



Salem

United Methodist Church
Forecaster

3 Simple Rules

These past few years has been difficult for many. We have seen many debates in regards to elections, Black Lives Matter, and Covid-19. Even within the United Methodist Church we find division on the topic of human sexuality. Some sociologists are saying that this is the most divided our nation has even been, even more so than the time the Civil War. Conversations on our social media pages have been full of discussion on these topics. I do not write today to address them specifically, or to give my opinion on the issues even though like you, I have them. However, I do believe that we can address how we dialogue about them from a Wesleyan perspective.

In his book, [Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living](#), the late Iowa Bishop Reuben P. Job uses John Wesley's three general rules to give Christians a guide for living a faithful life. Those rules from Wesley, the founder of the Wesleyan movement are simple: "1) Do no harm, 2) Do good, 3) Stay in love with God. I believe those 3 simple rules can guide us as we discern not only our beliefs around these subjects, but how we communicate those beliefs to others in face to face conversations and on social media.

Rule #1: Do No Harm. Job writes, "To do no harm means that I will be on guard so that all my actions and even my silence will not add injury to another of God's children or to any part of God's creation." In other words, doing no harm means respecting the culture and beliefs of those in whom we minister.

Rule #2: Do Good. Job writes, "My desire to do good is in response to God's

invitation to follow Jesus, and it is in my control. I can determine to extend hospitality and goodness to all I meet." Doing all the good we can means to engage others proactively in a way that nourishes goodness and strengthens community.

Rule #3: Stay in Love with God. Job writes that as we stay in love with God, we "find our moral direction, our wisdom, our courage, and our strength to live faithfully from the One who authored us, called us, sustains us, and sends us into the world as witnesses who daily practice the way of living with Jesus." What stories can you tell online to help others stay in love with God? How does social media help you stay in love with God? How can you contribute to these conversations in a face to face situation that helps others stay in love with God?

The reality is that in a Christian dialogue, no matter what side of these issues you may find yourself, we are all pouring through the same scriptures and praying to the same Lord. The authority of scripture is not what is at stake in these debates. How we interpret the bible is the difference. Be kind. Be loving. Extend grace. Use your speech to build up, and not to tear one another down (Paraphrase of Ephesians 4:29)

Be Bold, Be Strong,
Rev. Matt German



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Report

October 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Salem Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed holidays)					1	2
3 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	4 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	5 9:30 AM Prayer Room	6 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	7 1 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals	8 1 PM UMW Rachel Circle Meeting	9 8 AM Eagle Scouts Project
10 Food Bank Sunday 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional) 1:00 PM Women's Care Group	11 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	12 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting	13 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	14 9:30 AM UMW Sarah Circle Meeting 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	15	16
17 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	18 <u>Forecaster</u> <u>articles due to</u> <u>Church Office</u> 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 6:30 PM Charge Conference at Salem	19 9:30 AM Prayer Room	20 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	21 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	22	23
24 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)	25 12 PM Recreation for Seniors	26	27 10 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study	28 9:30 AM Dignity for Girls Workshop 12 PM Recreation for Seniors 3:45 PM Salem Servants Serve at Green Square Meals	29	30
31 9 AM Worship (Modern) 10 AM Fellowship Time 10:10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship (Traditional)						

Prodigal God

One of my favorite stories in all of scripture is the story of the Prodigal Son. It is found in Luke 15:11-32 but it is a stand-alone story for the ages. Many of us read it and find the story of our own salvation contained within.

The attributed title of the story, “The Prodigal Son” can be a bit misleading for us though. Remember the context in which Jesus was telling this story. He begins by saying, “There once was a man who had two sons.” Jesus is setting up an illustration here. There were two groups of people surrounding Jesus in the midst of the telling of this story. One group was filled with tax collectors/sinners, and the other group was pharisees/teachers of the law.

Tax collectors and sinners are like the younger brother in the story. They run off and live any way that they want. The Pharisees and religious leaders are more like the elder brother. They stay home...they comply...they are very good. These two sons represent these two groups of people in the parable so that Jesus can tell us something about both.

In the parable we see the two basic ways human beings try and make the world right, to make themselves right, and to relate to God. One is the way of self-discovery. The other is the way of moral conformity. The self-discovery people say, “I’m going to live as I see fit and discern what is right and wrong for me by finding my true self.” The moral conformity people say, “I am going to be good by trying hard to comply with the moral code.”

The trouble is that both types think their way is the way everyone else should live but Jesus illustrates that both are wrong, both are lost, and both are far from home.

This parable intends to teach us that there is an alternative to choosing between a life where anything goes and rigid moral compliance. Jesus offers us grace! The story is brought home in the love the father shows for both sons and an invitation to live our lives differently.

I pray that you will join us over the next 4 weeks as we examine this story. It is not very often we use the same scripture passage 4 weeks in a row, but that is exactly what we will do. We are going to study this passage in ways you never have before. In this process of discovery you might just find your way back home again too.

1. **The Beloved Parable**—October 5
2. **The Younger Son**—October 12
3. **The Elder Son**—October 19
4. **The Love of a Father**—October 26

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

Both 9 AM and 11 AM Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and salemchurch.life.

The links are www.facebook.com/salem.cr, www.salemchurch.life, and <http://youtube.com/channel/UCnWq4K2wc3F0nmk8h9y8Xjw>.

As a reminder, the worship videos continue to be available online anytime after they go live.

Come and Worship!

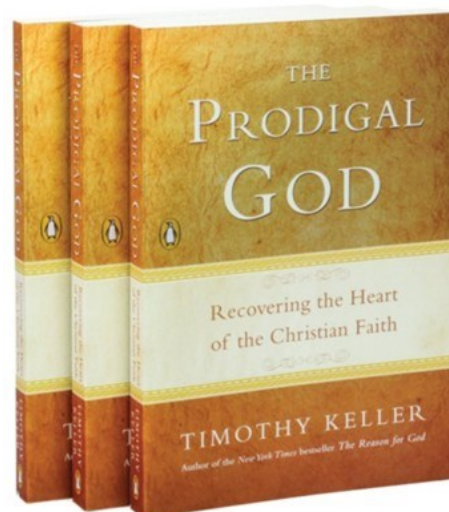
Sundays

9 AM—Modern

Online & In-person

11 AM—Traditional

Online & In-person



October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1 Sandy Adreasen
- 2 Jill Tunis
- 2 Carter Schooley
- 2 Catelyn Schooley
- 3 Raul Salazar
- 4 Connie Warnell
- 5 Roberta Carver
- 5 Dave Higdon
- 5 Cheryi Davis
- 6 Harold Wischmeyer
- 8 Kristin Jacobus
- 9 Larry Schooley
- 11 Roy Livermore
- 13 Pat Carson
- 13 Dave Fritz
- 18 Ronda Johnson
- 18 Brooks Whitaker
- 19 Christine Rand
- 20 Dolores Cross
- 20 Joni Salazar

Celebrate!

- 20 Melissa Cashen
- 22 Rick Dusil
- 26 Gary Sweet
- 26 Nan Livingston
- 27 Carolyn Jarvis
- 27 Ardie Junge
- 28 Mary Stransky
- 31 Teresa Janda

Anniversaries:

- 4 Deb & Rick Black
- 9 Sharon & Louis Busch
- 23 Cynthia & Greg Johnson
- 24 Mary & Max Stransky

Charge Conference October 18



Salem's Charge Conference, the annual meeting of the church is Monday, October 18 at 6:30 PM. Our District Superintendent, Moody Colorado, has been appointed as our Presiding Elder.

Salem normally holds a Church Conference which is an open meeting with all members having a vote. In this case, a Charge Conference includes only the Presiding Elder, the Leadership Board, the Pastor, and any retired clergy (at Salem, Rev. Dave Higdon). The biggest official decisions voted on at the Charge Conference are the congregation's mission and ministry plan for 2022 and the pastor's salary. All information will be shared fully with the congregation.

Children's Sunday School

We welcome your children to Sunday School on Sundays at 10:10 AM, for ages 3yrs old – 5th grade. As we begin Sunday School we see the wisdom of adding 2 more teachers to begin a Middle School group on Sunday mornings.

Please contact Pastor Matt at mattgerman@salemchurchcr.com or Evelyn Prasil at evelynkp47@gmail.com to volunteer.

Finance Update

Salem Finance Update as of August 31, 2021	
Operating Income (Annual Giving):	
Offering Income	\$172,791
Operating Expenses	
Expenses to date	\$193,682
Net Amount of Income over/(under) Expenses	\$(20,891)
Building Fund	
Offering Income	\$48,137
2021 Mortgage payments to date	56,829
Net Amount Income over/(under) Expenses	\$(8,692)
Building Fund Balance held in Reserve (4.75 months)	\$33,752



VANCO MOBILE

The app **Give+** is no longer available. A new giving app, **Vanco Mobile** is replacing it.

It is easy to set up and use. Simply download the free app “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement” from Google Play or the App Store.

1. Search for our church. Enter Salem United Methodist Church and click “Search”. Then be sure to select the church that matches our address. (There are several Salem United Methodist churches listed)

If you currently have an account on Give+ or on the church website, login with your email address and password. Your giving history and any pending transactions will be available for view.

If you have never set up an online account, you may do so by clicking “Sign up”. An account is not necessary to be able to give, but it does save your payment information and allows you to access your account to see pending transactions, view history, or make changes to your account.

2. Select your Fund and Amount. Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.

3. Enter your payment method. Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card, or bank account information. You may save this payment method for future donations.

4. Complete your Donation. Review and complete your gift by clicking “Submit”.

If you have any questions or have issues using the new app, please contact our church treasurer, Linda Curson at (319) 651-8029 or at financeoffice@salemchurchcr.com.

Mission Focus: Green Square Meals

Green Square Meals, at 605 2nd Ave SE, has been a long-time partner of our Salem Church. Their doors are open 5 nights a week for anyone in need of a hot meal. For several years, we have financially contributed to Green Square Meals. A couple days a month, several members of our congregation continue to assist with preparing food and feeding over a hundred meals a day to low income families and the homeless.

In 2019, they served 30,000 meals. Since the pandemic and the derecho last year, the number of homeless has increased which also has increased the daily number of meals at Green Square Meals. Let's help them during this crisis. Salem is a very caring congregation and helps those in great need in our community. If giving by text, code is GSM. Questions, contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or kenwvol@crschools.us.

Joni Salazar



Crop Hunger Walk 2021



The Crop Hunger Walk this year is **virtual** because of the continued threat of COVID. It will be Sunday, October 10. You can still walk on your own, with family, friends or a team of people. You may walk anytime anywhere. 25% of the Iowa Crop Walks stays in Iowa. The Crop Hunger Walk helps transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable poverty, hunger, displacement and disaster. If you would like to

make a donation, go to www.crophungerwalk.org. If giving by text, code is CROPWALK. Questions, contact Joni Salazar at (319) 573-3943 or kenwvol@crschools.us.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone who sent cards, called, visited, and prayed for me when I was in the hospital, and the transitional care center in August. They were all very much appreciated and it let me know how much Salem members cared. God Bless you all!

Carol Thompson



Report of the Leadership Board

9-21-2021

The monthly Board meeting opened with prayer at 5:45 PM. Those attending were Amy Schilling, Donna Sanders, Jeremy Hague, Lowell Johnson, Linda Curson, Richard Pankey, Brian Schooley, Nancy Rawson and Pastor Matt.

Stewardship - Linda Curson shared that giving for August was \$20,234.94. Expenses were \$25,332.54. Our monthly deficit was \$5,097.60, our year-to-date deficit is \$20,891. We are also down \$8,692 on the building fund. In review of expenses only our janitorial cost is higher, this is due in part by hiring a service as we have not been able to fill the janitorial position in-house.

The giving app is now Vanco Mobile, all data from the Give Plus app was transferred.

Linda completed the paperwork for a gift from Marilyn McKinley (Susan Heald's sister), the amount remains unknown at this time. These funds along with the earlier gift from the Stauffhacher Family will need to be approved at the charge conference in October. When completed we will review and plan out next steps with the funds.

Loving, Learning, and Leading – We together read an article “They’re Not Coming Back” discussing the decline of church attendance around the World. This decline began prior to the pandemic and has been accelerated by it. As much as churches miss people, people just aren’t missing back. Moving forward we need to be more innovative. We don’t just want to survive but thrive.

We are launching two new task forces to look at new small group opportunities as well as how to enhance and grow our youth program.

SPRC – We reviewed and discussed positions needed: Building Superintendent – no applicants at this time, we will expand our search for the Building Superintendent position as it is a priority.

Julia Titus applied for our AV Coordinator/Tech Specialist position. Julia has already taken a lead role in this area and the Board approved hiring her for this position. This is in addition to her current role as organist for the church. Congratulations Julia, we appreciate your dedication to Salem United Methodist Church.

Trustees – Mark Minger and Richard Pankey have replaced the parlor door.

We will have the furnaces inspected to ensure they are good for the winter.

Batteries are being checked and replaced as needed for all exits.

Reviewed options on replacing sanctuary lights, will get bids for the different options.

The outback building demolition is scheduled for October. Once completed, we will need to address the railing around the deck.

Charge Conference – October 18 at 6:30 PM.

Meeting closed with prayer at 8:45 PM.

Next Leadership Board meeting is moved up one week so we can review items prior to Charge Conference.

Leadership Meeting Tuesday October 12 at 5:30 PM.





October 2021 Forecaster

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salemchurch.life

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

**Salem’s mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
“connecting people, building community, transforming lives through Jesus”**

Salem’s Sunday Morning Schedule

		Online Worship
	www.facebook.com/salem.cr	YouTube
	www.salemchurch.life	www.salemchurchcr.com
9:00 AM	Modern Worship	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall
10:10 AM	Children’s 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.

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(closed standard holidays)