



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER November/December 2021

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CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. EMILY HART ON HER ORDINATION



Rev. Emily Smiley Hart

On October 27, 2021, 250 years to the day that Francis Asbury, Methodism's first Bishop, set foot in colonial America, the Baltimore-Washington Conference celebrated the ordination and commissioning of Elders and Deacons during its 237th Annual Session at Mt. Zion UMC in Highland, MD. Bishop Latrelle Easterling conducted the ordination and stated this class was significant in many ways. Twin brothers were commissioned: Jacob Creed Cogman and James Isaac Cogman. Their mother is the Rev. Johnsie Cogman, superintendent of the Washington East District. The Rev. Emily Smiley Hart was ordained, becoming the sixth generation of Methodist clergy in that family.

The Right Rev. Marianne Edgar Budde, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, delivered the commissioning sermon. She said she was trying to capture the essence of ministry, for ordained or laypeople by turning to baseball. There are three ways, Bishop Budde said, for people to step up to the plate in ministry in general and in life.

The first is with clarity and confidence as we "take the bull by the horns." The second way we step up to the plate is the most common, she said, and those are the times when "we feel anything but ready, but we're called upon, anyway." And the third way to step up to the plate, she said, is when God simply puts you there. She gave examples of these situations including when she suddenly found herself speaking out against the previous president's

actions at one of her churches, St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., right across from the White House.

In conclusion, the Bishop said, "What matters is that we step up" and reminded the candidates that they too, were stepping up to the plate, and encouraged one and all to be brave.

The above message was excerpted from the BWCUMC website. To read the full message from the Ordination Ceremony go to:
<https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/step-up-to-the-plate-bishop-budde-tells-newly-commissioned-and-ordained/>

From Rev. Emily

Dear Salem, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your incredible support as I've gone through this ordination process. While I have only been here for a short time, you have been so important to me and this process. I am so humbled by how many of you took the time to watch the service, send me cards, or wish me and the other ordinands well. You are a blessing to me. Thank you.

Rev. Emily



Rev. Emily with her father Rev. Mark Smiley and her mentor Rev. Dr. Sandi Johnson.



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Sometimes, all we can do is ... wait.

Wait for information.

Wait for restrictions to lift.

Wait for doctors.

Wait for ... everything.

And waiting is really hard. It's not always like the joyful waiting of being a kid waiting for Christmas morning (although that has its challenges!). A lot of our everyday waiting is about waiting for hard information or waiting for relief.

So, here we are in Advent gearing up for yet another kind of waiting. In Advent, we take time to remember why we're so excited about Christ being born. It's not about the presents or the family time, even though those are a nice bonus!

At its core, Advent is about waiting for Christ to come breathe into the nitty-gritty challenges of our lives and into the larger challenges of the whole world. This is when we gather our needs like fallen leaves and bring them to Christ's birth as an offering. So, as we wait, take this time to gather the desires of your heart. Perhaps we share some of the same needs this season. Let's seek our familiar desires together: peace, hope, joy, love, and, of course, Christ.

I hope you will join us this Advent season as we wait together with our study, *Waiting*. As we go through these pages we will read scripture, wonder with God and each other, and practice living with each of these Advent needs: peace, hope, joy, love, and Christ. Don't we all need a bit more of each this holiday? All you need to do is download the booklet or pick one up in church.

Blessings to you,
Rev. Emily Hart

A WORD FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

A Collection of Salem's Favorite Hymns

Our director of music, Alan, is compiling a collection of the most beloved hymns Salem's congregation. In an effort to expand and invigorate our collective worship through music, think about your favorite hymns from: Christmas, Easter, childhood, celebrations, ones seldom used or those meaningful to you. Please share these with Alan either after the service or by emailing him at music@salemunitedmethodist.org. A book for general musical requests or for specific days will be made available.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 24, at 7:30 P.M.
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
21611 Laytonsville Road
Laytonsville, MD 20882
Rev. Emily will be preaching

Blue Christmas
Monday, December 20 7:30 P.M.

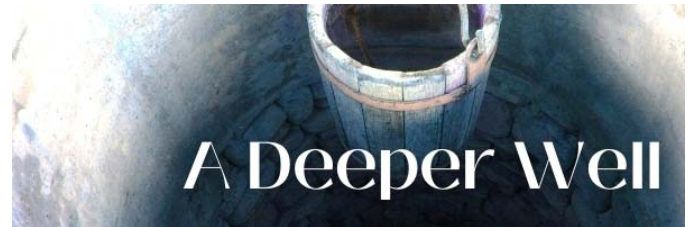
Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 P.M.
Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 P.M.
Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday, December 26 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, January 2 9:30 A.M.
Epiphany Sunday "Come and See"

SERMON SERIES



We are invited to give and receive from the Well of the Church.

God always provides a way to serve. God doesn't handhold us into service (we've just finished a series on empowerment). Instead, God gives us chances to apply our stated desire to serve. The coolest part is that as we give to God, we receive in return.

November 7

A Deeper Well I—*The Woman at the Well*
Scripture: John 4:4-15

November 14

A Deeper Well—*Love at the Well*
Scripture: Genesis 29:1-14

November 21

A Deeper Well—*Heart Giving*
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15



November 28

Waiting—*Peace that Was Meant to Be*

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:1; 4-14,
Luke 1:5-25 (57-66)

December 5

Waiting—*Born to Set Your People Free*

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Luke 1:26-38

December 12

Waiting—*Repeat the Sounding Joy!*

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-13, Luke 1:39-45

December 19

Waiting—*Oh Come, Let us Adore Him*

Scripture: John 1:1-18, Luke 1:46-56

ADVENT STUDY

Waiting: An Advent Study

Sometimes, all we can do is ... wait. Wait for information. Wait for restrictions to lift. Wait for doctors. Wait for ... everything. At its core, Advent is about waiting for Christ to come breathe into the nitty-gritty challenges of our lives. So, as we wait, let's seek our familiar desires together: peace, hope, joy, love, and, of course, Christ.

No book required. The study guide is available in the Sanctuary and posted on-line at:

<https://tinyurl.com/WaitingStudy>

November 17: Chapter One

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 29:1; 4-14,
Luke: 1:5-25 (57-66)

Book Reading: Peace That Was Meant to Be

November 24: No class

December 1: Chapter Two

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Luke 1:26-38

Book Reading: Born to Set Your People Free

December 8: Chapter Three

Bible Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13, Luke 1:39-45

Book Reading: Repeat the Sounding Joy!

December 15: Chapter Four

Bible Reading: John 1:1-18, Luke 1:46-56

Book Reading: Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him

MISSIONS

Christmas Food Baskets

The format of St. Peter's Christmas Food Basket program will be clarified after Thanksgiving. Depending on their decision, Salem will compile food baskets to distribute through St. Peters or will be collecting food for Olney Help. Kulley Bancroft has volunteered to lead this mission. Stay tuned for instructions!

The Lord's Table Resumes!



Halsey Smith ready to get cooking!

Rev. Emily, Buck Bartley and Halsey Smith helped prepare over 40 lunches as the Lord's Table resumed serving hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem are invited to join them on the first Friday of every month at Epworth Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Contact Buck if you would like to carpool.

Olney Help is Now Accepting Food Donations

Once again, Olney help is accepting food donations from outside organizations. A box for non-perishable items is in the choir room. Thank you to those who already filled the box to overflowing! They are in most need of spaghetti/pasta sauce, canned pasta, sloppy joe sauce, small condensed soups, hearty soups, peanut butter (smooth only), jelly (no preserves) and baked beans. If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so at: www.olneyhelp.org

EVENTS PAST AND FUTURE

Decorating Day
Saturday, November 27
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

We have helpers for every task, but feel free to come join in decorating Salem for the Christmas Season!

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage
Sunday, December 12
1:00-5:00 P.M.

Rev. Emily and Chris Hart invite you to drop in for an informal gathering and light refreshments. Feel free to bring cookies to share.

Blessing of the Animals on October 24

A small group of frisky pups, cuddly dogs, and even a wandering teddy bear were blessed by our own Dog Mom, Pastor Emily! The group also named pets who have passed in thanksgiving for their lives.

THANK YOU, VELMA!



*The Communications Team celebrates Velma!
(Rev. Emily, the photographer, not pictured)*

After 10 years of faithfully composing and producing our newsletter, Velma is focusing on other things. Her dedication, creativity, wordsmithing, and photography have kept us informed and inspired. Please join in thanking Velma for all she has given to Salem in this way.

Newsletter Editor Needed

No one can replace Velma or do things the way she did, but if you would consider working with the Communications Team to compile information for the newsletter, please contact Rev. Emily.

A THANKSGIVING POEM

Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DID YOU KNOW?

John Wesley Never Published a Christmas Sermon

John Wesley was a prolific writer, but he never published a Christmas sermon

One reason may be that when the Puritans rose to power in mid-1600s England, Christmas fell out of favor. Authorities passed laws attempting to prohibit the celebration of Christmas. On Christmas Eve, some towns even sent criers to call out, "No Christmas! No Christmas!"

It wasn't until the mid-1800s, that Christmas had a resurgence in England and Queen Victoria and Prince Albert popularized the Christmas tree tradition there. The popularity of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* published in 1843 may also account for the holiday's resurgence.

Many of the English emigrants to America at this time were also Puritans who were suspicious of Christmas celebrations. In 1600s Boston, they passed a law under which people were to be fined 5 shillings for not working on Christmas. It was not until 1870 that Christmas became a national holiday in the U.S.

John Wesley's Brother, Charles, wrote 19 Christmas Songs

John Wesley never published a Christmas sermon, but his hymn-writing brother Charles wrote songs for the season from the very beginning. The first Methodist hymnbook, *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739), includes Charles' "Hymn for Christmas-Day." The song begins, "Hark how all the welkin rings, 'Glory to the King of kings.'" Another Methodist preacher would change the opening

line to words we know much better, "Hark! the Herald Angel Sings."

In a later publication, *Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord*, Wesley published 18 more hymns for the season. We still sing one of the songs in that collection, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." The words in our United Methodist Hymnal today are almost exactly as Charles wrote them in 1745.

Why Churches Have Red Doors?

The tradition of red doors dates back centuries. There are several meanings associated with red doors.

Red symbolizes the sacrificial blood of Christ that saves those who come to him. Red is also a reminder of the Passover and a sign of the Holy Spirit. Church doors began to be painted red as a way of remembering the ultimate sacrifice that others had made for their faith. The red doors of churches traditionally signaled a place of sanctuary, refuge, and safety. Those in need would not be captured or harmed inside the holy walls of the church, which offered physical and spiritual protection.

Some believe that the doors of the Wittenberg Cathedral, where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, were red. Red doors on Protestant churches indicate their roots in the Reformation.

Whatever the meaning, many churches today are recognized by their distinctive red doors.



HERO DOGS “SUE”



Hero Dogs Sue joined the Roberts family on June 19 as their newest puppy in training to become a service dog for a disabled veteran or first responder. Sue has become a regular Salem attendee and appreciates how her church family is helping her with her socialization by remembering to ask before petting, waiting until after the service to interact with her, and not rewarding excited behavior.

From time to time another dog might drop by. Hero Dogs has a puppy swap where they spend some time with another family to get new experiences. Yansky has already visited Salem and Fred will visit in December. If you didn't hear, Hero Dogs Tito has been with his veteran partner for a year now!

STEWARDSHIP

As we are finishing this time of “well digging,” I wonder what you’ve received. Have you thought about the church, our “well” in a different way? Have you been affirmed in the ways you contribute? Have you felt the need to stretch and give in new ways?

Every year, we offer you an opportunity to fill out a pledge card. This is a chance to make a commitment to respond to what God is doing within you. Please take a moment to fill out a card and send it back (either by mail or with our online form below). No matter what you fill in, please go with this blessing:

To complete your pledge card online, click on the link:

<https://forms.gle/zBoafkf9PP3xi38q6>

A DEEPER WELL: SENDING BLESSING

Friends, we have sat an hour by the well, been offered living water, and the communion of the Lord. We have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.

I send you out to a dry land, a burning land, and you may find yourself thirsting this week So I invite you, as often as you need to, to return to the well. It will never run dry.

And in this week, whatever it may bring, know that you are held by the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, now, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

COVID POLICY

We follow the Montgomery County mask/social distancing policies. Click the link below for the most current information.

We are not having a social/coffee hour after the worship service. Updates will be posted in the bulletin and by email. The current Montgomery County guidelines can be found at:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/face-coverings.html>

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



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

Our November birthdays are:

Kulley Bancroft	11/04
Thomas Meisner	11/21

Our December birthdays are:

Lexie Groves	12/10
Barbara Achstetter	12/11
Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling	12/21

There are no anniversaries for November or December.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Emily Hart takes a 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:
12 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833

Church Telephone No:
(301) 774-7772

Church Website:
www.salemunitedmethodist.org

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

Rev. Emily's e-mail:
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Building Use:
building@salemunitedmethodist.org

Salem Cemetery
salem12cemetery@yahoo.com

The newsletter is prepared by the Salem United Methodist Church Communications Team. Contact any team member with questions or comments. Thanks!

Rev. Emily Hart
Velma Durant
Suzanne Friis
Carole Roberts
Nancy Joie Wilkie
