, Salem will also cancel activities.

Our website (www.salemchurchcr.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/salem.cr) will also have cancellation information when it becomes necessary.



United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, January 6, at 8 AM at **Hy-Vee on Oakland Road and 32nd Ave.** We will be ordering off of the menu. All men are invited for fellowship and breakfast. Please make your reservations by calling Jeff Cook at 319-393-9180.

Mark Minger



All Golden Agers Welcome!



Golden Links will meet on Wednesday, January 17, at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Please join us! Call Jeff Cook (393-9180), Judy Thomas (390-6574) or Dick Talbott (247-9919) for information.

Salem Servants

Salem Servants are serving at Green Square Meals at the Ecumenical Community Center every first and fourth Thursday of the month at 3:30 PM. (January 4 and 25). Any questions contact Linda Curson at lcursion@me.com or 319-651-8029; or Donna Borntrager at donnajborntrager@gmail.com or 319-213-1077.



United Methodist Women



Sarah Circle will not be meeting in January. Please join us on Thursday, February 8 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Nan Livingston, President

Rachel Circle will not be meeting in January. Please join us on Thursday, February 8 at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall for a light meal, fellowship and planning session of events for the new year.

Report of the Leadership Board

The Board met at 6:29 PM following a time of fellowship. LB Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. She summarized several of the accomplishments and issues discussed by the LB in 2017. She opened with prayer and shared a scripture reading from Psalm 121 assuring us of God's protection and care on life's journey. Heidi Pankey and Pastor John shared God sightings (times in their everyday lives when they saw God at work).

Leadership Board Members – Dalene Bateman, Judie Hintzman, Brian Schooley, and Charlie Thomas, outgoing Leadership Board members, were thanked for their leadership and service. The LB elected Billie Tessendorf and Dave Davis to serve on the LB beginning January 1. Brian Schooley was also elected to serve an additional three year term on the Board. They will join Donald Kamara, who was elected at the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Income and expenses for this year (January – November) were reviewed. The church's finances continue to be in good order. This year we have paid 60% of our apportionments in the areas of conference ministry and conference missions, and 100% of the district asking and general church apportionments. Since we have been blessed financially, the LB voted to pay the additional 40% of our apportionments for conference ministry and conference missions for this year. So Salem will have paid 100% of our apportionments in all areas for 2017. For 2018 we will commit to our goal of paying 70% (an increase of 10% from our 2017 goal) of our apportionments in the areas of conference ministry and conference missions and 100% of the district asking and general church apportionments. We will review our financial standing at the end of 2018 to see if we will be able to make additional end-of-year payments once again.

Stewardship – *Response to the Generation to Generation campaign this fall has been lower than last year. About forty giving units that pledged last year have not made a commitment this year yet. Financial planning for 2018 takes into account the pledges received. This information will be reported to the congregation in the January newsletter. *Changes to the tax law in 2018 were discussed and the impact on charitable contributions.

Safety and Security Issues at Salem – The LB revisited the decision made at the November meeting to lock the church doors during office hours and in the evenings when small groups are meeting. The policy was amended to allow the locking of the doors to be at the discretion of the staff. The Trustees have received proposals from two vendors for a monitor/camera/buzzer system for the main door. The vendors will be asked to explain their proposals in more detail so an informed decision regarding which system to install can be made.

Meeting Notes 12-19-17

Electrical Projects – The Trustees presented proposals from two contractors for electrical work in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall, on the outside of the main building (for outreach activities held outdoors) and lighting in the parking lot and the drive-up canopy near the main entrance. The decision was made to contract Nelson Electric for this work. One proposed item, the installation of outlets on one of the outback buildings, was not supported.

Church Key Responsibilities and Accountability – The LB discussed and established accountability for individuals who violate church policy on the handling of church keys. A warning will be issued to the individual upon the first infraction. After a second incident, the individual will be asked to surrender the key.

Christmas Tree Donation– A quality Christmas tree (7 feet tall) with lights and decorations has been offered to the church. The LB voted to accept this generous donation.

Closing – Each Leadership Board member shared a blessing in his/her life this Christmas. Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Leadership Board in 2018 is comprised of the following persons in their respective class years:

- 2018 - Ron Andreasen, Myron Williams, Cindy MacLeod, Nancy Rawson (chair)
- 2019 - Carole Beaton, Troy Bergmann, Mark Minger, Heidi Pankey
- 2020 - Dave Davis, Don Kamara, Brian Schooley, Billie Tessendorf

If you would like to speak with any of the board members, please contact the church office for contact information.





January 2018 Forecaster

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www.salemchurchcr.com

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RETURN SERVICE

REQUESTED

**Salem's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
"connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus"**

Salem's Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 AM	Modern Worship	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Children and Adult Sunday School	Lower Level
11:00 AM	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary

Nursery for infants through 4-year-olds is available on the Lower Level during worship services and Sunday School.

Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM
(closed standard holidays)

