



# Salem

United Methodist Church

## Forecaster

### The Easter Celebration of Resurrection

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. *(1 Corinthians 15:3-5; the earliest account of the resurrection)*

The Triduum, or The Great Three Days from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day, are a unity—the climax of the Christian year—when we celebrate the saving events of our Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. These are the most crucial three days for Christians, the heart of our entire spiritual journey for the year.

The evening of Holy Thursday, March 29, we enter this most solemn and joyful celebration of the entire Christian year. Augustine called it “the triduum during which the Lord died, was buried, and rose again.” On this day we remember that Jesus shared a last meal with his disciples and then was betrayed. We gather to worship at 7 PM and will receive Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, March 30, we remember Jesus’ crucifixion. Again, we gather to worship at 7 PM with a

service of Tenebrae (or Shadows) and a powerful shadowbox drama.

Our fantastic, community Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 31 at 10 AM with over 7000 eggs, prizes, games, and lots more fun!

That will lead us into Easter morning, April 1, the most joyous day and season of the Christian year. We will gather to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection at 9 and 11 AM. We will read the Easter Gospel, hear a powerful story, delight in Easter hymns and beautiful flowers, and receive Holy Communion.

Come celebrate with us and bring a friend! This is a particularly good time to invite someone. These moments are to be shared and enjoyed with the world as we witness to our hope of resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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## Commission on the Way Forward and General Conference 2019



John Louk, Pastor

**a decision  
will be made  
about our future**

It is incumbent upon me to clearly communicate what's happening in the wider United Methodist Church. Salem may be required to make a big decision in another year, depending on what happens next February at a specially called General Conference.

In 2016, the every-four-year General Conference decided not to take up any legislation related to homosexuality. Currently, The United Methodist Church declares that all individuals are of sacred worth but the *practice* of homosexuality (so not homosexual people themselves) is incompatible with Christian scripture and tradition. Further, the church prevents clergy from officiating at same-sex unions, teaches that marriage is between a man and a woman, and prohibits the ordination of self-professed practicing homosexuals. Rather than voting on these matters again in 2016, the bishops were authorized to form the Commission on a Way Forward to help our denomination discern what to do in the midst of our differences around human sexuality.

The Commission has been working for the last couple of years. While they have released some information, their final report will be presented to the Council of Bishops later this spring. The bishops will determine what to present to the special General Conference in February 2019. The General Conference delegates will ultimately make any official decisions. Dorothy Higdon and I from Salem are both reserve delegates from our Annual Conference and participate in our delegation meetings.

In the meantime, the Council of Bishops released a summary of the two models now being considered. Details of the two models in progress could change based on the Commission's work and final report.

1. The one-church model would give conferences, churches, and pastors the

flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.” What this means is each church, pastor, and annual conference would decide for themselves the teaching on marriage, whether to perform same-sex weddings, and whether to ordain LGBTQ persons. Some advocate for this. Others see the lack of consistency between United Methodist congregations as problematic for our internal connectionalism and external witness. This could be enacted with votes to simply remove some language from the *Book of Discipline*.

2. The multi-branch, one-church model would include shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. The current five U.S. Jurisdictions would be replaced by three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology and perspective on LGBTQ ministry — progressive, contextual, and traditional branches. Annual conferences would decide with which connectional conference to affiliate. Local churches like Salem could maintain connection with the Iowa Conference or choose to align with a different conference. Some see this as a way to keep us together while maintaining differences. Others see this as simply having unity in name only and recognize its complexity. This model would also have a huge hurdle to get over, requiring the change of more than two dozen constitutional amendments, each receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote at General Conference and then also ratified by Annual Conferences. This would not be impossible but very difficult to achieve.

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# April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Easter Day</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	2	9:30 AM Prayer Room 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 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	6 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	7 10 AM Rosie Bascom's Visitation 11 AM Funeral
<b>8 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connect 10:10 Connecting Point 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 12:30 PM Women's Care Group 1 PM Membership Orientation 5 PM Salem Son Walkers	9 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	10	11 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle Meeting 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 5:55 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting	13	14 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast
<b>15 3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connect 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	16 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group  <a href="#"><u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u></a>	17 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board	18 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links 5:15 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 12:30 PM Options of Linn County	20 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	21 9 AM Spring Clean Up Day
<b>22 4th Sunday of Easter</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connect 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 5 PM Salem Son Walkers	23 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group	24 9:30 AM Prayer Room	25 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals	27 8:30 AM Van Buren School Backpack Program	28
<b>29 5th Sunday of Easter</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Connect 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	30 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group					<b>Salem Office hours:</b> Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)

## Worship Series for Easter — *Life After Death*

The Triduum, The Great Three Days from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day are a unity—the climax of the Christian year. This is the most holy, serious, crucial, and joyous three days of the year for Christians. Missing these days would mean missing the heart of our entire spiritual journey for the year. Therefore, it is best to organize our time and commitments in such a way that absolutely everything during these days is set aside so that we can center entirely and exclusively on our own participation in the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the most special time of worship in the entire Christian year.

The Easter Season, also known as The Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost [this year, May 20]. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. The ancient Christian name for this festival is *Pasch*, derived from the Hebrew *pesah* ("deliverance" or "passover"), thus connecting the Resurrection to the Exodus. We will burn the tall "Paschal" Candle representing Jesus' resurrection, a symbol of light and life dispelling darkness and death.

Our worship series, *Life After Death*, listens to the stories of what life is like after death was conquered and Jesus was raised from the dead. The liturgical colors are white and gold. Come and worship!

### Triduum — The Great Three Days

- Mar 29 **Holy Thursday 7 PM** The Last Supper
- Mar 30 **Good Friday 7 PM** Service of Shadows (with shadow box drama)
- April 1 **Easter Day (3rd Anniversary of New Facility Grand Opening)**  
 Acts 10:34-43 Gentiles Hear the Good News  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made  
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The Resurrection of Christ  
**John 20:1-18** The Resurrection of Jesus  
 Holy Communion
- April 8 **Second Sunday of Easter**  
 Acts 4:32-35 Testimony to the Resurrection of Jesus  
 Psalm 133 The Blessedness of Unity  
 1 John 1:1-2:2 The Word of Life  
**John 20:19-31** Jesus Appears to the Disciples
- April 15 **Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 3:12-19** Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico  
 Psalm 4 Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies  
 1 John 3:1-7 Children of God  
 Luke 24:36b-48 Jesus Appears to His Disciples  
 Holy Communion
- April 22 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 4:5-12** Peter and John before the Council  
 Psalm 23 The Divine Shepherd  
 1 John 3:16-24 Love One Another  
 John 10:11-18 Jesus the Good Shepherd
- April 29 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 8:26-40** Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch  
 Psalm 22:25-31 The Whole World Shall Turn to the Lord  
 1 John 4:7-21 God Is Love  
 John 15:1-8 Jesus the True Vine

**Come and Worship!**

*Sundays*

*9 AM—Modern*

*11 AM—Traditional*



## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 3 Chuck Curson
- 3 Trina Weeks
- 4 Judy Cowan
- 4 Lisbeth Olson
- 7 Dave Jandik
- 8 Lucia Salazar
- 12 Matthew Salazar
- 13 Karen Beall
- 14 Dalene Bateman
- 14 Evelyn Dunek
- 15 Harold Hixson
- 15 Barb Whitmer
- 21 Chuck Rohrer
- 23 Carmen Schilling
- 23 Lennox Black
- 26 Max Schilling
- 30 Morgan Exline



### Anniversaries:

- 5 Linda & Dave Jandik
- 6 Judy & Charlie Thomas
- 10 Kathy & Larry Schooley
- 14 Saffie & Momodu Kamara
- 15 Barb & Tim Soukup
- 20 Marilyn & Norman Schade
- 25 Kathy & Dennis Valenta
- 26 Elizabeth & Austin Smith
- 28 Andy & Marlene Andersen

## Spring Clean Up Day



Please join us on Saturday, April 21, for Salem's Spring Clean Up Day. We'll care for our grounds and some building projects. For further information, please contact Kathy Wickham at 319-362-9429.

## 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, April 8, at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. Come and join us for food and fellowship.



## Commission on the Way Forward and General Conference 2019

(Continued from page 2)

Interestingly, the bishops seemed to have dropped one other model shared by the Commission initially. It was considered the traditionalist model and would have retained the current language in the *Book of Discipline*.

Also, the Commission from the beginning has suggested that congregations and pastors should be allowed a gracious exit from the UMC if they do not agree with the decision made by General Conference in 2019. What that entails is yet to be determined, but it would likely mean that pastors would keep their pensions and congregations would keep their property (which currently belongs to the Annual Conference).

While the bishops will decide what to present formally to General Conference, the bishops themselves do not vote. The General Conference delegates will vote to do whatever they want. They could choose what the bishops present or could vote it down and replace it with another plan. In fact, there are already several other alternative proposals being crafted by various individuals and groups in order to present them to General Conference.

Salem, like many UM congregations, has a wide diversity of people with some on the right, some on the left, and some in the center. If our congregation has to make a decision, it would likely be messy, painful, and difficult, just as it would be for the vast majority of UM congregations.

Here are three steps you can take:

First, I am sharing several links so you can read more and learn for yourself what's going on. If you don't have Internet access, we'd be happy to print the articles for you in the church office.

Second, I invite you to let me know if you'd like to talk about what's going on and if you'd like to participate in a small group to discuss this further.

Third, Bishop Laurie Haller has made it a priority to meet in all of the districts to facilitate conversation around the Commission on a Way Forward. If churches have to make local decisions, it is imperative members understand what is happening. Therefore, she is inviting and encouraging each of you to meet with her on Saturday, April 7 from 2-4:30 PM at St. Mark's UMC in Iowa City. This gathering will include a devotion from the bishop, a video dialogue by two of our clergy who have differing views, and opportunities for table conversations and questions. This is the time the bishop has set aside to be on our district to be in conversation with you about our way forward.

Finally, please pray for the church, the body of Jesus Christ, that we would seek the truth, embody grace, and exhibit a powerful witness to the world.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

### Links

<https://johnlouk.blogspot.com/2017/05/salem-is-vibrant-fruitful-and-growing.html> (this is what I wrote in May 2017 to begin sharing with Salem what is happening)

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-moderator-updates> (this is the Commission website)

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/church-leaders-hear-way-forward-update> (this shows the original three models)

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/bishops-see-progress-in-unity-effort-but-offer-few-details> (this is the latest update from the bishops with the two models)

## Salem Finances through February 28, 2018

Operating expenses through February 28 totaled \$47,428; however, income received was \$36,521, leaving a deficit of \$10,907. If this trend continues, we will quickly use up any equity gained in 2017. Please prayerfully consider your financial support of Salem's operating budget for 2018. This congregation has been generous and supportive in the past and, I firmly believe, will rise to the challenge again this year.

Further information is available by contacting me at [financeoffice@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:financeoffice@salemchurchcr.com) or calling at (319) 651-8029.

Linda Curson,  
Treasurer



## Membership Orientation “How do you become a member at Salem?”

Please let Pastor John know if you are living out the membership practices below and you are ready and desiring to become a member of Salem. Membership Orientation will be offered Sunday, April 8, from 1-3 PM. There will be two additional meetings that will be scheduled at the first gathering.

Becoming a member means taking responsibility for Salem with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. These are the Five Membership Expectations. This is what they look like:

- Worship with us each Sunday unless you are sick or out of town.
- Grow in your faith outside of worship through some kind of small group.
- Serve by using your gifts and talents both inside and outside the walls of the church.
- Give financially in proportion to your income, with the tithe (10%) as your goal.
- Share your faith with others through words and actions.

For more detail on these Five Membership Expectations, see our website at <http://salemchurchcr.com/visit/next-steps>.

## April Mission Focus: Books with-

Momodu Kamara would like to thank all who support the “Books without Borders” movement. In particular, the Mission Team of Salem Church, the church members, worshippers, and our generous book donors.

Our emphasis continues to be children’s books, religious books, textbooks and reference books. You can support by donating new or gently used books to the Mission Center. A special mission offering will be received the last Sunday of the month.

Thanks again for your part in saving over 300 tons of books from American landfills that children in other parts of the world receive with joy and great anticipation for their knowledge and value. One of the Books without



Borders slogan is: “turning garbage into gold mines.”

Thank you again for supporting such a worthy venture.

## Items Collected in the Mission Center

Eye glasses — donate your old eye glasses to those who cannot afford glasses.

Unwanted cell phones — cell phones with a charger are given to women at the Madge Phillips Center. Cell phones that do not have a charger are given to the ARC of East Central Iowa and they are given money to recycle these phones.

Empty prescription pill bottles — are given to the Community Health Free Clinic to be reused for the patients.

Box Tops — collected for Van Buren Elementary School. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents for the school.

Hy-Vee receipts — collected and added up. Van Buren School is given \$1.00 for every \$200 worth of receipt totals.

Pop Tabs — collected and given to the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City. They sell the aluminum from the pop tabs and use the money to assist patients with financial responsibilities in the hospital.

We accept food to be given to the Linn County Food Bank. Some of these food items are given to people who visit the food bank on a regular basis. Some of the food is put inside children's' backpacks to take home and eat.

## United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, April 14, 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

## All Golden Agers Welcome!



**Golden Links** will meet on Wednesday, April 18, at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Please join us! Call Jeff Cook (393-9180) or Judy Thomas (390-6574) 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 (April 5 and 26) at 3:30 PM. Any questions contact Linda Curson at lcurson@me.com or 319-651-8029; or Donna Borntreger at donnajborntreger@gmail.com or 319-213-1077.



## United Methodist Women



**Sarah Circle** will meet on Thursday, April 12, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. The program will be "*The Sacred Space of Grief and Hope*". We will read about and discuss how women attend to

Jesus during his journey to the cross. Scripture verses from the gospels will tell the story. Hostess is Kathy Schooley.

**Nan Livingston, President**

**Rachel Circle** will meet on Thursday, April 12, at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall.

## In Gratitude



Thank you so much for your generous donation of Valentine's Day Bags to the Mercy Inpatient Pediatrics Unit. It's always exciting for the children to

receive these gifts and can really help brighten up their stay with us during what is often a difficult time for them and their families. It is only with the support of people like yourself that we are able to make this happen. It is truly a wonderful gift to see the joy and pleasure the children get from their presents. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,  
Mercy Inpatient Pediatric Unit

Thank you for the outpouring of love, cards and prayers I received upon the death of my dad. It truly warmed my heart to know how much you cared especially since I was so far away from home. God bless you all!

In Christian Love,  
Deb Black



A great big hug and a thank you to Kathy Wickham and all the ladies (and Norm!) who served at my 90th birthday on March 18! You made my day special and my family was very appreciative of all the extra help you provided! Thanks also to all who came to help me celebrate and all of the birthday cards too! (I have more palm crosses if you didn't get one.) Joan Erbe

I would like to extend my heartfelt thank you to everyone for their prayers, support, and the many acts of kindness during my sisters illness and her death.

God Bless You,  
Doris Holst

## Report of the Leadership Board

Following the subcommittee meetings at 5:15 PM, the full board met at 5:42 PM. Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. She opened with prayer and shared a scripture reading from Psalm 118:24-25 and excerpts from a message for Good Friday by Tony Campolo titled "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming..."

**Treasurer's Report** – Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for the first two months (January – February) of this year. As was the case for January, giving amounts were lower and expenses were higher in February than the budgeted amounts. Possible reasons for the discrepancy were discussed. A financial overview will be included in the church newsletter so that the congregation is aware of the situation.

**Leadership Board Development/Training** – The LB began its discussion of the book: *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. Through this study, we are hoping to learn more about effective leadership in this ever-changing world.

**Facility Use Request** – The church received a request from a group of seniors who would like to meet on Monday afternoons to play Mexican Train (dominoes). The LB approved this request for a six-week trial period.

**Trustees** – \*A decision was made in January to allow the Cedar Rapids Walk to Emmaus Community to park their 16 foot trailer of supplies on Salem property. The Trustees presented a quote in the amount of \$720 for the pouring of a concrete slab (for the parking of the trailer). The LB agreed to proceed with the creation of the slab. \*The relay switch is still needed to allow the handicap accessible door to work in conjunction with the new security system. \*The sanctuary cross will remain lighted all day/night now that LED lightbulbs have been installed. \*A quote for installing lighting for the steeple was discussed. The LB does not recommend proceeding at this time with this lighting due to the cost. \*A group of Salem members, led by Kathy Wickham, will organize a collection of materials on Salem's history that has accumulated in Room 6 of the church.

## Meeting Notes 3-20-18

**Stewardship** – \*The Stewardship Subcommittee reviewed a report from the Outreach Team regarding their activities in 2017 including Trunk or Treat, Project Linus, Cocoa and Carols, and the Valentine Project. The team continues to consider ways to reach out to our community. A popcorn machine may be purchased in order to provide popcorn at upcoming events. \*A final version of the policy for handling money was discussed and the LB approved the policy with some minor revisions in wording.

**SPRC** – \*An applicant for the custodial position will be interviewed next week. \*The SPRC is continuing their work on the development of job descriptions for the Director of Discipleship and the Worship Producer.

**Other Items** - \*The LB approved a request from the Outreach Team to offer t-shirts with the Salem logo on them for sale. \*Bishop Laurie Haller will be at the Commission on a Way Forward Gathering for our district on April 7 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Iowa City from 2:00 – 4:30 PM.

**Closing** – Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.





## April 2018 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"**

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## 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)

