

# Salem

United Methodist Church

## Forecaster

### An Invitation to Lent

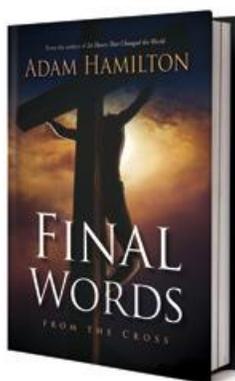
#### *Final Words from the Cross*

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence, fasting, and prayer. You are invited, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting (see the article about fasting on p.10), and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on the Word of God. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, we will bow before the Lord, our Maker and Redeemer, and receive the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7 PM.

The entire church will have a single focus in worship and in small groups and classes. This year we will focus on *Final Words from the Cross*. This is an in-depth look at the six hours Jesus hung on the cross and the "seven last words" that Jesus spoke and their meaning for our lives today. The book will be available on the Welcome Center. The cost is \$7.50 and you'll be able to pay with cash or check, online, with the app, Give+, or by sending a text (text code = LentenStudy). Please be sure to take a book, though, even if you can't afford to pay. Salem will cover the cost.

In addition to worship each Sunday, everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in a small group or class. There will be sign up sheets on the Welcome Center with groups meeting throughout the week. Our weekly worship along with this time of intentional Christian conversation is vital for our lives as we become like Jesus.

Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning February 21, the Westside 6 United Methodist congregations are invited to come and reflect on the importance of spiritual disciplines in our daily lives. The Lenten service will start at 12:10 PM and a light lunch will be served afterwards about 12:30 PM. A freewill offering (\$5 suggested) will be received for the meal and to support Matthew 25. The schedule is: February 21 at Matthew 25; February 28 at Asbury; March 7 at Trinity-St. James; March 14 at St. Mark's; March 21 at Salem; and March 28 at Sharon.



### In This Issue:

- An Invitation to Lent
- State of the Church
- Calendar
- Worship Series—  
*Final Words from the Cross*
- UMM Soup Supper
- Mission Focus:  
Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)
- Fasting: We Really Don't Eat?
- Leadership Board Report

## State of the Church



John Louk, Pastor

**How are we doing with our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world?**

Each year, in assessing the state of Salem, we take a look at some benchmark statistics. 2017 has been another fruitful year! Our membership now includes 242 professing adults. We also have 45 baptized infants and children— so 287 total.

This past year we lost 17 members as 5 died, 3 transferred to other congregations, and 9 were withdrawn. We received 5 new members. That means we have now received 114 new members since arriving at our current location a little over seven years ago!

Additionally, we have about 100 active non-members. That means we actually have closer to 400 people who are a part of Salem.

As part of our mission to make disciples of Jesus who transform the world, we essentially carry out four actions: reaching out, connecting, forming, and sending.



*Reach.* Our Outreach Team leads us to reach out to others with activities such as our Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Cleaning Up Cancer Carnival, Valentines Project, and many more. Many of us continue to reach out, inviting others to “come and see” as Jesus did (John 1:39). Reaching out to the vast majority of people who are outside the church building is one of the most important things we do.



*Connect.* We will continue to tweak Connecting Point and Connect, the process we created to assimilate

newcomers, by leading new people to commit their lives to Jesus through baptism and profession of faith. Last year we celebrated 8 baptisms, including 6 infants, 1 child, and 1 adult. Of our 5 new members, 1 was by profession of faith. Baptisms and professions of faith are key indicators, showing us how many new Christians we are reaching and connecting to the church.



*Form.* We nurture people through worship and spiritual disciplines to form them like Jesus. In worship our attendance averaged 203 this past year, a slight decrease from 210 the previous year. This is the first time in five years that we have experienced a downturn in worship participation. Even if we don’t account for our active non-members but do account for those who might be sick or out of town any given week, Salem should still have 240-250 people in worship regularly—even more with our active non-members and guests! Let us not neglect to meet together for worship in 2018, this central act of Jesus’ followers (Hebrews 10:25).

A little over 200 children, youth, and adults participated in some kind of small group, knowing God’s love and grace, experiencing forgiveness and healing, and becoming more like Jesus. This relationship with others in community is vital for our formation and growth.

Our giving continues to increase, including the use of electronic giving through our website and now the mobile app, Give+, and by sending a text. Giving income was \$300,000 in 2017 while our expenses were \$280,000. We ended the year with a surplus of \$20,000! That is a growth of \$50,000 in the last two years. Thanks for your faithful generosity!

(Continued on page 8)



# February 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting</p> <p>10 AM East Central Day Apart Meeting</p> <p>12:30 PM Options of Linn County</p> <p>1 PM Mission Team</p> <p>3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 AM UM Men's Breakfast</p>
<p><b>4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 PM Women's Small Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Room</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 PM Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM UMW Sara Circle Meeting</p> <p>12:30 PM Options of Linn County</p> <p>5:55 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30 AM Weeks Funeral</p>
<p><b>11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p> <p>12:30 PM Women's Care Group</p> <p>5 PM Salem Son Walkers</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 PM Women's Small Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Room</p> <p>5:15 PM Leadership Board</p>	<p><b>14 Ash Wednesday</b></p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>5 PM Confirmation</p> <p>6:15 PM Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>8 PM Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:30 PM Options of Linn County</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program</p>	<p>17</p>
<p><b>18 1st Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p> <p>2 PM Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/ Iowa City</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u><a href="#">Forecaster articles due to Church Office</a></u></p> <p>6 PM Women's Small Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Room</p> <p>5:15 PM Leadership Board</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>12 PM Golden Links</p> <p>5 PM Confirmation</p> <p>6:15 PM Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:30 PM Options of Linn County</p> <p>3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals</p> <p>5 PM UMM Soup Supper</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program</p>	<p>24</p>
<p><b>25 2nd Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9 AM Worship (Modern)</p> <p>10 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:10 AM Connecting Point</p> <p>10:10 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11 AM Worship (Traditional)</p> <p>5 PM Salem Son Walkers</p> <p>1 PM Pine Ridge N. Condo Association Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 PM Women's Small Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>5 PM Confirmation</p> <p>6:15 PM Youth Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p><b>Salem Office hours:</b> Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM <b>(closed holidays)</b></p>

## Worship Series — *Final Words from the Cross*

At the conclusion of ordinary time with Transfiguration Sunday, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14. At 7 PM we will receive the Imposition of Ashes and make a right beginning of Lent.

Like Advent, Lent is a season of preparation. The origins of Lent lie in the preparation of the catechumen before baptism on Easter “At the heart of the Christian faith is our participation in the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ as Lord...In remembering the mystery of our redemption in Christ through the seasons of Lent and Easter, we are formed in the pattern of his death and resurrection and his life-giving Spirit” (*The New Handbook of the Christian Year*, p. 105-106). The liturgical color is purple.

Our worship series, *Final Words from the Cross*, will explore the seven statements that Jesus spoke from the cross and the meaning of Jesus’ dying words for our lives today. Ideally, worshipers will also participate in a small group or class to engage these final words more deeply.

Come and worship!

### Feb 4 **Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 40:21-31	God’s People Are Comforted
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c	Praise for God’s Care for Jerusalem
1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Finding Common Ground as a Missionary
Mark 1:29-39	Jesus Heals and Preaches

#### **Holy Communion**

### Feb 11 **Transfiguration Sunday**

2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah Ascends to Heaven
Psalms 50:1-6	Before God Is a Devouring Fire
2 Corinthians 4:3-6	We Proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
Mark 9:2-9	The Transfiguration of Jesus

### Feb 14 **Ash Wednesday 7 PM**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Return to the Lord
Psalms 51:1-17	Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	Be Reconciled to God
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Giving, Prayer, and Fasting

#### **Imposition of Ashes**

## Lenten Sermon Series — *Final Words from the Cross*

### Feb 18 **First Sunday in Lent**

Luke 23:26, 33-34a	“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”
--------------------	---

### Feb 25 **Second Sunday in Lent**

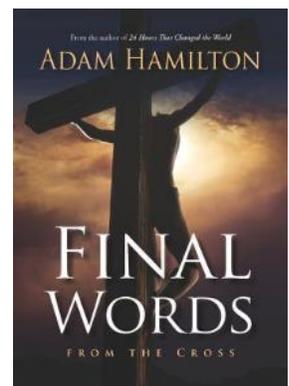
Luke 23:32, 39-43	“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”
-------------------	--

**Come and Worship!**

*Sundays*

*9 AM—Modern*

*11 AM—Traditional*



## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 2 Marge Ebinger
- 2 Marcia Humphrey
- 2 David Davis
- 3 Deb Black
- 8 Roberta Sweet
- 9 Judy Thomas
- 9 John Louk
- 12 Felix Ellis
- 14 Kyler Soukup
- 14 Cian McMullen
- 16 Tim Nolan
- 20 Melissa Jacobus
- 25 Jane Knapp
- 25 Deb Fritz
- 26 Ryan Rand
- 27 Evelyn Prasil



### Anniversaries:

- 14 Jim & JoEllen Jacobus
- 14 Shari & Dan Kendall
- 15 Bob & Josie Lanz

## 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](mailto:duncan6747@sbcglobal.net). or to Josie at 319-362-3859 or [bobjolanz@aol.com](mailto:bobjolanz@aol.com). No gifts please.

## UMM Soup Supper

Plan to Attend the UMM Soup Supper Thursday, February 22, from 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Treat yourself and your family to a delicious homemade meal hosted by the United Methodist Men of Salem. More details will be coming soon. Invite your friends!



## United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, February 3, 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.



## All Golden Agers Welcome!



**Golden Links** will meet on Wednesday, February 21, at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Kay Herring will be doing the program. 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. (February 1 and 22). Any questions contact Linda Curson at lcurson@me.com or 319-651-8029; or Donna Borntrager at donnajborntrager@gmail.com or 319-213-1077.



## United Methodist Women



**Sarah Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 8 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Kathy Wickham is hostess. Business meeting and Lesson: "The Sacred Space of Gathering".

How do we hear God calling today?  
What makes a space one of love, hospitality and justice?

## Nan Livingston, President

**Rachel Circle** will meet in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 8 at 5:55 PM. It will be our first meeting of the new year, and we hope to have some new faces to join in the fellowship. Everyone is welcome. We will have a light supper and discuss our plans and activities for 2018. Hope to see you there!

## In Gratitude

A huge thanks to all of you who made contributions to the mitten tree this year. There were 21 scarves, 97 hats, 140 pairs of gloves and mittens, 16 sets of hats plus mittens, 5 head bands, and 24 baby/toddler items for a total of 295 that were distributed to 8 grade schools, 2 middle schools and the Madge Phillips Center.

This project was originally started 40-50 years ago by the Mariners Sunday School class and Taylor School was the recipient of the proceeds of 50-75 pairs of mittens and gloves. It has been an ongoing project every year since it started and now most of the west side schools benefit from the project which now includes hats and scarves as well as the gloves and mittens.



I would like to thank everyone for their calls, visits, and cards while I was in rehab again because of my fall and broken pelvis. I am so glad to be home and see you soon!

Thanks,  
Joan Erbe

## Mission Thank You

November's mission focus was making blessing bags for the homeless. We divided and delivered 116 Blessing bags to Willis Dady, Madge Phillips, Mission of Hope and a few given to Helping Hands. Thank you so much for thinking of the homeless living in these cold winter months.

December's mission focus we donated new and/or used books for Van Buren School. Van Buren staff likes to give each of their students a couple free books to take home to read over the summer break.

We have received over 80 books so far and around \$700 to buy books. We will buy books during a book fair in May and deliver all the books before the students leave for summer break.

In 2017 Salem's contributions were \$1,865 and 972 lbs of food to the Linn County Food Bank. Thank you for supporting missions at Salem. This support can come by way of prayer, finances, or time and labor to help others in our community.

## State of the Church (Continued from page 2)

Because of this, we were able to pay 100% of our general church apportionments, supporting the ministry and mission of The United Methodist Church beyond the local church here and around the world. We have been working our way back to fully paying our apportionments since recovering from the flood in 2008.

We continue paying the debt (about \$1 million) on our wonderful facility that will be three years old in March. Toward that end, we received another \$134,000 for our building fund from our Generation to Generation campaign. Our growth in giving has truly been fruitful.

Furthermore, we also gave tens of thousands of dollars for mission as well as tangible items such as blessing bags for shelters, school and health kits, hats and mittens, and children's books!



*Send.* While reaching, connecting, and forming are vitally important, our true health cannot be measured without knowing how many of us are out serving in the world. We need to know our sending capacity rather than simply our seating capacity. We reach out to new people, connect them to Jesus, and form them as disciples, all so we can send them into the world to live lives of love, justice, beauty, and service, making a difference in this world that God so loves. We also start the process all over again when, out serving in the world, we reach out to others and engage them and invite them to “come and see.”

The truth is we don't know this number. Certainly, many of us serve in the world, but we need to work on this. We thought a Participation Team could help us discover

our spiritual gifts and unleash us to serve in the church and in the world, but we've come to realize we need a Staff position to direct this. A “Volunteer Coordinator” or “Ministry Coordinator” would lead systems and people that send each of us to serve in the church and especially in the world.

This new Staff position is part of Salem's first goal for 2018, to finalize and implement the Staff re-organizational structure. We have quite a bit of an excellent director-level team: Administrative Assistant (Melinda Gipple), Communication (Julie Lefebure), Care (Deb Black), Treasurer (Linda Curson), and Building Superintendent (Kory Thomas). Of course, we have other excellent paid Staff, as well, but we're creating a director-level Staff team that will lead and oversee people (including other Staff) and ministries.

In addition to the team we already have in place, we are looking to bring on board: a Worship Producer, overseeing all aspects of Sunday morning worship; a Discipleship Director, helping us become like Jesus; a Ministry Coordinator, helping us serve in the church and world; and a Community Ambassador, helping us reach the people outside the church building in our community.

This is probably one of the most important things I'm working on now for Salem. To truly break through the “200 barrier” (see our worship attendance), the pastor has to get out of the way. That is, the pastor can't do too much or be directly in charge of too many things, or the church can only grow as much as the pastor can get his or her arms around. The pastor must focus more on those few areas in which he or she is gifted and then share responsibility with others so they can use their gifts, creativity, and leadership.

(Continued on page 9)



## State of the Church (Continued from page 8)

Equipping and releasing more leaders allows the congregation to multiply, be healthy, grow, and accomplish our mission.

I am blessed to be a part of this faithful and fruitful congregation. Things are going very well, and we have some specific things to work on in order to move us forward.

Thank you for being a part of Salem. Please take some time to consider how you are worshiping the Lord, growing like Jesus, and serving like Jesus in the world. How are you engaged with Salem? This is a grand adventure!

Grace and peace to you,  
John Louk

## February Mission Focus: Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)



Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a mission/ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing affordable, high quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants; engaging in advocacy for immigrant rights; offering education to communities of faith and the public. With new threats of

deportation, more and more families are asking for legal advice because of programs such as DACA. Together and individually, our support makes a difference as the program depends on generous financial support. The program is one of the Iowa United Methodist Church's Advance Specials #375. Immigrants make appointments with attorneys about their status and next steps. Attorneys are paid a missionary salary plus expenses. For additional ways to help please contact Dorothy or Dave Higdon at (319) 294-1161 or [d.higdon39@gmail.com](mailto:d.higdon39@gmail.com). For stories of some of the lives JFON has impacted, please visit [www.iowajfon.com](http://www.iowajfon.com).

## 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, February 11, at 12:30 PM in LL Room 5. We will have pizza for lunch. All women are welcome to join us!



## Fasting: We Really Don't Eat?

And whenever you fast...

Matthew 6:16a

Each year our congregation has been encouraged to fast during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year February 14). Jesus teaches us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6) about giving, praying, and fasting as virtues of the kingdom people. Jesus does not say, "If you fast." Rather he gives directions for "When you fast." Therefore, I invite you to fast with me during Lent.

Fasting is a spiritual discipline; it means abstaining from food for spiritual purposes. Fasting and prayer go together. Therefore we devote the time normally used for eating to reading scripture and prayer. Furthermore, the feeling of hunger is a reminder to draw near to God. We remove our dependence from food and instead depend upon God. Doing so often leads to greater intimacy with the Lord and to hearing more clearly what the Lord is saying to us. While there are interesting physical things that happen when we fast, far beyond anything physical is the spiritual. This is a discipline that helps us hear from the Lord and be in the Lord's presence.

When you eliminate food, your spirit becomes uncluttered by the things of this world and more sensitive to the things of God. Fasting stirs a hunger in your spirit that goes deeper than the temporary hunger you experience in your body. When you hunger for God, you will be filled. Fasting makes you more sensitive to the timing and voice of the Holy Spirit.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, advocated fasting on both Wednesday and Friday each week as a regular spiritual discipline. As time passed, however, Wesley fasted mostly on Fridays, which was the Anglican norm, and advocated Friday fasting for Methodists in August 1739 in his journal.

To Wesley, fasting was an important way to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He believed it allowed more time for prayer and was more meaningful if combined with giving to the poor (see <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-does-the-united-methodist-church-say-about-fasting>).

How to fast? Wesley usually began a Friday fast at sundown on Thursday. This was in continuity with Jewish and early Christian tradition, which both marked the beginning of the day at sundown, not midnight. Wesley typically ended his fast at 3 PM on Friday, though some fast until supper on Friday. This would be an excellent way to fast during Lent (see <http://www.methodistprayer.org/wesleyfast/>).

Still, some people are not able to fast from food, such as those who are diabetic or pregnant. Wesley advised caution against extreme fasting and against fasting for those in fragile health. Please do not abstain from food if it is unhealthy for you. Alternatively, rather than fasting from food or something else, consider adding another spiritual discipline (habit, practice) to your life during this time. For instance, you could read scripture daily alone or with a small group. Or you could add service each week, such as serving meals at Green Square.

If you choose to participate in this spiritual discipline or if you have any questions or need help with how to fast, please let Pastor John know. There is more detailed information online on Pastor John's blog at <http://johnlouk.blogspot.com/2011/03/fasting-for-lent.html>.

## Report of the Leadership Board

The full Leadership Board met at 5:18 PM. LB Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. After welcoming the new LB members, she opened with prayer and shared a scripture reading from Ezekial 36:26 reminding us that God will create a new spirit within each one of us.

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for 2017. Giving was very generous. Even after paying 100% of our apportionments in all areas for 2017, the church ended the year with over \$20,000 of net income. A draft budget for 2018 will be presented and discussed at an upcoming meeting. A written policy on money handling procedures is being vetted by the Stewardship Subcommittee.

**Leadership Board Development/Training** – Pastor John led a session on leadership development during which he defined leadership, explained Salem's structure and clarified the roles of the LB subcommittees and the expectations of the members of the LB. He also described ways to spot a new leader and encouraged LB members to develop personal plans for spiritual leadership development. The church's goals for 2018 were reviewed.

**Safety and Security Issues at Salem** – The Trustees have received proposals from two vendors for a monitor/camera/buzzer system for the main door. Each proposal was discussed. The LB decided to proceed with the outright acquisition of the system from Per Mar Security Systems, along with the purchase of a wireless panic button. Once installed, the panic button requires a monthly fee of \$4.00. The Trustees will work with Per Mar on this installation.

**Electrical Projects** – Nelson Electric has been contracted for electrical work in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall, and lighting in the parking lot. Work will begin later this month.

**State of the Church** – Pastor John discussed some of the data that is being collected to include in his State of the Church 2018 article in the February Forecaster. This data includes average worship attendance in 2017, membership numbers, the financial state of the church, and Salem's generous giving to missions.

**Special General Conference in 2019** – Pastor John provided an update on the special general conference of the United Methodist Church in 2019. The Commission on the Way Forward, a task force asked to find ways for our denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality, will likely present their recommendations in May. The Council of Bishops will then decide their response to the recommendations in preparation for the special conference.

## Meeting Notes 1-16-18

**Trustees** – \*The Cedar Rapids Walk to Emmaus Community is looking for a new location to store their 16 foot trailer of supplies for the walks. The LB agreed to allow the Emmaus Community to park the trailer on our church property, if needed. \*The dishwasher in the kitchen has been repaired after an issue earlier this month. \*The Trustees will consider a request to provide lighting for the steeple cross (outside) and lighting the sanctuary cross at times other than during worship services. \*The communion table in the sanctuary may need some repair to the wood finish. The Trustees will assess what is needed.

**Stewardship** – The draft budget for 2018 will be available in February for review. \*The Mission Team will be asked to meet with the Subcommittee to discuss the reporting of mission gifts and the distribution of undesignated mission donations that were received in 2017.

**SPRC** – \*Kory Thomas will remain on staff as the Building Superintendent. Sheilah Perry-Rosales has submitted her resignation as custodian effective January 31, 2018. Kory Thomas and Melinda Gipple will serve as co-custodians, dividing the custodial duties, beginning February 1. \*Richard Pankey has agreed to serve as head usher for the 11 AM worship service. \*The SPRC will begin work on creating an employee handbook/staff reference book.

**Other Items** - \*Additional feedback to the new seating arrangement in the sanctuary was submitted. Concern was expressed for rows in the sanctuary that do not have chairs with arms on the end of the row and do not have chairs in front of them for support in getting up and down. \*Our District Superintendent has asked the church to consider providing some financial help for a refugee family from Africa to help pay for a funeral. \*"Come and See" cards will be developed to allow congregation members to distribute to the community to invite them to worship.

**Closing** – Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.



## February 2018 Forecaster

3715 33rd Avenue SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-362-6178  
office@salemchurchcr.com  
www.salemchurchcr.com  
www.facebook.com/salem.cr

## 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)

