



We've been on a journey this season of Lent-a Journey of stones. I hope you have been taking advantage of the opportunity to lay your stones down each worship service. We've experienced the stones of rejection, prejudice and hard-heartedness. In the next three weeks we'll talk about the stones of acknowledgement, crying stones, and the final stone. On Easter we'll have the chance to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ-the best day of the year!

Is it truly the best day of the year for you? Will you be able to respond to the ancient greeting, "Christ is risen!" with "He is Risen Indeed!" and mean it in your heart and life? Is it possible to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and still be in the tomb of depression, grief, sorrow and pain in your own life? I believe that just as Jesus was raised from literal death, it IS possible for us to also be raised from the death of our hopes and dreams, our fears and anxieties, our doubts and worries and all else that holds us back from being victorious. Jesus said in John 14:19, "Because I live, you also will live." That means we can throw off the things that have kept us in darkness and come into the light of Jesus' new life. Easter is a time to experience new life! It will be a glorious day here at Salem and I am officially giving you permission to invite your families, friends and neighbors to come and celebrate with us! (as if you needed permission) I am hoping, no, I am expecting that many of you will bring guests to our Easter worship service this year.

Now along that line, we will be having a sunrise service this year at Camp Hawk, beginning at 6:30 A.M. That's early in the morning, I know, but we want to be there when the sun rises and be the first to say "Good morning, Lord". The short service will be followed by a breakfast at Salem, cooked by the men's group. We're praying for wonderful weather on that day. If you've never attended a sunrise service, come and be blessed with the crisp, clean air, the sounds of the birds and the hymns that celebrate our glorious, living hope-Jesus.

Another opportunity this Easter will be a children's party for children up through 5th grade, on Saturday April 23, 10:00 am -12:00 pm, here in the FLC. Feel free to bring your children and grandchildren, even if they don't attend here, and invite your friends and neighbors. We'll hear the true Easter story and decorate eggs and cookies as well as have an Easter egg hunt. We are asking for wrapped candy to fill the plastic eggs we'll be giving out. Have your child bring an Easter basket for the eggs. We'll need to know the number to plan for, so please give the office a call and let us know you're bringing your children.

There's a lot going on at Salem right now and I want you to feel invited to attend any and all of our activities. We are the church and we need each other for support, encouragement and love. Come and be blessed! Looking forward to that blessed hope.

Pastor Nancy



What is your passion in life? Where does your passion fit into your life? Have you ever considered doing important work for Jesus as a passion of yours? If so, have we got some opportunities for you! The United Methodist Church mission statement and our whole purpose for existence is defined as “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Salem’s mission statement is “Disciples making disciples for Jesus.” What are we doing to make disciples? Here are some opportunities.

The Evangelism Team. (Seek) This team of people loves to reach out to others in the name of Jesus. This is not feeding the hungry or clothing the naked, this is sharing the good news of hope in Jesus with a world that is lost and hurting. This involves going out and “compelling them to come in” as Jesus said in Luke 14:23. What would this team do? When we have first time visitors, this team would make a short visit thanking them for coming and inviting them back. This team would be involved in serving Holy Communion to our members in nursing homes and our shut-ins. This team would, along with the membership committee, seek after members who have not been active, inviting them to return, and would send cards to those who’ve not been attending regularly, making sure that all feel welcome. This would also involve planning regular activities for outreach that might include renewal/revival services and regular fellowship times. Another opportunity would be working toward making Salem a “Welcoming Congregation”. Can you see yourself working for Jesus on this team?

- **The Prayer Team.** I believe that prayer should be the under-girding of all that we do here as a church. Without an activity being “bathed in prayer” it will most assuredly fail or at least not live up to its full potential. I am asking those who believe that God hears and answers prayer to become a part of a unique prayer ministry. This team will pray together before each worship service. This team will pray over up-dated prayer concerns and will meet together to pray for specific services or issues the church faces. This team will be involved in prayer walks around the sanctuary and perimeter of the church and neighborhood and will meet weekly for regular prayer meetings. Those on this team will be able to hold things in confidence but will be unafraid to “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16. Can you see yourself working for Jesus on this team?
- **Health and Wellness Ministry.** In this age of enlightenment, it’s hard to believe that we would still be so uninformed about our own health and wellness but I believe we need to be reminded that it is God who made and gave us our bodies, and we are responsible for their upkeep. This team would provide opportunities for healthy living such as exercise - Walk the Walk, Zumba classes and walking to Jerusalem. We would have regular blood pressure checks available, offer health seminars and options for healthy eating at all our potlucks and church dinners. Part of the monthly newsletter would include ideas and tips for a healthy body and this team would attend the yearly Health Ministry retreat at Rock Springs which would enable Salem to become an official Healthy Congregation. Can you see yourself working for Jesus on this team?
- If you are interested in being on these teams, please contact me.

Pastor Nancy