

January 2019

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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 2019. 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?

2019

The End of the Story



John Louk, Pastor

An important habit in 2019

I need to tell you the end of the story. For our worship series in December, *Nine Months*, we read through the entirety of Luke chapter 1 and almost all of the second chapter. We heard about the angel, Gabriel, visiting the old priest, and the young virgin, telling them they would soon have babies. We heard about John the Baptist's birth, Jesus' birth, the angelic announcement to the shepherds, and the presentation of Jesus in the temple, where Simeon and Anna, faithful people waiting expectantly for God to act, shared in the joy of Jesus' birth.

Now here is the rest of the story in Luke's second chapter. Once, when Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. They did this each year. When the celebration was over and they started for home, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know. They thought he was with their group of travelers, but when they couldn't find him after the first day of their journey, they frantically raced back to Jerusalem.

They searched for three days until they finally found Jesus in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. These adults were all amazed by this twelve year old.

His parents were shocked and upset. They asked Jesus why he had done this to them. They explained how they were worried sick and had been looking all over for him.

Jesus said, "Why were you looking all over for me? Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's house?"

This is a wonderful New Year's resolution for us. As we consider how we will live this next year, like Jesus, we too are called to be in God's house. Yes,

in the physical structure of Salem's sanctuary and facility, but perhaps even more so in the sense of the Greek New Testament word, *ekklesia*, the gathering or assembly of the people of God. That happens at Salem but also in our homes and in our neighborhoods and wherever we gather in the world.

We assemble together every week to worship God, to connect in small groups and grow, to serve and make a difference in the world, and to share with others all that God has done. Constantly gathering with the *ekklesia* is an important resolution for 2019.

Furthermore, technology now allows us to gather even when we're not physically together. If you are sick or out of town, you can participate in worship from wherever you are and hear the sermon on Facebook Live. It is a live video about 9:20 AM at www.facebook.com/salem.cr and it remains accessible on our page after the live video concludes.

You can also connect with Salem anytime, anywhere with a new tool at <http://salemchurch.life>. It works especially well on your mobile device, whether you're at church, at home, or anywhere else. You can see what's happening, request prayer, sign up for a small group or to serve, give an offering, or contact us. This is a great tool for your next step in faith.

As you think about how you want to live in 2019, I hope you will remember the end of the story and intentionally practice being part of the assembly of God's people, whether that's in God's house or throughout the world. Jesus is there.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group	3 8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting 12 PM Mission Team 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals	4	5 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Private Event
6 Epiphany Sunday 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	7 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group	8 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	9 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 12:30 PM Options of Linn County	11	12
13 1st Sunday after the Epiphany Food Bank Sunday 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 Seekers	14 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group 6:30 PM Financial Peace University	15 5:15 PM Leadership Board	16 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	17 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 6:30 PM Outreach Team Meeting	18	19 9 AM Cedar Rapids Emmaus Community Gathering
20 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	21 <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group 6:30 PM Financial Peace University	22 9:30 AM Prayer Room	23 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5 PM Confirmation Dinner 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 9:30 AM Days for Girls Workshop 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals	25	26 9 AM Chrysalis Meeting
27 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Confirmation Sunday 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connecting Point 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 5 PM Salem Son Seekers	28 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group 6:30 PM Financial Peace University	29 12:30 PM Cards and Fellowship	30 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group	31 12:30 PM Options of Linn County	Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)	

Worship Series—*God’s Gifts and Calling*

In January we conclude Christmas and celebrate Epiphany (January 6), a day of splendor and light, a day of great joy for all Christians. The liturgical colors are white and gold and yellow. It completes the twelve days of Christmas. It is the festival of the manifestation of God’s Word made flesh and honored by the gifts from all nations and peoples (the Wise Men bearing gifts). We will receive Holy Communion.

The Season after Epiphany begins with Baptism of the Lord and ends with Transfiguration Sunday (March 3). 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.

Our worship series, *God’s Gifts and Calling*, focuses on how the Holy Spirit has been poured out upon all and we are all called and gifted by God. How has God called you? What gifts has God given you and how are you using them? “God’s gifts and calling can’t be taken back” (Romans 11:29 CEB). Come and worship!

Jan 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah 60:1-6	Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Come
Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	God’s Reign Is Enacted
Ephesians 3:1-12	Gentiles Included Among God’s Chosen
Matthew 2:1-12	The Visit of the Wise Men

Holy Communion

Jan 13 ***God’s Gifts and Calling* — Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 43:1-7	When You Pass through the Waters
Psalms 29	The Voice of the LORD Over the Waters
Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The Baptism of Jesus

Jan 20 ***God’s Gifts and Calling***

Isaiah 62:1-5	The Vindication and Salvation of Zion
Psalms 36:5-10	the Steadfast Love of the LORD
1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Concerning Spiritual Gifts
Luke 3:23-38	Jesus’ Genealogy

Holy Communion

Jan 27 ***God’s Gifts and Calling* — Confirmation Sunday**

Nehemiah 8:1-12	Ezra Summon the People to Obey the Law
Psalms 19	God’s Glory in Creation and the Law
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	One Body with Many Members
Luke 4:14-30	Jesus Reads and Preaches in the Synagogue

Come and Worship!

Sundays

9 AM—Modern

11 AM—Traditional



January Birthdays

Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Jodi Anderson | 19 | Norman Schade |
| 2 | Amy Schilling | 21 | JoEllen Jacobus |
| 2 | Chatty Lullmann | 22 | Richard Whittlesey |
| 2 | Sheilah Perry-Rosales | 25 | Donald Kamara |
| 4 | Kay Haring | 26 | Jodie Hansen |
| 6 | Glenda McMillen | 27 | Jace Jacobus |
| 6 | Ann Louk | 29 | Tim Soukup |
| 7 | Kory Thomas | 29 | Lydia Whitaker |
| 7 | Ausha Ayers | 31 | Billie Tessendorf |
| 7 | Grant Schilling | 31 | Marci Mudanya |
| 8 | Mark Lindo | | |
| 12 | Harley Tunis | | |
| 15 | Barb Soukup | | |
| 15 | Gary Warmbier | | |
| 18 | Jack Schilling | | |

Celebrate!

Salem Servants



Where are you serving outside the church? This is a great way to make a difference in the world. Salem Servants are serving at Green Square Meals at the Ecumenical Community Center every first and fourth Thursday of the month (January 3 and 24) at 3:30 PM. Contact Linda Curson at lcurson@me.com or (319) 651-8029 to help serve.

Winter Weather Alert

With winter on its way, and the potential for snow, ice, and severe cold making travel treacherous, we offer this reminder. If events are canceled at Salem due to safety concerns, it will be posted on our website, (www.salemchurchcr.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/salem.cr) as well as on the TV channels KCRG (9), KWVL (7), and KGAN (2).

In general, when the Cedar Rapids Public Schools cancel due to dangerous weather conditions, Salem will also cancel activities.



United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's Breakfast is Saturday, January 5 at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited for fellowship and breakfast. Please make your reservations by calling Jeff Cook at (319) 393-9180.

Mark Minger



Cards and Fellowship



Come and enjoy an afternoon with your Christian friends! Cards and Fellowship meets the last Tuesday of the month in Fellowship Hall. Come at 12:30 PM for a potluck, followed by devotions and games, usually a hot UNO game, also Royal Rummy and Kings in the Corner. If you would like to try another game, please bring it and directions and we will join in.

Everyone is welcome so invite friends and relatives. The food is delicious! Love to see you all!

All Golden Agers Welcome!

Golden Links will meet on Wednesday, January 16 at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Please join us! Call Josie Lantz (319) 362-3859 or Judy Thomas (319) 390-6574 for more information.



Sunday Sermons Available Online

If you are sick or miss a Sunday because you're out of town, you can still connect with Salem in worship and listen to the Sunday sermon. The audio recording has been available for several years on our website (www.salemchurchcr.com -> resources -> sermons). Now video is available on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/salem.cr. It is a live video about 9:20 AM and it remains accessible on our page after the live video concludes.

This is also a helpful tool for sharing your faith. Most new people check out Salem's website and preaching before coming the first time. So share the sermon with your friends!

New Online Tool to Connect with Salem

You can connect with Salem anytime, anywhere with a new tool at <http://salemchurch.life>. It works especially well on your mobile device, whether you're at church, at home, or anywhere else. See what's happening, request prayer, sign up for a small group or to serve, give an offering, or contact us. Check it out.

United Methodist Women

Sarah Circle will not be meeting in January. Please join us on Thursday, February 14 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall for our next meeting.

Doris Holst, President

Rachel Circle will not be meeting in January. Please join us on Friday, February 8 at 1:00 PM at Scooter's (2300 Edgewood Rd SW, Cedar Rapids) for our next meeting.



Women's Care Group



The 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 13 at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will start working on Valentines for nursing homes. All are welcome to join us. For more information contact Susan Lillard at (319) 693-3797.

Days for Girls Workshops

Days for Girls International gives girls access to quality feminine hygiene by: partnering with organizations to distribute feminine hygiene kits, raising awareness, and helping communities around the world start their own kit-making programs.

We will meet on Thursday, January 24 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Some sewing and non-sewing projects are offered. Also needed to fill out the kits are dark-colored washcloths, hipster/bikini style panties (girls 14-16 or Adult 5-7) and 100% cotton or polyester cotton-blend material for drawstring bags. Questions, contact Joan Erbe at (319) 363-7498.



Outreach Team - Project Linus Thank You

On Saturday, December 8, Salem UMC hosted Project Linus, which is a community mission project to make fleece-tie blankets for underprivileged or seriously ill children. Over 160 blankets were made at this event! The Outreach Team would like to thank all who participated in Project Linus by donating items and/or volunteering the day of the event. We couldn't do it without you! Visit this link to read the news story about this event: <https://www.kcrg.com/content/news/Handful-of-volunteers-making-blankets-to-warm-bodies-and-hearts-in-eastern-owa-502287271.html>.

Project Linus



"Providing Security Through Blankets"

Outreach Team - Valentine's Bags for Children in Area Hospitals



Join the Outreach Team in sharing Valentine's Day wishes with children in area hospitals. Show your love by placing cards or individually wrapped treats in the bags located in Fellowship Hall, by February 10. For additional information, please contact Kassey Foster at (319) 429-5774 or kasseyfitness@gmail.com.

Food Bank Sunday

The 2nd Sunday of every month is "Food Bank Sunday". Our food donations were considerably less this year. Please think about dropping off food for the Food Bank inside the grocery cart that is outside of the Mission Center.

Examples of food are:

Canned Items: vegetables, fruit, pork & beans, soup, tuna, chicken.

Creamy peanut butter, instant mashed potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, saltine crackers, cereal, corn muffin mix, pancake mix.



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. 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 2019, we are focusing on the Ecumenical Center. What's Ecumenical? More than one Christian denomination teaming up to do God's work! 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.

Helping hands, which is housed inside the Ecumenical Center, serves people with limited material assistance on an emergency basis, 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 Center will be hosting an event on January 6 from 1 – 3 PM, at 601 Second Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids.

Event: Ecumenical Youth in Action
Advocacy & Awareness Workshops
Personal Care Kit Assembly
For Teens 12 and up and Mentors
\$5 freewill offering OR in kind donations to kits
Please RSVP to admin@ecc-cr.net by January 3

If you would like to find a place to serve at the Ecumenical Center, Compu Place or Helping Hands, please contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or jsalazar@cr.k12.ia.us.

Financial Peace University



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:

Monday, January 14 at 6:30 PM at Salem UMC (Lower Level Room 5), 3715 33rd Ave SW. 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 6:30 – 8:00 PM

- 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

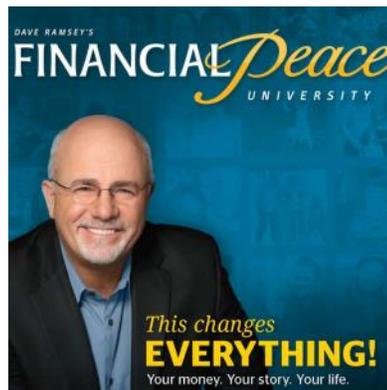
For more information, contact Don Kamara (dkamara0125@gmail.com) or Jim Archambeau (archambe@yahoo.com), FPU Coordinators.

To register online: <https://fpu.com/1079715>

Cost \$109 - Free Shipping

Your Financial Peace University membership now includes:

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



Report of the Leadership Board

The Board met at 6:12 PM following a time of fellowship. LB Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. She shared a scripture reading from Psalm 126 reminding us that the Lord has done great things for us and through us. She then summarized several of the accomplishments and issues discussed by the LB in 2018.

Leadership Board Members – Ron Andreasen, Cindy MacLeod, Nancy Rawson, and Myron Williams, outgoing Leadership Board members, were thanked for their leadership and service. Dave Clark and Jeremy Hague will serve on the LB beginning January 1. Troy Bergmann will assume the role of chair in 2019.

Treasurer's Report – Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for this year (January – November). November was a good giving month, which helped offset higher than normal expenses due to November being a three-payroll month. A discussion followed regarding what percentage of our apportionments for conference ministry and conference missions we will be able to pay this year. As we do have a generous balance in the building fund, an additional lump sum payment toward the principle will be made. *The LB reviewed a report from the Mission Team regarding Salem's mission giving in 2018 and the mission focus scheduled for each month in 2019.

A Way Forward Town Meeting –Plans continue for a gathering for the Salem congregation for a Sunday afternoon in January to have a question and answer time regarding the three Commission on the Way Forward plans and to ensure the Salem family understands the United Methodist denomination's position on human sexuality. The Special Session of the General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. The purpose of this session is to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward, based on recommendations of the Council of Bishops.

Way Forward Conversations

The United Methodist Church is having a special General Conference near the end of February 2019 to determine our way forward in the midst of our differences around human sexuality. Salem hosted Bishop Laurie Haller in September for a district conversation about our way forward. Now there are two more opportunities to learn, ask questions, and have conversation together.

St. Mark's UMC, 4700 Johnson Ave NW, is hosting a conversation on Sunday, January 27 at 1 PM. There will be two General Conference delegates present to talk about the options being presented to General Conference and the process works. Lunch will be available and the time will begin with music and prayer.

We're going to host another gathering at Salem for our congregation on Sunday, February 3 at 2:30 PM. Again, this will be an opportunity to learn about the options and theological positions being presented to General Conference and what that might mean for Salem, locally. There will be time to ask questions talk with one another.

Meeting Notes 12-18-18

Other Items – *The riding lawnmower will be taken in to see what it will need to be repaired. Once that information is known, the LB will need to decide on the next step. *Carole Beaton was thanked for graciously hosting this meeting in her home.

Closing –Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Passing the Leadership Board Torch



Nancy Rawson passing the torch to Troy Bergmann as the new Leadership Board chairperson.



January 2019 Forecaster

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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)

