



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER September 2024

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



The world wants me to pick sides. I am for something, or against it? And yet, there are so many times when I believe a little bit like these people, a little bit like those, and a lot like someone else. No two people are exactly alike, so why should I have to try to think the same way as a whole group, political party, or denomination? That seems like a recipe for ignoring my own intuition and shutting out the still small voice in my soul. Have you ever felt like you couldn't add nuance into a conversation without getting shut down? Black and white thinking has become more and more common and will continue to escalate as we grope towards the November election.

And yet, we are not called to be a people who pick sides. Our faith is not built to give us easy answers or shallow understanding. Some truths are simple—God loves you. That will never change. But God calls us to paradoxical things! We are called to be weak to be strong. We are told that the cross, a device of torture and death, is where true

Continued on page 2

CONTENTS:

A Word from our Pastor	Page 1
Fall Sermon Series	Page 2
Intern News	Page 2
Missions	Page 3
Book Study	Page 4
Info on Depolarization Workshop	Page 4
Standing on the Shoulders of Giants	Page 4
History Corner	Page 5
Stained Glass Windows	Page 6
Summer Garden Project	Page 6
Cemetery News	Page 6
Notice: Salem's Finances Survey	Page 6
Lunch for Six	Page 7
Social Hour	Page 7
Sunday Childcare Reminder	Page 7
Reading Room	Page 7
Birthdays	Page 7
Giving	Page 7
Contact Information	Page 8

life is found. We are taught that being last is the only way to be first, that we need to lose our lives to find it, that humility is the way to greatness, and that we find unity in diversity. What madness is this?

If we ignore these paradoxes and seek a false simplicity, we'll probably be fine on the surface. But we'll miss the depth of God's love and creativity. We'll be so focused on being comfortable (as we are in most aspects of our American life) that we'll be unable to cope with the discomfort of meeting someone with a different opinion. And then, those divisions that we've been seeing in our communities? They'll never heal.

This September you are invited to get uncomfortable in your faith. To ask questions you haven't asked before and to seek opinions that you've never considered. Explore the paradoxes of our faith and grow in ways you never imagined.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

GET TO KNOW OUR INTERN

Kyle loves Christianity and being able to incorporate it into his everyday life, studying the scriptures, and sharing his thoughts about what he learns with others.

Growing up, he was raised Jewish but turned to Christianity when he was around 18. He enjoys teaching people about Jewish traditions and how they compare to Christianity. He would welcome the opportunity for you to ask about it. And he asks a lot of questions ... so if you ever want to have a conversation with him, be ready for them.

Kyle plans to major in religious studies at Messiah University or Mt. Saint Mary's after graduating from Frederick Community College. He plans on interning at Salem United Methodist Church for the year so that he can get a head start on learning what it's like to be a pastor.

In his spare time, he is often at the gym or practicing his guitar.

FALL SERMON SERIES



This September, you're invited to dive into the paradoxes of our faith—where strength is found in weakness, life through a cross, and unity in diversity. In a world that demands us to pick sides, our faith calls us to something deeper, challenging us to embrace complexity rather than settle for false simplicity. As we approach the November election, black-and-white thinking is only intensifying, but God invites us to get uncomfortable, ask new questions, and grow in unexpected ways. Join us as we explore these paradoxes and discover the depth of God's love and creativity.

15th – 20th Sundays after Pentecost:

Sept. 1 Strength in Weakness
 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Sept. 8 The Foolishness of the Cross
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sept. 15 The First Shall Be Last
 Matthew 20:1-16

- Sept. 22 Finding Life After Losing It
Matthew 16:21-28
- Sept. 29 Becoming Great Through Humility
Philippians 2:1-11
- Oct. 6 Unity in Diversity
Ephesians 4:1-16
-
-

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

We need a new coordinator. If you can help out or want more info contact Rev. Emily.

The next Salem volunteer day at The Lord's Table is October 4. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD.

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: instant potatoes – both box and pouch, pancake syrup, baked beans, refried beans, and canned fruit in juice or fruit cups. Also, canned pasta (adult types), shelf stable bottled juice, canned chili, canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce, 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), baked beans, canned green beans, canned fruit in juice, jelly - all sizes, all flavors, 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 an Amazon wish list 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 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". Birthdays for the month are listed in each newsletter. Perhaps you know of someone who would just appreciate receiving a card saying, "I've been thinking of you." In the sanctuary, on the front, right pew, there's 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.

BOOK STUDY

I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): a guide to grace-filled political conversations by Sarah Steward Holland and Beth Silvers

Friends, I am so tired of arguing about politics. Not because I'm afraid of disagreeing with people, but because political arguments don't seem to go anywhere anymore. Within the first few minutes we both know the other isn't going to change their minds, or maybe even listen at all. Why do we bother?

More importantly, what does it mean to have these discussions as Christians who are called to care about the whole world? Jesus calls us the salt of the earth. We are to be an example to the world, and yet we can't even keep our religious discussions civil! This fall we're working on exiting black and white thinking and seeing the good in others (yes, even in the people we don't agree with!). This book has been hugely helpful to me in figuring out how and why I should talk to people about politics inside and outside the church differently. If there was time, I'd schedule dramatic readings of it at everyone's house before bed. Instead, join me for a (much less intrusive!) book study this fall.

P.S. Obviously you'll get more out of these classes if you read the book. However, life gets busy. If you don't get a chance to read and just want to join the discussion to learn from each other, you are still more than welcome.

Date	Lesson
Sept 11	Intro
Sept 18	Chapter 1 & 2
Sept 25	Chapters 3,4 & 5

Date	Lesson
Oct 2	Chapters 6,7 & 8
Oct 9	Chapters 9 & 10

DEPOLARIZATION WORKSHOP

Braver Angels will join us on September 29th at 11 A.M. to help us develop strategies for engaging in politics without demonizing the other side, and constructively intervening in conversations with like-minded peers. The workshop will last 1.5 hours.

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Debbie Ambrose attended a Presbyterian church growing up and later married her husband, Fred, in that very same church. While living in Kensington, MD, they both were very active at Warner Memorial Presbyterian church where Debbie served as an Elder and Fred served as a Deacon.

In the early 1980s, they moved to Olney and their very good friends, Rob and Barb McClosky invited them to attend Salem United Methodist Church which at one time was a small country church and the social center of Brookeville.

They liked the friendliness and energy of the congregation and began attending regularly with their children, Katharine and Mark, who went to Sunday School and joined in youth activities. Their friend, Barbara, got Fred involved with the Appalachian Service Project and Debbie joined Salem's small choir. "Being in the choir was very fulfilling...the people made the project," she said.

Debbie's God Jobs expanded as she served on committees, organized Sunday School formats and schedules, and participated in fundraisers. One of the largest fundraisers was the Annual Yard Sale and Basket Sale. The baskets, overseen by master arranger Kulley Bancroft, were filled with handcrafted items and sold for \$40-50 each. Debbie helped make and sell baskets and also worked in the community hall kitchen making food to sell to event attendees: hot dogs and chili and the famous vegetable beef soup.

Debbie retired from serving as an administrator in Montgomery County Public Schools in 2012 and volunteered even more time at Salem. She served at the Annual Ham & Oyster dinners, prepared by Salem's "very accomplished cooks," according to Debbie, organized Vacation Bible School, supervised Arts & Crafts for Christian Day Camp and, for four years, was Chair of the Church Council (now known as The Leadership Team).

She is currently a member of The Encore Singers, a Montgomery County based adult chamber group that sings both sacred and secular music and holds their practices at Salem.

Debbie, we 'stand on your shoulders' benefitting today from your leadership skills, your planning and organizational expertise and your fundraising efforts. Thank you!

There's a God Job for everyone who wants to help Salem grow in Christian faith and express God's love through serving others. Please contact Rev. Emily Hart at: emily@salemunitymethodist.org or (301) 774-7772 to learn more. There's a God Job waiting for you!

HISTORY CORNER

Have you seen the History Corner located in the Meeting Room? That's the room with the copier.



There is a glass-topped case containing a 30+ page book called "In Remembrance" which lists the items donated to Salem, perhaps back in the '60's, '70's and '80's. You'll also find a baptismal font donated by the family of Manetia E. Gartrell in her honor. Old photos, plaques, and a map of Brookeville adorn the wall. Come take a look!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Back in 2016, starting in the January newsletter, Rose Eide-Altman, Salem's music director, wrote a series of articles on the stained-glass windows in our sanctuary. If you've ever wondered about the names on

these beautiful windows, we thought reprinting some of this information here might be of interest. You can also find her articles on our website under Connect > 2024 newsletters; then scroll to the bottom and click on “click here to read past newsletters”. Scroll down to find 2016. She wrote about the windows in the January, February, and March issues.

On the right side of the sanctuary, near the middle, is the stained-glass window:

“In Memory of Margaret J. Parsly”

Margaret J. Parsly (June 3, 1822-January 8, 1895) was listed in the census as a seamstress, and the records never include a husband so apparently, she never married. She is sister to George Parsley, Sr. (who also has a window, see future newsletter). Margaret is buried in the Salem cemetery with the last name spelled “Parsley”, not “Parsly” as in the window.

The Maryland State Archives also records the name as “Parsley”, not “Parsly”. Margaret and George had three other siblings. Their parents were James Parsley (c. 1785-1834) and Margaret Anderson Parsley. By 1823, the couple had their five children, all under the age of 10. James, a shoemaker, was the first Constable of Brookeville.

SUMMER GARDEN PROJECT

This summer we worked with 4 teens, 3 pre-elementary school students, 2 neighbors, and assorted parents to work on our garden. If we’re looking at trends, we are more successful at growing vined plants than anything else. This year we planted mini watermelons and potatoes. Half of the watermelons grew and none of the potatoes! It’s giving me flashbacks to the successful pumpkins and unsuccessful... everything else of last year!

One major change we started this year is our determination to share our produce with those in need. We will work with Cristin Cooper, of Coop’s Soups, to harvest (or buy!) food we can then learn to make into soup that we will donate to a local soup kitchen. Cristin has been working on making and donating soup for the last year as part of a grant, so she is excited to work alongside our teens and kids and help them give back.

CEMETERY NEWS

The prices of our Cemetery lots have increased to \$2,000.00 a lot starting September 1, 2024. We have a limited number of lots for cremains only for \$1,000.00 a lot starting September 1, 2024. See Quinn Anderson or Chet Babylon.

NOTICE: SALEM’S FINANCES SURVEY

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.

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. Groups have gone to Grill Marx, 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.

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

SUNDAY CHILDCARE REMINDER

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.

READING ROOM

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.

BIRTHDAYS



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

Birthdays

Robert Lyon	09/01
Barbara Whalen	09/06
Tim Miller	09/11
Janet Howes	09/17
Mollie Haines	09/28

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.

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

Music Director:
music@salemunitedmethodist.org

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