



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER December 2022

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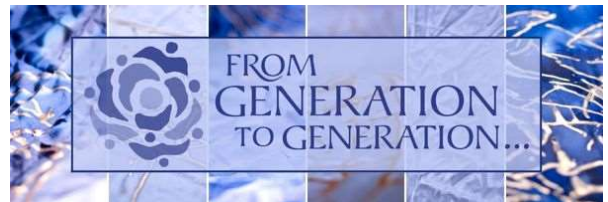
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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Thanksgiving has past and Advent has begun and Christmas is coming! Praise God!

I love this time of year. I love hearing Christmas music, decorating the tree, and, of course, spending time with my family. One of our generational Christmas traditions is the pickle game. I don't even know what the game is really called. It is apparently a German tradition. We have a glass pickle ornament that we hide on the Christmas tree. The youngest people in the family are supposed to look and find it. When I was a kid I loved looking for the pickle. If it was a fake tree it was easy to spot. But if it was a real tree? There were years where we laid on our backs on the floor looking up through the branches hoping for a gleam of green that would tell us who won.



Our theme for Advent is "Generation to Generation." The following is an excerpt from our theme documents:

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed

down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

As we read through and studied the scriptures we selected, a line from Mary's song of protest and praise gave us pause: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (Luke 1: 48b-50)

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

We encourage you to pay attention to each of the characters in these familiar narratives and ask: What did each person pass on or contribute? How did they either participate in God's liberation and love—or try to thwart God's justice? What can we learn from them, and what is our role now? What will we pass on to the next generation?

The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have

come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

Throughout the season, have some questions in mind: What did each person pass on or contribute? How did they either participate in God's liberation and love—or try to thwart God's justice? What can we learn from them, and what is our role now? What will we pass on to the next generation?

Happy Holidays!
Rev. Emily

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Our annual Church Conference (formerly referred to as "Charge Conference") was held on October 29 at 11:00 A.M. Key information shared from the reports will be presented to the congregation at our **State of the Church Meeting** on December 4, 2022 after the Sunday service.

In addition to Church Conference, we also met on Saturday, October 22 for a day of training. The training was a series of videos that deepened our understanding of key

concepts from the book Mission Possible which we have been studying this year. It was great to have our current Leadership Team members as well as our new members (who will officially come on board on January 1, 2023.) **Welcome to Mark Aebig, Quinn Anderson, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, and Hisashi Yamagata.** And a big thank you to Halsey Smith who will complete his three-year term at the end of 2022.

We continue to revise our **Vision and Mission** statements. Just when we think we're done, someone has another idea that makes our Vision and Mission statements clearer and more focused. Our Vision and Mission now read:

Vision: To be a community that uses acts of compassion and outreach to celebrate the things that unite our common humanity.

Mission: To grow discipleship and express God's love through serving others and community building.

Please think about how these statements can help us to determine our direction and actions over the next several years.

Other News:

- We have been discussing how we can welcome visitors to Salem. Please keep a lookout for new faces and acknowledge their presence. We will be preparing simple "Welcome Packets" to extend our hospitality.
- We are working on ways to keep Alan as our Music Director as he pursues his dream of returning to work in the theater. We have some great ideas. Stay tuned.
- See Advent and Christmas activities below.

CHRISTMAS AT SALEM

Come Worship With Us!

Sunday Worship Times: 9:30 A.M.

Advent Sermon Series: Generation to Generation

Nov. 27 : First Sunday of Advent: "There's Room for Every Story"

Dec. 4: Second Sunday of Advent: "God Meets Us in Our Fears"

Dec. 11: Third Sunday of Advent: "We Can Choose a Better Way"

Dec. 11: Poinsettia Sunday

Dec. 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent: "We See God in Each Other"

Dec. 19: "Rest: For the Weary Soul"
Service, Sanctuary, 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve:

5:00 P.M. Family Worship

7:30 P.M. Traditional Candlelight
Worship

Dec. 25 Christmas Day, Virtual Service



Jan. 1, 2023 Regular Service

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Open House at the Parsonage – Dec. 3
from 2:00 – 6:00 P.M. Please bring cookies
to share.



Visit with Santa – Dec. 17 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in the Community Hall. Little ones will talk to Santa, sing holiday songs, make candy, decorate sugar cookies, and enjoy light refreshments.

Advent Study—Wednesday groups morning and evening. Print a copy from your email or pick up a copy from church. Begin reading DAY 1 on Sunday Nov. 27. Our first discussion of the reading will be on Wed. Nov. 30.

ORDERING POINSETTIAS

To order red poinsettias, complete the order form by Dec. 4 at the latest. Include your name and phone or email. Include the number of plants desired at \$10 each. Write “in honor of” or “in memory of” (which will be listed in the bulletin). Place the forms and payment in the basket in the Sanctuary. For questions contact Don Rider drider1@verizon.net.



MUSICAL INSTRUCTION

Hello Salem UMC, Brookeville, and the greater Olney region!

Continuing this winter, free musical instruction will be available at the Salem United Methodist Church provided by the Minister of Music Alan Naylor. This program will be available to ALL regardless of connection to Salem UMC. Young, old, eternal youths, or old souls... any are

welcome and all skill levels and interests will be given space.

In order to be respectful of different needs, abilities, and background knowledge 15 minute rolling consultation slots will be offered throughout the months so that group classes versus individual instruction can be arranged. Once these assessments have taken place, classes of 30-60 minutes and individual instruction of 15-30 minutes will be arranged.

Alan will be available for ANY type of musical instruction or interaction that is desired (within reason). You are welcome to discuss in person during a consultation slot (masks requested) or submit requests via email to:

music@salemunitedmethodist.org

Examples:

- Reading musical notation
- piano, ukulele, organ, and vocal lessons
- Music history lessons
- Moderate to advanced music theory
- Repertoire suggestions
- Assistance learning Hymns
- Private music sharing/listening (come with requests and Alan can perform for you)
- Whatever is in your imagination as pertains to music
- Lessons in Piano tuning/technology
- Lessons in Audio engineering/acoustics

Alan is a Helen Hayes Award winning actor, singer, pianist, producer, and audio engineer who has performed across the world and is currently serving as the minister of music at Salem United Methodist Church. With both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Opera Performance

he has learned from the best musicians and performers in the world. His performances have been seen from Off Broadway to the Kennedy Center, and locally at the Olney Theatre Center. He has years of experience teaching piano and voice to both children and professional performers. He also has extensive experience working as a piano technician / rebuilder and audio engineer with clients ranging from the Kennedy Center to Concert Pianists and conservatory faculty. During the pandemic he founded a weekly cabaret series on Facebook and YouTube called "Night at Newcastle", and all 60 something episodes are available to be watched.

www.alan-naylor.com

[Alan Naylor](#)

Member AEA

Actor, Singer, Pianist, & Piano Technician

Certified Piano-Life-Saver Humidity System Installer

Helen Hayes Award: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical (2015)

Pronouns:

He/Him/His

(636)578-5588

PRAYER CORNER

When Words Hurt

Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me.

As a child I was taught to chant those words whenever bullies or troublemakers harassed me. There is a problem though. The saying is not true. Words can hurt!

I have certainly internalized words that shredded my confidence and reduced me to tears. Words are powerful tools, possessing a hidden capacity to destroy and create.

When we think of hurtful words, we often think of angry exchanges or someone shouting accusations at us. But, what about words of confession or the words of a humble apology? Those words can definitely sting a little but can also offer us opportunities for growth and reveal something deeper, especially in our relationship with God.

There is another circumstance where words can hurt. It is when we speak of our pain to God during prayer. Telling God the causes, the depth and effect of our sorrow, or the intolerable discomfort of our rage can easily bring up a great deal of pain for us as humans. But as we speak, the words give our admissions and brokenness a welcomed quality of restoring all that was shattered. Too often, our tendency is to quickly put a cap on uncomfortable feelings. But, if instead, we process them prayerfully with Jesus, asking him to accompany us through their muck and distortion, great healing can come about with him and in his name. Our painful words then become holy ground.

Many years ago, I was a member of a Christian therapy group designed for women who had experienced abuse. The goal was simple; "Tell us, out loud what happened to you." We were to speak all our words that had been carefully hidden and protected. As a result, we formed a safe, unexpected partnership of eleven, bonded together by overwhelming stories, kinship, and words. Those words, spoken and heard, eventually trained us to lift our head, and rise out of the chaos to which we had grown so accustomed.

As the months passed, I listened to harrowing stories of rescue, escape, miracles, and deeply unholy physical and

psychological evil. It was in this place of complete surrender to the truth regardless of the consequence, where I learned how severely words can hurt. But it was also in this place where I learned the healing power of attaching words to my pain. I listened, and I watched. I heard lots of weeping and watched the determined courage of women who not only faced their demons, but also defeated them, with words. I also watched faces morph from tear-stained, snotty messes into faces filled with relief and gratitude, almost glowing. It was a form of confession so sacred and so needed for one to experience the parent's heart of God that the huge price of uttering such ugly words and forging out a willing, "heart of flesh," seemed a small price to pay. In prayer, we are offered this holy place at every moment of our day, to be healed and refreshed in God's presence enjoying the rhythm of his breath upon us, his breath in us.

I realized that with every story I slogged through with Jesus, a spiritual garden was being cultivated and prepared to receive and then give love. The miracle of prayer is that God slowly comforts and heals us, changing us into his likeness by planting in us a new disposition, a disposition of Jesus, himself.

God suffers in and with all who suffer, and then asks us to do the same. Practical Christianity never lives on the horizon, in our intentions or in a book. It lives in the words we pray which bring life to our spirit finally enabling God to fill our ears with the grace to hear the voices of suffering all around us.

Psalms 27:13, Ezekiel 36:26

Barbara Teague

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

The Lord's Table serves hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem UMC are invited to help them on the first Friday of every month from 1-5 P.M. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Additional volunteers are always needed.

Olney Help Food Needs

(Updated 11/20/22) 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: Canned meats such as tuna, chicken, turkey, corned beef, spam, salmon, Vienna sausage, etc; sloppy joe sauce, condensed soups – tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable, cream of mushroom, cream of chicken; canned chili, canned pasta, plain spaghetti sauce, boxed spaghetti and pasta, 1 lb. bags of rice and rice sides (Knorr/Roni), pancake mix/syrup, dessert mixes - cake, cookie, brownie, cold cereal, baked beans, canned green beans, corn, peas (low/no salt), canned fruit in juice, jelly – all sizes, all flavors, condiments – BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; peanut butter (smooth) – 16-18 oz. jars, instant mashed potatoes – pouches and boxes, juice boxes – 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice.

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.

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.

BAPTISMS

Two joyful baptisms took place on Nov. 20: Rosalie Jean Kropkowski (daughter of Adrienne Brown & Rob Kropkowski), and Logan Elihu Thomas (son of Marie Lyon & Brett Thomas). The families hosted fellowship hour in the Community Hall. Thank you!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Austin Roberts and his wife Natalie welcomed a baby girl on October 21, 2022. Cassidy Joy is Carole & John Roberts first grandchild.

Theodore Scott Johns joined his family on November 18. His parents are Kyle and Emily, and he has a big brother Duke. His grandparents are Ginny and Pete Weinberger. This is the second great-grandchild for Virginia Smith.

Congratulations to all!

BROOKVILLE SING AND S'MORE

Brookeville Sing and S'more will be on the second Thursday in December (but not the fourth because of Christmas.) Besides hymns you can request show-tunes, oldies, and other Christian songs. Additionally, we'll continue sharing in s'mores and a fire

until it is too cold to do so. Our goal is to build community and rest together.

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

Salem UMC is looking for a detail-oriented person to become our next website administrator. Knowledge of HTML is desired, but not necessary. All training will be provided. If this is something you might be interested in, contact Nancy Joie Wilkie for more information at mindsights@mindspring.com

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 Rev. Emily.

READING ROOM

Welcome to the Reading Room upstairs in the Community Hall where you'll be able to read or borrow books, study guides, and other Christian-focused material. Rev. Emily made a video tour. Check it out on Facebook. The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Thanks to everyone who has donated books so far.

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.

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>

BIRTHDAYS



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

December

Groves, Lexie	12/10
Achstetter, Barb	12/11
Wesley, Charles	12/18/1707
Haines, Gene	12/31

COVID

COVID POLICY: Confused? Our policy is currently that masks are strongly recommended.

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:

Salem UMC
12 High Street
Brookeville, MD 20833

Church Telephone: (301) 774-7772

Church Website:

www.salemunitedmethodist.org

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

Rev. Emily's e-mail:

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

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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
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Carole Roberts
Mollie Haines
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