

# LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE

*Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation*



## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY:

### **New Year's Day:**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Psalm 8  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Matthew 25:31-46

### **Week of Jan. 3:**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:10-18

### **January 6 (Epiphany):**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### **Week of Jan. 10:**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### **Week of Jan. 17:**

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### **Week of Jan. 24:**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

## MARK-ET PLACE

*Playing Hurt at the Start of 2021*

I recently watched over the Internet Game 2 of the 1977 World Series.

The game was played in Dodger Stadium and it was between the New York Yankees and the Los Angeles Dodgers. But that is not why I watched it. I have no interest in the Dodgers, the Yankees, or Dodger Stadium. (I'll reiterate that for the sake of one of my sons-in-law: I have no interest in the Dodgers.)

The reason I watched Game 2 of the 1977 World Series is because Ed Sudol was the home plate umpire for that game. He had been a National League umpire since 1957. His first game was at third base at beautiful Wrigley Field. He retired at the end of the 1977 series, and Game 2 was his last plate game as a major league umpire.

One of the main reasons Sudol retired at the end of that season was because of the pain he suffered in his legs and hips after all those long years of crouching behind home plate to call balls and strikes. That and standing for a couple of hours at the other positions on other days – and in later years on the brutal AstroTurf – did a real number on his legs. By 1977 the pain in his hips was so strong he could hardly stand it.

Sudol was in excruciating pain all the while he worked behind the plate in Game 2 of the 1977 World Series. He said his wife was the only other person to know just how much pain he was in.

That's why I watched the game the other day. I had always liked watching him work as an umpire. I enjoyed the way he carried himself on the field. (Dale will tell you that when we go to – have I said it before? – beautiful Wrigley Field, I watch the umpires as much as I do the players – the choreography of their positioning, their mechanics, and their signaling to one another throughout the game is something to see.)

I had read not long ago about Sudol's excruciating pain during his last plate game and I wanted to watch the game to see if I could discern any signs of it.

I couldn't find any.

Ed Sudol did what seemed to me to be his usual excellent work. He had the same unique and interesting mechanic for calling strikes. He was in good position for every pitch and play. He seemed to handle with grace and patience the

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*scripture readings continued...*

**Week of Jan. 31:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

## BIBLE VERSE FOR THE YEAR

Debbie Bass hands out Bible verses during worship at the beginning of each year. Since we are unable to gather at this time, she has placed them in the box by the labyrinth. If anyone would like a Bible verse for the year, please help yourself.

inevitable jawing from the players. Billy Martin, managing the Yankees, came after him early in the game, but Sudol masterfully took charge and kept the situation from escalating out of hand. In short, he had the poise, grace, and composure I had long admired in him. He did his job well without becoming the center of attention.

And all the while, he was in excruciating pain.

Let that be a metaphor for us as we begin 2021. We are going to begin this year playing hurt. The conditions we found so frustrating in 2020 are not going to go away with the turning of a page. We are not going to start 2021 in the condition we would like to be in. We are not going to have all the opportunities we would like.

Still, we have important work to do. People will be counting on us. We will have to handle stress with poise and self-control. We will have to position ourselves to do the best we can without complaint. We will have to reach down to the core of who we are and face conditions that are adverse.

No one says this will be easy. But it can be done.

I suspect it is best done by keeping to your assigned position and going at it one inning at a time, one out at a time, one pitch at a time. You don't have to work the whole field and you don't have to work the whole game at once.

In other words, know what you are called to do and do today's bit of it, relying on the training and experience and ability that you have behind you. Others may jaw at you along the way, thinking you are getting this or that wrong; but be true first of all not to the whims of the crowd around you but to the best and highest that you know. Live with the best integrity of which you are capable, and you will have peace within and composure without.

*MEY*

## HOW TO CONNECT WITH SALEM ONLINE

**Online Worship:** All recorded worship services can be found by visiting our website and selecting "Online" under the "Worship" tab. Alternatively you can visit our YouTube channel by searching "**Salem UCC Verona WI**" within YouTube. Feel free to subscribe!

 **Facebook:** This is the best way to keep up with everything going on within the Salem community. All events and other communications are posted multiple times a week. Like us at [www.facebook.com/SalemUCCVerona](https://www.facebook.com/SalemUCCVerona)

 **Twitter:** follow us at [twitter.com/salemuccverona](https://twitter.com/salemuccverona)

**Zoom:** We have various Zoom meetings that happen throughout the month from small groups to Sunday school to church committees. If you are interested in participating at any time, please reach out to a staff member and we will be sure you get connected .

## MEN'S GOUP

Salem's Men's Group will meet over Zoom on January 14, beginning at 6:30 PM. Regular participants will automatically receive the Zoom link. If you would like to participate but do not receive the link, please request it from Mark Yurs.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS TO RESUME

Our Confirmation class is small enough that we can return to in-person meetings, though masked and distanced. Our class will start up again at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, January 6. We are going to be doing some serious work together, reading and applying to our lives the Gospel According to Mark. Please bring your Bible.

## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS



Don't throw those Christmas cards away. Recycled cards are being collected for next year's Advent project. Drop them off in the tote on the "Patio."



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Calvin Dettman
- 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
- 29: Ginger Dassow
- 30: Kathy Butzlaff

## GIFTS OF JOY JOURNAL

### Always Being Ready to Pray and Give Thanks!

Explore a visual faith practice based on gratitude and prayer, adding something that you are thankful for each day. Look for the little things, not just the big gratitudes, even on our worst day, there is always something to be thankful for. By the end of the month you have a record of the many gifts from the month and eventually for the entire year.

Join us on **Wednesday, December 30 at 7 pm**, as we assemble a 2021 Gifts of Joy Journal. Contact Janet for Supply List, Zoom link or questions [jdahl@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:jdahl@salemchurchverona.org).



## MASK PROJECT SUMMARY

Salem sponsored a successful mask-making project this fall in partnership with the Dane County Mask Maker group of volunteers. Our participation began just as other volunteers had to step away as the school year began. We washed material, cut out and assembled sets of pieces, sewed masks, and delivered materials and masks. We extend a huge thanks to those who participated: Alyssa and Andy Price, Cindy Remus, Jen and Scott Thue, JoAnn Aebly, Judy Skupien, Karen Williams, Kay Berry, Krista and Kaden Nechvatal, Kristin, Brianna and Chase Runnheim, Sherrol Yurs, Mary Cutler, Diane Triplett, Barb Smith, and Kathy Hauser. We produced nearly 300 child-sized masks, almost 200 sets of assembled sets of materials, and many more cut individual pieces to be assembled. It was gratifying to take action during this pandemic.

# 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)

The busy-ness of Christmas is over but avoid the temptation to put Christmas away with your decorations. Our Christmas work is just beginning! The shepherds in Luke 2:15-20 offer us guidance.

- Everyone can receive the word of God. Shepherds in Jesus' time were not important or powerful people. In fact, they were low in the social order. But they were listening and alert for the message of God.
- Surround yourself with a strong community. The shepherds lived and worked with a supportive community. They went together to see the baby in Bethlehem.
- Feel an urgency and excitement to experience God for yourself. The shepherds went to Bethlehem in haste.
- Share your experience of Jesus with the world. *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen* (Luke 2:20).

How can we be more like the shepherds? Everyone is welcome in our midst at Salem. Our Sunday school programs enhance our listening for God's word. Our small groups provide us a community to seek God together. Our Lenten Devotional and "Expressing our Faith" column provide avenues for sharing our testimony with others. Our Christmas work is just beginning. You have been to the manger in Bethlehem and you now have a role to play.

## Adult Sunday School: *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* Sundays @ 10am

Mr. Rogers had a gentle and simplistic style, yet he tackled extremely complex topics. As an ordained minister, he avoided expressing his faith openly on television as he wanted everyone to feel included. Instead, he lived out his faith every day in his deeds, actions, and demeanor. Join us as we look at the life and work of Fred Rogers. His lessons are for all ages and have a timeless message of love and acceptance. Our first discussion will be on Jan. 10.

## Lenten Devotional *Responding to Jesus*

Lent is fast approaching with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Once again, we will compile a Lenten devotional written by members of the Salem community using the theme Responding to Jesus as our guide. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to participate in this important and popular community project.

## CHRISTIAN ED CALENDAR

*Weekly Sunday school available online via Zoom for all ages. Current participants will automatically receive a link to join their group. If you are new and would like to join a group, please contact Sarah Pundt.*

Prek-Grade 5 @9am  
Grades 6-12 @ 9am  
Adults @10am

Important Sunday School Dates:

### JANUARY

3 No Sunday School  
10 Sunday School  
Resumes for All Ages

### FEBRUARY

7 Music Sunday  
(PreK-Grade 5)  
14 No Sunday School

*For all other Christian Education meetings and events please consult the Salem calendar at the end of the newsletter.*

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## *Expressing Our Faith*

During VBS this summer, the Sunday school groups examined some of the Psalms that celebrate creation. In response to exploring these Psalms, members were encouraged to create their own Psalm to celebrate nature or to express whatever was on their hearts at the time. Each month the Salem newsletter will feature a different Psalm by different Salem authors. If you feel moved to contribute your own expression of faith, please contact Sarah Pundt.

For this month's edition of *Expressing Our Faith*, we feature a rap poem written by Blaise Westphal. When asked what he wanted from his VBS experience as a rising 9th grader, Blaise replied that he wanted to work with the younger children. He wrote and performed this rap for the children during one of their VBS gatherings.

<i>At first there was nothing No light no sound No grass to feel Covering our ground Then all of a sudden God appeared He wanted to create So he scratched his beard On the first day God created light Now he could see things Like day and night Then the second day God wanted our sky For clouds to float And birds to fly Day number three Made earth and plants For us to walk on Like animals and ants Wait there's more Day number four Made the moon and sun This is a lot of fun! Day five comin' quick Made things that fly and Things that swim, yeah</i>	<i>That's why we praise him Day number six Animals, humans Like dogs and cats, God makes what he chooses Day number seven God is kinda sleepy Decided to rest So we could roam freely Day number seven is a special day When we worship him Because its called Sunday! God made all plants and trees But they need water like you and me He also needed farmers To care for the world They were Adam and Eve A boy and a girl He put the people In the garden of Eden Made streams for the plants For the plants to bloom. Then,</i>
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## Small Groups Online

### Parent's Promise Jan. 28 @ 7pm

This group is for parents of tweens, teens, and young adults. Join this circle of parents for online conversation and fellowship as we support each other in raising young people of faith. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! Please contact Sarah Pundt for the Zoom link to the gathering.

### Koinonia *My Octopus Teacher* Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 @7pm

During our next two gatherings, the women of Salem will watch and discuss the movie "My Octopus Teacher". We will spend the first part of our evening watching a portion of the movie and then have a guided discussion. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome. Please contact Sarah Pundt if you would like to join our next virtual gathering.

### WI Conference and National UCC Resources

If you are looking for ways to engage in the work of the church beyond the community of Salem, spend some time exploring the websites for the WI Conference UCC <https://www.wcucc.org/> and National UCC <https://www.ucc.org/>. Reading materials, webinar information, and action steps are available for a wide variety of topics.

#### **You can find information on:**

- Environmental Justice Ministries
- Economic Justice Ministries
- Racial Justice Ministries
- Disabilities and Mental Health Ministries
- Justice Peace and Action Network
- Our Faith Our Vote
- Programs and Education Resources

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The river separated into  
Four separate parts  
In Pishon, Gihon,  
Tigris, and Euphrates

He told the people they  
could eat  
Anything, like fruit, and  
wheat

Except from the tree  
In the very middle  
It had the fruit of knowledge  
And that was his riddle

There are two stories  
Jesus wants us to know  
They're both about plants  
And how they grow

One is about a mustard seed  
The mustard seed is like  
heaven  
In the Bible we read

Another story is about a  
farmer spreading seeds  
The seeds are like people  
with their wants and needs

Some hear the story  
But they don't care  
That's the seeds in the rocks  
Their water is scarce

Others hear the story  
But they're full of greed  
That's like the thorns  
And the little seed

Some hear the story  
With their heart and brain  
That's when the seeds start  
To produce their grain

God helps us  
Through the rough times  
He loves us  
Here's a rhyme

God's creation  
Is as far as you can see  
He made it for all of us  
For you and me

The world is God's great  
Gift to us  
So let's all praise him  
With our love!



**SHARE**  
your highs and lows



**READ**  
a Bible verse  
or story



**TALK**  
about how the Bible  
reading might relate to  
your highs and lows



**PRAY** for one another's  
highs and lows



**BLESS**  
one another

## FAITH 5

During the month of January, let's focus on PRAYER in our FAITH5 practice. Begin with Sharing highs and lows and read a bible verse. Then use the Prayer Cube to initiate discussion.

Here's another way to pray! Below is a "key" to help guide you through different forms of prayer. These prayer cubes are designed around experiencing God through our senses. You are invited to draw a symbol or word on each side of the cube that represents the key words. That's it! Now you're ready. Roll the cube and begin your prayer with the prompt you land on. This is a great form of prayer to do with one another or on your own! Download printable cube here: <https://www.firstpalette.com/printable/cube.html>

Take it Further: Call someone and ask what they have been praying for. Post a picture on social media and encourage others to do the same. If you pray for someone, send them a note to let them know you are thinking of them.



**Taste:** During a meal today take extra time to **taste** your food. Pray for where it came from and the hands that helped create it.



**Hear:** Spend 2 minutes in silence **listening** for God's voice.



**See:** Where did you **see** God at work today?



**Touch:** Hold a small object in your hands. Spend time **touching** it. What does it feel like? How does it remind you of the ways that God **touches** our lives.



**Smell:** When you take a step outside today what do you **smell**? Say a prayer of thanks for what you smell.



**World:** Say a prayer for the **world** and all of God's creation.

This Epiphany article is shared by Janet Dahl. Credit is given to the original source at the end.



January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called "Three Kings Day," and starts what some consider to be the Season of or after Epiphany, continuing until Ash Wednesday. In some cultures, January 6 is a large and festive end to the Christmas season; a day of presents, parades, and celebration. Epiphany is an invitation to follow stars, listen to dreams, and step out of what we have always known. The Gospel of Matthew tells us this is the day the magi ("kings") arrived in Bethlehem, directed by angels and guided by a star, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Gold symbolized Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were burned as sacred offerings and during burials. The magi go home by another road. Little else is known about them, although a robust tradition has grown around them over time, including their number (three) and their names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). This holy mystery invites us to wonder who the magi are and how their sacred story intersects with our own. Who or what is leading you to God incarnate? Which stars will you follow this year and what road will you take? What gifts will you offer?

## READ

**Matthew 2:1-12** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this he was frightened and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem; for it has been written by the prophet: *'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." They set out and ahead of them went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



## WONDER

On Epiphany, consider participating in an ancient tradition known as "Chalking the Door." This practice consists of marking a blessing in chalk in a specific pattern of letters and numbers, to invite God's blessing on a home, church, or other entryway, and on all who enter its doors during the year. All you need is chalk and a doorway. The markings are usually made above the front door or main entrance, in this pattern:

**20 + C + M + B + 21**

The numbers change each year to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this dwelling." The + signs are for the Cross of Christ. Before, during, or after the chalking of the door, the following prayer might be offered:

*O God of Stars and Journeys, we ask your blessing on this threshold. May all whose journeys lead them through these doors be blessed with health, generosity of spirit, a joyful heart, and deep peace. O God of Welcome, may all who enter this doorway rejoice to find Christ living among us, and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is the incarnate Word, now and forever. Amen.*

Seeing the symbols over our door during the year remind us, even as life goes back to a regular routine after Christmas, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. They are also reminders of the welcome the magi gave to Jesus. Who might we welcome into our hearts this coming year? With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and manifest in our words and actions.

## PRAY

O God Among Us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year. *Amen.*

Created by The Rev. Jennifer McNally, priest at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church and convener of dinner church Table 229, St. Paul, Minnesota, and The Rev. Anna V. Ostens Moore, Associate for Family Ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, and author of the picture books "Today Is a Baptism Day" and "We Gather at This Table." Please share freely!

# SALEM YOUTH NEWSLETTER

January 2021

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

*This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Este es el día que el Señor ha hecho; regocijémonos y alegrémonos en él.*

*-Psalm 118:24*

*-Salmos 118:24*

For a ridiculously long time, I have been trying to learn Spanish. It's my great love. But progress is slow. Unfortunately, covid-19 has put the kibosh on in-person classes for a while. So, when I heard recently that someone at my office organized a Spanish conversation group to meet online occasionally after work, I eagerly signed up.

About ten seconds into the conversation group, it was clear who was an excellent Spanish speaker (that would be the other nine people who showed up) and who wasn't (that would be me). We were supposed to go around the group one by one, describing a Christmas memory. With a massive effort I could sort of understand what a few people were saying. Then my turn came around.

I started off with an apology for the fact that I don't know the past tense in Spanish, so I would have to tell this story from my childhood in the present tense. In case you're curious, it was a story about how my naughty beagle used to chew up the funnels in my dad's workshop. So one Christmas my mom wrapped up new funnels and put them under the tree tagged "Sorry Dad, Merry Christmas from the Dog." I struggled and stumbled through my story in a cold sweat. Being on camera did not improve the situation. (I know you understand, my friends who have to attend school over Zoom.)

The organizer of this conversation group was a young woman named Sandra, originally from Colombia. She was very gracious and accepting of someone like me who pretty much butchered her native language. When I warned everyone that I only speak in the present tense, she responded (something like): it's OK, it's good that you are living your life in the present moment all the time.

Anyone who knows me well could tell you that is not true. I spend about 90% of my mental energy worrying about things that happened in the past (which I can't change) and things that haven't happened yet (which I can't control). Still, what a nice thing to say.

If I could live a little more like Sandra said, experiencing the present moment in all its blessedness, then maybe I could fully understand the words above from the author of Psalm 118. There is no yesterday. There is no tomorrow. There is only today, and it is good. Even when there is fear, pain, shame, grief, and disappointment, this is still the day that the Lord has made. Even the year 2020 that we are leaving behind, a year sure to be famous for how difficult it was, is a year that the Lord intended for our joy. And the New Year 2021: this, too, is a year that the Lord has made. Since we cannot change the past or control the future, let us embrace this new year. Surely God has made it for us to rejoice and be glad.

Praying that we may all see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living,

**Cathy Kwilinski, on behalf of the Salem Youth Ministry Team:  
Janet Dahl, Cara & Nathan Bahr, and Sarah Pundt**

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him.*

*-Colossians 3:17*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, Jan 10

1:00 - 1:45 PM Youth Check-In

### Sunday, Jan 24

1:00 - 1:45 PM Youth Check-In

### Sunday, Feb 14

Soup Event (time TBD)

#### Check-Ins:

It's never too late to start coming to Youth Check-Ins on Zoom! Whoever you are, whether you've been involved with Salem Youth or not, you are welcome here. Bring your questions. Bring who you are and find out who Jesus is. To receive a link to connect on Zoom, contact Janet at [jdahl@salemchurchverona.org](mailto:jdahl@salemchurchverona.org).

#### Reminder:

You should have received a survey by email with some questions about you, just for fun. Your responses will be used anonymously to create a Kahoot for our Youth Check-In on January 24th. So please reply to the survey! New to youth check-ins? This is a fun way to get to know your fellow Salem youth! Can't find your survey? -Email [cathykwilinski@hotmail.com](mailto:cathykwilinski@hotmail.com) to receive a new one.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

*I am the bread of life.*

--John 6:48

This month's Social Justice Corner is the easiest, most fun, and most rewarding action yet. Seriously. I stumbled upon this opportunity while reading my email, and I could hardly wait to share it.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is an official position elected by the UN General Assembly for a five-year term. That individual oversees an agency called UNHCR, which has a mission to protect the rights and well-being of refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers. This means they serve nearly 80 million people around the world!

UNHCR helps people who are in the middle of crisis situations you might see on the news today: like tens of thousands of innocent civilians who are caught in the middle of fighting in Tigray province in Ethiopia and are trying to flee into nearby Sudan. At the same time, they help people in places where many of us weren't even aware a crisis was going on: like tens of thousands of people forced to leave their homes in Nigeria to escape violence by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

What can we do to help?

To celebrate its 70th anniversary, UNHCR has created a cookbook filled with over 100 pages of recipes, beautiful color photographs, and inspiring stories of refugees who have settled in Canada and brought their favorite traditional foods with them. For every person who downloads the Tastes from Home cookbook (for free!) an anonymous donor has promised to give money to UNHCR. You can participate by signing up on this website: [https://act.unhcr.ca/page/71880/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=SOC20\\_UNR\\_TFH](https://act.unhcr.ca/page/71880/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=SOC20_UNR_TFH).

I have downloaded my cookbook and can't wait to make a big mess in my kitchen trying out some new international dishes. Please join me. Let me know how your new creations turn out!

*Hunger only for a taste of justice, hunger only for a world of truth, 'cause all that you have is your soul.*

-Tracy Chapman (1988)

## VOLUNTEER READERS

Youth are encouraged to **VOLUNTEER TO BE READERS** for the online worship service or provide special music/art. Email Janet to schedule a date.



FAITH5 is a tool for every household to use every night in the homes. Spend 15 minutes doing:

**SHARE** highs and lows  
**READ** the weekly Bible verse  
**TALK** about the weekly Bible verse  
**PRAY** your highs and lows  
**BLESS** each other

# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>30</b> 7PM - Gifts of Joy Journal	<b>31</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 New Year's Eve	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> No Sunday School	<b>4</b> 6PM - YMT	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Epiphany 6:30PM - Confirmation resumes	<b>7</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School Resumes 9AM - PreK-Grade 5 Sunday School 9AM - MS/HS Sunday School 10AM - Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98 1-1:45PM - Youth Check-in	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6PM - Finance 7PM - Council	<b>13</b> 6:30PM - Confirmation	<b>14</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 6:30PM - Men's Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9AM - PreK-Grade 5 Sunday School 9AM - MS/HS Sunday School 10AM - Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30PM - BoCE	<b>20</b> 6:30PM - Confirmation	<b>21</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Women's Fellowship (Koinonia)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24/31</b> 9AM - PreK-Grade 5 Sunday School 9AM - MS/HS Sunday School 10AM - Adult Sunday School 10AM - Worship on VHAT-98 1-1:45PM - Youth Check-in (Jan 24th only)	<b>25</b> FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30PM - Confirmation	<b>28</b> 6PM - Worship on VHAT-98 7PM - Parent's Promise	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



## Devotional Booklets

Devotional booklets from Our Daily Bread, The Upper Room and These Days are available in the box by the labyrinth. These are provided by the Women's Guild.

## Sunday School Classes Resume January 10th

Prek-Grade 5 @9am  
Grades 6-12 @ 9am  
Adults @10am

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### Choir Director:

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### Bell Choir Director:

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### Church Council President:

Kathy Hauser

An Open  
and Affirming  
Congregation

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*Living Out God's Love*  
**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

