

Salem United Methodist Church

April 2020 Newsletter

“187 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating”



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2020

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

SAD NEWS: A TRIBUTE TO A FAITHFUL SALEM SERVANT BOB BROWN



Steeler Fans: Jacob Weinberger and Bob Brown

On March 25th our friend and brother went home to be with Jesus to give thanks for the peace he is now enjoying around the throne of God. Robert (Bob) John Brown, son of Robert and Mary Brown left this world to a new existence free from all pain and worry. Bob was not afraid to die - but it saddened him to leave all those he loved so much. His immediate family is his wife of 43 years, Maryellen, his daughter Adrienne (Robert Kropkowski), his son Ian (Jillian) and his much-loved granddaughter, Vivian Charlie Brown. He is also survived by his sister, Wendy, and a brother, Scott, and their spouses as well as many nieces and nephews and their spouses and children.

Bob and Maryellen became members of Salem United Methodist Church in 1986. He was always easy to find at numerous church events (sausage grinds, yard sales, Bible study groups, clean up days) and always enjoyed helping out. In addition to his service on many church committees, he went on a lot of Appalachian Service Project (ASP) trips and it was this service activity that brought him the most joy. He loved spending the time helping families in need while also getting to know the many young people who would go on the trips. In addition, he was the AV Tech person for years. He was quick to answer any call for help and felt close to so many members of his "church family."

JOYFUL NEWS: WE HAVE A NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!



DR. HARRY N. DUNSTAN, tenor, musicologist, voice teacher, vocal coach, accompanist, translator, stage director, lecturer, independent scholar, and raconteur, is the Founding Artistic Director of The American Center for Puccini Studies. From his earliest years, he always marveled at the transformative power of music. As a little boy attending church with his family in Tidewater, Virginia, he was always amazed how the majestic sounds of the pipe organ and the congregational singing could thrill, inspire, and transform. He learned early on that music, above all else, was *to be experienced!* He also understood, because he *felt it*, that the mere experience as a *listener* was enough to transport him. Those early musical/spiritual encounters led to a lifetime of loving music and a continuing, abiding, profound appreciation for the healing and regenerative powers that music offers humanity. With full confidence, he believes that we move through life as creations of spirit having human experiences within “the song of life.” Nothing speaks to this existence more than music, and nothing has the power to raise our vibration and heal us more than music. Music forces us to remember and experience our latent spirituality and enables us to heal ourselves and others as we evolve to greater creations.

Dr. Dunstan was awarded a Ph. D. “With Distinction,” (back when that actually meant something) in Historical Musicology from Catholic University, and he also holds a Masters’ Degree in Vocal Performance from Catholic University, and a BA in Music History from Old Dominion University. He serves as a consultant to opera companies, conductors, and musicians on every continent, save Antarctica, and has been a musical advisor to renowned movie producer Peter Jackson. Dr. Dunstan has translated rare Italian, French, and German texts; recovered obscure performing editions of operas and brought them to dramatic life on the stage; and championed the great universal humanity of Puccini’s music through the work of the American Center for Puccini Studies. He has transformed lives with his voice, his teaching, and his BBQ, and has enabled thousands of people to find unexpected relevance and beauty in the classical music art form.

In addition to his international reputation as a Puccini singer and scholar, Dr. Dunstan also presents seminars on *Music and the Emotional Brain* in the burgeoning field of NeuroAesthetics and is a member of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition. His far-ranging interests include music, music history, anthropology, neurology, philology, mythology, phenomenology (lots of other subjects that end in “ology”), linguistics, theatre, comparative religion, sports, wine, and every kind of BBQ! He believes that as humans we are most set apart by our unique abilities to make music, cook, and, above all, treat and heal those that are ill. As we move through life as creations of compassion, and seek to nourish “body and soul,” Dr. Dunstan believes that our greatest guide and animating force is music

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community-

Has it been only a month since we began the season of Lent? With the pandemic of Covid-19 disrupting and challenging our lives, it seems a lot longer. Each year I look forward to the Lenten journey to the cross followed by the celebration of the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Lent is a time for self-reflection and spiritual growth. Because of the threat of this highly contagious and deadly virus, this year our Lenten journey has been very different. There has been plenty of time for self-reflection and spiritual growth as we stay-in-place.

This year Christ's suffering on the cross is seen through a different lens. We are experiencing suffering in unimaginable ways. Tens of thousands are infected and thousands are dying from it. We are isolated in our homes to protect each other from the virus. We can't socialize or gather for worship. Some are working from home. Some have lost jobs or have been furloughed. All events and activities are canceled. We take the necessary precautions; and pray that we do not contract this virus and die from it.

I am reminded of the words Jesus cried out as he hung on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" They echo in my spirit when I think of all who are in hospitals struggling to breathe and whose loved ones cannot be with them, all who are caring for the very sick and dying victims of this virus, all who are grieving the loss of their loved ones, and all who are challenged by isolation.

This year as we enter Holy Week and approach the cross, our understanding of Jesus' suffering, pain, and death takes on a different meaning. We

are experiencing suffering, pain, and death in unprecedented ways. The Good News is we are not alone during this time! God through Christ suffers with us, knows our pain, and has even experienced our death.

We will remember this year's journey to the cross. Just as out of Christ's suffering came great love, so out of this suffering, great love is emerging. Neighbors are looking out for each other. Families are connecting in new ways. Medical teams are going to the "hot spots" to care for the sick and dying. Love will continue to emerge from this suffering. The journey to the cross this year will linger with us into our unknown future.

No matter what happens during this pandemic, we are reminded again of the One who is the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus the Christ! He will give new life to us when this pandemic is over. And for those who do not survive, he will also give them new life eternally. No matter what happens, we have hope in the resurrected life.

Keep the Faith! Christ is Risen!

Rev. Sue

Rev. Sue will be on vacation from April 13-20. However, because she will not be going anywhere, she can be contacted in case of an emergency.

BEING THE CHURCH DURING COVID-19

Covid 19 has not stopped Salem from being the church. Here are some ways we are still able to grow in Christian faith and express God's love to all.

1. Virtual worship each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. at <https://zoom.us/j/981273244>
2. Wednesday evening "check-in" at 7:00 P.M. at <https://zoom.us/j/693645867>
This is time of fellowship and prayer.
3. The Covenant Discipleship Group continues to meet online. If you would like to join in, contact Rev. Sue.
4. Salem's Prayer Partners continue to meet for prayer via Conference call each Tuesday morning. If you would like to join us in prayer, contact Rev. Sue.

5. Covid-19 Care Team are checking-in with every person in our congregation at least once a week. If you are not receiving a “check-in,” contact Rev. Sue.
6. Salem is offering plastic gloves, toilet paper, and anti-septic concentrate. They are available in the Community Hall. If you need any of these items delivered to you, contact Rev. Sue
7. Salem seamstresses will have cloth masks made soon. These will be available in the Community Hall, as well for pick-up or delivery.

If you can think of other ways, Salem can be the church during this time both to each other and our community, please let us know.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5, Palm Passion Sunday

Sermon Title: In Life and In Death
 Palm Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;
 Matthew 21:1-11

Passion Scriptures: Isaiah 50:4-9
 Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-54

Holy Thursday: Zoom with Rev. Jean Lee

Good Friday: Zoom with Rev. Sue

Sunday, April 12, Resurrection Sunday

Sermon Title: The Most Important Act
 Scriptures: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
 Colossian 3:1-4; John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 19, Second Sunday of Easter

Brandon Savage, Preaching

Sunday, April 26, Third Sunday of Easter

Easter Sermon Series:

Jesus: The Light and Life

Sermon Title: Living Bread
 Scriptures: Acts 2:1-14, 36-41;
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: SALEM’S FINANCIAL SITUATION

Since we are no longer able to gather for worship, we have seen a drop in our weekly giving. First, thank you to all who have mailed in your offerings. Your giving is making it possible

for us to continue to pay our staff salaries and utilities during this challenging time. Second, if you have not sent in your offerings yet, please do. Third, Salem’s Leadership Team with the support of the Baltimore-Washington Conference is applying for government grants to help meet our financial challenges during this pandemic.

We are aware that many are facing financial challenges because of the virus and understand if you cannot give like you had in the past. And if you are financially stressed, we can also be the church by helping you through the Pastor’s Discretionary fund. Contact Rev. Sue, if you are in need.

HELP AVAILABLE

Supplies Available

If you are in need of toilet paper, latex gloves, disinfectant or would like to request a homemade cotton mask, please contact Suzanne Friis at friis17@yahoo.com or 301-938-2446

SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM



Nancy with her artwork and other creations

On March 10th, members of Salem and members of Salem’s community gathered in Salem’s Community Hall to hear Nancy Wilkie’s presentation on her latest book “The Seven Sides of Self.” She also signed books purchased there or brought in. During her presentation she also spoke of other creations she has done, such as artwork and music. A very talented young woman who very obviously enjoys her creative nature. Thank you, Nancy, for a very enjoyable evening and the ladies of Salem UMC for providing refreshments.

FROM THE CONGREGATION



“Sharing my thoughts with you.”

From Charlyne Lewis

“We are now going through Easter and the Resurrection!! What a glorious time of year. Look around you...the awaking butterflies, the beautiful flowers popping out of the ground, birds everywhere ‘nesting’ with their young...ah, Spring!

And then, we march toward the warm days of summer, which for a lot of us means trips, vacations; enjoying our families and friends together.

But we still need to keep in mind the One Who gave us all of this richness to enjoy... Jesus! He is our best friend in everything we undertake daily. He will always be there for us when all else fails. Look to Him first, then every other need in your lives will be met with “abundance,” as He declares.

Enjoy your ‘God-given’ days ahead, folks, and always put Jesus at the top of your list of ‘invited guests’ at your next backyard cookout, trip, vacation, or whatever you plan to undertake.

God Bless!!

Charlyne

Hymn #420

Ephesians 4:25-5:2



CONGRATULATIONS!



The Roberts family is excited to announce the engagement of Austin Roberts and Natalie Todd. They plan to wed September 4th in Orlando, Florida.

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 April Birthdays are:

Roberts, Carole	04/04
Rhinehart, Patti	04/10
Weinberger, Phillip	04/14
Rider, Don	04/17
Ennes, Anne	04/18
Van Druff, Helen	04/22

Helen will be 101 years old! Please send her a birthday card at her home.

Currier, Katelyn	04/29
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April Anniversaries:

Shear, Myron and Kim	04/04
Ercolani, Al and Judy	04/13
Lavelly, Bill and Bobbie	04/16

DURING THIS TIME OF ISOLATION ALL GATHERINGS AT THE SALEM UM CHURCH OR COMMUNITY HALL HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL A FURTHER NOTICE.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Stepping Stones Family Shelter: Stepping Stones Family Shelter helps to transition homeless families into permanent housing through a continuum of services, such as emergency shelter to post-shelter support. They are always in need of items for the families.

Manna Food Center: 301-424-1130
9311 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Olney Help: P.O. Box 430, Olney, MD 20830
To volunteer call 301-774-6829. About a month ago, Olney Help stopped taking in individual food donations because the collection sites closed and to protect the volunteers from food from unknown sources. As a result, they are very much in need of financial contributions and grocery store gift cards to continue both food and financial support.

**The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by
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