



Salem Lutheran Church

shalom - salaam - salem - peace

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

Participant

*Tranfiguration
of Our Lord*

*February 27, 2022
9:30 AM*



The Reverend Marjo Anderson, Pastor

marjoanderson@aol.com

203-982-3441 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager

salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz, Sextons

jen92979@optimum.net

203-455-7583

3160 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Telephone: 203-336-3300;

www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

[YouTube](#) – Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport CT

Welcome

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that we, too, will experience God's presence and see God's glory in miracles and signs, in witness and service, in word and supper, and in all who are being "transformed into the same image" by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 what happens with the pandemic and what the latest advice is concerning singing protocols.

Grab you family and friends and return to Salem's Fellowship Hall TONIGHT from 6:00-7:30 for our Sunday Night Alive Inter-Church Cabaret Night. Come, share a song, poem, skit, dance, piece of art, or just come and enjoy the gifts of God's people – and some refreshments – as we build relationships across all human divisions!

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 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. The more we talk with God and the more we listen to God, the more God is able to work through us. And the more we pray TOGETHER the more the power of prayer is multiplied.

*** This Wednesday evening we gather for Ash Wednesday worship in-person at Our Saviour's, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield, at 7:30 pm.**

Come with us on an exciting 40-day journey through Lent to Easter!

*** On the 5 Wednesdays during Lent – March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 – we'll gather ONLINE with other congregations from our conference for a Virtual Dinner Theatre Worship experience.** The theme is "Looking for Joy in Lent". Stay tuned for details!

*** We encourage everyone to spend the 6 weeks of Lent reading** what we have been studying in our Bible Study these last 2 months – **Acts chapters 1 & 2.** As you read this story reflect on what God is saying to YOU through this story and listen to how it applies to your life and then pay attention to how God works to transform you through this story.

*** On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, April 14-15, we'll gather for in-person worship with Our Saviour's in Fairfield.**

Gathering

GATHERING SONG

Beautiful Savior

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 838)*

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

*Text: based on Psalm 45:2, Ephesians 1:3-10, Hebrews 1:3-4,
from Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904; Meter 5 5 7 5 5 8*

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Text and Music are in the Public Domain.

*Performance # 1 by the Virtual Choir & Orchestra of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
directed, mixed & produced by David E. Chávez, Music & Worship Minister
with background video clips courtesy StoryBlocks.com*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoMSAHocTlc> [4:00]

*Performance # 2 is a 1941 recording of F. Melius Christiansen conducting the St. Olaf Choir
in his own arrangement of "Beautiful Savior"*

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xxNW67UReQ> [4:03]

Performance # 3 by St. Olaf Choir (Virtual), 05/29/20

Please enjoy this virtual performance, featuring members of the 2019-2020 choir.

© 2020 St. Olaf College. All Rights Reserved. ©MorningStar Music Publishers

Website: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/choir/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stolafchoir/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stolafmusic/>

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndUv80ALGps> [3:25]

Please note that here we go live on Facebook.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 651, This Far by Faith # 64, Worship & Praise # 123,
and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 671)*

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

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
shine on me, shine on me.**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

*Text: based on Isaiah 60:1-11, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36,
2 Corinthians 3:12-18, by Graham Kendrick, b. 1950; Meter 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain*

Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE by Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music

*(admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP
Reprinted / Streamed with permission under CCLI # 2791081*

Word

Please be seated.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT TORAH: Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 99

Yahweh reigns – let the people tremble!

Yahweh is enthroned upon the cherubim – let the earth shake!

Yahweh is even higher than Zion and exalted above all the nations;

Let us praise your Name, Great and Awesome One!

O God, Holy and Mighty, You have established equity;

O God, Lover of Justice, You have executed justice and righteousness in Israel!

You have done this! So we exalt You!

We worship at your footstool! For You are holy!

Miriam, Moses and Aaron were among your leaders,

and Samuel among those who called upon your name!

Yahweh, they called upon you,

and you answered them!

You spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept Your testimonies and the decree that You gave them.

Yahweh God, You answered them indeed;

You punished them for their evil deeds, yet You forgave them and restored them to You.

Proclaim the greatness of Yahweh and worship upon God's holy hill;

for Yahweh our God is the Holy One.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 9:28-43a

You may stand if you wish

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his exodus, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not". Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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.

Transform us by your greatness, O God.
Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people.
Make us agents of change,
confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil.
We pray for our mission partners, especially today for the Council of Churches'
Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, and its ecumenical and interfaith Bridge Building program,
and for Salem members and families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:
Bonnie Baronavski.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The mountains and valleys sing your praise.
Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape:
bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers,
flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You love justice and establish equity.
Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns.
Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience.
Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Heal those who are in distress, especially Barbara, Dolores, Frank, Grace, Jonathan, Steve, Sue,
and all we name in our hearts.
Give patience to those waiting for answers.
Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment.
Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the wilderness of Lent.
Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season:
pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him.
Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart.
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.

OFFERTORYSONG

Come to the Mountain

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship book,
Worship & Praise # 32)*

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

**Jesus took Peter, James, and John
up to the mountain to be alone.
While they were watching Jesus was changed;
and they saw Moses face to face.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**"This is my Son!" said a voice from the cloud.
"Listen to him...and do what he says!"
Soon as it came...that vision was gone,
and they saw Jesus standing alone.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

**We will be changed like Jesus our Lord,
and live with him...in heaven above.
But while we live on this earthly home,
our work as servants never is done.**

**Come to the mountain to see the light.
Come to the mountain to hear God's word.
Go to the valley, it is your home.
Go to the valley to serve the Lord.**

*Text: based on Matthew 17.1-8, Mark 9.2-8, Luke 9.28-36, 1 Corinthians 15.51-52,
by Scott Tunseth, Meter Irregular*

Music: MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, by Kathy Donlan Tunseth

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

Sending

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Representative:

Jen Reyes and Pablo Cruz are leaving our employ and we wish to bid them farewell.

In gracious mercy, God sent you to minister to us, among us, and on behalf of us.

When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to receive you as partners with us in ministry.

Here at Salem you have used your God-given talents to work tirelessly at this place.

As part of God's loving purpose for you, you have been both servants to others and witnesses to God's faithfulness and love.

We hope that God has blessed you in this fellowship in some measure, for God has certainly blessed us through you.

We trust that God will continue to lead and guide you along new paths to fulfill all that God intends for you.

Pastor:

Let us pray. *(a brief silence)*

God of boundless power and endless love,

we thank you for Jen and Pablo and for our life together in this congregation and community.

As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

When Jacob left his father-in-law's house, Laban asked God to keep watch over them both.

As you leave our home here at Salem, I pronounce that same Mizpah blessing over you:

May God watch between us when we are absent one from the other.

In loving thanks for the gifts you have offered and the gifts that you are,

we present you with a gift of two pieces of wood

to remind you that, though broken and divided, in Christ we are united,

held together forever by the power of God's love.

The vertical piece reminds us of the powerful, saving relationship

we have with God through our Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,

and the horizontal piece reminds us of our relationship with each other and with all of creation.

As you leave Salem's employ we hope

that we may be always in your thoughts and prayers, as you will remain in ours

and that this cross will remind you

of all the gifts you have shared with us and the gifts you have been to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, THANK YOU and BLESSING *Please be seated.*

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 We Are Marching in the Light / Siyahamba

*(as found in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's worship books,
With One Voice # 650, This Far by Faith # 63
Worship & Praise # 148, and Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 866)*

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

SOUTH AFRICAN

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba (hamba, siyahamba, hamba). Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba (hamba, siyahamba, hamba). Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**

ENGLISH

**We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (marching, we are marching, marching).
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching (marching, we are marching, marching).
We are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

**We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .**

*Text: based on Isaiah 49:1-6, 60:1-11, Revelation 21:22-26 South African traditional;
Meter Irregular*

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Arrangement: Freedom Is Coming

Text & Tune are in the Public Domain.

Translation © 1984 "Freedom Is Coming", Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp;

Reprinted / Streamed with permission under OneLicense # A-727372

DISMISSAL

Go in peace

Bask in the Light of the Lord that you may shine with the Light of Christ!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The Anthem

Hallelujah! You have won the victory!

Hallelujah! You have won it all for me!

'Cause death could not hold You down – You are the risen King!

Seated in majesty, You are the risen King!

CCLI Song # 5066041

Henry Seeley | Joth Hunt | Liz Webber

© 2007 Planetshakers Ministries Int. Inc. (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 11092038

Performance by nikkytlyricsworship,

Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International Ministry of Worship –

Lyrics from their 2013 album - One Sound, 10/18/13

as found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7x6PEmTNCw8> [8:30?]

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

March 1

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest.

He was known for devoted care of his parishioners,

as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life".

He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

March 2

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor.

Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England.

Charles was also a prolific hymn writer.

After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

CREDITS

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS005794.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989,

Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Announcements

Please join Jeanette Harris and Genesis Gospel Café at the next Inner-View Chat'n'Chew, Saturday March 19th at 11:00 am. Details to come.

After Easter we will return to our Wednesday Bible Study from 6:30-7:15, followed by Holy Communion, 7:15-7:30 – and we'll begin by reflecting on how God has been using Acts 1-2 to transform our lives during Lent!

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.