

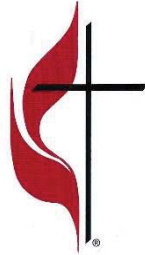
Salem United Methodist Church

June 2020 Newsletter

“187 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating”



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2019

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

**TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH
COMMUNITY**



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community-

This is the last time I am writing for the newsletter. As of June 30. I will be retiring from active pastoral ministry. Per request of Bishop Latrell Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, Sunday, June 14 is the last Sunday for pastors who are transitioning. There are to be two transition Sundays between the last Sunday of the previous pastor and the new pastor. Rev. Emily Hart will begin her ministry at Salem on July 1. For the two transition Sundays, June 21 and 28, the retired Rev. Mark Smiley, the father of Rev. Emily Hart, will be leading worship via Zoom. Rev. Emily will

be in the pulpit for the first time on Sunday, July 5.

These last few months have been challenging for all of us with the Covid-19 virus. For everyone's safety we have suspended worship in the church building to virtual worship through Zoom. I have to admit it is different leading worship and preaching to empty pews! I know you are out there listening, but I can't see your reactions, or hear your laughter. And we can't give handshakes or hugs, either!!

As I reflect over the past 12 years of having the distinct honor of serving as your pastor, Covid-19 is just one of the many challenges we have overcome together. When I began at Salem in 2008, we had two full-time clergy at the church: an elder and a deacon. This was no small feat for a small congregation. Each year we were faced with financial challenges of maintaining two clergy. In 2013 we downsized to one clergy when we said our sad farewells to Rev. Janet Craswell who served as a deacon at Salem for ten years. Then we began learning how to be a church with one clergyperson and we did successfully. We became a Pastoral Ministry and Mission site for three interns from Wesley Theological Seminary: Erin Wheeler, Samantha Larson, and Jo Schonewolf. Each brought their own set of gifts to the ministry at Salem. As they learned from us, we were

blessed by them. We have also been and continue to be challenged by the loss of loved ones. We have cried together as we grieved the hole they left in our lives and in the church community.

As we weathered these challenges, we celebrated our loved ones entering into eternal life. We welcomed new life among us. We laughed and cried. We prayed and studied together. We agreed and agreed to disagree. We worshipped and celebrated the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism. We celebrated new members, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and one doctorate degree! We commemorated Brookeville's anniversary of being Capital for a Day. We dreamed, visioned, and planned. We cooked meals for the homeless and served those in Appalachia. We ate many wonderful meals as we fellowshiped around the tables. We had yard sales and Christmas bazaars. We made pancakes and sausage, too. We served in all these different ways as committed followers of Jesus who strive to grow in Christian faith and express God's love to all.

When I came to Salem in 2008, I could not have imagined that I would have been serving as your pastor for twelve years. I thought I might serve as pastor at Salem somewhere between three to five years. However, God had other plans. Chuck and I have lived in Brookeville longer than we have at any location in our adult lives. We have been blessed by the many great people both within Salem's church community and in the Brookeville/Olney/Sandy Spring area. We have also been blessed to live in an area where traveling downtown Washington, D.C. is as accessible as driving into the countryside. I will always cherish my years at Salem, the ministry we did together, and the many friends we made.

However, the time has come, my friends, to move on and to say our farewells. The time has also come for fresh starts, new beginnings, and the next chapter of Salem's remarkable history- 187 years and counting!

Thank you for all the moments that we shared together in ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 6 Via Zoom at 10:00 A.M.

June 14 Rev. Sue's Last Sunday at Salem,

Worship Time: 10:00 A.M. on the front lawn

In case of inclement weather, we will Zoom worship at 10:00 A.M. with a drive-by farewell following until 12:30 P.M.

To worship outside:

- 1) Bring your own lawn chair or blanket
- 2) Wear a mask at all times
- 3) Sit six feet from your neighbor.
(Families and couples can sit together.)

Sunday, June 21 and 28, Rev. Mark Smiley leading worship through Zoom at 10:00 A.M..

If you need the Zoom address or phone number for worship, contact Brandon Savage.

From the Policy and Procedures Manual of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church ¶4015. Returning to a Previous Appointment

As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor

should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor. This policy is ongoing and doesn't have an expiration date.

Several weeks prior to concluding a pastoral appointment, a pastor shall inform all members of the church of this policy by printing sections one and two verbatim in either a pastoral letter to be sent to each member or a church newsletter to be sent to each member and encourage them to support the policy by their prayers and actions

JUNE 20 – TRANSITION MEETING WITH REV. EMILY

Hello, I have either called or mentioned the upcoming June 20 Transition Meeting with Rev. Emily. I am still finalizing the agenda with Rev. - move on Tuesday! But this is an opportunity, requested by the BW Conference, for a new pastor to meet people at Salem prior to her official start on July 1. Some of you have been major leaders in the past or are now; long-time Salem supporters; movers and shakers; and work with the pastor on an official capacity at least weekly, if not more.

Please mark your calendars for the morning, likely 10 AM. Some of you will be asked to come at 11. Neither Emily or I want to tie you up for a long time so rest assured this is not a lengthy meeting. It is more of an opportunity for her to place a name with a face and get to know our church better.

Libby Wright

CONDOLANCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE SALEM HAS LOST THIS YEAR

Those we love who entered into eternal life since January 2020.

Rob McClosky (Memorial Service: January 5)

Susan Bartley

Eric Beebe

Bob Brown

Joanne Rider

Jane Bartley (Buck's sister)

Stuart Smith (Virginia Smith's son and Ginny Weinberger's brother)

John Sterling (Chuck Sterling's nephew)

Alice Castner (Deb Ambrose's mother)

Curt Smith

Helen Ambrose (Fred Ambrose's sister)

Len Flynn (Joe Meisner's father-in-law)

Jim Will

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.

Our June Birthdays are:

Savage, Debbie	06/07
Ercolani, Judy	06/16
Savage, Brandon	06/18

Our June Anniversaries

Whaler, Doug and Barbara	06/09
Roberts, John and Carole	06/22

OUR COMMUNITY

Due to the COVID-19 All community activities have been suspended and the Church and Community Hall are closed to their usual activities.

The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by
Velma Durant, and edited
Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling or Suzanne Friis