

SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER December 2023

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Happy Advent!

...Sort of. Advent is a hopeful time, but not necessarily a *happy* time. It's a time to

acknowledge and see how much we really NEED Christ in our lives and world. It's a time to dream. So, here we are, dreaming.

I complained to a friend this week that dreams are too happy for advent. She disagreed! She said dreams are hopes not (yet) realized.

What are your dreams this Advent? Dreams of family coming together? Of time of peace and joy? Of bills being paid and debts disappearing?

I don't know exactly how God shows up in our dreams. But I know Emmanuel, God with us.

This season we'll dig into dreams together. Ours, and God's.

Blessings,
Rev. Emily Hart

WE WELCOME OUR NEW INTERN

Church, I have exciting news! We have a new intern joining us for the next year, Kyle Mauzy. We met this summer at Camp Manidokan and I've been blown away by the ways he wants to grow in his faith. He is at the beginning of his faith walk and exploring

the way God is calling him into ministry. What a gift to walk with him on this journey! Below we have a letter from him introducing himself. Please give him a warm Salem welcome as he starts his ministry discernment.

Blessings (and JOY!),

Rev. Emily Hart



Hi my name is Kyle Mauzy and I am a new intern here at Salem United Methodist Church and since I'm new I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I am currently in my second year of college at Frederick Community College and plan to transfer to Messiah University to get a degree in Religious Studies. I have been a Christian for about a year now and I love learning about new parts of Christianity. One of my favorite things to do is studying scripture and reading different stories in the Bible. Especially whenever I find new stories that I've never heard before. Something that I like to do as a

hobby is playing guitar and have been playing for about 6 months. I like playing gospel and blues songs and can listen to music for hours. I plan to help out with different parts of service in any way I can and I am so blessed to be a part of this Church and hope to get to know each and every one of you.

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

The Leadership Team closes 2023 with a review of this year's Mission and Vision accountability in this month's column. Among the Leadership Team's responsibilities, a big one is to watch that the minister and congregation are on track following the Mission and Vision statements in their faith journeys and that Salem is a vital element in the community. Salem United Methodist Church is a small congregation. That fact has not prevented Salem from keeping its focus on the Mission and Vision this past year, thanks be to God. May we so continue in the New Year.

Salem Mission: The Mission of the people of Salem United Methodist Church is to grow in discipleship and express God's love through serving others and community building.

Salem Vision: The Vision of Salem United Methodist Church is to be a community that uses acts of compassion and outreach to celebrate the things that unite our common humanity.

The Mission and Vision statements form the backbone of Salem's belief and ministry in our community. They are the cornerstones that Salem follows in building community relationships and providing outreach in service to people in need.

As we all know, the needs of our Greater Olney/Brookeville community are many and continue to expand this year. Solving the need is challenging a lot of faith communities' resources, Salem included. Salem is responding to these needs with action by working in the community. Just a few are mentioned here.

We are participating in donating non-perishable food items and providing overflow storage area for the Olney Help food bank. We feed the hungry by volunteering monthly to prepare meals for The Lord's Table. These are both long term ministries at Salem.

We engage in community building through various outreach events such as this summer's SSL Garden program for youth in the area, Blessing of the Animals, and joint services with other churches. We provide space and free on-site childcare during AA meetings held at Salem courtesy of Montgomery County approved caregivers. This is available to any who wish to spend a couple of hours in meditation absent children. The children and parents both must stay at Salem.

We engage in personal growth through small group Bible study lessons and online seminars, preparing us for outreach and witness.

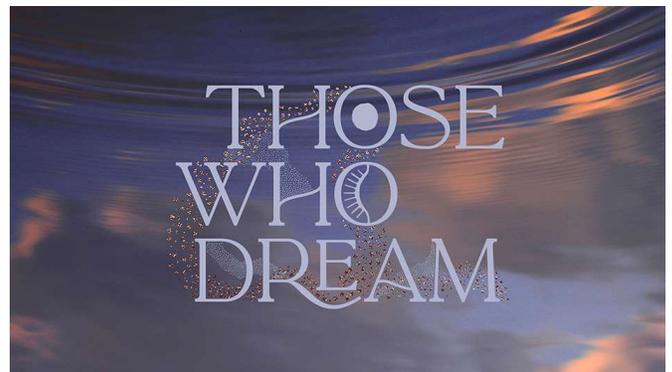
We have welcomed some new members into the church. We have just started an internship for a young man who is just discovering his call to ministry. Exciting times for Salem.

In closing, we are in the Season of Giving. We openly share the story of Jesus' birth with family and friends. Giving is a Christian core value, a pledge we make when becoming members of the UMC. We give of ourselves

and our resources in service to others because we want to share the joy that God has given to us with everyone. And it just feels good.

May all of you have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a blessed 2024.

DECEMBER / JANUARY SERMON SERIES



Series Overview

This year, the opening lines from Psalm 126 jumped off the page:

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”
What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world.

In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality. This theme is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their

dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time.

Join us this Advent as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God's dreams for our world.

Dec. 3 Those Who Dream: Prepare the Way
Mark 1: 1-8 / Isaiah 40: 1-11 / Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

Dec. 10 Those Who Dream: Sow Joy
Luke 1: 46-55 / Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 / Psalm 126

Dec. 17 Those Who Dream: Are Not Alone
Luke 1: 26-45 / 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 / Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26

Dec. 18 (Monday evening) Longest Night Service

Dec. 24 This Night, We Are Those Who Dream
Luke 2: 1-20 / Isaiah 9: 2-7

Dec. 31 Those Who Dream: Will Not Keep Silent
Luke 2: 22-40 / Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Jan. 7 Those Who Dream: Persevere
Matthew 2: 1-12 / Isaiah 60: 1-6

The 2023 Holiday Schedule is printed in each Sunday Bulletin, and it's also on the website under "Worship."

THE GALLERY

Artwork from the Advent book are on display along the hallway leading from the ramp to the Sanctuary. (If you enter the side door closest to the Sanctuary, you will miss it.) The posters, spanning seven weeks of Advent and Christmas, are large, vibrant, and show the details in design and color that could be missed when looking at smaller versions of this art printed in the booklet.



Blurbs on wall beside each poster briefly describe the artists' inspiration and elements in the designs.

Come check it out!

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

The next Salem volunteer day at The Lord's Table will be Dec. 1. It will continue to be held the first Friday of each month. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Churchill Groves for information.

Olney Help Food Needs

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 fruit (in juice please), boxed spaghetti, pancake mix and syrup, canned chili, canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce and canned pasta, adult cereal, canned peas (low salt), spaghetti sauce – plain kind, canned meats, such as tuna, chicken, turkey, corned beef, spam, salmon, Vienna sausage, etc.;, 1 lb. bags of rice and rice sides (Knorr/Roni), pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), baked beans, canned green beans, corn, peas (low/no salt), Jelly - all sizes, all flavors, condiments - BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes - 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice.

For those who find it easier to order online they have a new Amazon wishlist with many useful items on it.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/B9R4BSW2TAS5?ref=wl_share

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.

BIBLE STUDIES

There will be no Wednesday night Bible study during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Studies will resume sometime in January.

GARDENING PROJECT



Students from local middle and high schools earned Service Learning Hours this summer by bringing our long-neglected church gardens back to life. Pictured above are some of the students who returned last month to harvest the remaining pumpkins. We're so grateful for their hard work, during some very hot summer days, helping us grow food to donate to area residents.

HERO DOGS

Hero Dogs Travis will be moving on to advanced training on December 4th. He will spend 6 to 9 months there honing his skills and learning new things. Hero Dogs will determine what the best career path is for him - hopefully a service dog to a veteran or first responder with a disability. He could also become a facility dog or a skilled home companion or a therapy dog. Once they have decided they will look at the applicant pool and find just the right match for him. Thus it could be a year before we know his final calling. Many thanks to all of you who have supported us in the last sixteen months that he has been coming to Salem.

The Roberts do not plan to raise another puppy. Carole hopes to dedicate more time to Sue's therapy visits and dabble in puppy sitting for Hero Dogs whose raisers cannot take them on an outing or trip. So, be on the lookout for some surprise guest dogs in church.

SOCIAL HOUR

Please remember to sign up to bring snacks to the Community Hall so Social Hour can continue. This is another great way to encourage fellowship following the Worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary. Instead of weekly, we'll try once a month. Nothing fancy. Just a dozen donuts cut in half is perfect.

LUNCH FOR SIX

Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? This is the perfect opportunity to socialize during the week and meet people who sit outside your pew. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, Panera Bread, Olney Grille, and Dempsey's. There is a sign-up sheet for the next group on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary.

From Mercy Medical Center:

Benefits of Socialization include:

- 1) Better mental health – it can lighten your mood and make you feel happier
- 2) Lower your risk of dementia – social interaction is good for your brain health
- 3) Promotes a sense of safety, belonging and security
- 4) Allows you to confide in others and let them confide in you

BIRTHDAYS



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

Happy December Birthdays!

Lexie Groves	12/10
Barb Achstetter	12/11
Jesus	12/25
Gene Haines	12/31

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>

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.

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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!

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