



# Salem

United Methodist Church

## Forecaster

### Generation to Generation 3.0

#### The Third Year of Salem's Annual Giving and Building Fund Campaign

We reap the fruit of trees planted before we were even born. Our ancestors planted and tended trees for us. Likewise, when we plant trees, we do it for those who follow us.

This is the idea behind our capital campaign logo, *Generation to Generation*. We plant a tree not only for this generation, but for the next generation. That is, what we do here and now at Salem has vital consequences not just now but for the next generation. We stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. Others will follow us and stand on our shoulders.

This month we also give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, the people who passed the faith along to us and gave and sacrificed and led and built to lead us to where we are today. We're standing on their shoulders. We are who we are because of them.

More than a century ago, the people of Salem did that for us today when they built and paid for the downtown building that was destroyed in the 2008 flood. Even though that building was lost, what we received from it has allowed us to be where we are today in a \$2.5 million facility.

Now we do the same, not only for us but for those following us. Therefore, this month we are prayerfully making pledges to our 2019 Annual Giving Fund as well as to our Building Fund (for those who haven't done so yet).

On Sunday, November 4, everyone will receive their Generation to Generation 3.0 Prayer and Commitment Packet in worship. Two weeks later, on Sunday, November 18, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, offering our pledges in worship, dedicating them to the glory of God on our 8th anniversary in our new location.

Thank you for your generous support of Salem and/or our building campaign. One way or another, every dollar you give to this church helps make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world!



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## Do the Math



John Louk, Pastor

## A Meeting at the Kitchen Table

The book of Exodus tells the story about building the Tabernacle, the sanctuary for God's presence to dwell. The people whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were willing brought their offerings for the Tabernacle and all its service. The people kept bringing their offerings every morning until the workers told Moses the people had given more than enough to complete the work the Lord had commanded. So Moses told the people they had given enough. In fact, they needed to stop giving because there was too much. The people had to be restrained from giving more! (Exodus 25, 35, 36)

This story exemplifies generous giving to God's kingdom. Unfortunately, it also shines a glaring light on our unfaithfulness with money.

Charitable giving has remained stuck in our country at 2% for nearly fifty years, ever since we started measuring it in the 1970s. That accurately reflects the average giving in The United Methodist Church, too. The problem, of course, is that 2% is a far cry from scripture teaching us to give to God first, to give generously and cheerfully, and to give 10% of our income.

If Salem is going to thrive and be fruitful, then we need the resources to accomplish our mission. We need to fund our ministry beyond just paying the bills. In order to do that, we'll need to break out of this cultural norm and take seriously what we read in scripture.

When I was a new pastor serving my first, full-time appointment, my wife, Joy, and I had only been married a few years. Like many young couples, we were struggling financially. I remember well when we decided to have a money meeting at the kitchen table. We did the math. We looked at the numbers to know exactly how much income we were receiving and how much we were called to give for God's kingdom. It was there that we made the decision to commit our money to God. We literally got on our knees at the kitchen table and asked God to help us

handle the money entrusted to us in a faithful way. We committed to tithing, giving 10% of our income to the church. Our financial situation didn't completely change overnight, but it did begin to change for the better.

That was over twenty years ago, but because of that kitchen table meeting we live with no debt except the mortgage on our home. And we've lived through some financial challenges. In 2008 we moved to Cedar Rapids just when the housing market crashed. Our home in Des Moines didn't sell for 18 months. We've paid for a wedding and for two daughters to graduate from college, with a third in college now. Incredibly, we've spent \$20,000 on braces and oral surgeries for the girls as they grew up. That may be why I drive a car that's older than all of them!

While the budget adjusts each year, we have continued to give around 10% of my income to the church. Is it difficult to give away such a big percentage of income? It's not about whether it's tough or easy. It's simply about intentionally choosing how to use our money.

So the first thing we intentionally choose each month is to give in response to God's abundant grace in our lives. We give, as Jesus and the church have taught us, because it supports the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus who transform the world. We give because, as followers of Jesus, we are called to have the character of Jesus. And we give so that we are not defined by our money, so that we are not captive to our wealth. Clearly, God's way is different than the world's.

How have you decided to give to God's kingdom? Have you done the math? Have a meeting at the kitchen table and do the math. Are you giving 2% or closer to 10%? Let's grow together and fund God's work through Salem so well until we too have to be restrained from giving more.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

# November 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1 All Saints Day</b> 12 PM Mission Team 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 3:30 PM Salem Servants Serve Green Square Meals 7 PM Follow Study Group	<b>2</b> 8:30 AM Foster Grandparent Program Meeting	<b>3</b> 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast
<b>4 All Saints Sunday</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> <b>Distribution of Gen2Gen 3.0 Appeal Packets</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 5 PM Surviving the Holidays	<b>5</b> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group	<b>6</b> 7 AM Linn Co. Elections 9:30 AM Prayer Room 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> 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	<b>8</b> 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 5:55 PM UMW Sarah and Rachel Circle Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Veterans Day</b> 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	<b>12</b> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6 PM Women's Small Group	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Riviera HOA Meeting	<b>14</b> 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	<b>15</b> 12:30 PM Options of Linn County	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Gen2Gen 3.0 Commitment Sunday and 8th Anniversary in New Location</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 10:10 AM Connecting Point 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	<b>19</b> <u>Forecaster articles due to Church Office</u> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Room 5:15 PM Leadership Board 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group	<b>22 Thanksgiving Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Christ the King Sunday</b> 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 5 PM Salem Son Seekers	<b>26</b> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	<b>27</b> 12:30 PM Cards and Fellowship 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study 5:15 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Mom's Small Group	<b>29</b> 12:30 PM Options of Linn County 9:30 AM Days for Girls	<b>30</b>	<b>Salem Office hours:</b> Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM <b>(closed holidays)</b>

## Worship Series—*Loyalty: The Saints Before Us*

November brings us to the end of Ordinary Time and the end of the Christian year. We will celebrate All Saints on November 4, receiving Holy Communion and reading the names of those who have died this past year. On November 4, 11, and 18 we will also focus on our generosity with the third year of our Generation to Generation campaign. On November 18 we will make our commitments during worship as we celebrate our eight-year anniversary in our new location. The last Sunday of November celebrates the reign of Christ. While the liturgical color for this season is green, symbolizing growth in Christ, the color on All Saints and on Christ the King is white, and we'll use red too, symbolizing joy and festivity. Come and worship!

Nov 4 **Loyalty** (All Saints Sunday) (Gen2Gen 3.0)

**Ruth 1:1-18**

Psalms 146 (UMH 858)

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

Holy Communion

Naming of the Honored Dead and Lighting Memorial Candles

**Naomi and Ruth**

Praise for God's Help

The Blood of Christ

The First Commandment

Nov 11 **Loyalty** (Gen2Gen 3.0)

**Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17**

Psalms 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

**Boaz Takes Ruth as His Wife**

Unless the Lord Builds the House

Christ's Sacrifice Takes Away Sin

The Widow's Offering

Nov 18 **Loyalty** (Gen2Gen 3.0 Commitment Sunday) (8th Anniversary)

**1 Samuel 1:4-20**

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

Holy Communion

**Hannah, a Barren Woman Prays for a Baby**

Hannah's Song

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

Nov 25 **Loyalty** (Christ the King)

**2 Samuel 23:1-7**

Psalms 132:1-12

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

**The Last Words of David**

O Lord, Remember David

A Kingdom of Priests

Jesus' Kingdom Is Not from This World



**Come and Worship!**

**Sundays**

*9 AM—Modern*

*11 AM—Traditional*

## November Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 1 Deb Hadenfeldt
- 1 Joy Louk
- 2 Don Feldmann
- 3 Justin Jacobus
- 9 Isabella Lindo Steele
- 14 Dorothy Higdon
- 16 Marie Engvall
- 16 Linda Dahl
- 17 Allan Johnson
- 18 Rick Black
- 18 Melinda Gipple
- 21 Scarlett Vieira
- 23 Jefferson Saint Cyr
- 25 Susan Kohl



### Anniversaries:

- 10 Steph & Paul Meyer
- 15 Eric & Melissa Cashen
- 15 Lee & Kay Haring
- 19 Ralph & Janet Wilfong
- 20 Glenda & Tom McMillen
- 22 Tim King & Nancy Rawson
- 24 Amy & Tim Schilling
- 25 Joni & Raul Salazar

## Salem Servants



Salem Servants are serving at Green Square Meals at the Ecumenical Community Center every first and fourth Thursday of the month (November 1 but not November 22 since it is Thanksgiving) at 3:30 PM. Any questions contact Linda Curson at [lcurson@me.com](mailto:lcurson@me.com) or (319) 651-8029.

## Surviving the Holidays from GriefShare

Sometimes the holidays are hard to face. Grief, loneliness and other situations can make it hard to feel the joy everyone else seems to find in the season. Surviving the Holidays from GriefShare offers support and encouragement. You are invited to attend on November 4 from 5 - 6:30 PM at Salem. For more information, please contact our Director of Care Ministries, Deb Black at (319) 350-8843 or [d.black@salemchurchcr.com](mailto:d.black@salemchurchcr.com).



## United Methodist Women



**Sarah and Rachel Circle** will meet together for the World Thank Offering program on Thursday, November 8, at 5:55 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Sarah Circle will provide supper and Rachel Circle will present the program: "Women Offering Community."

The Thank Offering is one of the ways the UMW gives to Missions.

## Nan Livingston, President

Individuals are invited to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts. Many members have a box to remind them to give all year long in response to God's goodness.

This has been part of UMW for almost 150 years. Gathering in community is one of the ways that women strengthen each other.

All women of the church are invited to join in this evening gathering for food and friendship.

## Ladies Advent Christmas Tea



Please mark your calendars for our 4th Annual Advent Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 2 at 3:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets will be at the November UMW meeting and in the Narthex the Sundays of November 11th and 18th. We invite all Methodist women to sign-up and join in for a fun afternoon and the first event of the season here at Salem. For questions contact Nan Livingston (319) 632-1330.

## 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, November 11, at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will be working on Christmas ornaments for nursing home residents.



## Mission Focus: Blessing Bags

Joni Salazar



Have you ever come across a homeless individual and felt uncomfortable? You see them and you know they are in need, but you are not sure what to do.

The mission is to serve, empower, and bless those who need it most. While this may seem simple, the big picture is that we are encouraging our congregation to get involved in something that allows us to be of service during a time when the world needs it most.

This month we are collecting items to make blessing bags for the homeless in shelters (Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, and Madge Phillips). The staff pass these out to men and women so they have some new supplies to add to their backpacks. Items we are collecting are:

toothpaste, toothbrushes, trial size bottles of shampoo, trial size bottles of body wash, trial size bottles of lotion, band-aids, bars of soap, combs, deodorant, and lip balm.

Please bring items to the Mission Center. We will deliver these to the area homeless shelters before Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Mission Team Leader Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or [salazar412@mchsi.com](mailto:salazar412@mchsi.com).

## 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 normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall. The November workshop will be Thursday the 29th. 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.

## United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's breakfast is Saturday, November 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.

## Mark Minger

The men's Swiss Steak Dinner resulted in strong attendance, delicious food, and more than \$1,000 raised for missions!



## 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!

## Financial Need for 2018 Operating Expenses

## Linda Curson

Giving has been slower than anticipated for 2018. Through September 30, we are \$10,428.06 short on income to cover operating expenses. As we finish out the year, please prayerfully consider increasing your giving. Your generous support will be greatly appreciated.

We know that God supplies our needs in ways we don't understand. My son

shared a children's sermon with me recently. The story was told of a person who had 10 oranges and gave one away. "Look", the storyteller said, "that person still has 9 oranges. That's enough oranges to last them a very long time." God asks us to trust him to give up the "1 orange"; he will provide our needs with the remaining 9.

## Medicare Renewal

## Judy Cowen

Oct. 15-Dec. 7 is the time to make changes to your Medicare drug program and/or advantage plan. There appears to be lots of changes in premium costs as well as drug costs. Your plan should be checked each year. I am a SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) volunteer.

You can call me at (319) 396-3996 or email at [gramee4840@gmail.com](mailto:gramee4840@gmail.com) with questions. I can also see you at my office at Community Health Free Clinic. Call for an appointment at (319) 363-0416 and ask for Judy for Medicare.

## 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 Philippians 4:4-9 reminding us to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Treasurer's Report** – \*Linda Curson reported on the income and expenses for this year (January – September). Our year-to-date expenses continue to exceed our year-to-date income resulting in a \$10,428.06 deficit in the operating budget as of September 30. An article will be included in the Forecaster encouraging the congregation to help us end the year strong financially.

**Leadership Board Development/Training** – The LB continued discussing the book: *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. As leaders face changes and venture into new territory, they need to learn new information and skills, deal with the anxiety and loss that change sometimes generates, and navigate competing ideas while keeping the mission (what God has called us to do) intact. In uncharted territory, adaptation is crucial. The strategy becomes this: “start with conviction, stay calm, stay connected, and stay the course.”

**Fall Church Conference** – The annual church conference will be held on October 29 at 7 PM here at Salem. Rev. Mike Morgan will be the presiding elder. In preparation for the conference, the LB discussed nominations to the Leadership Board, our Mission and Ministry Plan (including our work on the discipleship pathway and our current/future goals), and the pastor's compensation/benefits for 2019. Troy Bergmann will serve as the Lay Member to the Annual Conference in June.

**A Way Forward “Town Meeting”** – After our recent hosting of the district Way Forward gathering, the Leadership Board agreed that it would be beneficial to hold a gathering for the Salem congregation in January to have our own question and answer time regarding the three Commission on the Way Forward plans and to discuss Salem's possible responses. The best time and day to hold such a meeting will be determined.

**Trustees** – \*The cleaning of the carpet in Fellowship Hall, the parlor, the mission closet, and adjacent hallways has been scheduled for November 16. \*A church clean-up day is being planned for October 20. \*Fall work on the prairie

## Meeting Notes 10-16-18

grass/flowers project is continuing. \*A decision was made for the contract for snow removal. \*A mower (used) may be donated to the church.

**Stewardship** – \*Plans for the fall stewardship campaign are continuing. This will be the third year of the Generation to Generation building fund campaign but worshippers will also have the opportunity to make an annual giving pledge. Video testimonies from congregation members will be a part of the campaign presentation in November. Commitment Sunday will be November 18.

**SPRC** – \*Staff salary/compensation increases for 2019 were approved and will be communicated to the impacted individuals. \*Jodi Anderson will be offered the position of Service Coordinator, to be held in conjunction with her current position as Worship Coordinator. Each position will be for approximately 2-3 hours weekly, for a total of 4-6 hours.

**Other Items** – \*A request to hold an outreach event at the church on Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) was discussed but not endorsed. \*The response to Facebook video posts of recent sermons has been very positive. Audio versions continue to be posted on the website. \*Carole Beaton offered to host the December Leadership Board meeting in her home.

**Closing** – Nancy Rawson closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.





## November 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)

