

Salem United Methodist Church

March 2019 Newsletter

“186 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating”



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2018

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

TO THE BELOVED COMMUNITY AT SALEM UM CHURCH



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling
Pastor

On Feb 23-26 the Special Session of General Conference (SSGC), the legislative body of The United Methodist Church, met in St. Louis. Their task was to decide on several plans that were recommended by the Commission on A Way Forward. These plans focused on whether or not the church would perform same sex marriages and ordain people who are in committed same sex relationships. The plans were the One Church Plan, the Traditionalist Plan, and the Connectional Plan. The One Church Plan would allow conferences, pastors, and local congregations to decide for themselves if they would perform marriages and ordain people who are LGBTQIA+. The Traditionalist Plan would keep our *Book of*

Discipline as it is with stricter accountability for conferences and pastors who do not uphold the church's laws pertaining to the issues of sexuality. The Connectional Plan was not considered because it would have required a change to the Constitution. An additional plan called the Simple Plan was considered. This plan would have removed the language pertaining to homosexuality from the *Book of Discipline*.

The SSGC spent a day in prayer and worship, a day prioritizing the proposals, a day perfecting the proposals, and a day of voting. Much time was spent on exit plans and the impact a church split would have on clergy pensions and church property. The One Church Plan which the Council of Bishops endorsed and would have kept the church united was defeated. The Simple Plan was defeated as well.

The SSGC did approve the Traditionalist Plan by only 54 votes (438-384). This is a very small majority. Keep in mind that 2/3 of the U.S. delegation to SSGC were seeking full inclusion. That leaves 1/3 of the U.S. delegation and the Central Conferences that supported the Traditionalist Plan. Delegates from the Central Conferences in Africa, Russia, and the Philippines stated that if the denomination approves same sex marriages and ordination of people in committed same sex relationships that this would kill their

churches and their efforts to evangelize. We are a global church with different cultural norms and there lies the challenge.

The Judicial Council which is the body like our nation's Supreme Court has already ruled that many parts of the Traditional Plan are unconstitutional. They will meet on April 23-26 to rule on the constitutionality of this plan. From their decision we will know whether or not this plan or parts of this plan will become the church law. Stay tuned!

We are a church divided over this issue. While some are celebrating the passing of the Traditionalist plan, many are feeling defeated and hurt deeply. Emotions are running high. In my opinion, the struggle is not over. There will be those who will defy the Traditionalist Plan and will continue to stand up for the rights of our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters in Christ. In fifteen months the General Conference will meet again for their regular quadrennial session in 2020. And we could be voting all over again. So keep on praying for the Church!

Several of you have expressed your disappointment in the Church so much so that you want to leave the church. I understand your feelings, however, I urge you not to do so. I also want you to know that I am available to listen to your opinions and feelings on what happened this week. We are the church together!

When the Corinthian church was divided over many issues, Paul strived to pull them together with one four letter word, LOVE (I Corinthians 13). At Salem we do practice love and inclusivity. We live the words that are printed in our bulletin.

*Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.*

The ruling this past week will not keep Salem from being the church we are. We at Salem will continue to grow in our Christian faith and share God's love to all, as we strive to be a signpost of God's grace to the world. Remember God is all about grace! And God is bigger than any General Conference. Jesus loves everyone, no exceptions!

With Grace and Peace to all,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Season of Lent is not biblical, but a tradition of the church. For forty days with prayer and fasting, excluding Sundays, we journey through the cross to the Resurrection of Jesus which gives us New Life or the New Creation. This Lenten journey's focus is on preparing ourselves to receive the New Creation.

Lenten Sermon Series:

Preparing for the New Creation

Sunday, March 10 "The Challenge"

Deut. 26:1-11; Psalm 91; Romans 10:8-13;

Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 17 "The Lament"

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:32-35

Sunday, March 24 "The Big Picture"

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;

I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31 "Welcome Home!"

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15

Sunday, April 7 "The New Thing"

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;

Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 14 Palm/Passion Sunday

"Why?" Jo Schonewolf, preaching

Sunday, April 21 Resurrection Sunday

"Receiving the New Creation"

Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

I Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 5, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

The Community Hall

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

A Day of Prayer at Bon Secours Retreat Center

"Finding God's Spirit"

9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Cost \$40 (including lunch)

Led by Deacon Vito Piazza

Carpool leaving Salem 8:45 A.M.

Register online: <https://recbonsecours.com/friends-day-of-prayer-deacon-vito-piazza/>.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Mt. Carmel UM Church, 7:30 P.M.
22222 Georgia Ave, Brookeville.**

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Sunday Evenings

6:30-8:00 P.M.

February was a busy month for the Youth Group.

SOUper BOWL OF CARING

We raised money and purchased food items for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3. With the \$420 collected, we purchased needed food items with \$220 and gave two \$100 grocery store gift certificates to Olney Help. The gift certificates are used to purchase fresh food for the 50-70 families who receive food monthly from Olney Help. Many thanks to Cate McDonald, Karl's mother, who volunteers at Olney Help. She gave us a list of needed items.



Left to Right: Jo Schonewolf, Karl McDonald, Aiden Thompson, Rev. Sue, Jacob Weinberger, Amy Roberts at Olney Help's Food Storage Shed

ROCK

On Friday, February 8, eleven of us headed to Ocean City to the Baltimore-Washington's Conference Youth Event called ROCK which celebrated its 25th year! This year's theme was based on Jesus' words to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Over 4000 youth and adults gathered at the Convention Center to worship with music from the band, Salvador, to hear the message from a spoken word poet, Egypt Speaks, and Ben Glenn who wowed everyone with his chalk drawings and messages. We returned on Sunday, Feb 10, tired but encouraged spiritually.

Thank you to the Langes and Silvas for loaning us your condos, Mary Ellen Eaton for feeding us, to Rick Myers and Joe Meisner for chaperoning, and to all who sponsored our ROCKERS!



Waiting for one of the ROCK sessions to begin in our favorite seats, the front row of the bleachers.



Left to Right: Rev. Sue, Jo Schonewolf, Donovan Thompson, Karl McDonald, Aiden Thompson, Rick Myers, Mary Ellen Eaton, Joey Brantley, Joe Meisner, Olivia Arnold, Amy Roberts.
MIA: Jacob Weinberger

WORLD VISION: 30 HOUR FAMINE

JUST HUNGER

On Friday, February 22 at lunch we began our 30 hour fast. Then we met at the church at 6:00 P.M. to learn about hunger and the root causes of hunger. This year the focus was hunger issues in The Republic of the Congo. On Friday evening we made homeless shelters from items we found on the second floor of the hall and packed snack bags for Stepping Stone Homeless Family Shelter.

On Saturday morning Olivia Arnold shared the poverty and hunger she witnessed on a trip to India with her church. Then we began to make breakfast for 200 men at the county's homeless shelter. We cut up fruit for salad and scrambled eggs for casseroles. With five pans of fruit salad and nine egg casseroles along with bread, bagels,

butter, jelly, orange juice, milk, and paper products we went to the homeless shelter to deliver Sunday's breakfast.

Thanks to the Women's group for paying for the food. We made breakfast for 200 for less than \$3 per person! Thanks also to Chuck Sterling and Rev. Sue who traveled to Baltimore to purchase the food, to Rick Myers and Richard Henry who made a rice and beans casserole, to Sue Daley, Hisashi Yamagata, and Buck Bartley who assisted in the making of the food, and a huge thank you to Mary Ellen Eaton who not only prepared the food for the casseroles, but provided a delicious spaghetti dinner to break our fast at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 23. Participants in the 30 Hour Famine were Olivia Arnold, Joey Brantley, Amy Roberts, Aiden and Donovan Thompson, Jake Weinberger with Jo Schonewolf, leader.

On Sunday morning the youth lead worship as we shared what we learned about hunger and fasting with the congregation. We collected funds for World Vision. If you would like to donate to help fight hunger, write a check to Salem and mark it World Vision; or go online to www.30hourfamine.org



Joey Brantley satisfied with his homeless shelter.

During the month of March, youth group will do some training and then tackle some hypothetical questions that will help us explore what we think about life, humanity, and living with others.

March 3- ASP training

March 10- Astronaut vs Caveman

March 17- Immortal Snail

March 24- Time Travel

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

"If We Are Just Noisy..."

Rev. Sue gave two large cooking pot lids and a cooking pot as well as other noise makers to the children. The cooking pot lids became cymbals and the cooking pot became a gong. The children were invited to make lots of noise. Then Rev. Sue told them that Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13 that if we are just noisy gongs and clanging cymbals, but have no love, we are just noise.

Paul wrote that love is patient and kind and that love is also not rude or jealous. She then asked the children to offer examples of being patient, kind, rude, and jealous. And the children had some great examples.



Children are Henry Myers, Cole McKeever, Matthew and Nathan Savage

SALEM BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 P.M.

Suzanne Friis' home

"Almost Everything: Notes on Hope"

by Anne Lamott

Despair and uncertainty surround us in the news, in our families, and in ourselves. But even when life is at its bleakest--when we are, as Lamott puts it, "doomed, stunned, exhausted, and over-caffeinated"--the seeds of rejuvenation are at hand. "All truth is paradox," Lamott writes, "and this turns out to be a reason for hope. If you arrive at a place in life that is miserable, it will change." That is the time when we must pledge not to give up but "to do what Wendell Berry wrote: 'Be joyful, though you have considered all the facts.'"

In this profound and funny book, Lamott calls for each of us to rediscover the nuggets of hope and wisdom that are buried within us that can make life sweeter than we ever imagined.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) 2019

On February 3 our ASP Team prepared breakfast for the congregation's enjoyment and raised \$724 for their trip in June.



Last minute check

A big thank you to Cate McDonald, Karl's mom, who did the grocery shopping and single-handedly led the youth to set the tables, prepare the breakfast and clean up. Thanks also to Rev. Sue who stayed in the kitchen after the breakfast and helped us clean the dishes.

We're still looking for a couple of youth to join our trip. Let us know if you have a friend/classmate(s) who might be interested.

Also, we are about halfway toward our fundraising goal.

The next fundraising events are:

Sunday, April 14-

Breakfast after 10:00 worship

Saturday, April 27-Yard Sale

Please start saving items for the yard sale.

Other Fundraisers: Dates to be Determined

Green Turtle Night

The Encore Singers Concert



ASP Team Meeting

Left to Right: Jesse Myers, Bob Brown, Jacob Weinberger, Hisashi Yamagata, Aidan Thompson, Sandy Chandradasa, Danielle Van Horn, Karl McDonald.

SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 P.M.

Salem Community Room

'Creating a Bird Oasis.'

Spring is just around the corner, the crocus and daffodils will be popping up, and thousands of birds will be flying back north, looking for places to rest, settle, and build their nests. Is the outside of your home ready to welcome the migrating birds back to Maryland? From a balcony to a large backyard, learn how you can make a bird-friendly habitat, with the proper food, plants, and shelter for birds to raise their young. Our special guest will be Baltimore's Patterson Park Audubon Director, Susie Creamer.

ADVENTURES IN SOUTH AFRICA

In January Jo Shonewolf traveled to South Africa with a group from Wesley Theological Seminary for an immersion experience. Here is her report.



In South Africa, I met a woman whose parents had died when she was a child, leaving herself and her siblings alone to make ends meet on their own. She put herself through a communications degree, only to be told that there were no jobs for a black woman in that field. Eventually, she found her way into the ministry, working diligently and eventually helping to mentor candidates for ministry with compassion and firmness. This woman, who had worked through so much growing up under apartheid, found herself on the first Sunday of my trip being referred to only as her husband's "beautiful wife," even as she walked up to the altar to celebrate communion along with the other ordained ministers that attended the three-and-a-half hour church service on that hot day in Soweto, lifting the bread high enough so that the hundreds of people packed into that room could see it. You see, despite the fact that the Methodist Church of Southern Africa has

been ordaining women for decades now, a former bishop had recently made a disparaging comment about his female clergy counterparts, and the male clergy who agree with him felt emboldened to offer their own demeaning jabs to the women they didn't want as their equals. It seems that, no matter what you've gone through in the past, there's something new to endure.

In South Africa, I met a man who "got political" during the fight against apartheid, who had been jailed many times and beaten by the police almost as often. He, like many other black South Africans who were active in the Struggle, bore the evidence of his commitment to freedom in his body. He talked about the role of his faith in his decision to become politically active, how he had grown up in the church and found deep theological reasons to do what he was doing. He believed Jesus when Jesus said that he was here to proclaim release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. The first time I met this man, he was a newly minted bishop eating dinner with us and other clergy and teachers in Johannesburg. When my friend tried to get his attention by saying, "Bishop? Bishop?" he didn't even think to turn his head, and when he realized what had happened, he devolved into gales of laughter, leaning on my shoulder for support as his laugh spread through the room. It seems that, no matter what you've gone through in the past, there's something new to enjoy.



In South Africa, I met a man who had gone to school to be a teacher. In his last year of his degree, during his teaching internship, he had taken a group of kids camping out in the bush, taking them out into the wild that had been on

their doorstep for all of their lives. He continued this practice as he started his teaching career and soon the project grew into a permanent campsite, then an events venue, then, after years of work, a game park. Once the game park was established, he started helping local entrepreneurs get the support they needed, giving startup cash to an artist, a horticulturalist, a potter, a chef, and a local preschool. This man is white and could have very easily bought land from other white landowners and kept the profits for himself, living comfortably while the nearby black township continued to suffer. Instead, he turned his passion for nature and conservation into a strong business that is bringing new life to the communities around him. It seems that, no matter what you've benefitted from in the past, there's always more to give.



In South Africa, I met a woman from Zimbabwe who was working as a cook in the Christian retreat house we stayed in. She was about to take a journey back home on the bus, bringing with her the groceries that her family back home needed. She had farmed for several years in Zimbabwe, but the pay and the work was more stable in South Africa, so now she works far away from her family and keeps cash on her for the bribes she'll need to pay to be allowed to bring back the supplies her family needs. We talked politics and land redistribution and leadership, just as we had when we met with a group of young black South Africans in Soweto. It seems that, no matter how hard you've worked in the past, there's always more to strive for.



In South Africa, I saw beautiful landscapes and animals I'd never seen before, even in a zoo. I was inches away from penguins, a couple of feet away from a giraffe, a few yards from a hippopotamus. I went to the top of Table Mountain. I stood on the Cape of Good Hope. I saw beautiful sunrises and sunsets and swam in the freezing cold Atlantic Ocean. I went to the dig sites where they've found some of our oldest human ancestors and I saw with my own eyes shackles recovered from the wreck of a ship that carried slaves. I went to museum after museum after museum, each trying to preserve and curate their own part of the South African story.

But what sticks with me most, though, are these people. Kedibone, the woman who brought herself up by her bootstraps. Sidwell, the man who used the fire in his heart to fight for civil rights. Charl, the man who shared his success with those who need it. Ndin Ashe, the woman doing everything within her power to do her best for her family. I didn't have to take a 17-hour flight to hear these stories, of course; change the names and you could hear something very similar to each one of these stories in the United States, but travelling halfway across the world to visit a country whose history and politics you've studied and discussed gives you enough distance to see things you don't see at home. It does wonders for resetting your perspective and getting you to ask new and better questions. I went to South Africa with a lifetime's worth of questions. I came back with new knowledge and new stories and a burning desire to turn my attention to my own country and say, as South Africans have been saying to their country

for decades, "We know who we are and where we've been. So what's next?"



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Adrienne Brown, daughter of Bob and Maryellen Brown, on her engagement to Robert Kropkowski, originally from Kingsville MD. They will be married on August 17 2019 in Marriottsville, MD.

Jacob Weinberger who received the Rank of the Eagle during the Eagle Court of Honor at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday, February 24. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank to be achieved. Besides completing every rank with its required merit badges, an Eagle Project must also be completed. Jake's project was to clear a densely wooded area and construct a walking path leading to the historic one room school house in the Town of Brookeville. He was also responsible for constructing two benches for the walkway. Rev. Sue gave both the Invocation and the Benediction at the Eagle Court of Honor.



Proud Parents Peter and Ginny Weinberger, Jake, Phillip, and Proud Grandmother Virginia Smith

Randy Kennedy who celebrated his 90th Birthday! At Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 24, we celebrated this giant milestone with Randy's family.



OUR SYMPATHIES TO:

Sharon and Bob Lyon on the loss of Sharon's mother, Joan King on February 12.

Curt Smith and Velma Durant on the loss of their daughter-in-law, Gail Smith, February 22.

Please remember these families in your prayers.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME BASEBALL?



Summer is almost here and we are planning another Salem Day with the Frederick Keys. Let Libby Wright know if you are interested in going to a game.

**NEW MISSION PROJECT
STEPPING STONE FAMILY SHELTER
<http://steppingstonesshelter.org>**

Stepping Stones Family Shelter helps to transition homeless families into permanent housing through a continuum of services, such as emergency shelter to post-shelter support. This non-profit gives the needed support to at-risk families so they can achieve a stable home life. They are always in need of items for the families. See below for the list. Items can be placed in a box in the church.

HOUSEHOLD: Paper Plates, Bowls, Cups; Diapers (Size 4, 5, and 6); Clothing and Coat Racks; Multi-purpose Cleaners (e.g., 409, Lysol); Garbage Bags (tall kitchen and large outdoor size); Scotch Tape, Birthday Wrapping Paper, Twin Bed Linens, Men's Deodorant

FOOD: Butter, Sugar, Keurig Coffee Pods, Coffee Filters, Snack Foods: cookies, chips, trail mix, rice krispy treats, and pretzels; Bottled Water & Juice Boxes: Capri Sun Coolers, Orange Juice and Apple Juice; Oatmeal, Hardy Soups

CLOTHING: Women's Thermal Underwear, Teenage Girls' Winter Sweaters, Jeans and Leggings; Children's Winter Hats and Gloves; Winter Boots for Children and Women

GIFT CARDS: Metro Smart Trip Cards, Target, CVS, Giant, Food Lion

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
- Robinson, George 03/29

March Anniversaries are:

- Ambrose, Fred and Debbie 03/22

OUR COMMUNITY

American Legion: The next luncheon will be March 4 at 1:00 P.M.

Salem Men's Meeting: Saturday, March 10 at 8:00 A.M. in the Community Hall.

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday March 27 at 7:00 P.M.

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

