



Mark-et Place

Make Worship Part of Your Journey in 2019
And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb. Genesis 12:9

That little one sentence report from the Book of Genesis is a favorite verse of mine and it comes to mind as we begin a new year.

The sentence from Genesis appears right after God first calls Abram (eventually to be called Abraham) and Sarai (eventually to be called Sarah) to leave the place and people they have known and set off on a journey of promise, a promise declared but not yet fully revealed by God. There is nothing small about the promise, nothing puny or paltry. It will entail an incomprehensible fullness, a fullness that can be devised only by the God of love and joy.

But Abraham and Sarah did not reach this promised fullness by way of any swift or direct route. They journeyed by stages, first one leg of the journey, and then another, and then another, each leg in turn, each leg in its time, each different in its way.

The New Year is open before us. But not all of it. Not by any stretch of the imagination is the whole of 2019 within reach right now. We shall, of necessity, journey through the year by stages.

We can project what may happen in the year to come by looking at what happened in the lives of Abraham and Sarah along their way. Some stages of their journey were marked by loss. Among the losses was a farewell to their nephew, Lot, whom they seemed to have raised after the death of Lot's father who was Abraham's brother. He had grown into his own, and it came time for him to set off on his own. Though it was a long way off from the time they first set out on their journey, Abraham came to the stage of grief because Sarah came to the stage of her death. So heartbreak was part of the way.

Abraham's and Sarah's way was pitted with mistakes. Their mistakes, like most, were the result of poor decisions that seemed right at the time. But they affected the way ahead and could not be undone. They had to be dealt with.

It wasn't all toil, trouble, and turmoil. There were stages of joy; chief among them was the birth of their son Isaac. There were also times they were rescued from disaster, often not by their hand but God's.

No crystal ball is needed to see our journey through 2019 will include stages such as those traveled by our ancient spiritual ancestors Abraham and Sarah. If this year is anything like prior years, we will be journeying never soon enough along stages of happiness and all too soon along stages of heartbreak. Such is the nature of life.

If you wish to make the most of every stage that is delightful and have strength to get through every stage that is dismal, remember this about Abraham's and Sarah's journey and make it part of your own. They worshiped God at every stage. Page through Genesis and you will find them building altars, praying, and seeking to connect with God through worship. They did not always get their worship right, sadly, but God met them in their worship and helped shape their hope and strength.

Make worship a frequent – weekly, if at all possible – stage of your journey in 2019. It will remind you of the reality of God and of what the journey is for. It will not preserve you from all trouble but it will safeguard your steps and help you know that, wherever you may find yourself, you are accompanied and loved. It will sustain in you the idea that you journey under a promise, a promise that will not go unfulfilled.

MEY

Scripture Readings for January

New Years Day:	Wk of Jan 6	Wk of Jan 13:	Wk of Jan 20:	Wk of Jan 27:
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Isaiah 60:1-	Isaiah 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalms 8	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalms 29	Psalms 36:5-10	Psalms 19
Revelation 21:1-6a	Ephesians 3:1-12	Acts 8:14-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Corinthians 12:12-31a
Matthew 25:31-46	Matthew 2:1-12	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21

Special Sundays in January

January 6: Epiphany
January 13: The Sacrament of Holy Communion
January 20: The Commissioning of Church Council Members
January 27: The Second Anniversary of Salem's Open and Affirming Vote

Men's Fellowship

Salem's men's group will meet at 6:30 on the evening of January 17. Our gathering will be in the home of Harlan Hall. We will enjoy a light supper, beverages, conversation, and a brief time of shared reflection over a Bible text. This group is open to all the men who are interested in Salem. If you haven't been before, please let the church office know of your plans to attend so there can be supplies aplenty.

Women's Guild Holiday Bazaar

Thank you everyone who provided raffle prizes, sold raffle tickets, and purchased raffle tickets. We appreciate all those who provided pies, salads, baked goods and craft items for the craft/baked food tables.

A special thanks to Noah and Kaden Nechvatal for conducting the Raffle and Delivery of the prizes to winners!

We took in \$3,092.20 profit. This is about \$462.00 less than last year. Attendance was less this year due to the cold rainy weather.

We could not have accomplished all this without all the great help we had!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Salem Women's Guild

Judy Skupien, Co-President

Elisabeth Pankonin, Co-President

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of Bill Thiede who died on December 18, 2018. His memorial service was held in our sanctuary on December 29th.

Baptism

Holden Timothy Hauser was baptized in our sanctuary on December 16th. He was born on August 20, 2018 and his parents are Benjamin and Claire Hauser.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the good people (young and old) who stopped by my home to sing Christmas carols. Holding young Aayla Bahr on my lap was extra special. I have also been enjoying the delicious cookies.

-Virginia Witt

Advent Banners

Thank you to Julie Adams who created the beautiful new advent banners for our sanctuary.

Salem Book Group Selections

Jan. 28	<i>The Immortalists</i> by Chloe Benjamin
Feb. 25	<i>Love Anthony</i> by Lisa Genova
Mar. 25	<i>Before We Were Yours</i> by Lisa Wingate
Apr. 22	<i>Lilac Girls</i> by Martha Hall Kelly
May 28 (Tuesday)	<i>Love And Other Consolation Prizes</i> by Jamie Ford
June 24	<i>Waking Up White</i> by Debby Irving
July 22	<i>The Death Of Mrs Westerway</i> by Ruth Ware
Aug. 26	<i>Being Mortal</i> by Atul Gawande
Sept. 23	<i>The Library Book</i> by Susan Orlean
Oct. 28	<i>Where The Crowdads Sing</i> by Delia Owens
Nov. 26	<i>Girl In A Blue Dress</i> by Gaynor Arnold

Salem book group meets at 7pm for casual conversation and lively literary discussions. If you enjoy a good book, join the fun and fellowship. Please come even if you didn't like the book as it is good to have other perspectives



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Kris Wilbrict, Salem UCC (1923)
- 5: Angela Quade
- 6: Neal Smith
- 7: Melanie Corning
- 10: Zach Nechvatal
- 14: Linda Bieri
- 16: Sherrol Yurs, Cora Hageman
- 17: Ellie Fitzwilliams
- 19: Kenneth Behnke
- 20: Kari Westphal
- 24: Cari Bass
- 26: Dan Durnen
- 28: Anika Quade
- 30: Kathy Butzlaff

Living Out God's Love through Christian Education

Sarah Pundt, Director of Christian Education
608-692-3239 or spundt@salemchurchverona.org

Sunday school is provided for all ages every Sunday morning 9-10am from September 9, 2018-May 19, 2019. Registration materials for children and youth are available in Fellowship Hall. Nursery care is provided during the Sunday school hour for children ages 6 months-2 years and during worship for children ages 6 mos-5 years. **Transportation and childcare are available for all events upon request. Contact Sarah Pundt for more information.**

Age Group	Location
Under age 3	Nursery (Lower Level)
PreK (age 3)-grade 5	Lower Level
Middle/High School	2nd Floor Classroom
Adults	1st Floor Conference Room

Sunday school teacher planning meeting:

On Monday January 7 @ 7pm, the Sunday school teachers for preK-grade 5 will gather to plan the teaching schedule for second semester. Please bring your calendars!

Middle/High School Sunday School

Jan 6 Philippians: Attitude Check (Lisa)
Jan 13 Philippians: Finishing Well (Cathy)
Jan 20 TBA
Jan 27 TBA

Christian Education Calendar of Events

JANUARY

6	Sunday school resumes for all ages Adults: <i>Children of Giant</i>
7	Sunday school teacher planning meeting @7pm (Conference Room)
13	Sunday School (All Ages) Adults: <i>Children of Giant</i>
17	Koinonia @ 7pm
20	Sunday School (All Ages) Adults: <i>Children of Giant</i>
26	Movie Screening (<i>Giant</i>) & Discussion @ 2pm
27	Sunday School (All Ages) Adults: <i>Children of Giant</i>

Nursery

- Parents- just a reminder that our Safe Church guidelines require that the nursery is staffed with two attendants. Please do not leave your child in the nursery if only one caregiver is present. In the event that we do not have two nursery attendants, we will be unable to provide nursery care that day.
- We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our weekly nursery staffing. Adults and youth over age 13 are welcome to help after they complete Our Safe Church training. For youth ages 13-15, we require that they complete the Red Cross Babysitting course (available through the Verona Public Library).
- Please contact Sarah Pundt for more information.

BoCE

Will you join us? We currently have one opening on the Board of Christian Education. Board members serve a 3-year term and work together to support the Director of Christian Education in implementing Sunday school and educational programming for all ages. The BoCE meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you are interested or if you have questions.

Many Thanks to:

- Everyone who participated in the Christmas program. It was a beautiful celebration of Christmas joy.
- Beth Yurs for joining the Safe Church Committee.
- Mary Gust for answering the call to join the BoCE.

Adult Education Programs

Sunday School Schedule:

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 *Children of Giant*

This documentary visits Marfa, TX to explore the dramatic story behind the making of the Academy Award winning film “Giant. Social justice issues including feminism, class divisions, and the racism against Mexican-Americans in the Southwest are explored as they are portrayed in the film and in society behind the scenes of the filming. We will use the documentary to guide our discussion of these topics in the context of our history and our contemporary social justice issues.

Feb. 3 *Stories of Creation*

Feb. 10 *Glad Praises!*

Feb. 17 *Glad Praises! Growing Through Music*

Feb 24 *Stories of Creation (Living the Questions)*

Saturday Jan. 26 @2pm Movie & Discussion!

The 1956 Academy Award Winning film “Giant”, is an epic portrayal of a powerful Texas ranching family challenged by a changing society. Major subplots explore racism against Mexican-Americans along the Texas/ Mexico border, feminism, and class divisions. We will spend the afternoon watching the movie and take breaks for guided discussion. If there is interest, we will conclude the afternoon with a potluck dinner or at a local restaurant. Transportation assistance is available upon request.

**Due to the length of this movie (3 hours) and the mature themes, this event is not appropriate for younger children. Recommended age is anyone who has completed Confirmation and older. Nursery care available upon request (advanced notice required).*

Koinonia (Women’s Fellowship)

All the women of Salem are invited to gather for a time of spiritual reflection, renewal, and fellowship. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. Visitors welcome! Please contact Cari Bass (cari.bass.cb@gmail.com) or Sarah Pundt if you have topic ideas you would like to explore or if you would like to host the group. Cari or Sarah will lead the program if you are not comfortable doing that.

Next Gathering:

Jan . 17 @ 7pm Cari Bass will lead the program @ Salem UCC



GLAD PRAISES!

Growing Through Giving

*Fundraising is a very rich and beautiful activity.
It is a confident, joyful, and hope-filled expression of ministry.
In ministering to each other,
each from the riches that he or she possesses,
we work together for the full coming of God's Kingdom.*
Henri Nouwen

WHAT DOES OUR GLAD PRAISES! CAMPAIGN MEAN TO YOU?

From the perspective of the gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God's people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way (Prov. 29:18; 2 Kings 21:1-9). Vision brings together needs and resources to meet those needs (Acts 9:1-19). Vision also shows us new directions and opportunities for our mission (Acts 16:9-10). Vision gives us courage to speak when we might want to remain silent (Acts 18:9).

We have a vision that is amazing and exciting – Growing through Giving. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God had given you- your energy, your prayers, and your money - in this work to which God has called us.” Our invitation is clear and confident because we trust that our vision and mission are like “trees planted by streams of water, which yield fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither” (Ps. 1:3).

Our Congregational Gift Chairperson will begin visiting with their Team Members starting January 7, 2019 to support our Vision. Please welcome your fellow member as you discuss the **GLAD PRAISES!** 2019 Annual Stewardship program including reducing or eliminating our building loan. We hope you share our vision and catch the spirit of our challenge. Thank you for your support of Salem United Church of Christ.

*Every time we approach people for money, we must be sure that we are
inviting them into this vision of fruitfulness, and into a vision that is fruitful.*

If you have any questions, please call **George Adams**, our **Campaign Coordinator** at 608-469-4356 or email: campaign@salemchurchverona.org



Making All Things New

What's the big deal about a new year? Aren't we just turning over a new page on an calendar that somebody made up? If you think about it, there's no reason we have to have new years at all. We could just keep counting days or weeks or months in one long chain instead of starting over every twelve months from the beginning.

On the other hand, we could stop counting at all. We could throw away our calendars, our planners, and our clocks. That might feel pretty good. But even if we did, we couldn't escape from the calendars that are built into our world. Daytime, nighttime. Cold and snow, warmth and flowers, heat and sunshine, cool and falling leaves. New moon, half moon, crescent moon. Our calendars are just a reflection of God, who loves to start over.

God doesn't just start over with the natural world. God starts over with us! The Bible says,

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

These are words of hope for all of us. If 2018 was a fantastic year for you, God is saying: I'm not done yet! Even better things are in store! If 2018 wasn't so great for you, God is saying: it's over now. I am making everything new, and that includes you! If you are willing to accept the love I have to give through Jesus, then I am more than ready to make you my beautiful new creation.

Sometimes it's hard to feel the truth of this. It might seem like we're dragging around all our past hurts and regrets. But these are burdens that God doesn't want us to carry into the new year. If you're feeling the weight of grief or stress or shame, tell God in prayer, just as you might tell your most trusted friend in whole world. Prayer can do miracles in your life, setting you free from whatever ties you up in knots.

There is one more thing that we on the YMT want you all to know. We care about you more than you can imagine. We understand that you experience some pretty intense ups and downs as you journey through this season of your life. In this new year, we encourage you to share your joys and your troubles with each other and with us. That's why we're here.

May God bless you beyond your wildest dreams in this new year,

Cathy Kwilinski

~on behalf of the Youth Ministry Team~

(Cara Bahr, Nathan Bahr, Sarah Pundt, and Cathy Kwilinski)

UPCOMING YOUTH CALENDAR

Sun Jan 6	9:00 AM	Sunday School resumes
Sun Jan 6	6:30 - 8:00	Youth Gathering
Jan date TBD		January service activity
Fri Feb 1	5:00 PM	Youth Lock-In at Salem (through Saturday AM)
Feb 17		Spaghetti Dinner after Music Sunday
Feb 24	6:30 - 8:00	Youth Sunday planning

Welcomers for Sunday, January 6

Parent: Melanie Corning

Welcomers: 1. Payton Corning, 2. Bryce Corning, 3. 4.

Liturgist:

*We still need 2 welcomers and a liturgist for January. Please let a YMT member know if you are able to serve in this way. Thank you!

Joys & Concerns

We thank God with joy for:

- Owen, Kaden, Blaise, Amy, and Israel, working together to create a very moving and worshipful youth portion of Salem's Christmas Program
- Salem's future youth, supporting Heifer International with a spare change offering
- Conlin Bass, "Salem youth alumnus", who is raising awareness of mental illness at UW-Madison through the Bandana Project

We pray in faith and hope for:

- a new Director of Youth Ministry who is called by God to serve Salem's teens
- our friends who are dealing with addiction in themselves or their loved ones
- our nation, struggling to maintain ideals like freedom and tolerance in the face of political division

Social Justice Corner

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. - Genesis 1:31

God loves us humans with a fierce and endless love. Our Christian faith teaches us that. But God also loves the whole universe: the endless emptiness of space, the stars and planets, the land and water, and the plants and animals of Earth. The Bible says that God even loves bugs: "...and everything that creeps along the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:25) It's easy to see that God wants us to love each other and to love the Earth.

In this brand new year, let's renew our commitment to bless and protect the earth. Climate scientists agree that we have to make big changes right now in the way we live in order to turn around the dangerous trend of climate change, a trend we are already witnessing with more frequent hurricanes, more damaging floods, and more severe wildfires. These disasters hurt people, most of all the poor and vulnerable.

Teens today know all of this. You have grown up learning these things in school and at home. And yet, it's really, really hard to change our habits. Especially when that means doing something different from what other people are doing. In this new year, what if we make a resolution with each other to do something good for Earth?

It doesn't have to be something big and dramatic. In fact, we're more likely to stick with a new habit if it's small and do-able. If you look up "ways to save the Earth" on the internet, you will be overwhelmed by the number of sites you could visit and the number of actions you could take. I certainly was while writing this. The best thing that we can do is to choose something within our power, that we can commit to and stick with throughout the year. Here is a very small, non-threatening list of possibilities:

1. Visit www.earthhour.org. Learn about this very cool, worldwide effort. Put the date on your new 2019 calendar: March 30, 2019. You can use less energy for one hour, right?
2. Stop using plastic straws. This one is hard for me. I like straws. But they're bad for the earth, filling our landfills and taking some 200 years to break down.
3. Decide what you want to eat before you open the fridge. Guess what? This one is hard for me too. I'm pretty indecisive. But every time we stand in front of an open fridge, we're using energy that came--at least in part--from the burning of fossil fuels.

The point is, choose one thing at a time, commit to it, tell a friend or a family member about it, and stick to it until you don't have to try so hard anymore. After that: move on to the next thing. God understands if we have a hard time changing our habits. But God believes in us and wants us to love the Earth too.

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 11:30AM - Fellowship 6:30-8PM - Youth Gathering	7 Eve - Boy Scouts 6:30-7PM & 7-8:30PM - GLAD PRAISES! Steering Comm. Meeting 7PM - Sunday School Teacher Planning Meeting	8 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	9 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Confirmation 7PM - Handbells 7PM - Chancel Choir	10 6-9PM - GLAD PRAISES! Planning Meeting	11	12
13 9:00AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship Communion 11:30AM - Fellowship	14 Eve - Boy Scouts	15 6:30PM - Board of Christian Education	16 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Confirmation 7PM - Handbells 7PM - Chancel Choir	17 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship at Harlan Hall's 7:00PM - Women's Fellowship (Koinonia)	18 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	19
20 9:00AM - Sunday School 10:15AM - Worship 11:30AM - Fellowship	21 1:30PM - COP Meeting Eve - Boy Scouts	22	23 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Confirmation 7PM - Handbells 7PM - Chancel Choir	24	25	26 2PM - Movie Screening "Giant"
27 10:15AM - Worship 11:30AM - Fellowship	28 Eve - Boy Scouts	29	30 6PM - BRC 6:30PM - Confirmation 7PM - Handbells 7PM - Chancel Choir			

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

Welcomer & Fellowship Serving Schedule

If you are wondering where the schedule for January is, it has been omitted from this newsletter because the sign up sheets are currently blank. Please sign up if you are able by visiting the kiosk in fellowship hall or by contacting the church office.
Thank you!

Movie Screening

Saturday, January 26th @ 2PM
Giant

SALEM CHURCH STAFF:

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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