



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2023

CONTENTS:

A Word from our Pastor	Page 1
Leadership Team Update	Page 2
Easter Season	Page 3
Easter Study Continues	Page 3
Prayer class	Page 3
Missions	Page 4
Newsletter Survey Responses	Page 4
Lunch for Six	Page 5
Scripture readers needed	Page 5
Volunteer needed to send emails	Page 5
Giving	Page 5
Birthdays	Page 6
Contact Information	Page 6

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



At the end of this month (May 31-June 3), Mark Aebig and I will be attending a very important event in the life of our church called "Annual Conference." Our Annual Conference is "Baltimore-Washington." The phrase "Annual Conference" can refer to three things in the UMC: our regional body, our organizational body, and our yearly "Annual Conference sessions." Here are some excerpts from umc.org about it:

Regional body

The annual (sometimes referred to as 'regional') conference is described by the church's Constitution and (other parts of the) Book of Discipline as the "basic unit" of the church. In the United States, an annual conference may cover an entire state, only part of the state, or even parts of two or more states. [...] The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.

Organizational body

In the U.S., the annual conference has a central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference. [...]

Annual Conference sessions

Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference, which may last 3-5 days. These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs and budgets; ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders; and election of delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences (every 4 years). The bishop presides over these meetings.

To me, however, attending Annual Conference (the 3-day meeting!) is so much more than a chance to conduct business. It's a time to see other clergy I love, a chance to know what's happening with the future of the denomination I've grown up in, and some of the most beautiful worship I'll attend all year.

Every year our church sends the pastor and a lay delegate. Our delegate will vote on your behalf on all the above issues. Buck Bartley is normally our delegate. However, he has asked to step down and Mark was willing to take his place. If you would like to know more about the issues that will come up at Annual Conference this year, you can go to [bwcumc.org](https://www.bwcumc.org), navigate to the "events" tab, and click on "2023 Annual Conference." Alternately, you can type <https://www.bwcumc.org/events/2023-annualconference/> into your search bar. The right hand side of the screen will show "Quick Links" you can explore. I suggest "Resolutions," and "Stewardship Reports and Recommendations" to see things Mark and I will be voting on. For more detail on our specific Annual Conference session, you can download the "2023 Annual Conference Primer." It has information on our theme, who can vote, disaffiliation, and UMC terms.

Being part of a church that connects like this is such a blessing. I love attending Annual Conference and being part of a larger denomination.

Sources:

<https://www.bwcumc.org/events/2023-annual-conference/>

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/annual-conferences>

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

At April's meeting the Leadership team reported an Easter service attendance of 44 people. Pastor Emily said it was one of the most attended services since her appointment to Salem. She also says that more people are coming to Salem to worship our Lord. We are grateful the numbers are rising.

The team reviewed Salem's first quarter financial records and are happy to report there is a surplus in the budget. Good news for a church of Salem's size.

Salem's two outreach programs, The Lord's Table and Lunch for Six are successfully helping people meet and eat though in different contexts.

Playground Day Outreach will happen after schools release students for summer. We will need help from the congregation to help coordinate and supervise the youth who will be doing the work. Prayerfully consider getting involved.

Wednesday Night Dinner won't start until the Fall. Pastor Emily wants to do a three or

four meal trial and evaluate the efforts before making it an ongoing outreach. The menu will most likely be mac 'n' cheese and chicken nuggets to appeal to the kids. Pastor Emily will develop activities to do during dinner. We will need volunteers to help with this outreach. Again, prayerfully consider getting involved.

The team voted unanimously to absorb the Cemetery Committee responsibilities under its umbrella of services. This is an internal matter, and the Team is considering ways to do this and modernize the record keeping without disrupting and planned burials.

The Leadership Team is in need of volunteers for work teams. We can't fulfill our Mission and Goals in a vacuum. If you are interested in anything mentioned this month please contact Mark Aebig (aebigm@gmail.com) or Pastor Emily Hart (emily@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Mark Aebig, Chair

Members: Mary Kay Abramson, Quinn Anderson, Buck Bartley, Velma Durant, Churchill Groves, and Hisashi Yamagata

EASTER SEASON



May 7 5th Sunday of Easter
Our Trustworthy God Answers Prayer
John 14: 1-14

May 14 6th Sunday of Easter
Our God Plans an Advocate For You
John 14: 15-21

May 21 7th Sunday of Easter
Our Triune God Prays For Our Unity
John 17: 1-11

May 28 8th Sunday of Easter
Our Diverse God Calls Us To Community
Acts 2: 1-21

EASTER STUDY CONTINUES

A new Zoom study began in April, will go through May 24, and take a break for summer. It will conclude in the fall.

The book is *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren.

It's available from Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Do-Stay-Christian>

The class will be on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather

7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

PRAYER CLASS

Would you like to deepen your prayer life? Do you ever feel like you just don't know how to get started? Join us on the last Wednesday of every month on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather

7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

There will be a total of five classes, the last one being on May 31.

Email Barbara Teague to sign up:
Barbara1.teague@outlook.com.
 This is the zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVWk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

There will be no Lord's Table in May, but will resume in the fall. In the summer, sandwiches will be provided to those in need. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. See Churchill Groves for information.

Olney HELP Food Needs

Thank you, Nancy Cox, for hauling our donated food to Olney HELP and for working there each week. Here is a new way to find out what nonperishable food items the pantry needs. Control+click
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24NT3T45084TG?ref=wl_share

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone in need, please call their Helpline at 301-774-4334.
 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.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESPONSES

Thank you to those who completed the newsletter survey. We really do appreciate your taking the time to do this. The purpose here is to create a newsletter that is relevant to your needs.

1. Seventeen people completed the survey out of 126 of our members and constituents (that's 13%); with all 17 reading it every month.
2. Fourteen of the respondents are members.
3. Fifteen respondents said they read the newsletter in its entirety.
4. Sixteen people said 8 page s is just the right length.

How do you prefer to get Salem information?	
Preference scores for:	
Monthly newsletter	28
Weekly email (announcements)	28
Weekly bulletin	23
Sunday verbal announcements	20
Website	14
Your responses are compiled in this table. Preference scale: Yes = 2 Sometimes =1 Never = 0	

And the winners are: monthly newsletters and weekly email (announcements)!

How relevant do you find the sections of the newsletter?	
Relevance scores for Top 7:	
Bible study and prayer	51
Updates from church teams	47
Pastor's letter	46
Condolences or support notes	45
Missions	41
Upcoming fellowship	41
Contact Info and Giving	41
Your responses are compiled in this table. Relevance scale: Very relevant = 3 Relevant = 2 Not relevant = 1 Do not read = 0	

And the winner is: Bible study and prayer!

LUNCH FOR SIX

Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? The first group of six had a wonderful time one weekday at Panera. Groups have also gone to GrillMarx and Olney Grille. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary for the next group.

SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

We would like to expand the number of people who will read scripture during the worship service. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Emily.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS

A volunteer is needed to send email announcements. This would include sending the weekly "What's Happening at Salem" email and some others from time to time. This is approximately a two hour a week commitment – about one hour composing the emails and attending the Communications Team meeting via Zoom each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. If interested, please contact Rev. Emily.

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.

If you haven't been able to access Vanco and would like to give electronically, we now have a PayPal option. You can use this link: <https://paypal.me/SalemBrookeville>

BIRTHDAYS



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

May Birthdays

Chuck Sterling	05/14
Marsha Thorpe	05/27
Bill Lavelly	05/28

COVID

COVID POLICY: Confused? Our policy is currently that masks are strongly recommended.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Emily Hart takes 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

Joan Aebig

Carole Roberts

Mollie Haines

Nancy Joie Wilkie
