



# SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER July 2024

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Division.

Polarization.

Conflict.

These are the words I think of when I think about an election year.

While we have a separation of Church and State (which I fully support) it's impossible not to see the ways our politics start to impact our relationships. Additionally, a lot of us in the Church try to support policies and politicians who we believe represent our

values. How can we be "Good Christians" and engage in political discourse in such a fraught environment?

Our vision statement at Salem is to be a community that uses acts of compassion and

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outreach to celebrate the things that **unite our common humanity**. We have been on a quest to see everyone as a child of God—even the people we disagree with. No matter our feelings, history, or fears, we are all made in the image of God. Sometimes I think we forget that, in our polarized, politicized world. I don't think politics are inherently bad. However, when our politics and political parties become a shorthand for our beliefs, we are engaging in idolatry by putting them before God. And yet, sometimes our politics can be ways of acting on our faith.

It can be hard to find the line.

This fall, we're going to work with a group called Braver Angels to host sessions on things such as depolarization, and how to have conversations with people we disagree with. We're doing this because that's who we've said we want to be. We want to be a church that continues to value diversity in opinion, the way God calls each of us to unique missions, and the "Imago Dei" in each of us.

I pray you will join us.

### Rev. Emily vacation

This month I will have some much-needed time with my family before coming back in August and getting ready for the fall. While I am gone, there will be "substitute pastors" posted in our weekly email and in the bulletin. I won't post my specific schedule here since we do share this newsletter online, but I'll tell you I'm looking forward to a short trip to Montana to see Chris' family, a trip to Bethany beach with my family, and a week away volunteering at camp Manidokan. During that time, you'll also see our summer musician, Ezra, and have a special visit from Alan on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We are so blessed at Salem to have such wonderful musicians!

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

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## SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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The Gospel of John tells us Christ is the light of the world. The epistle, 1 John (pronounced "first John"), doubles down on this message and helps us to understand what it means to walk in the light of Christ. Throughout this series we'll see the way God shows up for and loves us deeply. We'll also see the ways we can care for each other in the same way. In the end, that's the major message. It's all about love. So, this summer, let's find ways to walk in the Light.

7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sundays after Pentecost:

July 7 Walk in the Light – Keep the  
Commandments *1 John 5: 1-6*  
Ezra – musician

July 14 Jennie Lyons preaching  
Ezra - musician

July 21 Alan Naylor – HYMN SING (you  
can request your favorite hymns)  
*Psalms 96*

July 28 Jennie Lyons preaching  
Alan Naylor - musician

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM NEWS

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On Sunday April 29 this year, members of the Leadership Team presented Salem's congregation with ideas for freshening the look of the sanctuary. A comprehensive plan involving a lot of elements, it was presented quickly and with no details having been developed for the presentation. It was an exploratory effort meant to seek feedback from you before proceeding with plans and contracts. Thank you so much for sharing your honest feedback with us. We hear you.

We found out two big elements of the plan, moving the altar and installing new pews, were the least well received of the many things that were presented. Lighting changes, new carpeting, painting and tech issues seemed to fare better but still were not well received in that meeting.

We took the feedback we received and in our June team meeting considered a few things. First is why do anything.

Four values are guiding this project:

- Inclusion
- Hospitality
- Accessibility
- Safety

They are the steppingstones to fulfilling our Salem Church Mission and Vision statements. We say we value growing disciples, outreach and community service as a congregation. We think that doing this will be beneficial and demonstrate Salem is living its beliefs.

Salem is an historic church. Its smaller size and warm feel are what draw people. The

Leadership Team does not wish for that to change. Do you remember that old children's song?

*I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all who follow God, yes! We're the church together. The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is the people.*

Just as in the children's song, our sanctuary is just a building, albeit a beautiful and historic one. The *people* are Salem United Methodist Church.

The Leadership Team believes that we can freshen Salem without sacrificing the qualities that current congregants find so appealing. We are looking at striping the shoulder on High Street so people can park on the street and enter the sanctuary through the front door. We think the area on the left of the sanctuary can serve as a hospitality area. We think the choir room can be arranged for more Sunday child care, a function it has now. We think that new paint, flooring to replace the old stained carpeting, and improved brighter lighting on a dimmer can enhance people's experience at Salem. We would like to have different seating that is more comfortable and safer than what we have. We also think that moving the altar is not a bad idea but we are not going to pursue this due mainly to your feedback, the disruption, and cost. The Leadership Team unanimously agreed to seek an interior designer who is experienced in church projects to listen to our ideas and make suggestions.

All this is still very early in development. We will need and want input from you throughout this process. We will keep you up to date on what is happening in future meetings and this column.

We would like to make these changes and help with the transition to a freshened-up Salem fully focused on our values: inclusion, hospitality, accessibility, and safety. As our website says, "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Let's make it so.

Mark Aebig, chair  
Members: Mary Kay Abramson, Quinn Anderson, Chet Babylon, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, Hisashi Yamagata

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## 2024 BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE RE-CAP

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This year the BWC Annual Conference took place from May 29-31 at the Baltimore Hilton, same as last year. Approximately 500 voting members were in attendance. "Like a Fire Shut up in Our Bones", taken from Jeremiah 20:9, was the theme of Bishop Easterling's opening message to the conference. Along with passages from Romans 12 verses 1 and 9-12, she urged the congregants to use our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, to let love be genuine, hating what is evil, holding fast to what is good, staying ardent in our spirit. And to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering and persevere in prayer. She gave a profound message as those of you in church the following Sunday heard.

This year there were four resolutions put forth to the convention:

1. **Affirming common ground by recognizing the flaws of the proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution establishing a right to Reproductive Freedom.** The

- Conference voted 12% for and 87% against; the resolution did not pass
2. **Recognition of Sickle Cell Disease in our UMC Community.** The Conference voted 97% for and 3% against, passing the resolution.
  3. **Drawing the Circle Wide: Celebration the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reconciling Ministries Network.** The Conference voted 81% for and 19% against, passing the resolution.
  4. **Establish Camping Sunday** (designating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February). The Conference voted by show of hands and passed the resolution.

Other issues brought before the Conference were approving the closure of 4 churches; Mt Vernon UMC, Saint Matthews UMC, Violetville UMC all in Baltimore Districts and Mt Savage UMC in Cumberland District. The Commission on Equitable Compensation proposed a 2% COLA that was changed to 3% by amendment to the recommendation and approved by a show of hands. The BWC proposed budget for 2025 was approved by a vote of 97% for and 3% against. The Consent Calendar for the Conference which consisted of many reports was approved 97% for and 3% against.

Several key positions saw new people installed, and a few people were retained in their positions. All assignments were approved and a Bishop candidate and Jurisdictional assignment candidates were approved by show of hand.

The issue that got the most discussion was the Conference plan to Re-structure the current configuration in an effort to promote creation of increased relationships, collaboration, discipleship and connections.

This is a complex plan with much still to figure out, but put before the Conference was a proposal to go from 8 districts to 6. After voting against tabling the measure and a vote to call the issue, the Conference voted 74% for and 25% against, the narrowest passage of an issue.

The conference heard two truly excellent Bible study sessions on the Romans passages presented by Dr. Carla Works, Dean of Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C.

On a personal note, this year the Conference had a joyous feel to it. Bishop Easterling was pleased and encouraged with how things went and how people attending the General Conference in North Carolina worked together to find common ground and agree on issues. It was a hopeful indication to her that the rancor, polemics, division, taking stands and posturing of the past were laid aside for the greater good of the UMC. Hallelujah and Amen.

Mark Aebig

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## MISSIONS

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### The Lord's Table

The Salem volunteer day at The Lord's Table will take a hiatus for the summer. The next one will be in Sept. 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 under the table in the

sanctuary or in the marked box in the Community Hall. Most needed items: canned tomatoes low/no salt, sloppy joe sauce, jelly, baked beans, 12 oz canned chicken, instant potatoes – both box and pouch, pancake syrup and canned fruit in juice. Also, canned pasta (adult types), shelf stable bottled juice, canned chili, canned chicken, canned tomatoes (prefer 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), canned green beans, condiments - BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes for the kids (100% juice please).

You can also drop off Giant gift cards at the Giant Customer Service desk, and they will hold them for Olney Help.

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

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/B9R4BSW2TAS5?ref=wl\\_share](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](http://www.olneyhelp.org).

Thank you letter from Olney HELP:

April 30th, 2024

Dear Rev. Hart,

On behalf of Olney HELP, I would like to thank you for your generous donation in March 2024.



Your donation will make a significant difference in the lives of many families, especially as we prepare to provide additional support to families during the upcoming summer break when kids are out of school.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and unwavering commitment to Olney HELP.

Sincerely,

Ruth Filbert  
Director, Food Services  
Olney HELP

### **Prayer Shawls**

Prayer shawls are available free for anyone to give to someone who is ill or needs comfort. Feel free to pick one up near the coat rack.

### **Greeting cards**

A new ministry has begun! Is there someone you'd like to send a birthday card to, or a get-well card, or a sympathy card? You may be thinking about this when you hear prayer requests during "Joys and Concerns". Perhaps you know of someone who would just appreciate receiving a card saying, "I've been thinking of you." In the sanctuary is a basket full of greeting cards you can sift through, as well as a directory of addresses. Feel free to find the perfect card to bless someone. If you have any extra cards to donate, please give them to Carole Roberts and she will file them into the categories.

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### **BIBLE STUDY**

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The Wednesday night Bible Study is taking a break this summer and will resume in the fall.

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## **STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS**

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For Fred Ambrose, regularly attending the Swedish Congregational Church in Beverly, Massachusetts with his family was an important part of growing up. Once he married and moved to Maryland, Fred and his wife Debbie were active in Warner Memorial Presbyterian church in Kensington where Fred served as a Deacon and Debbie as an Elder. In 1983, Fred and Debbie moved with their young daughter, Katharine, to Olney and continued attending church at Warner Presbyterian. However, after son Mark was born, the logistics of getting a family of four dressed, fed, in the car and to church on time in Kensington, became too complicated. So, when they began looking for a new church home in the Olney area in the early 90s, friends invited them to come with them to Salem United Methodist Church. Salem reminded Fred of his beloved hometown church with its similar organizational structure and friendly people; soon he and his family were attending Salem regularly.



And, it didn't take long before Fred - with his degree in Chemical Engineering and a pragmatic approach to problem solving - became one of Salem's jack-of-all-trades volunteer 'fixers.' One of Fred's largest 'fixes' involved helping determine how to replace the old oil furnaces beneath the church and the poor filtration system, which both posed potential health hazards. Fred and Buck Bartley figured out how to replace the old furnaces with new liquid propane furnaces, designed new duct work and installed a high efficiency air filter to upgrade the old filtration system. Fred also worked with Buck replacing the deteriorating front door and wooden structure under the church bell tower. He helped overhaul the outside breezeway between the parking lot and the sanctuary.



Renovating the parsonage kitchen. "Good thing I had lost weight earlier."

And he worked with others renovating the parsonage kitchen, replacing the hot water heater (with Buck and John Howes) and upgrading or replacing appliances, wiring and utilities in the social hall (with Nancy and Greg Cox, Buck, Chet Babylon, Bob Brown and Suzanne Friis, among others). It does, indeed, take a village.



The "life-long" hot water heater from the social hall which obviously reached its premature end of life.

Fred served ten years as a church Trustee (now called the Leadership Team) and took part in seven Appalachia Service Project (ASP) trips as a Team Leader, helping make homes warmer and safer for families in need. Today, Fred remains one of Salem's trusted, jack-of-all-trades volunteer 'fixers' keeping the riding mower running, replacing furnace control valves, searching out water leaks and helping with countless maintenance and emergency projects that come with a church built in 1910. In fact, Fred says that he 'stands on the shoulders' of his teachers and many others who educated and mentored him. For, according to him, "We all know that we're here for a short period of time, so any good that we do is really sending a message into the future."

Fred, we 'stand on your shoulders,' benefiting today from your years of diligent attention to the structural and operational safety and comfort of Salem United Methodist Church pastors, members and visitors. Thank you!

*Please let us know about the God Jobs you or others have done or are doing. We'll share the good news and maybe others will volunteer also. Email [molliebethhaines@gmail.com](mailto:molliebethhaines@gmail.com).*

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## MONGOL ENGLISH CLASS

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Sometimes a small kernel of an idea can lead to a big result. Most of you know that our church hall has hosted a Mongol Cultural School on Saturday mornings—for kids. Others of us have attended the joint Christmas celebrations where we have enjoyed dance numbers by the school children, along with a visit by “Mongol Santa” and great food.

Several months ago, the school leaders asked Rev Emily if anyone in the church would run an English class for the adults. Marcia York, a retired English teacher, agreed to lead the effort and Don Rider, with many years of adult education experience, has assisted. Most weeks we have 4-6 adults in attendance.

The setting (conversation around a table) is very informal. However, the two instructors have developed a curriculum that involves reading and discussion of books, articles and charts. Much to our surprise, English is taught in public schools in Mongolia; so each student comes to class with some English language fundamentals.

The children’s Cultural School is on summer recess. However, the adult group is so enthusiastic about the class, we are continuing to meet one day a week during the summer months.

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## NEW APPOINTMENT FOR PASTOR WILL

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Pastor Will Newton, of St. Paul UMC in Laytonsville, has received a new appointment! He was “commissioned” which means he is now a provisional elder. His appointment will begin in July. He will be serving University UMC in College Park half time and as the UMD chaplain UMC half time. We wish him well!

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## SUMMER GARDEN PROJECT

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Salem will once again have its summer garden project on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. We will need volunteers to supervise and bring snacks. The project started on June 27 and will continue on July 5 (Friday), July 9 (Tuesday), July 18, July 25, August 1, August 8, and August 15. To help out or for info, contact Rev. Emily.

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## CEMETERY NEWS

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We are increasing the prices of our Cemetery lots, from \$1,400.00 a lot to \$2,000.00 a lot starting September 1, 2024. We have a limited number of lots for cremains only from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 a lot starting September 1, 2024. See Quinn Anderson or Chet Babylon.



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**NOTICE: SALEM'S FINANCES SURVEY**

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Keep an eye out for an upcoming survey about what you'd like to see regarding Salem's finances. The survey can be found soon in the bulletins or newsletter.

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**SUNDAY CHILDCARE REMINDER**

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Childcare during the Sunday worship service is offered the third Sunday of the month. If you would like to be reminded by text message when this will occur, please contact Rev. Emily.

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**SOCIAL HOUR**

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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—the third Sunday of the month. Nothing fancy. Just a dozen donuts cut in half is perfect.

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**LUNCH FOR SIX**

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Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? This is the perfect opportunity to socialize during the week. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, Panera Bread, Olney Grille, Dempsey's and more. There is a sign-up

sheet for the next group on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary.

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**READING ROOM**

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The Reading Room shelves are full! We cannot accept any more books. The good news is there are well over 400 books and DVDs. It's located upstairs in the Community Hall. The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon.

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**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Birthdays

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|------------------|-------|
| Ellen Ennes      | 07/02 |
| Velma Durant     | 07/05 |
| Robert Lange     | 07/06 |
| Ian Poe-Yamagata | 07/06 |
| Virginia Smith   | 07/06 |
| Jacob Weinberger | 07/14 |
| Amy Roberts      | 07/15 |
| Ginny Weinberger | 07/20 |
| Mark Ennes       | 07/30 |

Anniversaries

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|----------------------|-------|
| Chris and Emily Hart | 07/13 |
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## GIVING

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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>

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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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](http://www.salemunitedmethodist.org)

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

Rev. Emily's e-mail:  
[pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Music Director:  
[music@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:music@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Building Use:  
[building@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:building@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Salem Cemetery:  
[salem12cemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:salem12cemetery@yahoo.com)

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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  
Joan Aebig  
Mollie Haines  
Carole Roberts  
Nancy Joie Wilkie  
Hisashi Yamagata  
Kyle Mauzy, Intern