



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*for those with
hearing challenges*

*6th Sunday after
the Epiphany
of Our Lord*

*February 13, 2022
9:30 AM*



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www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/SalemLutheranChurch) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ones” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the divine word and the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Salem is still requiring masks. We know that some are only comfortable coming into a place where people are masked, and we want to provide an environment where they feel safe. We will continue to re-evaluate based on Covid rates, hospital capacity, and the latest advice concerning singing protocols.

Welcome to WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS! On Wednesday we have 3 wonderful opportunities to live into our mission of Encountering God, Building Relationships, and Changing Lives. The links are all on the calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

*** First, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from now through June, we begin with a Morning Bible Study 9:30-11:00 on zoom, led by our beloved Grace Dukenski.** There is time for sharing before we launch into our study of the book of Romans, and time for prayer at the end.

*** Every Wednesday at 12:00 noon we meet on zoom for prayer.** You can pray out loud if you want, or you can simply ask others to pray for you or for the concerns on your mind or heart.

*** Every Wednesday our Evening Bible Study meets, led by Pastor Marjo, Momma J of Genesis Gospel Café in Bridgeport, and Pastor Sam of Cross of Christ in Waterbury.** We’re studying the book of Acts, which was written for a time like our own, in that the Church was not supported by the general culture of the day, and yet it somehow it managed to grow in both numbers and in power. It could very well be that the secret to the future of the Church lies in this ancient story! In preparation please read Acts 1 & 2, likely the most important story in the Bible after the Creation of All Things and the Resurrection of Jesus! **Please join us Wednesdays at 6:30 on zoom for a time to focus not only on interpretation. but application which leads to transformation. Bible Study is followed by a brief service of Holy Communion at 7:15.**

Our Southern CT Conference has been meeting on zoom to find ways of Collaborating. Salem will be joining Our Saviour’s in Fairfield for Ash Wednesday worship on March 2nd. We will likely worship with Our Saviour’s Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well. Wednesday Lenten services on zoom are being planned collaboratively by the conference and will include a virtual dinner, possibly dinner theatre, will focus on the theme, “Looking for Joy in Lent”, and will include moving personal stories. If you’d like to work with other creative Lutherans from our Conference and help plan this series, our next meeting is **Wednesday February 16th at 7:30 on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84526933496?pwd=NHICMkpSSG8vQ3VyYnlNcGt5Wk9pQT09>**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, the oldest African American Lutheran congregation in the country, invites you to celebrate Black History month by joining them for the last 2 weeks of their Black Lutheran Film Fest, with films from the ELCA Office of African Descent Ministry. **February 16 at 8:30 is “Our Black Church” featuring Bethlehem’s own story of how they are carrying out their mission by building affordable housing & on Feb 23 at 8:30 is “Black Lives Matter”.** Links are on the calendar – or you can email grothb@gmail.com for the link and more details.

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat’n’Chew, this Saturday February 19th at 11:00 am for "INVC&C" - "Black History Makers among Us!"

Gathering

GATHERING SONG Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

text as per performance below

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in Thy name,
two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them;
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God our Maker break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of Thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may Thy disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve Thee faithfully.

CCLI Song # 3393589

*Text: based on Matthew 18.2- * 1 Corinthians 12 by Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.*

*from Songs of Praise, Enlarged Edition © Oxford University Press 1931; Meter 8 7 8 7 8 7;
© Oxford University Press*

*Music: UNION SEMINARY by Harold Friedell, 1905-1938,
© 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin*

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Performance for The Marble Church, 10/05/20

by The Marble (Virtual) Choir,

Kenneth Dake, director; Nicholas Prior, producer; Sam Nesbitt, audio & video engineer;

Singers: Rachel Barg, Clark Baxtresser, Joshua Bouchard, Robbie Cowan, Ethan Crystal, Lila Duffy,

Ethan Garner, David Michael Garry, Phenisher Harris, Brian Hurst, Laura Inman, Marcus Jefferson,

Mark Johnson, Lauren-Rose King, Tesia Kwarteng, Jonathan May, Alex McCoy, Shelley Mihm,

Joan Mohre, Kathryn Papa, Max Parsons, Nicholas Prior, Martin Schreiner, Elizabeth van Os,

and Anna Willson

as found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwSRd4UEYeU&lc=UgzrwuMQ-hC9pJOTDA14AaABAg> [3:28]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of God who commands our love,
in the name of Jesus who challenges us to love neighbors who are not like us,
and in the name of the Spirit who empowers us to bring justice to an unjust world.

It is so good to be here!

Thank you for joining us today! Thank you, those of you who are here in person with us!
And thank you, those of you out there in cyber space, wherever – and whenever! – you are!

For those of you who don't know me,
I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT,

To find out more about our ministry or to contact us,
you can go to our website SalemBridgeport.org, to our Facebook page, SalemBridgeport,
and to our YouTube channel, Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT.

Links to our donate page and worship bulletin –
which has both the order of worship and announcements – as well as other resources
are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live.

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which is held the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays through June
and at which we're looking at St. Paul's letter to the church at Rome. .

Second, **at noon** we meet on zoom for **Prayer Gathering**.

Third, from **6:30-7:15** is our **Evening Bible Study** on zoom
at which we're looking at the Book of Acts – currently on chapter 2.

At **7:15** we close Bible Study with a brief service of **Holy Communion**.

At **7:30** we have our **Conference meeting** on zoom to plan a collaborative online Lenten series.

And at **8:30** Bethlehem Lutheran, New Orleans,
the oldest African American Lutheran congregation in the country,
invites us to the third week in their **Black Lutheran Film Fest – “Our Black Church”**
which features their own congregation carrying out its mission by building affordable housing.

Links to all our events are on the Calendar on our website at SalemBridgeport.org
under the Resources Tab.

And finally, you're invited to join Jeanette Harris & Genesis Gospel Café at the next
Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday February 19th at 11:00 am
for "INVC&C" - "Black History Makers among Us!"

Any other announcements?

Then, as we begin our worship, will you pray with me?

God of power and justice,

we come to encounter you, to worship you and to give you thanks!

We come to hear and be challenged by your word.

We come to have our minds changed, our hearts opened, and our spirits transformed.

Touch us and heal us so that we leave this place this morning different from when we arrived.

Grow our trust in you, our love for one another, and our understanding of those different from us.

When we are going in the wrong direction, stop us, & turn us around, as we submit our wills to yours.

We pray these things in the Name of Jesus and by the Power of the Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG

Let Justice Roll Like a River

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 85)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

Please join in on the refrain; if you know the verses, please join in on them also!

Refrain:

Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away.
Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us;
come now, and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.

- 1 "Take from me your holy feasts, all your offerings and your music.
Let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an ever-flowing stream."
(Refrain)
- 2 How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,
the day we beat our swords into plows, when your peace reigns over the earth?
(Refrain)
- 3 Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of power and riches:
the Lord will turn your laughter to tears, on the wondrous Day of our God.
(Refrain)
- 4 "Even now, return to me, let your hearts be broken and humble,
for I am gracious, gen'rous and kind." Come and seek the mercies of God.
(Refrain)
- 5 You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace:
to act justly, to love gently, to walk humbly with God.
(Refrain)

*Text: based on Joel 2:12, Amos 5:21-24, 8:4, Micah 4:3, 6:8, by Marty Haugen;
Meter Irregular*

Music: LET JUSTICE ROLL, by Marty Haugen

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Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse — who can understand it?
I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ — whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 6:17-26 *You may stand if you wish.*

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Humanity.
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

SERMON

Please be seated.

You may stand if you so desire.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**based on Luther's catechism
and our baptismal promises**

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that all that we are and all that we have
comes from God as pure undeserved gift,
and that therefore it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey God.**

**We believe that it is Jesus Christ
who taught us how to live by faith, even to suffering death on the cross,
in order that we might belong to him and live and serve in his kingdom now
and throughout eternity.**

**We believe that we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ,
but the Holy Spirit, who draws us to seek God, is poured out upon all who ask.**

**We believe that the purpose of the Church is to evidence the gifts and fruits of the Spirit,
empowering us to worship in Spirit and in Truth,
to witness to the power and grace of God in our own lives,
to love those outside our own circles,
and to work for justice and peace in all the world. Amen**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

As members and friends of Salem Church, let us remind ourselves why we are here:

**We are a community of Christian disciples called by the Holy Spirit.
In response to God's transforming love, we share our joy through praise and service.**

May it be so!

Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance;
so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

So they can be heard online, these petitions will be offered by the leaders at the microphones.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you.

Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name
and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear.

Through your church speak continued blessing into the world.

We pray for our mission partners,

especially today for Kids Empowered with Your Support, and the New Paradigm Theatre,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Ann Martin, Bill Winter, Carol Lansing, and Kerry Schulz.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water.

Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction.

Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility.

Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet.

Sustain truth-tellers & social movements that challenge society to become more honest & just.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation.

Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty.

Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution.

Grant peace to all who suffer, especially Barbara, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Steve, Sue,
and all we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission.

As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing,

inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers.

Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection.

We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are invited to offer your own prayer petition at this time, either silently or aloud.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God,

we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you said, “Give and it will be given to you...
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**Give us the confidence to cheerfully give
our tithes and offerings of time, talent and treasure to your work in this place,
trusting that you will provide abundantly for all our needs.
We pray this in the power of your Spirit. Amen**

OFFERING INVITATION

Please be seated.

In response to God’s grace,
it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.
We are grateful for your generosity,
-which not only is an exercise of and witness to your faith,
but which funds our ministry together here at Salem.

If you are a member of another congregation,
we encourage you to give to your home congregation first,
but invite you to contribute to our ministry also
so that we can continue to take our worship online
as a witness to the power and love of the amazing God we serve.
Simply go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click “donate”
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Blest Are They

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 764, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 728)*

As long as everyone is masked, you may sing softly.

- 1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the Kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.**

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God!**

- 2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.**
(Refrain)

- 3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!**
(Refrain)

- 4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they, who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.**
(Refrain)

- 5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad; yours is the Kingdom; shine for all to see.**
(Refrain)

Text: based on Matthew 5:3-12 by David Haas, b. 1957; Meter Irregular

Music: BLEST ARE THEY by David Haas, b.1957;

Vocal arr. by David Haas, b.1957, Michael Joncas, b.1951, © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.)

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Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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for "INVC&C" - "Black History Makers among Us!"]

THANK YOU and BLESSING

Before we end the live-streamed portion of our worship,

I want to especially thank those of you out there in cyberspace who have worshipped with us. I hope you will join us again.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to talk or pray together, you can reach me through our website or Facebook.

As we say good-bye to our online worshippers, let me offer all who are worshipping with us this blessing based on today's reading from Psalm 1:

Meditate on God's Word day and night!

And you will be like trees planted in streams of water.

You will bear fruit, your leaves will not wither, and everything you do shall prosper! Amen

Here ends our Facebook live stream.

Meal & Dismissal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, & calls us by name. **Amen**
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us
and reflect your love for all creation. Amen

Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Please be seated.

God be with you!
Open your hearts!
Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!
We open them to God and one another!
It is right to give God thanks & praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*During communion, you may take your communion elements during worship
or hold on to your kit until you get home.
If you take the elements inside the church,
open the kit over the pew to prevent spilling on the carpet.
After the service, please dispose of your own kit
either in a waste receptacle at church or at home.*

The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in divine grace!
Amen!

CLOSING SONG

Canticle of the Turning

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
Worship & Praise # 26 and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 723)*

As long as you are masked, you may sing softly.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

*Text: based on the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55, and also Revelation 21:4,
by Rory Cooney, b. 1952; Meter Irregular*

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace

Live lives filled with praise and gratitude, delighting in the God who loves you!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

**Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

**Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938; Meter PM

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

Performance by Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, NY

as found at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGaEV_ir3KQ

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday February 27th (time and space at Salem to be decided) for CABARET NIGHT, a Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Event back by popular demand! Come, share your talents – a song, a story, a poem, a dance, a piece of art, a group activity – as we celebrate how we are all made in the image of an abundantly imaginative and creative God!

God is SO good that we cannot help but give thanks with a grateful heart! At last week's congregational meeting we heard in the report of the Treasurer that your giving has remained consistently strong over these past 2 years despite the pandemic. **THANK YOU!** We also heard that we made so much money in the stock market that it more than covered our budgeted deficit! **PLUS!** we received \$40,000 in grants from the federal government! But the vitally important thing to note is that **ALL of these gifts are from God** who gave this year through you, through our investments, and through our government. It doesn't matter if someday the stock market loses money. It doesn't matter if we never get money from the government again. Why? Because if God desires to bless us financially, God can and will find a way to do it. Our trust is not in each other, nor in banks, nor in governments. Our trust is in the God of all power and love who will give us all the resources we need to do whatever it is God calls us to do. So pray that God make our mission known to us and give us the courage to do it. And then the rest is easy: Don't worry! **BE THANKFUL!**

Invitation from Joe Bales - As I'm sure you'll remember, the Salem Food Pantry ended in early 2020 with the onset of the Covid 10 pandemic. It was a very disappointing period for Salem and personally for me as we had created a great community outreach program. While our pantry has been silent a small contingent of Food Pantry volunteers have continued to be involved in meeting the needs of the hunger challenged. Today seven men meet weekly at the Brooklawn Deli for fellowship — followed by picking up food from the Bridgeport Food Bank with delivery to the PTBarnum Food Pantry. The group consists of Dr. Peter Mitchell, Fred Schaefer, Bert Andren, Ray Anderson, Tom Larson, Charlie Beaver and myself. **YOU** are welcome to join us and as in the past we welcome your support through monetary contributions. Your donation should be directed to Feed The People Food Pantry, c/o Roberta Marson, 240 Hanson Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605. Contact Joe Bales at 203-434-6308 for additional information.

Let's stay connected! Pastor Marjo and Salem's Office Manager, Karl, work primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely. If we can help in any way, please know that you can call Salem's church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**

**In our continuing quest to fight back against the power and fear of racism,
especially in those who say they are followers of Christ,
we present these opportunities of performance and dialogue
at Fairfield University's Regina A. Quick Center:**

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences
"Race, Liberty & Justice: Diverging Perspectives with Eyes on the Prize"
by Michael Eric Dyson, PhD & John H. McWhorter, PhD

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – 7:30pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum and The Common Ground Series presented by the College of Arts & Sciences
The Annual Student Forum: **"Democracy: Choices and Challenges"**
by David Brooks

Thursday, April 28, 2022 8pm (\$30, \$15 Member)

Open VISIONS Forum
"Caste: Examining Race, Culture, & Consequences"
by Isabel Wilkerson

*Pastor Marjo Anderson and Jeanette Harris
will host a discussion of this presentation and of the book in general
on Sunday May 1st at 4:00 on zoom at this link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89975646418?pwd=ZG5nSVVmR3NVTXc5dTAWbWtqTWdrZz09>
or go to SalemBridgeport.org/Resources/Calendar and click on the event for more information

Tickets and additional information is available at: <http://www.quickcenter.com>

UniteCT - Emergency Rental Assistance for Connecticut's Economy - The UniteCT **Program** is administered by the Department of Housing on behalf of the US Treasury. UniteCT provides up to \$15,000 rental and electricity payment assistance on behalf of Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. UniteCT is stabilizing CT's rental housing market by financially supporting those households up to 80% of HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) - Select [here](#) for an interactive AMI map. Tenants and landlords use the UniteCT Rent Relief software to submit their own sections of the application creating a unique case file for decision making evaluation. UniteCT will provide continued rental and electric utility assistance to eligible households until all funding has been committed. There is no current end date of the program.

For more info, go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT> You must first register to get an email invitation to start your application. Paper applications will not be accepted. Do you qualify for UniteCT funding? If you need to share your eligibility status with a new landlord or court, check your eligibility by taking this survey at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT---Survey> and print the results for your records.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs Monday, February 14, 2022

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 Friday, February 18, 2022

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

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