

Announcements from Salem, Bridgeport

21 May 2023

Please remember in your prayers this week the following Salem members and friends:

Ann, Barbro, Barry, Boni, Cliffy, Dave, Dave, David, Dennis, Diane, Diane, Dick, Dolores, Dorothy, the family and friends of Isabelle, Jacob, Janice, Jeff, Jim, Joe, Joey, John, Linda, Liz, Karen, Pastor Kari, Katherine, Marija, Natalie, Natasha, Natasha, Pastor Paul, Paula, Pastor Ruth, Sara, Sara Jean, Steve, Tyler, and VL

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study has resumed and the time is now 7:00 as we study of 1 Corinthians 1-4. The study is inspired by the book, Basic Christian Leadership: Biblical Models of Church, Gospel and Ministry by John Stott. As you know, Paul wrote to congregations who were facing challenges, and so we will be listening to how God is speaking to congregations today through Paul's words. This week we'll continue looking at 1 Corinthians 2. ***This study already includes people from 5 congregations, so if you are interested in the future of the church, please join us!***

Thank you to all who participated in Salem's monthly Food Collection yesterday for Sterling House Food Pantry at Stop & Shop on East Main St in Stratford, and to Bruce Tomasko for supervising the event. Our next Food Collection will be held on Saturday June 17 for Operation Hope at Stop & Shop on Kings Hwy Cutoff in Fairfield. The Monday morning team that helps at Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry will help deliver the collections on the following Mondays. See Richard Lansing or Bruce Tomasko to sign up!

Worship Locations for April, May and June - We are a congregation that gathers to worship God and receive God's word. We are a congregation that loves God and are sent to witness to and serve God's people. Where we gather together is not as important as that we do gather together to worship, learn, witness, and serve. We normally worship as Salem in the Ephraim French SDA Church building at 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, CT. Please mark your calendar for the location & times of our worship services through June. There will be no service at 3160 Park Avenue on Sundays when our congregation will be worshipping with other congregations.

May 28 9:30 at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport

June 4 9:30 at Grace Lutheran Church, 150 Chapel Street, Stratford

June 11 9:30 at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport (Adult forum with Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop)

June 18 9:30 at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport (Semi-annual meeting)

June 25 9:30 at 3160 Park Ave, Bridgeport

Thank you to those of you who have supported the diaper and wipe drive! As with our bottle drive (which raised over the \$624 needed to purchase 4032 bottles of water for Bridgeport schools without safe drinking water), the power of God working through your generosity put us over the top! Salem members raised \$1200 plus \$70 from Grace Lutheran and \$250 from Thrivent toward the purchase of 44 boxes of diapers (about 3400 diapers) and 80 packages of wipes (5120 wipes) for delivery to nOURish Bridgeport. A further \$180 was raised and given to nOURish Bridgeport. Salem also encouraged participation in the diaper drive by Grace Lutheran (1 package diapers), Holy Trinity (9 packages diapers and 7 packages wipes) and Our Saviour's (14 packages diapers and 11 packages wipes)

Thank you to those who participated in Church World Service's 49th Annual CROP Walk in Bridgeport. We thank both our walkers and those who donated to the cause. **NEXT YEAR IS THE 50th WALK, SO LET'S ALL GET READY TO WALK, WITNESS, & WILLINGLY GIVE!**

Thank you to all who worked on the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport's Spring Fling (especially Bonnie McWain and Sandra Brown!) and to all who supported it with your ticket purchases and donations. This is the Council's main fundraiser and allows its important work to continue and to grow, so we are most grateful for your support!

Thank you for your contributions to Salem's Food Assistance Fund! While we may not have our own food pantry anymore, some of our members and others are still in need of food and Pastor Marjo distributes \$25 stop & shop cards as needed, requested and as available. We encourage you to donate to Salem's food assistance fund. You can give using the envelopes found in your quarterly envelope packet or you can put a check in the donation box at Salem marked "food assistance." In addition, you may send a check to the office or drop it in church mailbox or give it or cash to Pastor Marjo.

If you'd like to do more than feed people, you can also contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help members who have other financial needs.

nOURish BRIDGEPORT's Hydroponic Farm is now open to the public. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come and purchase leafy greens and herbs at 1895 Stratford Avenue, Stratford CT.

The JOURNEY continues! How did your Lenten disciplines go? How has your Easter discipline gone? Maybe you've done well, maybe you've done so-so, and maybe you've failed miserably – or maybe your results have been mixed. Whatever your success or failure, remember that the purpose is to establish NEW healthier habits of body, mind, heart and soul. And that's an ongoing task. If you've done well, continue! If you haven't, well, you've got all of June to try again! And so, you can still...

1. Get your annual "spiritual" – just the way you get your annual physical.

Call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 to arrange a time to discuss how you are, and let her know how she can pray for you.

Or if you prefer to use email to set something up, send your email to salemsec123@sbcglobal.net.

2. Call in to our prayer line at 681-999-0232, using access code 673980#, at noon Mon-Fri for a brief time of prayer.

You can remain silent and anonymous, ask for particular prayers, or offer your own prayers.

3. Begin an Easter fast or establish a new healthier habit.

4. Commit yourself to some new work of charity and one new work of justice.

If you're not sure what to do, Pastor Marjo can offer suggestions.

Let's stay connected! Much of Pastor Marjo's and Salem's Office Manager, Karl's work can be done from their homes, but generally Karl is here on Thursdays to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely, and Pastor Marjo is happy to meet with you in-person here should you so desire. 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 or send an email to SalemSec123@sbcglobal.net. **Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 or email her at marjoanderson@aol.com. She would be MORE THAN HAPPY to hear from you!**