



## Mark-et Place

### ***The King Who Tore His Clothes***

*"When the king heard the words of the woman he tore his clothes – now since he was walking on the city wall, the people could see that he had sackcloth on his body underneath . . ." 2 Kings 6:30*

The verse I have quoted above comes from a heart-wrenching scene from a heart-wrenching time.

The time is one of war. The Kingdom of Aram is at war with the Kingdom of Israel, which was then headquartered in Samaria. Aram was besieging Samaria and the constant pressure from without led to famine within Samaria. The famine, in turn, led to price-gouging and the decimation of the economy.

Worse, the siege led people within Samaria to turn on one another. In the immediate scene in 2 Kings 6, two women had made a bargain with one another. Both women had sons and both women were starving. According to the bargain between the two, they would boil and eat the one's son today and boil and eat the second's son tomorrow. But only the first woman lived up to the bargain and surrendered her son. The second refused.

The first woman took her complaint to the king, who was walking the city wall at the front of the siege where the pressure from Aram was at its worst. The king was so aggrieved by the story of cannibalism and deceit the woman told that he tore his royal robe. The rending of one's clothes, you may remember from other Bible stories, was an outward expression of inner anguish and pain. The king felt for this woman. Her story touched him deeply.

We find in the rending of the king's clothes that the plight of all his people touched him deeply, for when he tore his robe it revealed he was wearing sackcloth underneath. Sackcloth, coarse material often made from goat hair, was the clothing of mourners and of the penitent. The discomfort of wearing this scratchy and unpleasant material close to the skin expressed the agony one felt inside one's soul.

I find much to admire in this unnamed king.

He went to the front. He put first things first and maintained focus on the problem at hand. He walked the city wall when it was being besieged. He faced the troubles of his nation head-on without denial.

He accepted responsibility. He wore his royal robe while he walked the wall. He knew he had a distinct role to play, a particular task to perform. The siege by Aram may not have been his fault but he faced it the best he could with all the power of his office. He led.

He kept his personal issues hidden. It is no fun being a leader when something in the organization one is leading is going haywire. Leaders are lightning rods. Whether they deserve it or not, leaders are susceptible to criticism. This unnamed king may have had several grievances on his mind, but he saw that his personal issues weren't to be the commanding issues of the day. He wore his sackcloth within. He did not put himself forth as the main thing.

He felt his people's sorrows and needs. He tore his robe when he heard the woman's painful story. He was not aloof. He understood and entered his nation's pain.

I am sure there are many of you who are now wearing sackcloth within. You are facing the difficulties of these days squarely and shouldering heavy responsibilities, whether at home or work or organizationally. You are keeping much of your pain private and not letting it spill into the open air. And you are feeling tenderly toward the needs of those around you, sensing their pain. God bless you for that. You are among the true leaders who will see us all through this time of difficulty.

*MEY*

## WHAT ABOUT RE-OPENING?

There are officials on some levels of government and officials in some denominations who are encouraging churches to open soon. Salem is not planning to open any time soon. Our local church leaders will exercise discretion and make a determination for us as to when the proper time to reopen will be. They will also determine the nature and extent of the re-opening when that time comes. Key to their decision making is loving care for the people of our congregation and community. We will not reconvene for public worship until it seems the faithful and loving thing to do.

## GRADUATES

### High School

Our high school graduates for this year are **Drew Adams, Henry Butzlaff, Morgan Moll, Jared Price and Anika Quade**. Look for details about how we will honor them in the Christian Education section.

### College

- **Molly Hill** graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a Fashion Marketing degree and emphasis on costume design.
- **Zach Nechvatal** graduated from UW Madison's School of Education with a degree in Rehab Psychology.
- **Isaac Worley** graduated from UW-Superior with a Sustainable Management major.
- **Noah Nechvatal** graduated back in December from Madison College with a degree in criminal justice

## VBS

Look for more information in the Christian Education section about what VBS will look like this year. There will be fun and learning for all ages centering around the theme of *Great Big Beautiful World*.

## Scripture Readings for June

Week of June 7:	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20
Week of June 14:	Genesis 18:1-15 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8
Week of June 21:	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
Week of June 28:	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Dennis Bieri
- 5: Lyle Baez, Cindy Remus, Eric Hauser
- 6: Harvey Zingg, Dick Steele, Benjamin Shubak
- 7: Jodi Moll, Kash Hageman
- 10: Michael Cashman
- 11: Hannah Worley
- 15: Karen Williams, Mark Shubak, Kailey Hodel, Kaylin Dahlk, Peter Gauthier
- 17: Dave Triplett
- 18: Charles Hustad, Blaise Westphal
- 22: Anna Putney
- 25: Doug Smith
- 26: Joanne Gauthier
- 27: Sue Thiede, Shirley Zurbuchen, Nadia Graese
- 29: Ben Hauser, Chase Runnheim

## Living Out God's Love through Christian Education

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education  
608-692-3239 or [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org)

*"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it." (1 Corinthians 3:10)*

A strong faith foundation is always important, but during these uncertain times of pandemic life, it offers an anchor all of us need. Everything is uncertain right now and many trappings and conveniences of modern life have been jeopardized and weakened. A strong, durable faith foundation is a necessity and can't be built overnight. It needs to have bricks carefully added over a long period of time. The Christian Education program at Salem is necessary in this building process and our teachers serve as guides, mentors, and partners in our classrooms and beyond.

### **Sunday School Online**

The current social distancing guidelines are keeping us apart, but we can still be together online. Please join our online gatherings to enjoy fellowship and grow in faith. Sunday school will continue online for all ages indefinitely. Please note that although we usually break from classes in the summer, we are continuing to gather via Zoom on Sunday mornings this summer. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to receive an email invitation to join one of our Zoom groups. Technical help is available as needed.

### **Summer Sundays**

PreK-Grade 5              Sundays @ 9am

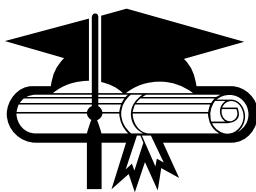
Every Sunday morning, we gather with prayer, music time, and a Bible story.

Middle/High School    *Happy Summer until September!*

This group has decided to follow our "normal" schedule take a summer break. Janet Dahl is still offering Friday Night Fun gatherings for middle school and high school youth. Please see the youth news for full details.

Adults                      Sunday @ 10am

Join Sarah Pundt via Zoom for our Sunday morning adult class. All are welcome.



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION: Drew Adams, Henry Butzlaff, Morgan Moll, Jared Price, and Anika Quade.**

**Senior Sunday... June 7, 11 A.M.**

*Plans are in progress to publicly recognize and honor Salem's five high school graduates from the Class of 2020.* The plan is for a car parade before our graduates, who will be stationed, with their families, at appropriate distances apart, around our church's parking lot. To make this as full and festive as can be WE WANT AS MANY CARS PARTICIPATING AS POSSIBLE. Cars can be decorated with signs, streamers, balloons, what-have-you. We will surround our graduates with love and praise by circling time and again around the parking lot. We will begin forming our "parade" at 10:45 A.M. on June 7.

**GRADUATION CARDS:** Let's shower our graduates with cards. You can mail your cards to the church. We will save them and present them to the grads. This can help make their otherwise "lost" opportunity a day of powerful memories and felt love.

**FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES:** *The church, by way of our Youth Ministry Team, presents each high school graduate with a Bible as a gift.* This year, as an added part of the gift, Sarah Pundt is collecting from members of the congregation a sheaf of our members' favorite Bible verses. Please add to this way of encouraging our grads by sending Sarah your favorite Bible verse including a sentence or so telling why you love this verse. Your responses can be sent to [spundt@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:spundt@salemchurchverona.org).

## **Thank you!**

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our Sunday school teachers and nursery caregivers for the 2019-2020 school year.

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>PreK-Grade 5:</b>	<b>Children's Music Ministry:</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
Brian Winterle (manager)	Ann Nelson	Kari Westphal	Sarah Pundt
Payton Corning	Nathan Bahr	Kelli Malueg	Mark Yurs
Bryce Corning	Heather Thoma		Cathy Kwilinski
Anika Quade	Sherrol Yurs		
Noah Nechvatal	Chad Malueg	<b>Middle &amp; High School</b>	
Kaden Nechvatal	Frank Westphal	Cathy Kwilinski	
Rachel Nelson	Melissa Garrison	Kathy Hauser	
Vanessa Wagner	Brian Winterle	Lisa Hart	
	Lis Pankonin		

### Vacation Bible School

## **Great Big Beautiful World**

Sunday Mornings July 12-August 9

VBS will look a little different this year but we still have exciting plans in the works! Every Sunday from July 12-August 9, we will enjoy some traditional VBS activities online and then families and congregation members will have activities to complete throughout the week. In A Great Big Beautiful World we will explore the beauty and wonder of creation together, learn to notice the ways that we impact the natural world through our choices and actions, and join in caring for all of creation.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** VBS begins with the creation story in Genesis 2 and includes Psalms, stories of Jesus, and the vision of a new heaven and new earth in Revelation. This comprehensive look at the biblical story reveals God's deep love for all of creation, including each of us. A Great Big Beautiful World invites us to see the ways God cares for the earth and challenges us to be part of caring for and preserving the created world.

<b>DATES:</b>	July 12-Aug. 9
<b>ONLINE FORMAT</b>	Children: Sundays @9am Music, Bible Story, Worship & Drama, Activities Adults: Sundays @10:15am Bible Study using the VBS curriculum
<b>AT HOME</b>	Children: Every child will receive a VBS Kit including Art/Science Supplies & Instructions, Creation Connection Workbook, Creation Care Challenge Cards, T-shirt, & music CD. Adults: Each week will feature a different Creation Care challenge.
<b>ACTIVITIES AT CHURCH</b> (all ages)	Multiple activities will be available on our church campus for families and individuals to enjoy on their own throughout the week: outdoor scavenger hunt, Psalm hike, labyrinth activities, Flat Jesus, parking spot decorating, VBS finale with outdoor movie and pizza night (all socially distanced, of course!).
<b>MISSION PROJECT</b>	Support Local Restaurants (in lieu of our traditional community meal) Weekly Creation Care Challenges

**\*\*Please contact Sarah Pundt to receive your Zoom link, VBS kit, Creation Care Challenges, and restaurant information.\*\***

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*They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"*

-Luke 24:32 (Good News Translation)

It's that time again. Time to dig out the Bible that you got from the Women's Guild in third grade. Do you remember it? Specifically, do you remember where you put it?

There is a story that we should all read as we mark the end of the school year and the start of summer. (Never mind that it snowed on Mother's Day. Memorial Day still marks the start of summer!) Although spring is a familiar transition for us, Spring 2020 has come and gone in a completely unfamiliar way: confined, distanced, masked, and shadowed by a strange combination of fear and boredom.

It's been a little like the spring that Jesus' disciples faced after they lost their teacher on Good Friday and regained him on Easter Sunday. Somehow they returned to their same old lives, yet changed forever.

In your Bible, near the end of the Gospel of Luke (Chapter 24, verses 13-35), find the story called "The Walk to Emmaus." Two of Jesus' followers are leaving Jerusalem toward the city of Emmaus. A stranger meets them on the road, and the three of them get to talking about Jesus' death and resurrection. The stranger points out all the places in Scripture that point to the coming Messiah. Finally, the three travelers reach their destination. The stranger turns to continue on the road. The two disciples are not ready to say goodbye to him. They urge him to join them for a meal, which he does. At their table he breaks a loaf of bread. Just as they realize that the stranger is actually Jesus, he disappears.

The verse at the beginning of this message comes from their discussion after Jesus departs. They recall that, even before they recognized Jesus, they could feel the power of his presence. His words set off something inside them that felt like a burning fire.

It just goes to show that we never know what will happen when we invite Jesus in. Things might get a little out of control. He might tell us something that lights a fire inside our hearts. We might go on with our same old life, yet forever changed. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we might no longer be satisfied with anything less than the burning spirit of God in our hearts.

May all of us meet Jesus on the road we are walking, and never be the same again.

Cathy Kwikinski, on behalf of the Salem Youth Ministry Team:

Janet Dahl, Cara & Nathan Bahr, and Sarah Pundt

*Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.*

-2 Corinthians 5:17 (GNT)

## Social Justice Corner

*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

--Amos 5:24

### **Shorter version:**

On June 20, 2020, join with thousands of other people of faith in a Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington, a digital gathering to advocate for the poor. Register at [June2020.org](http://June2020.org).

### **Longer version:**

In the months before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed, he was working with other civil rights leaders to organize a new kind of nonviolent protest. Sadly, he did not survive to see 3000 people march on Washington in the summer of 1968 to protest poverty. The Poor People's Campaign, as it was called, grew out of King's growing conviction that desegregation was not enough to bring a more just society. He had come to see the problems of racism, poverty, and military spending as interlocking parts of a larger system that violated people's rights and dignity.

In 2018, anti-poverty activists recognized that in fifty years, that system had not weakened. In some ways it was stronger than ever. The richest ten percent of families own nearly 75 percent of the wealth in our nation. One in five children in our country lives in poverty. On any given night, 750,000 Americans are homeless. They are disproportionately black, disabled, and veterans. This is a scandal in the traditional sense of the word: a situation that is morally wrong and causes (or should cause!) public outrage.

So these church leaders and other activists launched the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival to carry on King's vision of justice. The UCC is a part of this effort, along with many other Christian churches. The Poor People's Campaign fights for a living wage, decent housing, affordable healthcare, voting rights, workers' rights, and equality in education. The fight is more urgent than ever in this time of Covid-19. The communities most severely affected are the poor and people of color. Those that have jobs at all often lack health insurance, paid sick leave, and adequate protection in the workplace.

This month's Social Justice Corner is an invitation to join with thousands of other people of faith from all across America in a nonviolent virtual rally in solidarity with people living in poverty. This free digital gathering is open to all and is a chance to learn and be inspired to action. For more information, see [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org). Register at [June2020.org](http://June2020.org) to participate. The event will take place online at 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central Time on Saturday, June 20. Please consider being there!

## Upcoming Events

### **Youth Nites**

Friday Youth Nites will continue through the summer! To allow a Sabbath rest and encourage family time in the summer months, our gatherings will be a bit less frequent, but we will still cherish each other's company for FF&F (frequent fun and fellowship). Parents, watch your email for updates on upcoming Youth Nites.

### **Later in the summer...**

We have received a generous invitation from some Salem friends to gather (at a safe social distance) on their beautiful wooded property outside Verona. Plans are in the making to meet for a sack meal and hike. We look forward to enjoying God's beautiful creation together!

### **And after that...**

The Youth Ministry Team is already busy making plans for the 2020-21 year. We welcome more adults to serve in this ministry! If there is an adult in your life who would appreciate a chance to share their journey of faith with awesome teens, maybe you can suggest that they think about serving in this way.

# JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7PM - Youth Nite	6
7 9AM - Pre-K-5 Sunday School 10AM- Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98 11AM - Car Parade to honor high school graduates	8	9 7PM - Council	10	11 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	12	13
14 9AM - Pre-K-5 Sunday School 10AM- Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	15	16	17	18 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship 7PM - Women's Fellowship (Koinonia)	19 7PM - Youth Nite	20
21 9AM - Pre-K-5 Sunday School 10AM- Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	22 JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	23	24 7PM - Scout District Meeting	25 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	26	27
28 9AM - Pre-K-5 Sunday School 10AM- Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	29	30				

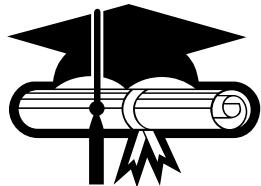
# JUNE NEWSLETTER 2020

**While the church is still not open to the public,  
the best way to receive current information is  
by visiting our facebook page and liking us or by  
visiting the website.**

 [facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC](https://www.facebook.com/VeronaSalemUCC)

 [twitter.com/salemuccverona](https://twitter.com/salemuccverona)

[www.salemchurchverona.org](http://www.salemchurchverona.org)



## Graduation Sunday

**June 7th**

Celebrate our 2020 high school  
graduates with a car parade!

### SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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#### **Music Director:**

Dawn Lingard

#### **Choir Director:**

Janet Dahl

#### **Bell Choir Director:**

Carrie Coenen

#### **Church Council President:**

Kathy Hauser

### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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