



# SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER October 2023

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### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



This month we celebrate All Saints' Day. This is a time to honor the people who have gone before us. In the United Methodist Church, we say they are our "cloud of witnesses." To me, that's everyone who's shaped who I am today. My family members and mentors, of course. But also people who wrote books and letters and had conversations that have formed me as well. The great thinkers and theologians are part of my "cloud." So are some singers and song writers who've captured my thoughts and helped me name things. It's also just people who are great lovers-of-God. And what does this cloud of witnesses do? They cheer us on! Like a stadium full of fans they watch us go through life and cheer when we do well and mourn when things go wrong.

Some of us don't have a hard time imagining people watching us and judging our every move. Some of us have harsh voices in our heads critiquing our thoughts and actions without mercy. Well, my friends, this is the exact opposite of that. This is a great crowd all on your side hoping and praying that you'll draw closer and closer to God. When you do, they cheer. And (I believe) when you don't, rather than booing you, they offer suggestions or compassion or love.

How do I know this? We see a glimpse of it in Hebrews 12:1. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with

perseverance the race that is set before us.” In Hebrews the author imagines that life in Christ is like a race to be run. We have to let go of our baggage to run well. And our “cloud of witnesses” is there to cheer us along. The author has just finished describing all the ways God has shown up for the saints of the faith, Abraham, Moses, and others. These are part of our cloud of witnesses. With all their flaws and faith!

I don't think I'm perfect in faith. I don't think my family members are either. But Moses died without seeing the promised land because of his argument with God, and HE is still counted in the cloud of witnesses. I believe all the loved ones we celebrate on All Saints' Day are with God and are joyfully singing God's praises as we see in Revelation 7:9-12. I believe they are part of our cloud of witnesses in Hebrews. I believe that God's love for us overcomes all our sins because of God's irresistible grace.

So, as we celebrate this All Saints', remember the people who have formed you with gratitude.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily Hart



Body Prayer



From Rev. Emily's sermon writing retreat ↑

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

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Can you believe it; October is here already. The school year is by now well underway and we turn our attention to upcoming events, both secular and religious. Fall colors, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are all just around the corner. Very exciting and meaningful times for all ages to enjoy.

This month is also important in church life. It is Salem's stewardship season when we consider all that God has given to us in such abundance. This is the time when we all

listen to our hearts and prayerfully decide how to commit our time, talents, service, witness and gifts to fulfill our Mission and Vision. Those goals we have defined and believe are the core of faith at Salem. They cannot happen without everyone in the congregation being involved in some way. All the mission work and church maintenance depend entirely on what we contribute to the budget. Even Reverend Emily's compensation.

Your Leadership Team will spend four evenings in October in conference with Reverend Emily to discuss and understand how our lives have shaped our financial strategies and giving practices. We are looking forward to sharing all this with you during the stewardship campaign this year.

In moving forward into the stewardship season, the Leadership Team asks for you to take some time yourselves to discuss and consider how you want to see Salem's future shaped and what your role in shaping it will look like.

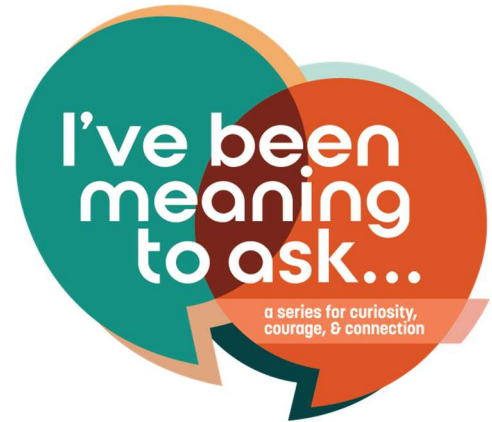
Please note some other key dates on your calendars. October 7 is Church Conference - all are welcome to attend. Advent starts on November 26. And on December 24, Salem will have a morning brunch at the 9:30 A.M. service and a candlelight service at 7:30 P.M. with no afternoon service.

One last note. Reverend Emily has played a huge role getting the Montgomery County DHS community child care program to participate in the AA program on Tuesday evenings starting this month. Safe Sanctuary practices will be observed and care givers will all be vetted, licensed and approved by the County. Congrats to her for seeing this through. This is a big step in Salem's outreach mission.

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## OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

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### Brief Series Overview

"I've been meaning to ask..." conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies the following statements: "I've been thinking about you, and I've been wanting to check in... You've been on my mind... I haven't known how to have this conversation, but I'm getting started with a question." It will show us the simple power of asking unassuming questions. It will remind us that courage is rooted in the heart.

This is the final sermon in "I've Been Meaning to Ask..." Part 1.

Oct. 1 I've Been Meaning to Ask... Where do we go from here?

*Ruth 1: 1-22 / Acts 10*

**Next up:**Series Overview

Most of us really dislike talking about money in church. And yet, we all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. The way we live into our money story makes a huge impact on our lives and our faith. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? This theme invites us to discover and tell our money stories in light of *God's* money story of liberation and justice. This month we can transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe. As we say in church, this is not about keeping the lights on. This is about living life in God's abundance. This theme is intentionally direct—it invites us to name exactly what we're talking about and not skirt around it.

To speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We so quickly want to avoid it. But

it's time we reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story. Thinking about God's money story should be liberating, inviting, and transformative. This stewardship season, we invite you to **remember, release, reimagine, and restore** your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

Oct. 8 Our Money Story: Remember

*Luke 22: 1-23 / Exodus 16: 1-18*

Even in stories of desperation and deep betrayal, we are gifted with God's provision – of the feast of enough, and the holy meal of **remembrance**.

Oct. 15 Our Money Story: Release

*Matthew 19: 16-22 / Deut. 15:1-11*

This week we practice **releasing** shame, anxiety, guilt, greed or anything that keeps us from freedom and wholeness.

Oct. 22 Our Money Story: Reimagine

*Mark 12: 38-44 / Leviticus 19: 9-10; 25: 8-12*

In light of these stories in scripture, we are called to **reimagine** our own money stories.

Oct. 29 Our Money Story: Restore

*John 21: 1-14 / Genesis 33: 1-17*

As we have practiced remembering, releasing, and reimagining, we conclude Our Money Story by focusing on **restoration**.

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## BIBLE STUDIES

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The current study is “I’ve been meaning to ask...”, a follow-up of the sermon series. This is a 4-wk class on Wednesday evenings, running from Sept. 13 through Oct. 4. So Oct. 4 is the last class for Part 1.

6:30-7:00 P.M. gather  
7:00-8:00 study

The zoom link for all the Wednesday night studies is  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

See the weekly announcements for the link to a printout of this study.

**Following that, starting Oct. 11**, will be a Bible study of the book “What is the Bible?” by Rev. Anne Robertson. The Amazon link to buy the book is  
<https://www.amazon.com/What-Bible-Exploring-Dickinson/dp/0990721205>

and the Christianbook.com link to buy the book is <https://tinyurl.com/2sj5uzmp>

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## MISSIONS

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### The Lord’s Table

The Lord’s Table will resume in October, specifically Oct. 6. It will continue to be held the first Friday of each month. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Churchill Groves for information.

## Olney Help Food Needs

Rev. Emily received an email from Ruth at Olney Help. Ruth reported seeing a **32% increase in food requests over 2023**. Food donations are way down for the summer and not nearly what is needed to keep up with the demand on a regular basis. They held food drives at the Olney Giant on Sept 23 and 24.

Ruth also said, “We would like to ask that you encourage your members to continue to support us on a regular basis. We are looking for both donations of food and we also welcome gift cards to Giant, Safeway and Harris Teeter. I will include a list of our most needed items below.

“Lastly, we built our food pantry in 2017 and this building is 30% larger than the facility we had before in Brookeville. We thought this was a great size but when we receive large donations from schools and other organizations in the fall, we have little space to sort and organize the food. We are looking for a separate room that might be available during the day to drop off food with space for our volunteers to sort and box the food. The need would be from about Nov 1 through about Jan 15. The room does not need to be locked but needs to be a separate space with access for our team of volunteers.

“Our most needed items at this moment are: canned chicken, canned peas, pancake mix and syrup, canned chili, canned meats - salmon, beef stew, corned beef hash, etc, shelf stable juice, juice boxes (100% juice please), cold cereals especially for adults, sloppy joe sauce, canned fruit (in juice please), boxed white spaghetti noodles (no other pasta), rice and rice sides, pasta sides,

instant potatoes - both pouches and boxes, dessert mixes (cake, cookie, brownie, frosting), snacks for kids. I know this is a long list but we truly need most everything and really appreciate your support.

“For those who find it easier to order online we have a new Amazon wishlist with many useful items on it.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/B9R4BSW2TAS5?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/B9R4BSW2TAS5?ref=wl_share)

“Please feel free to share the list with everyone. We are hoping to find a space for the fall but are very grateful for all of your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.”

The above email is from Ruth at Olney Help.

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](http://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.

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## CHURCH CONFERENCE

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Our church conference is on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 12:30 – 2 P.M. in the sanctuary and on Zoom. This is a yearly meeting and all are encouraged to attend. The zoom link is <https://bwcumc.zoom.us/j/86107415116>



Mary Kay and Teddy busy completing forms needed for the church conference.

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## I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK... GROUP DISCUSSIONS

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These past few Sundays, following the sermons, we broke up into groups of 3 or 4 and discussed “I’ve been meaning to ask...” questions, such as “Have you even been a caregiver and how did that make you feel?” Or “Name the chapters in the book of your life that briefly describe major events.”



Group discussions

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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Join us at Salem for the Blessing of the Animals on **Sunday October 15** at 1 P.M. A Free Outdoor Event – Rain or Shine. Come celebrate the bond between animals and their humans! All animals are welcome but they must be leashed or in pet carriers.

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## LUNCH FOR SIX

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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, Olney Grille, and Jimmie Cone. Fun! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary for the next group.

More good reasons to go out to lunch with others: 1) Doctors say socialization is great for us seniors. 2) Doctors say socialization is exercise for the brain. It is work. One has to follow the conversation and think what to say next. Also, one follows how others are responding: what they say and their body language.

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## SOCIAL HOUR

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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. Rev. Emily likes brownies, but a dozen donuts is good, too.

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## UPCOMING YARD SALE

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Salem will have a yard sale on Nov. 11 from 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. Volunteers are needed to help.

Plan A – Start saving your good quality furniture and other items which can be dropped off at church (specific times will be announced). These items will be sold with the proceeds going directly to the church.

Plan B – Rent a spot and table for a fee which will go to the church. Bring your items to church and hang around to sell them. You keep the proceeds.

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## VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS

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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.

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## GIVING

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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>

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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

### September Birthdays

Myron Shear	10/01
Pati Fekete	10/01
Emily Johns (Weinberger)	10/24
Fred Ambrose	10/25
Debbie Ambrose	10/29

### October Anniversary

Mark and Joan Aebig	10/13/79
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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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](http://www.salemunitedmethodist.org)

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

Rev. Emily's e-mail:  
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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	Mollie Haines
Joan Aebig	Hisashi Yamagata
Carole Roberts	Nancy Joie Wilkie

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