



# SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER February 2024

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Grace and peace to all our Salem community!

If you can believe it, it's almost time for Lent. Lent will start on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. At first glance, this feels like a strange overlap. A day of pink and red glitter hearts accompanying heartfelt declarations of love doesn't seem to match with the burnt Palm branches that become the ashes we adorn our foreheads with every year on Ash Wednesday.

And yet. The more we know about Ash Wednesday, the more it starts to make poetic sense.

Ash Wednesday is the day that begins the 40-day season of Lent that leads up to Easter. (Of course, it's 40-days of "church math"... we leave out the Sundays!). During this season we often abstain from something decadent in order to both understand Christ's fasting in the wilderness and to better celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter.

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The Eastern Orthodox Church does this better than anyone else. They abstain from a number of things, including anything with eggs in it! Can you imagine thinking through what you eat in a day and removing all the eggs? Obviously cakes and cookies and scrambled eggs, but also most meatloaf recipes, some lasagna, and many store-bought snacks. It forces them to think about their faith all day, every day for the 40 days. Then, on Easter vigil (which is a different day for them) they each get a hard-boiled egg. In seminary, a friend of mine was just converting to the Eastern Orthodox faith, and he said it was the *best* egg he had ever eaten in his life. They celebrated the resurrection by reintroducing their taste buds to something they loved with a new appreciation for its deliciousness. On our own, we can't comprehend the glory of the resurrection—it's too abstract. But for them, it's even more wonderful than eating that egg. What a way to personalize it! What a way to understand the love.

You see, it's about understanding God's sacrifice. But it's also about understanding God's love. Ash Wednesday kicks off a hard time in the church year, but it's also a time filled with love. Our communion liturgy says, "God died for us while we were yet sinners, that *proves* God's love for us." Lent prepares us for Christ's loving sacrifice. We don't practice Lent to feel guilty or to suffer. We do it to see how deep God's love is.

So, on Valentine's Day, join us for Ash Wednesday. Celebrate and recognize the love of Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

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## OBITUARY FOR REV. LIL GEIB

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Rev. Lillian Hughes Rodgers Geib, 77, born on July 26, 1946, passed away on January 23, 2024 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She had lived in Spencer, Virginia.



A native Washingtonian, she received degrees in biological sciences from Virginia Intermont College, and in sociology and criminology from the University of MD. Following her graduation in 1971, she served in Volunteers in Service to America, was Director of the Central Virginia Community Health Center, and was Director of the Charles County Children's Aid Society. She co-founded the Charles County Community Crisis and Referral Center and the Charles County Children's Abuse Task Force.

Rev. Lil earned her Masters of Divinity from Wellesley Theological Seminary in 1997. She was an ordained elder of the UMC who served many churches in Virginia and Maryland even in her retirement. She served at Salem from August 2001 to June 2008. You may remember seeing Rev. Lil at Salem a couple of times in the last few years. One Sunday in 2023 she performed the prayer shawl blessing.

She is survived by Paul Geib, her husband of over 40 years, three children (Christy, Elizabeth, and Richard), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Paul Geib at 18 Maple Leaf Road, Spencer, VA 24165.

Contributions in Lillian's memory may be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The funeral home is Collins-McKee-Stone Funeral Home in Martinsville, VA.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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## OBITUARY FOR REV. JEANNE KLAUDA

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Rev. Jeanne Williamson Klauda, 78, born on February 26, 1945, passed away on January 23, 2024 at her home in Annapolis, Maryland.



Rev. Jeanne W. Klauda

Rev. Klauda was a member of St. Paul's UMC in Kensington from 1951 to 1968. She graduated from Frostburg State Univ., served in the Peace Corps, and then attended Wesley Seminary. She was ordained in 1968, but as the Conference did not allow women pastors at that time, she served as Director of Christian Education in several churches until

1976, when she received her first pastoral assignment. She was pastor at Salem from 1981 to 1985 and served at three churches after that including North Bethesda UMC, Severna Park UMC, and Providence-Fort Washington UMC. She retired in 2006 as a Retired Elder.

In order to honor Rev. Klauda's memory, donations can be made to the Campership program at West River Retreat Center, P.O. Box 429, Churchton, MD 20733.

The Funeral Home is Barranco Severna Park Funeral Home & Cremation Care, P.A.

On Sunday, Feb. 11 at 1:00 P.M. a memorial service will be held at Severna Park UMC, 731 Benfield Rd., Severna Park, MD. Following the service, ashes will be scattered at the West River Retreat and Conference Center.

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

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January's Leadership Team meeting started the look ahead for this year. The team discussed assigning "must start by" dates on the 2024 calendar for church activities such as the annual stewardship drive and pastor evaluation. The same for retreats, charge conference and BWC conference. Staying on task per the current schedule is going to be a focus for the team.

The team continues to consult with an architect/contractor for improving several aspects of the sanctuary. We had an on-site meeting with a firm and are expecting preliminary remodeling renderings to review and revise as needed. Roofing, lighting, carpeting, painting and overhead projection are a few of the modifications the team would

like to put forward to the congregation at some point this year.

Further discussion was held on cemetery plot and cremains burial prices. The team felt the current prices suggested could still be adjusted up. The team needs all members in place to finalize that decision.

The snow removal contract came up for discussion, and the current services offered will handle plowing situations. Notifying the contractor to be out there most likely needs a point person at Salem. Snow removal must sync with Sunday services so everyone can park and walk safely.

Generally, spending and revenue are in balance starting this year with a healthy surplus of funds on hand.

We are interviewing candidates for child care during Sunday services. We hope that offering this care will help encourage new parishioners with children to come to Salem.

Finally, the team wishes to thank Nancy Cox and Fred Ambrose for coordinating much needed plumbing repairs in the Community Hall building.

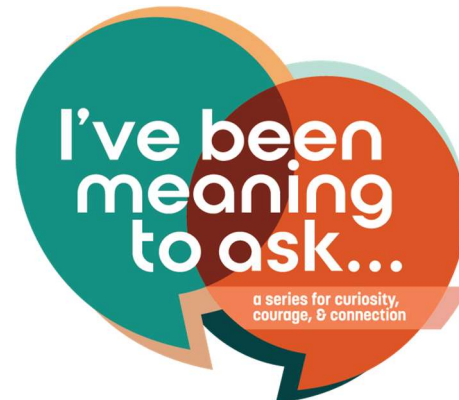
Mark Aebig, chair

Members: Mary Kay Abramson, Quinn Anderson, Chet Babylon, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, Hisashi Yamagata

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## FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

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### PART 3

#### Series Overview

It's a New Year! A chance to do something new! A chance to renew our commitments, change our habits, open to God.

For us at Salem, it's also a time to get curious. In 2023 we did two rounds of "I've been meaning to ask." We asked about everything from origin stories to beliefs about heaven. Curiosity is a gift God has given us! It helps us make new discoveries about the world, about each other, and about God, Godself.

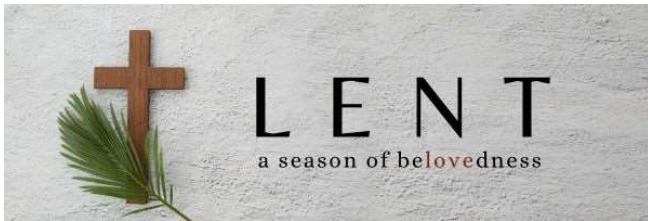
Now it's time to ask about our lives. How do we live? Do I really need to deal with *them*? And the perennial question: is God even listening? Join us as we kick off the new year ready to start the year with curiosity.

Feb 4 I've Been Meaning to Ask... Is God even listening?  
*Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18*

Feb 11 Cristin Cooper of Coop's Soups will be guest preaching



**LENTEN SERMON SERIES**



This year, it's all about BELOVEDNESS. Who's belovedness? Yours. And mine. And hers, and his, and theirs. Everyone's belovedness. One of our scriptures for this series is our famous John 3:16: "for God so loved the WORLD...". That includes you (and your unfortunate neighbor down the street. Sorry.) This season, take a breath and wonder at the ways God's love prepares us to understand the ultimate (and baffling) love of Christ on the cross.

In the ancient church, they took Lent as a time to prepare new members for their baptism and official entrance into the church. You may be a new member, or you may not even remember the first time you stepped into a church. Either way, this is a time for you to re-prepare yourself, to re-understand exactly what brought you to this place and the belovedness God has bestowed on you.

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday, Joint Service with St. Paul and other churches at Salem, 7 P.M., Pastor Will Newton preaching; following the service, light refreshments will be provided

Feb. 18 You Are Called to Be Loved  
*Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25; Colossians 3:1-11*

Feb. 25 It's All About Grace  
*Genesis 3:1-7; Ephesians 2:4-10*

**CONNECTIONS NEW MEMBER CLASS**



A new member class called "Connections" will begin on February 18. Please contact Rev. Emily to get on the contact list.

Syllabus

Class date	Class topic
2/18/24 11:00-1:00*	Who are you and what is church membership? <i>Decide our lunch plan for the rest of the sessions.</i>
2/25/24 11:00-12:30	What is the UMC and how is it structured? Discuss thoughts from reading.
3/3/24 11:00-12:30	What do we believe as United Methodists? Discuss thoughts from reading.
3/10/24	No class - Leadership Team meeting
3/17/24 11:00-12:30	Tell me about this church: ministries, classes, budget, etc. Discuss thoughts from reading.
3/24/24 11:00-1:00*	Final class: questions, wrap up, overview of the meaning on the membership service.
3/31/24	no class - Happy Easter!
4/7/24 9:30 service	Membership vows in church for those who choose to join

\*lunch provided by Coop's Soup and Salem

Reading material:

Our Membership Vows in the United Methodist Church by Mark W. Stamm (OMV)  
<http://tinyurl.com/2kc3zhcp>

(or contact Rev. Emily to get a hard copy).

When you do the reading, please think of the following: Inspire, inquire, irk, require. What about this reading inspires you? What inquiries does it raise? What (if anything) irks you? Lastly, what does it require of you? You can use the linked document to take notes if you like!

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**MISSIONS**

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**The Lord's Table**

The Salem volunteer days at The Lord's Table are held the first Friday of each month at 1 P.M. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Churchill Groves for information.

**Olney HELP Food Needs**

You may leave non-perishable food donations in the box in the Meeting Room behind the Sanctuary or in the marked box in the Community Hall. Food items needed most at this time: (updated 1/3/24)  
pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit (in juice please), canned chili, canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce and canned pasta, adult cereal, spaghetti sauce – plain kind, canned meats, such as tuna, chicken, turkey, corned beef, spam, salmon, Vienna sausage, etc.; 1 lb. bags of rice and rice sides (Knorr/Roni), pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), baked beans, canned green beans, corn, peas (low/no

salt), Jelly - all sizes, all flavors, condiments – BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes - 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice, frosting for all our cake mixes.

You can also drop off Giant gift cards at the Giant Customer Service Desk and they will hold them for Olney Help.

For those who find it easier to order online, they 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)

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).



A letter to Rev. Emily from Olney HELP:

January 6 th, 2024

Dear Rev. Hart,

On behalf of Olney HELP, we are so grateful for your recent donation in November 2023.

We are wrapping up one of our busiest years yet; we couldn't have done it without your generous donation and continued support, which has meant the world to us.

Again, thank you for your generosity and significantly impacting our community and the people we serve.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Filbert  
Director, Food Services, Olney HELP

## Prayer Shawls

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

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## BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

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On January 14, 39 new prayer shawls were blessed and put up by the coat rack. They were lovingly crocheted by a group of women led by JoAnn Keister. They have been labeled and tagged in the hopes that you will give them to a friend, or a friend of a friend, who may be comforted knowing that people care about them.



As we extended our arms forward to bless the shawls, Rev. Emily gave thanks for this ministry, that for those who receive them, God would surround them with love. For those who are part of this congregation who see these shawls and wonder who might need one, we prayed that God would open

our eyes and hearts that we might recognize the need and then feel bold to share it.



Prayer shawls have been sent all over the country which is a beautiful expression of how far this mission reaches.

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## BIBLE STUDY

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The Wednesday night Bible study will resume on February 7! Yay! The study is of the book "Introducing the Old Testament" by Rev. Anne Robertson. (It's the next book in Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series".)

On Feb. 7 we'll start in the book with Session 1—Older Than Dirt.

The Amazon link to buy the book is [https://www.amazon.com/Introducing-Old-Testament-Exploring-Bible/dp/0990721213/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?crd=126YRL193UBLI&keywords=Bible+Dickinson&qid=1705512958&s=books&sprefix=bible+dickinson%2Cstripbooks%2C58&sr=1-5](https://www.amazon.com/Introducing-Old-Testament-Exploring-Bible/dp/0990721213/ref=sr_1_5?crd=126YRL193UBLI&keywords=Bible+Dickinson&qid=1705512958&s=books&sprefix=bible+dickinson%2Cstripbooks%2C58&sr=1-5)

The Christianbook.com link to buy the book is  
<http://tinyurl.com/3j35ky3b>

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=T256VnlzQ1VwVWk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

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### **MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY**

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Join the Baltimore-Washington Conference for our 2024 Legislative Advocacy Day on Wed., Feb 21 from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Legislative Advocacy Days are an opportunity for United Methodists to meet their representatives and advocate for United Methodist values. This allows the voices of United Methodists to be heard and considered when our representatives make important decisions that impact the lives of our communities.

**LOCATION: ASBURY UMC (ANNAPOLIS), 87 WEST STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MD US 21404**

**DATE: WED., FEB. 21**

**TIME: 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

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### **JOAN CRAVER'S NEW ADDRESS**

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Joan Craver has moved to a retirement community in Frederick. We wish her well and are glad to know we may see her occasionally at Salem.

5568 N. Annapolis Dr., Frederick, MD 21771

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### **NANCY NULLMEYER'S NEW ADDRESS**

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Nancy Nullmeyer is about to move to the Knollwood Community in Washington. We are so sad to see her go, but know she and her son will be happy being close to each other.

6200 Oregon Ave., N.W. Apt. # 412  
Washington, D.C. 20025

Nancy's last Sunday at Salem is Feb. 4 and we'll be having Social Hour after church to say "Goodbye".

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### **SOCIAL HOUR**

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Please 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. Instead of weekly, we'll try once a month. Nothing fancy. Just a dozen donuts cut in half is perfect.

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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 socialize during the week and meet people who sit outside your pew. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, Panera Bread, Olney Grille, and Dempsey's. There is a sign-up sheet for the next group on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary.



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## READING ROOM

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The Reading Room shelves are full! We cannot accept any more books. The good news is there are well over 400 books and DVDs. Take the time to wander up there, browse, and take advantage of this wonderful resource. The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Thanks to everyone who has donated books.

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## BIRTHDAYS

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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!

### February Birthdays

Kyle Mauzy	02/11
Vern Schinski	02/20
Roger Rhinehart	02/24
Nancy Joie Wilkie	02/27

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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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## 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:  
[pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Music Director:  
[music@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:music@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Building Use:  
[building@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:building@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Salem Cemetery:  
[salem12cemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:salem12cemetery@yahoo.com)

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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	Nancy Joie Wilkie
Joan Aebig	Hisashi Yamagata
Mollie Haines	Kyle Mauzy, Intern
Carole Roberts	