



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER May 2022

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Hello church! Can you believe that spring is upon us and it is almost summer? I love watching the flowers poke up and start to fill

the world with color. It is such a great reminder that God is an artist who loves to create color and beauty all around us.

While the colors of spring are an obvious sign of God's love, it's not always so easy to see, is it? Sometimes we feel like God is very far away. Sometimes, even in the midst of all the beauty in the world, we may wonder where God is.

Where is God in Ukraine? In the continued division in our country and communities? In the politics of our own country? In our own United Methodist denomination?

For those who are not keeping track, because of the pandemic our quadrennial, international General Conference has been postponed three times and will hopefully be held in 2024. This feels like a far-off issue, but it means that we are unable to resolve our issues around LGBTQAI+ inclusion. (It also means we aren't able to conduct important work like budgets, bishop election and retirement, and other things!).

Some churches and individuals are tired of the wait and have taken matters into their own hands. As of May 1, some United Methodist churches have officially withdrawn from our denomination to join a new denomination called the Global Methodist Church. If you would like to learn more about the GMC, you can check out their website:

<https://globalmethodist.org>. Some local

churches have begun to discern a potential future outside the United Methodist Church. However, I am not aware of any churches in our conference that decided to step out on May 1.

To be totally honest, I'm not sure how I feel about this new denomination. On the one hand, I'm happy that there is a place for all of us before God and that the Global Methodist church is creating a place for people who are not comfortable in the UMC. On the other hand, I am deeply sad that we cannot come together to be inclusive of all who seek marriage and ordination. I am sad for the people around the world who feel a call to ministry and will not be able to live out that call without finding a new denominational home.

I don't know the future of the United Methodist Church. I don't know the future of Salem United Methodist Church. What I do know is that no matter how much humans mess things up, God is good and will continue to be good every single day.

To tell another honest truth, it is hard to write about something like a denominational split when there is so much suffering in Ukraine. John Wesley said we ought to be unified in the essentials and charitable about everything else. I think we are all unified in our mourning and support for those experiencing the daily costs of war. Perhaps some of you are so affected by the war that you are currently in "survival mode," like I talked about on Sunday. If you are currently living in survival mode in solidarity with those who are living for true survival, know that my prayers are with you. We can't end the war on our own, but we can continue to pray. If you would like to make a tangible contribution to folks in Ukraine, you can go to <https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/ways-to-give-to-ukraine/> for information on giving immediately.

Just as I don't know the future for our church, I don't know the future for Ukraine and Russia. I pray that God would intervene, change hearts, and save lives.

Blessings,
Rev. Emily

EASTER PREPARATION

Many thanks to the gardeners who spruced up the gardens so the church would look nice for Easter Sunday.





EASTER CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday

Beautiful flowers adorned the Sanctuary.



Photos show the buffet table spread and a full house of people trying to be socially distant.



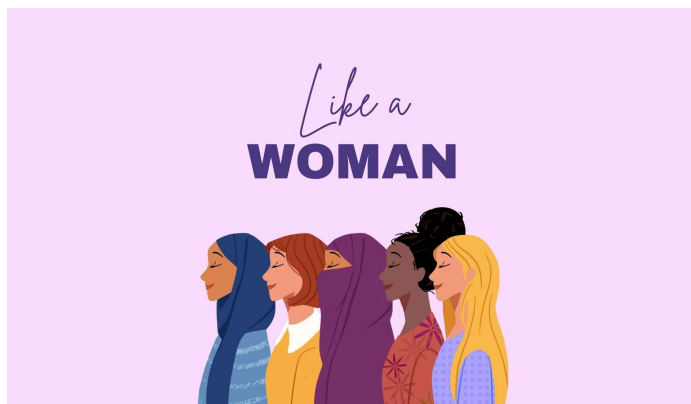
Lovely ladies in their Easter bonnets. (Yes, the men wore hats, too.)

A Happy Easter selfie from the congregation for Alan who was traveling to Georgia.



Thank you Vern Schinski for stepping up one Sunday and giving a sermon on “Our Relationship with God” while Pastor Emily was away.

MAY SERMON SERIES



Daughter, mother, aunt, sister. These are just some of the roles many women around us have. In Scripture, women are all of these and more. Women are leaders, followers, survivors, dancers. Often these stories are eclipsed by the more popular stories about men in scripture. For the next eight weeks we'll take time to see what we can learn from the women of scripture as they fight, love, and lead. Let's learn from women.

This sermon series began on Easter and continues through May and into June.

May 1

Survive—Hagar

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-13

May 8

Dance —Mother's Day // Miriam

Scripture: Exodus 15:20-27

May 15

Refuse—Vashti

Scripture: Esther 1:10-19

May 22

Loyal—Ruth

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18

May 29

Advise—Memorial Day // Deborah

Scripture: Judges 4:4-10

June 5 (Pentecost)

Desperate—Pentecost // Bleeding Woman

Scripture: Luke 8:40-54

June 12 (Trinity Sunday)

Lead—Tabitha / Dorcas

Acts 9: 36-42

MAY STUDY, EASTER SEASON

Like A Woman

Wednesdays, May 1–June 12

7:00 P.M. on Zoom

If you'd like to go deeper, join us in our May Booklet, “Like a Woman”. We will journey through weekly scripture readings, daily practices, and thought-provoking questions as we try to break out of the boxes the world tries to shove us into. If you are tired of division and

are looking for a better way, this is the study for you. We will have small group discussions about the weekly readings every Wednesday night on Zoom from 6:30–8:00 P.M. Discussion starts at 7:00 P.M.

Complete the reading for Week One on your own (Genesis 16: 1-13). Read the Week Two Scripture (Exodus 15: 20-27) for the first group study on May 1.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Best wishes to Wathsala Harischandra and Mark Miller who were married on Saturday, April 16. Rev. Emily Hart, Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling and Alan Naylor participated in the ceremony. For those new to Salem, pre-Covid, Wathsala was our beloved nursery caretaker and continues to be part of the Salem family. She and Mark are living in Rockville.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Mary Kay Abramson Velma Durant, Halsey Smith, Rev. Emily, Debbie Ambrose (chair)

May 2022

Although Leadership Team meeting and GIA were canceled for the month of April, conversations continued about contracting with Alan to assemble an audio/video system that runs smoothly and doesn't break the budget. We met with Alan to evaluate his strengths and skills.

We also continued thinking about setting realistic goals for the church and are looking for input from the congregation. If you have ideas, send them to Debbie at djcambrose@gmail.com.

May 2022

Team Sparkle!

Nancy Cox and Suzanne Friis have finished sprucing up our kitchen (new paint!). Come take a look! The sad news is that both our large and small freezers are still dead. We are hoping to replace one of them with a donation from a business or individual. Thanks, Halsey Smith, for working on this and keeping the lights, heat and plumbing working.

Grace and peace,
Debbie Ambrose

NEW MEMBERS



Barbara Teague, Joan Aebig,
Mark Aebig and Vern Schinski

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table!

The Lord's Table serves hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem are invited to join them on the first Friday of every month at Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Buck if you would like to carpool.



Olney HELP

Did you know?



That Olney HELP has been providing food and financial assistance to area families since 1969. That's 52 years! Olney HELP was formerly known as Olney Fish and was started by a group of local Quakers and other area church members. It's a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides short-term emergency food and financial assistance to individuals and families in Olney, Sandy Spring, Ashton, Brinklow, and Brookeville MD.

Olney HELP's Mission is to 1) provide emergency food assistance to residents by delivering a three-to-five day (depending on size of family) supply of fresh and non-perishable food (although due to COVID, gift cards can be given out), 2) provide emergency financial assistance, and 3) provide referral services to other agencies.

Families must fill out an application by email or phone call and food will be boxed. Drivers are needed to deliver food. Due to security concerns, the exact location of the pantry is kept confidential.

Olney HELP supports other organizations, such as St. John's Episcopal Church efforts to feed the homeless. It's surprising how many families are in need in the greater Olney community.

The need is great: the agency has grown to more than 60 volunteers. One volunteer driver said, "My delivery to two elderly black women in Sandy Spring last week actually brought me to tears. Their gratitude and graciousness for the simple act of delivering basic food items will stay with me forever."

Olney HELP Food Donations

You may now leave non-perishable food donations in the box in the meeting room behind the Sanctuary. Suzanne Friis, Nancy Cox, and Joan and Mark Aebig will deliver them to Olney HELP. Most needed items: Canned meats (such as chicken and turkey), canned fruit packed in water versus syrup, pancake syrup, Helpers (hamburger, chicken, tuna), sloppy joe sauce, bottles of shelf stable juice (no juice boxes now), plain pasta sauce, canned condensed low-sodium soups, baked beans, jelly, whole grain pasta sides, instant mashed potatoes, diapers, size 6, snacks for kids. Note that some peanut butters have recently been recalled. If you are interested in volunteering or would like additional information, please call their Helpline at (301) 774-4334

If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so at: 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.

SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

We would like to expand the number of people who will read scripture during the worship service. If you would like to participate, please contact Suzanne Friis at friis17@yahoo.com. Volunteers read approximately 6/x each year and are scheduled based on their availability.

CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

“Your Prayer Life: Encouraging God. We are meeting every Thursday starting April 28 through May 26 @ 1:00–2:30 P.M. The class will be facilitated by new member Barbara Teague.

Do you struggle with or avoid prayer? Does prayer feel like just another task you have to complete? Does it seem like your prayers never go any higher than your ceiling? Are you uncomfortable praying out loud with others? Do you want to encounter God on a deeper level through prayer? Then come join our discussions. We’ll talk about prayer from our own experiences. We’ll talk about our prayer hang-ups and disappointments. We’ll talk a little about the structure of prayer and some history of prayer. We’ll talk about the reasons we don’t pray. And so much more! You may wish to bring a prayer journal.

Please email Rev. Emily to join the class.
emily@salemunitedmethodist.org

GIVING

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.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



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

Happy Birthday greeting from the Bible:
This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. (Psalm 118:24)

May

Nightingale, Florence	05/12/1820
Sterling, Chuck	05/14
Thorpe, Marsha	05/27
Lavelly, Bill	05/28

Anniversaries—none listed

COVID

COVID POLICY: Confused? We are currently requiring face masks following the Montgomery County policy that allows businesses and organizations to require them at their discretion. Click the link below to stay updated on Montgomery County's COVID Guidelines.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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:

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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
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Suzanne Friis
Carole Roberts
Nancy Joie Wilkie
