

Salem United Methodist Church

March 2017 Newsletter



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2017

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community,
Easter will arrive in six weeks! In the church during this time, we make a journey to the Crucifixion of Jesus and his Resurrection. We call these six weeks, Lent. Traditionally the church has viewed Lent as a time for practicing the spiritual disciplines of individual self-examination, penitence, and sacrifice or “giving something up.” The purpose of Lent was inwardly focused on one’s sins. This view of Lent can lead to a negative flavor of self-deprivation and unworthiness.

The early church had a different focus for Lent. For the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation and support for all who had chosen to follow Jesus. Lent was a time of

learning, and practicing one’s faith. For those who were choosing to follow Jesus for the first time, the community of faith taught them about baptism and what a lifelong commitment to Christian discipleship is.

This ancient church tradition is one that we will be adopting during Lent this year. We will examine what it means to be a follower of Jesus through our Baptismal Covenant. Each Sunday we will take one part of the covenant, see what it means, and how we can live it out in our daily lives. Whenever a person is baptized, we as a congregation are invited to renew this covenant because we have a tendency to break it, sometimes even before we leave the church property!

Recently, Joanne Ranshaw commented on how we do not take our covenant vows seriously. She compared this to the oath that is taken in a court of law. There we promise to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God. If we break this promise, we commit perjury in which we can be fined or receive a jail sentence. But in the church she stated we can say one thing, then turn around and do the opposite. She called this “church perjury.” The Good News is when we break our promises to God and repent for breaking

them, we are forgiven and given a new opportunity to promise again so we can try again.

So the question for us this Lent is, "How Are We Living Our Baptismal Calling?" And what does this look like in our daily lives?

Striving to live out my baptismal calling,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sermon Series: Living Our Baptismal Calling

March 5: First Sunday in Lent: Renounce
10:00 Baptism of Kaydin Claggett, great-granddaughter of Joanne Keister

March 12: Second Sunday in Lent: Accept

March 19: Third Sunday in Lent: Confess

March 26: Fourth Sunday in Lent: Nurture

April 2: Fifth Sunday in Lent: Believe

Joint Lenten Services

Each year Salem UMC joins with Ashton, St. Paul in Laytonsville and Mt. Carmel UMCs for Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday worship services. We rotate churches for these special services as we remember together Jesus' journey to the cross. This year's services are as follows:

All times are at 7:30 pm.

Ash Wednesday Service, March 1

Mt. Carmel UMC, corner of New Hampshire and Georgia Aves.

Rev. Jean Lee, pastor

Holy Thursday Service, April 13

Ashton UMC, 17314 New Hampshire Ave., Ashton, MD

Rev. Emily Berkowitz, pastor

Good Friday Service, April 14

Here at Salem

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

All middle and high-school students are welcome. You do not need to attend Salem.

Youth Schedule

6:30 -7:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

March 5 Making Choices

March 12 Our Compassion Child, Alex

March 19 Working Our Covenant

March 26 Working Our Covenant

February was a busy month for the youth group. They attended ROCK in Ocean City, cooked an ASP breakfast, bought \$272.10 worth of groceries for Olney Help with the Souper Bowl of Caring donations, hosted a game night, and did World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. They raised \$1287 for World Vision! \$40 feeds one child for a month. So about 32 children will have food for 30 days with the money that was raised! The youth have been working on a covenant that they are choosing to uphold. Beginning in March we will be working through our covenant and seeing how we can live each day as a follower of Christ more faithfully.

ROCK 2017



Back row: Tom Luke, Sandy Harschandra, Donovan Thompson, Joey Brantley, Alex Larson; Front row: Sam Larson, Aidan Thompson, Carl McDonald, Jacob Weinberger, Amy Roberts, Rev Sue; kneeling: Mary Ellen Eaton.
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

The youth and adults from Salem had another rewarding trip to ROCK this year. This year's focus was based on Psalm 62:2 "Truly God is my rock and my salvation; God is my fortress, I will never be shaken." Several of the weekends small groups revolved around this topic. This year's featured speaker was Preston Centuolo who was able to keep the audience actively engaged with his message through an interactive presentation style and use of humor. Sidewalk Prophets provided music for daily worship, giving participants time to praise God and on the final morning Urban Street Level led morning devotions with several songs. Many of the Salem youth reported that Preston's messages were a highlight of the weekend as they were based on personal experience which made them easily relatable to many. We would like to give a special thanks to Mary Ellen Eaton who once again came to ROCK and cooked delicious breakfast and dinners for the participants. The youth and adults

had a wonderful weekend at ROCK and it was only made possible through the congregation's generous gifts of time and monetary donations. Your continued support makes it possible for the church's youth to go on trips to deepen their spiritual identity and strengthen their relationships with others.

Submitted by Alex Larson

Those attending were- Joey Brantley, Sandy Harischandra, Karl McDonald, Amy Roberts, Aiden and Donovan Thompson, Jacob Weinberger; Adults: Mary Ellen Eaton, Sam and Alex Larson, Tom Luke, and Rev. Sue.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Youth Group had a great time shopping for needy families with the Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Cate McDonald, a volunteer for Olney Help, came along, and filled us in on the most needed items (see the updated list in the bulletin). The kids broke into three teams, got to work and quickly, but thoughtfully, picked up \$272 worth of groceries.

Submitted by Carole Roberts

Thank you from Olney Help

Dear Salem Youth Group,
On behalf of Olney Help, I would like to thank Salem United Methodist Church's Youth Group for the non-perishable food donation to our pantry in February. The pantry was completely out of oatmeal and several other items on our most needed list. The donation of these items makes a real difference in the lives of hungry families in our area. We are so grateful for your partnership in helping neighbors in need.

Sincerely,
Cate McDonald
Secretary for Olney Help

Sunday, Feb 24-26 World Vision's 30 Hour Famine

The youth (Aiden, Amy, Brianna, Donovan, Jacob, Joey, Karl, and Lexi) arrived at Salem Friday evening, already 6 hours into their fast, and staked out their sleeping areas before heading over to the sanctuary to plan Sunday's service and practice bells. From there it was back to the Community Hall to research the country of Sudan. After a good night's rest, they did several activities

and games, then had a visit from Father Peter Gevera from St. Louis Catholic Parish in Clarksville who has spent time in Sudan. Next they were off to the Lord's Table where they prepared tuna casserole, garlic bread and salad and served many hungry people at the height of their own hunger. They arrived back at Salem and broke their fast after a small communion service with grape juice and their favorite bread (Hawaiian rolls). Mary Ellen Eaton had prepared a feast of spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and brownies. Sunday morning they were back at church bright and early to lead both services, share what they had learned, and play three songs on the bells. Thank you to all the adults who helped: Libby Wright and Tom Luke for spending the night for Safe Sanctuaries, Barbara Achstetter for spending the night and driving the kids to and from The Lord's Table and working with them there, Alex Larson for staying the night and also lending his expertise in the Friday night and Saturday programming, Reverend Sue for all the work she did preparing as well as working with the kids all weekend, Rose Eide-Altman for coming Friday night for one more bell rehearsal, and Mary Ellen Eaton and Carole Roberts for getting the dinner on the table. Thanks to the youth fundraising efforts and the generosity of the congregation, we raised \$1287 for World Vision to help the hungry around the world.

Submitted by Carole Roberts



Front Row: Breanna, Rev. Sue, Aiden, Second Row: Jacob, Amy, Donovan, Last row, Joey, Alex and Lexi.

FROM OUR INTERN

Lenten Bible Study

Discipleship: Why should I care? What does it have to do with me as a Christian? Come to a community Lenten discovery of the transformative power of discipleship. Taking up the hard stuff of life in the midst of our Christian lives. We will study a chapter from different texts each week and talk about how they challenge and inspire us to develop our discipleship further as a community of Christian believers. And, maybe even begin to formulate a new understanding of discipleship as we go along. We will have discussions on several Thursdays during lent. March 9, 16, 30, and April 6 from 7:15-approximately 8:30 pm. We will skip March 23 due to Church Council meeting. I can provide either a paper copy of the chapter for each week or e-mail a PDF version to you. Please contact me by phone or e-mail to let me know if you would like to participate. We also welcome folks to come to one or all of the weeks. The sessions will not be dependent upon previous week's materials. Hope to see you there!

Sam's contact information:

Samantha.Gangwer@gmail.com, 202-607-0311

FROM THE CONGREGATION

He Will Answer

By Velma Durant

As I was putting the newsletter together I realized I had nothing for "From The Congregation," no time for me to make a quick phone call for help, so I looked through my computer and found the following. It was written in January several years ago, but the message it gives is just as real today as it was when I wrote it.

Matthew 6: 5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 6:7 "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think

that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Christmas time came and as I so often do I buy, buy and buy. Then it dawned on me I had over-extended my budget. Oh my, now what? Well, I could borrow from the "household funds" provided weekly for food and other things I handle. However, as I thought of it I realized that that wasn't really an option.

I pondered this as I walked to the mail box to retrieve the daily mail. The usual array of Christmas cards along with ads to entice spending more money; however, there is a Christmas card addressed to me only. Now who would be sending me a "private" Christmas card? There is no return address and the post mark is unreadable. I opened the envelope and the card was signed SANTA! I did not recognize the handwriting: who could it be from? Then I see the card, a gift certificate from Shoppers Food grocery store; but not just a gift card, it is for the exact amount that I needed to "borrow." Now I could trade the card for the much needed funds to cover my overextended amount. God really does hear before we ask and answer while we are still trying to figure things out.

SALEM BOOK CLUB

Salem's Book Club is planning a game night on March 7th. Stay tuned more information.

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) 2017



Sunday, February 12th: The February ASP Breakfast was a great success, raising \$837 for the mission trip. Thank you to all who dined and contributed, and a big pat on the back to all the

youth and adults who set up, cooked, served and cleaned up afterwards.

The 2017 trip to West Virginia is scheduled for June 18-24. Upcoming Fundraisers:

**Movie Night – Saturday, March 18, 6 pm
(Postponed. Stay Tuned for New Date)
ASP Yard Sale – Saturday, April 29**

Music of the Dance – Sunday, April 30 - The Kelltones, a Celtic music ensemble, and The Encore Singers, together will perform

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Good times, good music and fellowship and knowing you are a part in helping those who are unable to help themselves; even if you personally are not able to be there.

SALEM MEN



Brandon Savage and Fred Ambrose making Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday Dinner

The Men's group had their monthly breakfast on 11 February and had a quick business meeting after the 10 am Sunday service. It was affirmed that the Men's group would host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on 28 February.. The next Men's group breakfast starts at 8:30 am on 11 March.



A TIME FOR CHILDREN



The Youth made their report to the congregation on their experience of the 30-Hour Famine so our Pastor, Rev. Sue, talked to the children about what it would be like not having anything to eat for a whole day. Then when you did get food it might be one meal for the whole day. She explained that in some countries food isn't available like it is here, people have to grow their own and if the weather doesn't cooperate, their gardens will not grow.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The next Lord's Table is
Saturday, March 25, 2017, 1-5 pm
At St. Martin's of Tours Catholic Church
201 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Md.
Come and help to create a delicious meal to serve those who are hungry in our community.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Readiness 360 Survey and Results
A Report from Salem Church Council
February, 2017

During the month of February, our church embarked on encouraging all members to respond to a survey sponsored by the United Methodist Church. This followed a sermon series on the Book of Acts. Through these sermons we were encouraged to return to the story of the early disciples and think about how their work could help us envision our modern day role as disciples of Jesus. The Readiness 360 Survey is designed to engage us in a long term conversation about our readiness to reach new people in new ways. We

invested time and resources to communicate information about this survey to our members and friends (through two letters, two different emails, notices in the Sunday bulletin, and individual phone calls to every member). As a result, 57 individuals completed the survey providing responses to the multiple choice survey questions and two open-ended questions. This was a very good response!!! Thanks to all who provided their input.

The results were tabulated and reports prepared. On Saturday, February 17, the congregation was invited to meet with Christie Latona, church strategist from the Baltimore Washington Conference, to hear a report about the results and begin to consider what our next steps would be. (An overview of the results is included in this newsletter.) Twenty people attended (some all day, some just am or pm.)



Christie LaTona

We determined 3 areas of initial focus: 1.) We need to streamline our committee/work/meeting structures to free our congregation from unnecessary “meetings” and leave us more time and energy to be about doing God’s work. 2.) We need to find new and exciting ways to connect with each other about our faith and be accountable to each other and to God for our spiritual development and discipleship. 3) We need to be creative about ways to reach out to the community with activities and programs that might appeal to the many in our community who have no church or who have drifted away from their Christian faith and practices.

Church Council will be organizing the work around these three areas (which are just the beginning!) in the coming months and will be calling on members of the congregation to join in our efforts to support our own spiritual growth and reach out to new people in new ways. Please be thinking about ways you could help!

Debbie Ambrose

Church Council Chair

A WORD ABOUT MISSIONS

Upcoming Missions



We will be undertaking some missions in the near future to help resupply items needed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and that is to put together Health Kits and Cleaning Buckets.

During the Lenten season, we will purchase the supplies and the youth will put together the Health Kits. These kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health Kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes.

This process will be similar to how we assembled the Cruiser Kits. The items that we will need are the following: Hand towels, washcloths, large combs, nail files or nail clippers, bath soap, adult toothbrushes, Band-Aids, and gallon plastic bags.

We will post a sign-up list and Salem members will be asked to purchase these items. Depending on price, people may want to group together to purchase these supplies; for example the hand towels. (Please do not purchase items now.)

More details will be forthcoming but this is a much needed and easy mission to accomplish. We will undertake the Cleaning Buckets in the early summer.

As always, thank you for your never-ending generosity.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2017 worship year, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway.

When signing up, please indicate if the flowers are a tribute (for example: from the Jones family in honor of John's 10th birthday). Tributes will be listed in the Sunday announcements.

Purchase your flowers at the vendor of your choice and bring by Saturday afternoon. Call Rev. Dr. Sue before you head out so she can open the church for you. Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour? Please volunteer to provide a coffee hour or two this year. You may sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hall or please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949a9aa2aa1fc1-coffee> or contact Joyce Howes.

MEMORY GARDEN

If you are interested in placing an order for a brick to honor/remember someone please see Joyce Howes for more information.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact velma_durant@yahoo.com. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

Our March Birthdays are:

Groves, Briana	03/11
Groves, Nicholas	03/12
Buswell, Beth (Geib)	03/16
VanHorn, Zach	03/20
Sterling, Becky	03/26
Beye, David	03/29
Robinson, George	03/29
Ochsenreiter, Lauren	03/31

March Anniversaries.

Ambrose, Fred and Debbie	03/22
Howes, Warren and Janet	03/29

OUR COMMUNITY

Sunday School: We are short a Sunday School teacher. If you can volunteer monthly, on the fifth Sunday or even now and then (or as a sub) please contact Deb Ambrose.

Salem Men's Meeting: Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 am in the Community Hall.

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday March 27th at 7:00 pm. **There is a standing request for help in preparing the dinner, setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Mary Ellen Eaton.**

Eyeglass Collection: Salem continues to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave them in Salem Community Hall.

Summer Church Camp: The Baltimore-Washington Conference offers two locations: West River and Manidokan for summer camp. There are a variety of offerings for Grades 3-12: Adventure, Discovery, Explorer, Horseback, Sailing.

Music, God Squad, Theatre, and even a camp for grandparents with their grandchildren. Check out these offerings at funfriendsfaith.com. Flyers are on the table across from the pastor's office.

Spirit Club: A fitness group for those with disabilities meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6-7 pm. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

Seniors on the Move – Exercise Class: Fridays, 9:00-10:00 am in the Community Hall. Drop in – registration not required! Participate and pay by the session or for the full fall program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at mjcosgrove58@gmail.com.

JUST A REMINDER

To order your Café Justo Coffee please contact Kathryn Ennes at church or via e-mail at k_ennes@yahoo.com.

[Café Justo](#) is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico – a ministry of [Frontero de Cristo](#). They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice.

“FOR I WAS HUNGRY...”

Manna Food Center: 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

To volunteer call 301-424-1130 or online at www.mannafood.org.

Olney Help: P.O. Box 430, Olney, MD 20830
To volunteer call 301-774-6829. They still are in desperate need of rice sides (Rice-a-Roni/ Knorr sides), peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, fruit juice, snacks such as granola bars/crackers, cake mix/frosting, canned pasta). Please place items in the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway. No glass jars.

PRAYER SHAWLS



Prayer Shawls are available in the Salem entry hall on top of the coat rack. There is no cost. If you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, please help yourself to a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family, or co-workers. They do help. Just knowing someone cares is sometimes just the right medicine. They will thank you!

A Thank You

A recent note from Peggy Emswiler thanking me for sending her a shawl while she was in the hospital and asking me to pass on to the ladies who make the shawls how beautiful it is and how much she appreciated it.

And, again, my thanks go out to all who have helped me and my family with meals, cards, well wishes and prayers during my unexpected hospital stay.

Velma

Note from the Publisher: I was asked to print the words of a song. I do not know the title of or who wrote it; it's been part of my life so long I just sing it!

**Don't do a half day's work for the Lord
And expect a whole day's pay.
Only what's done with all your heart
Will count on that Judgment Day
Why should I sit idly by
Knowing souls are doomed to die?
Don't do a half day's work for the Lord
And expect a whole days' pay.**

An Item of Interest

With permission from Ron Sterling I am printing a Post from his FACEBOOK page.

Dick Ranshaw was an educator in the MCPS. At one time he worked at my alma mater Wheaton High School where my Mom worked also. He ended his career at Sherwood HS as a counselor. I took my first real Bible study with him and my Mom at Salem UMC in Brookeville. He was a great man and in my 2012 journal taped to page 66 was this poem he gave me.

THIS MOMENT

**I may never see tomorrow,
There's no written guarantee!
And things that happened yesterday,
Belong to history.
I cannot predict the future
And I cannot change the past.
I have just the present moment
I must treat it as my last.
I must make this moment precious
For it will not come again,
And I can never be content
With things that might have been.
Kind words I fail to say this day
May ever be unsaid
For I know not how short may be
The path that lies ahead.
Thanks Dick Ranshaw**

**The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by
Velma Durant, and edited by Curtis Smith and
Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling or Suzanne Friis**



READINESS 360

Multiply your impact.

Overview

Congratulations for being willing to engage in a serious conversation about your readiness to reach new people in new ways! The Christian movement in North America was strong for so many generations because churches planted new churches that planted new churches. Untold thousands of churches, decade after decade, state after state! Only a small percentage of today's churches still have multiplication of ministry on their radar. Your church does - and that sets you apart!

Salem United Methodist Church asked several of its leaders and participants to participate in the *Readiness 360* process. The survey many of you took assesses your church's spiritual and practical readiness for faithful and effective ministry in the 21st century. 57 persons took the *Readiness 360*, a mix of staff, key leaders and active ministry participants.

Readiness 360 assesses four critical capacities for multiplying thriving ministries. In the rating system below, your church's level of multiplication energy is indicated by the number of rabbits (God's most adorable multipliers). The more multiplication energy your church has, the more ready you will be to start something new. Salem is strongest in terms of **Spiritual Intensity** and is most challenged in terms of **Missional Alignment**.

Key:

 In Crisis  Not Ready  Ready In Many Respects  More Than Ready

Spiritual Intensity

There is some fire in people's hearts at Salem, but it isn't burning as brightly as it should. Salem has some work to do in strengthening the personal connection between your people and God and God's mission for you in the world. It would be wise to spend some time reconnecting with God through renewing spiritual practices both personally and as a church body.

Dynamic Relationships

In some respects, your church has seen some amazing relationships and friendships across the years. However, the DNA of these relationships is not currently indicative of the church as a whole. You have some work to do in terms of cultivating trust within the

church and relating effectively to folks who are different from the majority of the members.

Missional Alignment

Many folks at your church have a good sense of where God is calling you to go, but others are not aligned with this point of view. There is seldom enough personnel or financial resources to run in many directions at once. Now is a time for serious conversation about Salem's priorities.

Cultural Openness

On one hand, many in the church want to reach diverse people, but many in the church still have great apprehension about what this might mean in terms of changing the face of Salem. There may be some limitations in terms of how far the church is able to reach toward different kinds of people in the next few years. Open communication will be critical.

Your church's leaders have received a more detailed report with recommendations about how your church might quickly move itself into a position of greater readiness for birthing a new God-thing!

Yvette Thurston found this picture of her family recently and asked me to publish it to see if you could determine which of these children is her.

