



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER July 2023

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



What is camp? July 2023

Ah, *summer!* Time for beaches, slow days, sunscreen, and late nights. Days are lovely and long. We crave ice tea in sweating glasses on screened in porches as the sun sets on the hot day.

Can you feel it?

For me, summer also means masses of sweaty kids weaving down the Potomac River in canoes and bulky life jackets as they try to learn to steer.

“No, paddle BACKward. No, I’m supposed to go forward and YOU go backwards!”

“Rudder, *rudder*, **RUDDER!**” *thunk*

Summer means silly, slippery hikes through Sawmill Creek. We see the original pool (“they had to walk HOW far to cool off??”), the jumping rock, and search for crawdads in the creek. We’ll read *The Lorax* to (even) high schoolers on Story Rock.

Summer means zip lines, rock walls, ropes courses. Trust falls, communication, “you *promise* you’ll catch me?” Skills that build into games. Learning without realizing it until you’ve conquered a fear. Late nights with campfires, early mornings in the dining hall. Pool time, unless there’s a summer storm.

An idyllic week that just happens once a year.

Camp.

Yes, we learn skills and conquer fears and make friends. We eat new foods, try new things, ask new questions.

And.

In the midst of it all.

We encounter the living God.

You see, God is present at camp in a way God is not present in church. God is present in a way that is uniquely tangible for people exploring the world and growing into their own opinions. God is calling them to wonder, notice, try, fail, and try again. They experience God's presence in the solidity of their new friend's hands lifting them over an obstacle. They see God's creativity in the diversity through the river. They see God's love in adults who get silly instead of strict, who ask questions rather than demanding answers.

Every night we gather at the outdoor chapel to sing, worship, and pray together. It's a worship service designed with kids in mind. Middle schoolers lead us through a silly skit showing us the meaning of the scripture. Elementary schoolers teach us the motions to their favorite songs. High schoolers show us a worship experience involving painting and breathing. It's different every night, every week, every year.

And then the word is proclaimed. And some kids hear it from the preacher's stories and examples. And some hear it by watching the spider dropping down from the cross and spinning a web in the fading sunlight. And

some always heard it in the holy chaos of letting kids teach worship. We all exhale, finally understanding, "yes. This is the body of Christ. This is the way God shows up."

You see, we thought God would show up in our Sunday morning formulas. In perfecting worship. Correct page numbers and skilled reading. (And those things matter). But God is not limited to our formula Worship.

God shows up wherever God wants to be. And I know for sure that God wants to be in the woods with these kids watching them own their worship and experience God in unlimited ways, perhaps for the first time.

This summer I will be at camp from July 30-August 4. Please pray for the leaders to be flexible and creative. Please pray for the students to be open and curious. Camp can be a life changing experience-even if we don't see the change for years and years.

Are you interested in camp?

It's not too late to sign up to go to camp or to come as a volunteer. We do need adult volunteers who can stay in the cabins overnight. You do not need to be able to hike. If you're interested, please talk to me.

One way you can support the future of camping is by contributing to our conference's "Campership" program. This program provides partial and full scholarships to students who would like to go to camp. Contact me for more information.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

June's Leadership Team meeting, covered a lot of ground.

Salem is on its way to starting a community child care ministry for one of the recurring weekly AA meetings in Community Hall. Rev. Emily saw a need for this after listening to AA participants. Montgomery County will provide three people monthly who will have certified background check clearances for 2 hours at the AA meeting. Parents must stay on the premises during these times. Safe Sanctuary forms and procedures will be filled out and followed. There will not be a cost for Salem since the care givers will be making up service hours by doing this. This ministry will help Salem continue its goal of connecting with young families.

The Team also approved going forward with a proposal to put Salem Cemetery records in a digital format with the Chronicle mapping program. The cemetery sites, records, etc. will become viewable on-line and will have many features that will be explained once things are set-up. Many details still need to be resolved.

In the near term Salem will be taking bids for HVAC work in the Hall and lighting improvements in the Sanctuary.

Rev. Emily will be holding a "God Jobs Fair" coming up. She will be announcing this and putting sign-up sheets around the church. Some are described in the following.

We are looking to form a Worship Team of volunteers that will assist Rev. Emily in bouncing ideas around as she creates her sermons. This is a wonderful opportunity to have some input in what is prepared.

The Leadership has determined a need for a Building Maintenance Ministry team. Volunteers for this would respond to incidents that occur in the Hall and Sanctuary buildings. A Guiding Principle is being developed that will describe this.

We are also looking at a Landscaping Ministry for Salem's gardens, shrubs but not mowing.

Other Guiding Principles for Constituency and Gifting will be forthcoming as the need for them demands.

The Team will not be meeting formally until September and will resume then.

Finally a **huge thank-you** to Mary Lou Williamson and Nancy Cox for their work recently weeding and planting in Salem's flower beds.

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

JULY SERMON SCRIPTURES



Scripture readings : TBD

July 2 Outdoor service

July 9

July 16

July 23

July 30

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to Amy Roberts who graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

There will be no Lord's Table this summer, but will resume in the fall. 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.

PRAYER CORNER

By Barbara Teague

About a month ago I listened to a woman respond to someone's question by saying, "But I like my life the way it is." I was surprised by her words, so brave and confident. I wondered if I could say the same about my own life. I began chewing on the idea like a dog with an old bone. Then one morning as I was praying, I heard the question, "Do you take ownership of the life you hold?" I thought, "what a strange question." I had no idea how to answer; all I knew to do was pray.

The first thing I realized was how inspiring it would be to believe, such a statement; "This is my life and I not only accept it, I embrace it, all of it, just as it is." I believed there must be some people who can pull that off, but I knew I was not one of them, at least not yet. How nice it would be though.

Suddenly I realized the source of such a confession must arise from the place of peace which Jesus continues to invite me every day. Peace, aah.... Even thinking about it makes my shoulders loosen.

Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30

I often have a hard time experiencing peace, being so consumed with arranging my future or rearranging my past. I so tightly grip all the circumstances of my life, as though believing my hold actually makes it so. I know such efforts are fruitless, draining the peace right out of me but I compulsively keep trying to create a better life that in truth is not mine. So, where do I find the peace spoken of by Jesus?

Van Morrison recorded a song called; These Are the Days. Some of the lyrics follow.

"These are the days of the endless Summer.
These are the days; the time is now.
There is no past, there's only future.
There's only here, there's only now."

"These are the days by the sparkling river.
And His timely grace, the treasured find.
This is the love of the one great magician.
Turned the water into wine."

Perhaps, "His timely grace," is, "the treasured find," and a path to His peace. Perhaps that treasure is not a mysterious, distant behavior I will cultivate through work and effort but rather the simple act of opening my heart as a vessel for holding all the moments I inhabit right now, giving them attention and a promise to linger in them. Perhaps it is the joy of following the guidance of the Holy Spirit into that place of peace, embracing all the life that is mine, even though I follow with fear and wonder.

Earlier this week I did far too much exercise at the gym which I tend to do when I need to subdue my worries concerning these aging muscles of mine. It was a bad decision because the day after, I was so crippled with

muscle spasms that I could hardly get up from a chair. In the morning of that pain filled day, I had an appointment scheduled with my eye doctor in Gaithersburg which the drive alone I had predicted would be so painful. By the time the appointment was over, I was so miserable I decided to stop by Giant on the way home to get some pain relievers in the form of chocolate ice cream and Pecan Sandies.

When I finally arrived home, my sister called to hear about my eyes, but her call only reminded me that a friend of mine was coming to my apartment that evening to visit with me for a while. "Oh, Dear God!!! How can I get out of this," my pain yelled. Originally, I had been so grateful that he wanted to come see me but now I realized his coming would postpone my cookie blowout. I struggled to think of a solution. A little panic set in as I thought of my pain continuing without hindrance.

I've learned over my years that when panic or fear strike, I pray. While I prayed, a Holy Spirit calm prevailed and I remembered how much I cherished time with my friend; consequently, there really was no other choice to consider. I honestly did prefer that he come over, but I had allowed that preference to be overwhelmed by back pain. Fortunately, by the time he arrived, I was sitting quietly at the dining room table, a hot water bottle on my back, folding towels and eating a cookie.

We talked for hours about so many things. He is an extremely talented musician and song writer. So, we listened to music, talked about art and the joys of the creative process. I was inspired, lifted out of my worries, and encouraged to pursue my interests with more heart and enthusiasm. Peace filled my heart, and the pain in my

back took a nap. I became so grateful for my life just as it was.

I believe during those moments in the now of my life, my "treasured find," was trusting the Holy Spirit over cookies and inhabiting my life in the company of a beloved friend. There was peace in me and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit I was able to perceive it. It also helped that my friend loved Pecan Sandies dunked in milk as much as I did.

During those hours, I was able to move past my pain into a greater involvement in the life that has been given to me. I was able to confess, "I like my life just the way it is."

I still carry within my heart my new appreciation of owning my life. I find myself utterly convinced that Jesus wants me to live, "In the Goodness of the Lord, in the land of the living."
Psalm 27:13

Mediation Scriptures

John 6:68 "Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go?? You have the words of eternal life."

Romans 5:5 "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Psalm 27:13 "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

LUNCH FOR SIX

Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? This is the perfect opportunity to meet people who sit

outside your pew. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, and Olney Grille. Fun! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary for the next group.

Good reasons to go out to lunch:

**You might smile the rest of the day.
You might make a new friend.
You may see someone sitting in a
different pew, waving 'Hi' to you.**

SOCIAL HOUR

Also remember to sign up to bring snacks to the Community Hall so Social Hour can continue. This is another great way to encourage fellowship following the Worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary.

This doesn't have to be fancy. Emily likes brownies, but a dozen donuts is good, too.

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 AND ANNIVERSARIES



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

July Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Ellen Ennes | 07/02 |
| Velma Durant | 07/05 |
| Ian Poe-Yamagata | 07/06 |
| Virginia Smith | 07/06 |

Jacob Weinberger 07/14
Amy Roberts 07/15
Ginny Weinberger 07/20
Mark Ennes 07/30

July Anniversaries

Chris and Emily Hart 07/13

Are You Thirsty?

Hymn 2025

As the Deer



As the deer pants for the water, so my soul
longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long
to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you
alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long
to worship you.

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

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Salem Cemetery:

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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
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Nancy Joie Wilkie
