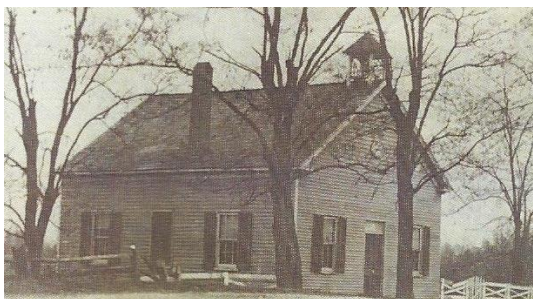


Salem United Methodist Church

October 2018 Newsletter

«184 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM United Methodist Church 2018



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

An Important Message from the Salem Leadership Team

On Sunday, September 23 Robert Morell on behalf of the Salem Leadership Team gave this message.

Fellow Salem Parishioners,

Charge conference is coming at the end of next month, and as we, Salem's leadership team, prepare the documents for that important meeting, we feel compelled to make you aware of what we see.

At the Charge Conference Reverend Sue, as she always does, will do an outstanding job of conveying to the Conference representatives the spirit that she sees animating this congregation. But along with her narrative report will be pages of numbers and bookkeeping that summarize our budget. And at the end of those reports is a bottom-line, revealing a shortfall that cannot escape notice.

We are bringing this to you because we know you care deeply for this church. You would not be here if you did not. Many of you know that we are struggling at the moment, but we think it likely you are not aware of the severity of the situation. We would be failing you if we did not explain to you the full import of our situation before we presented it to the conference.

We have made commitments that we cannot keep to people that we care deeply about. Our budget is painfully simple: 75% of our expenditures are salary and the overwhelming majority of the remaining budget are utilities and other payments that we cannot avoid. They must be paid. So when we fall short, it is no longer a matter of putting off discretionary purchases. We must pay our utility bills; but will we be

able to pay our salaries? At the present rate we will fall short of our obligations by nearly \$16,000.

As a matter of principle, we cannot make commitments that we cannot keep. But it is also a matter of cold fact. There are funds that we cannot legally access to make up this budget shortfall. What little cushion we had in the past in the funds that we can draw on is essentially gone. We feel it is likely that when our Conference report is read, we will be told that changes must be made.

Obviously, one reason for our budget shortfall is our diminishing congregation. But it is more than that. Perhaps we are feeling disconnected, or disheartened. If so, we need to talk about that, and find ways of encouraging each other. We need to express our fears, and find hope.

Here is an offering of hope: It's true we are a small church, but we have always been a small church. And this has always been the "little church that can." The commitment to service that is displayed in so many ways at Salem is inspiring. It is one of the reasons we belong here. As Salem's mission states, our purpose is to grow in our faith in Christ and share God's love to all. With Adult Bible Study, Disciple Bible Study, Covenant Discipleship and Prayer Group we provide opportunities for people to grow in their faith. Many of you have participated in ASP and last week we heard from the two teams that went this year. It is amazing how many people have been shown the love of Christ through this ministry, and how many participants have grown in Faith -- and how many youth have just plain grown, in character, in confidence, in commitment.

Many of you attended the Ghost Tales event that Kim and Myron organized, and know how well-received that was. The room was full to capacity and everyone enjoyed the evening. We thought: Wouldn't it be great to have events like that every month, and build a reputation for Salem as a place that hosts interesting and eclectic events? To give it some coherent structure, we decided to call these events "Something is Happening at Salem," and we have several planned. The first one, as you've seen from the banner outside, is an invited speaker who will explain some of the changes in the tax law, especially as it relates to charitable donations. After that we will host a Pumpkin Carving Party, where we will invite any and all to bring their own pumpkins and we'll help carve or paint their Jack O' Lanterns for Halloween. We'll have games and light refreshments. It looks like a girl scout troop will be helping us with the sloppy work of scooping out the pumpkin guts and helping younger kids with the carving and painting. If you can help in setting up or cleaning up for either of these events that would be great. But you can also help just by attending, and inviting others to attend. We'll print up flyers – please distribute them. Take ten and pass them out to neighbors and friends. If everyone did that we could have several hundred flyers out in the community. But mostly just attend, and have fun. We don't have to make these into recruitment events

– let’s just get together and have fun. And when people see the lights on at night and hear laughter through the windows, they’ll want to see what’s going on. And if they come in and we’re having fun, then they’ll want to come again.

We have ideas for future events. My wife and I learned about a program called “Recess” that is sponsored by a charity call 99 Balloons. It’s a program where churches provide child care for one evening a month for a family with a disabled child, to give the parents a night out, a “recess,” for renewal. We are trying to schedule a person to come and tell us about the program and perhaps how a local church in Jessup, a small church like us, was able to provide this service.

If you have ideas, please share them. It can be anything. At Adult Bible Study several of us learned that Chuck Fisher had taken a Camera Safari in Africa and we asked him if could show us some of the pictures some time. So why not do that in the Community Hall and invite any and all? Again, it doesn’t have to be big, planned event. We just want the lights on and laughter coming through the windows. So if there is anything you can think of, please share your ideas.

We are putting together New Neighbor packets. Hopefully, we’ll include flyers for one or two upcoming events each time we hand one out.

(At this point Libby Wright spoke about the New Neighbor packets and possible alternatives to Lord’s Table ministry.)

So there are many things happening at Salem, and many opportunities coming up to help and make a difference. But we must remember that at the end of October we will be submitting a financial statement to Charge Conference, and between now and then we must address the budget short-fall somehow.

This congregation has always risen to a challenge. Salem has always come through with an outsized effort when needed. But to rise to a challenge you must know what the challenge is.

The goal of this talk is not to spread fear or feelings of guilt. This is about giving you information so you can make decisions about how best to serve. What we are hoping is that you, and we, will have discussions about what we can do. If you have any thoughts, questions, ideas – anything you want to discuss, we can do that now. Or, if you feel more comfortable, you can contact us later and individually. We will be in the Community Hall for refreshments after the service. That would be a good time for us to talk if you like.

Before we end, I would like to mention two things that occurred to me just as the service began. First, there is no denying that we are facing adversity. Not just our little church, but the Church as a whole, and around the world. As we read the letters from Paul and James, written in the first century, it’s worth

remembering that there was a time when the Christian Church comprised no more than the number of people presently in this Sanctuary. There was a time when it was not at all clear that the Church would last beyond the lives of the Apostles. But it was in the way that those earliest Christians faced their adversity that we now see the Church encompassing the world.

Second, Rose reminded us at first service that she had put together a pamphlet describing the beautiful windows in our church, and that would make a nice addition to the New Neighbor packets. I couldn't agree more. And there is one window in particular that I invite you to take a close look at as you leave this morning. On the south wall is a window with an anchor in it, and across the anchor is a white banner. If you look closely at that banner you will see in faint lettering the word "hope." You have to look for it, but it is there.

Your Leadership Team:

Robert Morell, Fred Ambrose, Kulley Bancroft, Nancy Cox, Dave Ranshaw, Libby Wright,
Hisashi Yamagata

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community:

As our nation becomes more and more divided, so our church is struggling to maintain unity. For about forty years, our denomination has argued, debated, listened, and voted on issues regarding people in same sex relationships. There are three areas of disagreement. 1) A paragraph in the *Book of Discipline* (§ 161.G) on human sexuality which states, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching; 2) Not allowing pastors to marry same

sex couples; 3) Not ordaining people who are married to a person of the same sex.

At the 2016 General Conference, the legislative body which meets every four years and has equal representation of laity and clergy from each Annual Conference, asked the Council of Bishops to find a way for the denomination to move forward. The Council of Bishops found thirty-two people from nine countries, fifteen states, men and women, straight and gay. These people were laity, deacons, elders, and bishops. They spanned the generations and the theological/ideological spectrum. This group was called, "The Commission for A Way Forward." They began meeting in January 2017. They listened to each other's life experiences, contextual settings, biblical interpretations and theological perspectives. Even though at times listening was difficult, they struggled through and came up with three plans to be voted on at a special called General Conference in February 2019. These three plans are:

- 1) *The One Church Plan*: Allows for current structure of the denomination, but allows for

each conference, bishop, pastor, and congregation to serve according to their convictions.

- 2) *Connectional Conference Plan:* Creates three values-based Connectional Conferences- traditional, unity, and progressive. The traditional Conference would uphold the church's current view. The Unity Conference would allow for choice, similar to The One Choice Plan. The Progressive Conference would uphold the rights of the LGBTQ persons.
- 3) *Traditional Church Plan:* Uphold the Church's current view.

To help us understand this issue I will be doing a two-part sermon series this month called, Praying for the Way Forward. Then on Sunday, November 11 during coffee hour I will attempt to answer any questions during a type of town hall meeting.

For more information on these options check out our Conference's website:

<http://www.bwcumc.org/resources/commission-on-a-way-forward/>

We are invited to pause and pray for the UM church's mission and a way forward daily for four minutes from 2:23 - 2:26 p.m. or at another time. The suggested time is based on the dates of the Special Session of General Conference - February 23 through February 26, 2019.

My prayer is that we at Salem can continue to love and care for each other even though we have different viewpoints on this issue.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Oct. 7: World Communion Sunday
Jo Schonewolf, preaching
Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12,
Mark 10:2-16
- Oct. 14: Baptism of Nathan James Savage (10:00)
Sermon - "Jesus: The Great Empathizer"
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
- Oct 21: Praying the Way Forward:
Biblical Perspectives
- Oct 28: Praying the Way Forward:
Understanding the Three Options
- Nov 4: All Saints Sunday

All Saints' Sunday: We will remember those who have received eternal life on Sunday, November 4. If you have a loved one or friend who has died since November 2018, please submit their name to Rev. Sue.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

All middle and high-school students are welcome.
You do not need to attend Salem.

Bell Choir: 6:00-6:30 pm (Beginning Oct 7)

Youth Group: 6:30-8:00 pm

The youth group will start our fall series, "Big Names from the Bible" in October. Come hear about these biblical figures who are so much like us and not at all like us at the same time! We'll resume our hand bell rehearsals on October 7th, at 6:00pm with the youth group program beginning at 6:30pm.

October 7: Adam and Eve

October 14: Abraham

October 21: Moses

October 28: Halloween Party

YOUTH CAR WASH

Got a dirty car? We'll wash it!

**Sunday, Oct 14; Rain Date: Sunday, Oct 21
(After 10:00 Worship)**

The youth group has sponsored a Compassion Child named Felix for many years. This car wash is to help us raise money to sponsor him. The sponsorship costs \$40 a month which helps Felix with schooling, food, medical, and Christian education.



GROWING IN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Ever ask, "Where is that in the Bible?" Or want to know more about how the Bible applies to life? Then this 34-week study from Genesis to Revelations is being offered again this year on Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in taking or re-taking this class, contact Rev. Sue.

FAITH ON TAP FRIDAYS

Faith on Tap Fridays: Our seminary intern, Jo Shonewolf, will be leading discussions on Faith and Science at Waradaca Brewing Company on these Fridays at 6:00 pm:

October 12: What are Facts?

October 19: The Big Bang

November 2: What Does It Mean for the Bible to Be True? & Evolution

November 16: The Soul

Discussion for Faith & Science will be based on the following blog:

<http://mmmconne5.wixsite.com/conversationstarters/>

CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Sunday, October 28, 2:30-4:30 P.M.
Oakdale Church**

Each year the local church shall meet with the District Superintendent or an appointed presiding elder to vote on pastor's salary, the budget, the leadership roster, lay servants, and give other pertinent reports. Everyone who is part of Salem is invited to attend and has both voice and vote.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE TO ALL

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP)

On Sunday, September 16, the ASP Teams made their report to the Church of another successful mission to Kentucky.



Some of the participants of the ASP teams shared their experience in worship. We are pleased to announce two teams made the journey, some new members and many of our faithful warriors.



In the this picture Bob Brown's crew is building a ramp for a handicapped woman who was a prisoner in her home as she could not get her wheelchair out. Her comment was, "Thank you so much, now I can get my own mail."

SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

"Understanding the New Tax Law"



Salem wishes to thank Joseph Bell, Jr. from the BFJ Financial for speaking about the new tax laws facing all of us beginning in 2018. It was a very informative evening and a very good turnout from our community. The next program is:

"Pumpkin Carving Party" Friday, October 26, 6:30-8:30 P.M. Community Hall

Invite friends and family to bring a pumpkin and get help carving it, if needed. There will be a Girl Scout troop assisting with the carving. There will also be games and refreshments for all ages. If you can donate a pumpkin or two for those who do not bring any, or donate any refreshments, contact Rob and Nancy Morell.

GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE BROOKEVILLE BY-PASS



Salem was proud to host the groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, September 25 for the long-awaited Brookeville By-pass. Construction will begin in the fall and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2021. Among the many dignitaries attending were: Governor Larry Hogan, State Senator Craig Zucker, former State Senator Karen Montgomery, President of the Brookeville Commissioners Sue Daley, and Buck Bartley, former Commissioner.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SAVE THE DATE: SAT. DEC. 8

We are in need of people to help in the kitchen, provide baked goods, donate items for the Unique Treasures sale, make gift baskets, and assist with the Children's crafts. Contact Kulley Bancroft if you can help in any way.

OLNEY HELP NEEDS HELP

THANK YOU! On Sunday, Sept 9, Rev. Sue asked the congregation to tithe their groceries, that is, donate 10% of their groceries to Olney Help, our local food pantry. Their shelves are bare during this time before the holidays. By the following Sunday the box for Olney Help was full. Thanks to our neighbor, Cate McDonald, who volunteers for Olney Help, for picking up these food items.

Here is a list of food items they need now. Canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce, instant mashed potatoes, canned chili, beef stew, canned fruit (no sugar), juice, pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), and vanilla or strawberry Boost or Ensure for two clients with cancer.

Please place items in the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway.

FROM THE CONGREGATION



Hi, I am Hero Dog Bernardo Vicente de Gálvez, but you can call me Tito. I am being raised for the next 12 ½ months by Carole Roberts in preparation for becoming a service dog for a veteran or first responder through the organization Hero Dogs, Inc. As a young puppy, I need lots of socialization so petting with permission is okay; however, I must stay sitting. If I get up you need to walk away, then try again in a minute or two. I will learn pretty quickly that if I follow the rules I will get lots of nice attention.

Hero Dogs, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, improves the quality of life for our nation's heroes by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly skilled canines, free of charge, with lifetime support of the partnerships. You are welcome to visit the Hero Dogs website to learn more <http://www.hero-dogs.com>.

BOOK CLUB

For the months of October - January the Book Club schedule is as follows:

Thursday, October 24, 7:30 pm at home of Suzanne Friis - *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are* by Brené Brown

Thursday, November 29 at 7:30 pm - *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande

Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 7:30 pm - *The Art of Living: The Classic Manual on Virtue, Happiness and Effectiveness* by Epictetus

SALEM UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Salem UM Men meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am for a breakfast meeting. All men are welcome to attend on Oct 13.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2018 worship year, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway or contact Carole Roberts.

MEMORY GARDEN

If you are interested in placing an order for a brick to honor/remember someone please see Joyce Howes for more information.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact velma_durant@yahoo.com. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

Our October Birthdays are:

Shear, Kim	10/01
Brown, Robert	10/07
Meisner, Joe	10/09
Weinberger, Emily	10/24
Ambrose, Fred	10/25
Ambrose, Debbie	10/29

October Anniversaries

Rider, Don and Joanne	10/10
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COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour? Please volunteer to provide a coffee hour or two this year. You may sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hall or please contact Joyce Howes.

OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: There is no Lions Club Dinner in October. The next meeting is November 26. Help is needed to prepare the dinner, set up, serve and clean up. If you can help, please contact Joyce Howes.

Eyeglass Collection: Salem continues to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to

donate to Lions Club. Please leave the designated box in Salem Community Hall.

Spirit Club: A fitness group for those with disabilities meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

Seniors on the Move Exercise Class: Fridays, 9:00-10:00 A.M. in the Community Hall. Drop in – registration not required! Participate and pay by the session or for the entire program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at mjcosgrove58@gmail.com.

Alcoholic Anonymous Groups: Meet in the Community Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 P.M.

PRAYER SHAWLS



Know someone who could use some spiritual comfort. Give them a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are located above the coat rack in the church.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Sue Shorb-Sterling takes a Sabbath day on Mondays for rest and renewal! Please contact her on that day only in an emergency.

Church telephone 301-774-7772
Reverend Sue's e-mail pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org
Salem Newsletter velma_durant@yahoo.com

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