



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER March/April 2022

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SYMPATHIES

Since the last newsletter we have lost three very special people in the Salem family.

Our hearts were saddened when we learned of the death of Caroline Herndon who passed away on December 7, 2021. She was a member of Salem for thirty-four years. Many of us remember her charming personality and the twinkle in her eye.

Our deepest sympathies to the Gregg family. Bill Gregg, Eddie Gregg's younger brother,

passed away on February 10. He joined Salem in 1990 but had moved out of the area. If you'd like to send Eddie a card, his address is:

Eddie Gregg
4800 Bready Road
Rockville, MD 20853

Our thoughts and prayers are with Janet Pastros' family. Janet passed away on February 16. She was a faithful attendee before COVID struck and joined in during the pandemic zoom sessions. We were sad she was not able to make it back to in-person services. Cards can be sent to the family at:

Family of Janet Pastros
20301 New Hampshire Avenue
Brinklow, MD 20862

BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are happy to announce that we have resumed in-person services. To keep our most vulnerable safe we are asking that congregants continue to wear masks and keep social distance by sitting only in pews marked with blue scarves. Singing will be permitted.



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

The Holy Spirit is always moving to meet the ever-changing needs of the world.

And thank God for that!

The escalating war in Ukraine, our own division at home, the resolving and yet persistent pandemic ... thank God the Holy Spirit doesn't stand still and wait for us to know what we need. Instead, the Holy Spirit moves ahead of us preparing a way for us to follow.

How will Salem follow God in the coming year? Where do you see the Spirit leading us?

My prayer is that we will be awake to God's call on our lives as individuals and our life as a church.

This year, the Leadership Team set only two goals for our church.

Our first goal is to make volunteering and leading at Salem something that excites people and deepens their faith through setting boundaries around leadership. We'll be using a book called "Mission Possible" to help us do this. You see, volunteering for your church and being of service to your community, should ideally give you a chance to deepen your relationship with God through sharing your gifts and talents with God's people. This only happens if there are good boundaries around the service. Both of our goals are about setting healthy boundaries that will make it more fulfilling to be part of our church mission.

Over the past year we've noticed that our church's mission (to grow in Christian faith and express God's love through serving others) is beautiful ... but a little bit challenging to carry out. What does it mean to grow in Christian faith? How do we define "serving others"? What does God's love look like? Since this is beautiful without being concrete, it's really hard to establish boundaries around what we do as a church. Any sort of service can be called serving others. Any act of kindness could be God's love. While there's a beauty to the simplicity, it doesn't give us a good filter for deciding what we will and will not do as a church.

One of our goals as a Leadership Team is to tighten our mission statement into something that is unique to Salem and who we are called to be.

When I started at Salem, I kept asking people what it means to be part of Salem. Almost everyone then and since has said Salem is all about community. I'd like to see our mission reflect that.

So, join us in following the Spirit. Where do you think the Holy Spirit is leading us? What are we called to do? Who are we called to be?

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

WEB SITE

After four years of doing an awesome job as Web Mistress of the Salem UMC Web site, Nancy Joie Wilke is ready to devote her limited spare time to other exciting endeavors. A process has begun to redesign and streamline the Web site since no one at Salem has the incredible talents and knowledge to administer the current format. Stay tuned for updates.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Mary Kay Abramson Velma Durant, Halsey Smith, Rev. Emily, Debbie Ambrose (chair)

January–February 2022

As our Christmas celebrations have come to an end, the Leadership Team has begun looking forward to 2022. Following the pledge season before Christmas, we have taken the promises of financial support from the Salem Congregation and begun looking to the coming year for how we will live out our Mission and Vision. This has included:

- Careful consideration of our 2022 budget, looking at our anticipated income and regular expenses. Thanks to Mary Abramson for keeping the bills paid and the balances current.
- Two specific goals for 2022. Both goals were informed by our Mission and Vision and congregation responses to our online ministry survey completed last fall.

We also considered the need for new people to assume the role of Webmaster and Newsletter Coordinator as Nancy Joie Wilkie and Velma Durant step back for a much-deserved rest.

Rev. Emily has encouraged the Congregation to consider volunteering for these two positions. At our February meeting and at our February Grace in Action gathering we considered two proposals which would involve hiring people for these jobs. Stay tuned for updates, and please contact Rev. Emily or a Leadership Team member for any additional information and to share your thoughts.

Nancy Cox and Suzanne Friis are busy sprucing up our kitchen (new paint!). The sad news is that both our large and small freezers have died. We are hoping to replace one of them with a donation from a business or individual. Thanks, Halsey Smith, for working on this and keeping the lights, heat and plumbing working.

Looking forward to a glorious Easter!!

Grace and peace,
Debbie Ambrose

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 2
St. Paul UMC 7:30 P.M

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 14
St. Paul UMC 7:30 P.M.

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 15
St. Paul UMC 7:30 P.M.

*Address for St. Paul UMC
21720 Laytonsville Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882*

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 17
Salem UMC Cemetery 7:00 A.M.

Easter Service
Sunday, April 17
Salem UMC Sanctuary 9:30 A.M.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



Have you ever gotten stuck in a box? No, not like the TV box you played in as a kid. I mean a mental box. Have you ever gotten stuck in thinking life is a series of “this vs. that” or “right vs. wrong” or “my way vs. their way” or “mask vs. no mask” decisions? As if life can be condensed into perfect choices on one track or another! Often, unfortunately, there are no perfect choices. There are shades of grey, nuances, and unknowns that make it hard to even make good choices, let alone perfect ones.

In our Lenten scriptures, we’ll see Jesus, his disciples, and the other people around them try to understand that life is more complicated than “this vs. that” and living inside our carefully constructed boxes. When Jesus is confronted with two equally poor choices he always rises above and steps out of the box. We are called to do the same. Join us this Lent as we seek to step out of our confining boxes and onto a path of life with God.

March 6

Death or Life?

Scripture: John 11:1-44

March 13

All or Nothing?

Scripture: John 13:1-17

March 20

Violence or Denial?

Scripture: John 18:12-27

March 27

Leader or Traitor?

Scripture: John 18:28-40

April 3

Law or Anarchy?

Scripture: John 19:1-16a

April 10–Palm Sunday

Love or Hate?

Scripture: John 19:16b-22

LENTEN STUDY

Outside the Box: A Lenten Study

Wednesdays, March 9–April 6

7:00 P.M. on Zoom

If you’d like to go deeper, join us in our Lenten Booklet, “Outside the Box: A Lent of Breaking Free.” We will journey through weekly scripture readings, daily practices, and thought-provoking questions as we try to break out of the boxes the world tries to shove us into. If you are tired of division and are looking for a better way, this is the study for you. We will have small group discussions about the weekly readings every Wednesday night on Zoom from 6:30–8:00 P.M. Discussion starts at 7:00 P.M.

Complete the reading for Week One on your own (John 11:1-44). Read the Week Two Scripture (John 13:1-17) for the first group study on March 9.



**"Connections"
Identity—Beliefs—Impact
Thursdays, March 3–April 15
1:00–2:30 P.M.**

Join us for a seven-week exploration of what it means to be part of Salem UMC and how we impact the world. Long-time members and first-time explorers welcome.

We will learn basic Christian and United Methodist beliefs, how these are lived out at Salem, and how you can be part of impacting the world with the rest of the body of Christ.

Each session will be 90 minutes to give us time to connect with each other and the material. Weather depending, some sessions will be held at Brookeville Beer Farm. Each first-time explorer will be paired with a church member who will act as a guide and conversation partner throughout the class.

This class will begin Thursday, March 3 and will finish on Easter Sunday, April 17. Anyone who takes the class and wishes to join the church can do so on Easter, just like they did in the ancient church!

Note: If you plan to travel on Easter but want to join the church, no problem. Reach out to Rev. Emily.

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table!

The Lord's Table serves hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem are invited to join them on the first Friday of every month at Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Buck if you would like to carpool.

Olney Help Food Donations

A box for non-perishable items is in the Meeting Room behind the Sanctuary. Thank you to those who already filled the box to overflowing! They are in most need of spaghetti/pasta sauce, canned pasta, sloppy joe sauce, small, condensed soups, hearty soups, peanut butter (smooth only), jelly (no preserves) and baked beans. If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so at: www.olneyhelp.org.

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are available free for anyone who is ill or needs comfort. Feel free to pick one up near the coat rack.

LOOKING AHEAD

Easter Sunday we will begin another sermon series—"Like a Woman!" From April 17–June 12 we will be diving into stories about Mary, Hagar, Miriam, Vashti, Ruth, Deborah, the Bleeding Woman and Tabitha/Dorcas. Join us in learning about these extraordinary women of the Bible. A Wednesday study will offer opportunity to discuss these stories. Those dates to follow.

TEAM SPARKLE HARD AT WORK



The Reading Room

Team Sparkle, with assistance from professional painter Brittany Hyatt, is giving the Salem kitchen a fresh look with a new coat of paint. In addition, the office off the Sanctuary has been repurposed to provide a private meeting room for pastoral counseling, a quiet place for nursing mothers and/or a place of solitude for Emily and staff. The former "Basket Room" upstairs in the Community Hall is now a reading room with a table and chairs and generous supply of reading material. Come enjoy!

GIVING

Offerings can be sent to:

Salem United Methodist Church
12 High Street
Brookeville, MD 20833

If you would like to give by app, you can download the "Vanco Mobile" app and search

for Salem United Methodist Church or by its invite code R8A63K.

NEW BANNERS



Four 3' x 5' banners with Christian symbols have been purchased for the Altar walls. The banners will be rotated seasonally and include a Christmas banner featuring an angel heralding Christ's birth, the Christian "fish," "bread and cup" and "dove." Thanks to Nancy Joie Wilkie for funding the "fish" banner and for the lovely matching stole she gifted Rev. Emily.

HELP WANTED

Thank you for reading our Lenten edition of the Newsletter! You may have noticed that our church has taken a break from monthly newsletters now that Velma Durant has stepped down as our newsletter editor. I am so grateful for her many years of service and am delighted that she can take time for her own memoirs now that she is officially retired from the newsletter. Without someone to take on the newsletter, you will be seeing less of us in your mailboxes.

If you are interested in helping to put the monthly newsletter together in any way— sending articles, putting together the final document on Word, helping to edit, etc.— please reach out and let me know so I can connect you with the Communication Team.

Currently, the Communication Team is working together to reach out to the church through weekly emails, bulletin inserts, the Web site, and this periodic newsletter. If you want to volunteer with the newsletter, you will not be serving alone!

Blessings, Rev. Emily

COVID POLICY

Confused? We are currently requiring face masks following the Montgomery County policy that allows businesses and organizations to require them at their discretion. Click the link below to stay updated on Montgomery County's COVID Guidelines.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/face-coverings.html>

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact the church. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you!

Birthdays—

January

Van Horn, Debbie	01/02
Bartley, Rachel	01/03
Lange, Marilyn	01/06
Stanley-Brown, Maryellen	01/18
Ranshaw, David	01/20
York, Marcia	01/20
Ennes, Kathryn	01/22
Robinson, Linda	01/24
Poe-Yamagata, Emma	01/27
Miller, Wathsala	01/29
Myer, Rick	01/30

February

Gregg, Eddie	02/02
Friedrich, Jeff	02/07
Whaley, Janet	02/07
Sterling, Sarah	02/12
Lyon, Anna	02/17
Blaine, Ed	02/23
Rhinehart, Roger	02/24
Pustis, Amanda	02/25
Wilkie, Nancy Joie	02/27

March

Groves, Briana	03/11
Groves, Nicholas	03/12
Van Horn, Zach	03/20
Sterling, Becky	03/26
Beye, David	03/29
Robinson, George	03/29

April

Roberts, Carole	04/04
Rhinehart, Patti	04/10
Weinberger, Phillip	04/14
Benson, Kenny	04/17
Rider, Don	04/17
Ennes, Ann	04/18
Currier, Katelyn	04/29

Anniversaries—January

Ennes, Mark and Anne 01/25

March

Ambrose, Fred and Debbie 03/22

Howes, Warren and Janet 03/29

April

Shear, Myron and Kim 04/04

Ercolani, Al and Judy 04/13

Lavelly, Bill and Bobbie 04/16

DID YOU KNOW?

Why is Purple the Color of Lent?

Tyrian, also known as Royal Purple, was often reserved for the very wealthy and royalty and essentially a status symbol. The Romans placed an extremely high value on the dye as it was extracted from sea snails, therefore not easily obtained.

The Roman soldiers who tortured Jesus during His Passion would've been well-aware of the imperial symbolism behind the color purple. This is why, in mocking Jesus before His crucifixion, the soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and put a crown of thorns on His head, proceeding to then beat Him and yell, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (John 19:2-3).

In a further attempt to humiliate Jesus after the soldiers had removed the purple robe from Him, Pilate had a sign affixed to Jesus' cross inscribed with the words, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (John 19:19). This inscription is memorialized on today's crucifixes by the letters INRI, which are the initials for "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" in Latin—"Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Emily Hart takes a Sabbath Days on Saturdays and Mondays for rest and renewal. She also honors time with her husband and dogs in the evening. Please contact her on these days (or after 8:30 P.M. on other days) only in an emergency or a scheduled meeting.

Church Address:

Salem UMC

12 High Street

Brookeville, MD 20833

Church Telephone: (301) 774-7772

Church Website:

www.salemunitedmethodist.org

Rev. Emily's cell phone: (443) 846-5110

Rev. Emily's e-mail:

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

Music Director:

music@salemunitedmethodist.org

Building Use:

building@salemunitedmethodist.org

Salem Cemetery:

salem12cemetery@yahoo.com

The newsletter is prepared by the Salem United Methodist Church Communications Team. Contact any team member with questions or comments. Thanks!

Rev. Emily Hart

Suzanne Friis

Carole Roberts

Nancy Joie Wilkie
