

Salem

United Methodist Church

Forecaster

Fall Kickoff

A new start, lots of opportunities, here we go!

Each Fall, after summer vacations, camps, VBS, and other activities, we kickoff a new year of ministries. It's an exciting time to re-engage in those things that help us follow Jesus.

Sunday School for children, ages Preschool through 8th Grade, begins on September 10. Classes will meet from 10:10-10:55 AM on the Lower Level. Parents, please come in person to register your child the first Sunday they attend.

There are Sunday classes for adults, too. The 9 AM Lectionary Class, led by Dorothy Higdon, meets in Lower Level Room 6. The 10:10 AM Adult Class, led by Ronda Johnson, meets in Lower Level Room 5.

The Youth Group meets in the Youth Room weekly on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 PM, beginning September 13. All students in 7th - 12th grade are welcome. Bring a friend!

Director, Linda Curson, invites you to sing in the Choir. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Music Room. The Bell Choir will begin

rehearsals in October, under the direction of Julia Titus.

We have some small groups that continue to meet over the summer. For those that take a break, however, they will begin meeting again the week of the 10th or later in the Fall. For a complete listing of opportunities, see our menu of items on the Welcome Center or on our website. Please consider participating in some small group. It is essential for discipleship!

On September 10, our Fall kickoff, everyone who comes will receive a paper invitation to give to a friend to invite them to church the next Sunday, on the 17th, which is National Back to Church Sunday. Those who come that day will hear a wonderful message about forgiveness and an invitation to come back the following week as we begin a new series on the book of Philippians, *Get Busy Living*.



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Living Life Together



John Louk, Pastor

Are you participating in a small group? If not, it's time to begin.

On a Thursday afternoon, Gary is trying to leave work. It's been a busy week, but he wants to get out of there so he can make it on time to his small group. Honestly, to begin with, he wasn't all that excited about being in a small group. His wife, Karen, kept asking him about participating in one together, and the preacher kept talking about how important it is for discipleship. So he finally agreed. But after they made the commitment to gather with a small group of people regularly, he soon discovered it was one of the highlights of his week.

In fact, it changed his life. In his small group, he began to talk about his spiritual life—the ups and downs, joys and struggles, questions and doubts. Others shared what was happening in their lives. They began to live out the practices of discipleship, especially praying for one another. He was stretched in his relationship with the Lord, but he felt such peace. He grew in all his other relationships, too. Not just with Karen, his small group members, and his church, but also with his family, his co-workers, his neighbors, his community. Jesus came for us to have an abundant life (John 10:10). Gary felt his small group helped him come alive.

Participating in a small group like this is the Methodist way. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, called them “class meetings” and they were limited to twelve people. Wesley thought these small groups were so important, so central to Methodism, that he pledged to not preach where these small groups weren't present and active.

Early in his ministry he wrote in his *Journal*, “I am more and more convinced that the devil himself desires nothing more than this, that the people of any place should be half-awakened, and then left to themselves to fall asleep again. Therefore I determine, by the grace of God, not to strike one stroke in any place where I cannot follow the blow.” That is, Wesley knew that when people were touched by hearing the Word of God proclaimed, there then had to be a system in place to help those persons grow in their faith.

In fact, in Wesley's day, the majority of people experienced “new birth” not in the preaching but in the small group. Certainly, preaching touches people. Sometimes

they're intrigued or want to know more. That leads to talking the next step of participating in a small group. The “class meeting” was vital for discipleship, knowing God's love and grace, experiencing forgiveness and healing, and becoming more like Jesus.

All this doesn't happen alone. It happens with others, in community, with Christians and non-Christians together. Or as my friend, Scott Kisker, says, “Faith is born in the midst of relationship.”

Are you participating in a small group? If not, it's time to begin.

You could join one that already exists on Sunday morning or evening, Tuesday evening, or Wednesday morning. Or you could be part of a brand new small group. I would suggest new groups come together weekly for 6-8 weeks (meeting between our Fall Kickoff and Thanksgiving). After that, the group could be finished or decide to continue on together.

You might have a meal together, some finger food, or no food at all. Younger couples with children could have childcare as part of their small group. Perhaps those with the gift of hospitality could host at their home, or everyone could take turns hosting. Someone could facilitate to keep the group on track. The content could include reading scripture or a book together. It could be based around Sunday's sermon. I will help organize new groups and I have several options from which to choose.

The most important thing is for each person to share, to be vulnerable and trusting. What's the headline of your week? What's happening in your life? How is God at work? Then pray for one another.

There are several ways to begin. Check out the small group sign up and the Discipleship Menu at the Welcome Center. Or simply contact the church office to let us know you're ready to be in a small group.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

September 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)</p>					1	2
<p>3 God's Call 9 AM Contemporary Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>4 Labor Day Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>5 9 AM Morning Connection 9:30 AM Prayer Room</p>	<p>6 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting 1 PM Mission Team 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals</p>	8	<p>9 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>10 Fall Kickoff 9 AM Lectionary Class 9 AM Contemporary Worship 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 12:30 PM Women's Care Group 5 PM Salem Son Seekers</p>	11	<p>12 9:30 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle 5:55 PM UMW Rachel Circle</p>	15	16
<p>17 Back to Church 9 AM Lectionary Class 9 AM Contemporary Worship 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Traditional Worship 1:00 PM Pine Ridge West Homeowners Assoc. Meeting</p>	<p>18 <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u></p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board</p>	<p>20 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12 PM Golden Links (Pizza Ranch) 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 Get Busy Living 9 AM Lectionary Class 9 AM Contemporary Worship 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 10:10 AM Connecting Point 11 AM Traditional Worship 5 PM Salem Son Seekers</p>	22	<p>26 12:30 PM Cards and Fellowship</p>	<p>27 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 7 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	28	<p>29 5 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 3:30 PM Drexler/Carlson Wedding</p>

Worship Series — Calling, Relationships, and Life

In September we are midway through Ordinary Time. This first Sunday focuses on God’s Calling and we’ll hear a wonderful story from Deb Black, our Director of Care Ministry. On September 10, our Fall kickoff, we begin a two-week series on what Jesus tells us about our relationships. Everyone will receive a paper invitation that day to give to a friend to invite them to church the next Sunday (17th) which is National Back to Church Sunday. Along with a wonderful message about forgiveness on the 17th, everyone will hear the invitation to come back the next week as we begin a new series on the book of Philippians, *Get Busy Living*. This is an exciting time not only to re-engage in weekly worship but to invite someone you know to come and see what’s going on at Salem. The liturgical color for this season is green, symbolizing growth in Christ. Come and worship!

Sept 3 **God’s Calling**

Exodus 3:1–15

Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28

Holy Communion

Moses at the Burning Bush

The Lord Sent His Servant Moses

Marks of the True Christian

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Sept 10 **Jesus and Relationships — Fall Kickoff**

Exodus 12:1–14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8–14

Matthew 18:15–20

The First Passover Instituted

Praise for God’s Goodness to Israel

Love for One Another

Reproving Another Who Sins



Sept 17 **Jesus and Relationships — National Back to Church Sunday**

Exodus 14:19–31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20–21

Romans 14:1–12

Matthew 18:21–35

Holy Communion

Crossing the Red Sea

The Songs of Moses and Miriam

Do Not Judge Another

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Sept 24 **Get Busy Living — New Series on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians**

Exodus 16:2–15

Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45

Philippians 1:21–30

Matthew 20:1–16

Bread from Heaven

The Lord Gave Them Food from Heaven

Live Your Life in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel

The Laborers in the Vineyard

Come and Worship!

Sundays

9 AM—Contemporary

11 AM—Traditional

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Myron Williams
- 1 Becky Johnson
- 1 Ben Holcomb
- 2 Charlene Harrison
- 2 Josie Lanz
- 2 Roger Newhard
- 2 Kaye Briesemeister
- 3 Caleb Meyer
- 4 Kathy Valenta
- 8 Jan Johnson
- 8 Lucas Oltman
- 9 John Thompson
- 14 Marilyn Ward
- 14 Abbi Holcomb
- 15 Susan Heald
- 17 Archer Ayers
- 19 Deb Valenta
- 19 Dick Talbott
- 23 Dawn Fouch
- 23 Tom Chittenden
- 24 Dan Kendall
- 25 Kathy Schooley
- 25 Dennis Valenta
- 25 Casie Meyer
- 26 Tom McMillen



- 26 Carole Beaton
- 27 Erin Archambeau
- 28 Bob Thompson
- 28 Kyle Drahozal
- 29 Percy Caviness
- 29 Linda Nolan
- 29 Doug Whitmer
- 29 Wilma Livermore

Anniversaries:

- 1 Justin & Kristin Jacobus
- 2 Chuck & Linda Curson
- 3 Bud & Bev Carnahan
- 3 Evelyn & Bill Schultz
- 4 Doris & Warren Holst
- 15 Marty & Jodi Anderson
- 18 Pam & Curt Moore
- 19 Steve & Teresa Thompson
- 21 Mark & Dawn Fouch
- 30 Charlene & Tom Harrison

In Gratitude



I would like to thank every one of the Salem family and friends for all the prayers and support throughout the many, many years of my family's membership. This is truly a caring family that we belong to.

Sharon Ernberger, On behalf of Lester Mikulecky Family

Salem Servants

Salem Servants are serving at Green Square Meals at the Ecumenical Community Center every first Thursday of the month at 3:30 PM. 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 **Nan Livingston, President**

Sarah Circle will meet on Thursday, September 14 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Marilyn Schade is hostess. Program by Dorothy Higdon using Isaiah 59 and its teachings for today. UMW District meeting will be on Saturday, September 23 at Clinton First United Methodist Church. The theme is "We Are Called."

Rachel Circle will meet on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall for a light meal and resume our Adam Hamilton study "Why? Making Sense of God's

Will." We are on the third of four chapters, and it is a very good, thought provoking study. This chapter asks "Why do my prayers go unanswered?" If you haven't attended for a while or would like to see what Rachel Circle is all about, please join us. Hope to see you there! UMW District meeting will be on Saturday, September 23 at Clinton First United Methodist Church. The theme is "We Are Called."



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, September 10, at 12:30 PM at Fazoli's on Edgewood.



All Golden Agers Welcome!



Golden Links will meet on Wednesday, September 20, at 12 PM at Pizza Ranch (2450 Westdale Drive SW). Program by Rev. Dave Higdon. Thanks to all who attend, participate, give programs, and to our caller, Josie Lanz. All seniors are invited. Please join us! Call Jeff Cook (393-9180), Judy Thomas (390-6574) or Dick Talbott (247-9919) for information.

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, September 9, at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited for fellowship and breakfast. Devotions will be by Dick Talbott. The program is "Tanager Place and Teenage Mental Health."

Mark Minger



Please make your reservations by calling Jeff Cook at 319-393-9180.

Mission Focus: Church World Service Blankets+ Joni Salazar

For many people in the U.S. and around the world, struggling against the bitter cold is a daily challenge. Homeless persons in the U.S. seek shelter and warmth all winter. Around the world, disasters force people from their warm homes, sending them to shelters and refugee camps. CWS is there. The CWS Blankets+ program provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times. A gift of just \$10 provides a sturdy, comforting blanket to those struggling and in need. For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and help them access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:



- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and micro-credit for women struggling to realize their potential

A special offering will be received on Sunday, September 24, at both worship services.

CROP Hunger Walk 2017 Joni Salazar



Even though the Crop Walk isn't until October, we at Salem are starting early! The CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday October 8th, will be at Thomas Park; 343 Marion Blvd; Marion, IA 52302. Registration starts at 1:00 and the walk starts at 1:30.

Twenty-five percent of the money raised by the walk will be divided among three local agencies that feed the hungry: Churches of Marion Pantry, Linn Community Food Bank, and Green Square Meals Inc. The rest of the money supports the work of Church World Service or other relief agencies designated by the donors. Church World Service provides disaster assistance and international poverty-focused programs in health-care, education, agriculture, income-generation and refugee resettlement. Church World Service reports 65 million people (the highest number ever!) are displaced within their country or across borders, by war or disasters. Salem's Mission Team challenges our congregation to raise \$1000 for Team Salem to help fight hunger. You can be a registered walker, donate to a Salem Walker or donate online at www.crophungerwalk.org.

Contact Joni Salazar (319)573-3943 or Evelyn Prasil (319)366-3683 for more information.

Report of the Leadership Board

Following the subcommittee meetings at 5:15 PM, the full board met at 5:44 PM. LB Chair Nancy Rawson led the meeting. She opened with prayer and a scripture reading from Psalm 91 reminding us that God's faithful promises are our armor and protection. Heidi Pankey shared her faith story.

Treasurer's Report – •Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for this year (January – July). The church is “in the black” and the finances continue to be in good order. •The transition to Vanco Payment Solutions for the processing of online giving has been very successful and they provided great support during the changeover.

Faith Perceptions Report – Between January 29, 2017 and June 11, 2017, 12 people visited Salem as “mystery guests.” These individuals posed as first-time visitors to our worship services and provided survey information describing their experiences. The information was compiled into the Faith Perceptions Report. This report revealed that we are doing a lot of things “right.” We were commended on how we greet guests during the service, the quality of the speaker during worship, our comfortable seating, and how easily the visitors could obtain information about Salem before/during our worship services or through signage. There are also suggested areas for improvement including better communication of the location of our nursery, the creation of a hospitality team that intentionally welcomes guests and newcomers, upgrading our website to be more engaging and user friendly, and developing a more vibrant youth and children's ministry. The LB will continue to discuss the findings of this report.

Fall Church Conference – The annual church conference will be scheduled for this fall. The LB will be working on reports that need to be filed in conjunction with the conference including the Mission and Ministry Plan and the church's goals for 2018. The LB was also asked to prayerfully consider nominations for new Leadership Board members for terms beginning in January.

Photo Directory Appendix – Salem has many people who regularly attend worship but whose pictures are not included in the 2015 photo directory. An idea to create an

Meeting Notes 8-15-17

appendix of informal photos to supplement the directory was discussed. The Stewardship Subcommittee will research how often other churches create photo directories and how they handle updating information between publications.

Special General Conference in 2019

– The United Methodist Church will hold a special general conference in 2019 to act on a report by the Council of Bishops, based on proposals from the Commission on the Way Forward. The commission has been tasked to find ways for our denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality. We are being called to pray for the work of the commission and for this upcoming conference. This divisive issue has the potential to radically change the United Methodist Church.

Christmas Eve Services – This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. The LB recommended that we have the two evening services Christmas Eve (5:00 PM and 11:00 PM) but that we have only one service that morning.

(Continued on page 9)



Report of the Leadership Board *continued from page 8*

Trustees – •The contactor has completed the construction of carts to hold tables and chairs within the new storage area in Fellowship Hall. •Shingles are being located for the roof of the bell tower in order to more closely match the shingles on the main church building. •A local company, interested in obtaining the outbuilding that we no longer use, has decided against it due to high moving costs. •There continues to be a problem with groundhogs on the property. •In response to continued discussion of safety issues at Salem, the Trustees will develop a proposal for security procedures for evening meetings when there are very few people in the church. •The annual service on our furnaces will be conducted this week. •A recent fire inspection of the building revealed a few very minor areas for improvement (light bulbs, batteries, sign). •Timers were added to bathroom light switches for energy savings.

Stewardship – •Plans are underway for the fall stewardship campaign. This will be the second year of Generation to Generation building fund campaign but worshippers will also have the opportunity to make an annual giving pledge. •The appropriate handling of offering funds was discussed.

Bell Choir

Fall is on its way. This is a good time to make plans to participate in the music program at Salem. Our Bell Choir could be just the thing for you! We will begin with a short session in October, rehearsing on Thursday evenings (Oct. 5 - 26) from 7:00 - 8:00 PM, and then we will ring during worship on Sunday, October 29.

This session will be geared towards those wishing to try out a new skill, as well as returning members who might need a little "brushing up". Newcomers are very welcome! (Some music experience is helpful, but not required).

Ready to sign up? There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Got questions? Call or email our bell choir director, Julia Titus, at 319-365-7033 or

SPRC – •One of our church's goals this year is to review our "organizational structure" in order to define staff versus ministry team leaders, to determine which areas require leadership, and to clearly define what activities fall into each area. As part of that goal, a draft organizational chart was shared proposing a Leadership Team comprised of Director-level positions encompassing many areas of the life of the church. The SPRC will begin to write job descriptions for some of these positions that currently do not exist. Continuing Formation and sabbatical leave opportunities for Pastor John were discussed. He will be developing more detailed proposals for consideration.

Closing – Pastor John closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

j.titus@salemchurchcr.com.

This is a fun, joy-filled group whose members truly enjoy each other's company. Come, join us! Experience the beauty of making music for the Lord!





September 2017 Forecaster

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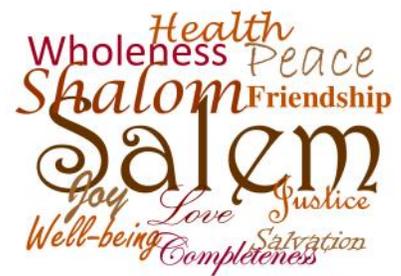
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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
9:00 AM	Lectionary Class	Lower Level Room 6
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)