



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER October 2024

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



We are called to “do unto others as we would have them do unto us”. You all know the golden rule, yes?

I'm learning that the Golden Rule, while important, is almost still spiritual kindergarten. Sometimes we love people by trying to tell them where they fall short or where we disagree with them—because if they knew what we knew then CERTAINLY they would be grateful for what we've shared. We

wouldn't confront people or talk to them about these hard things if we didn't believe it was vital, right?

And yet. My dog, Winkie, has made this rule a little more complicated for me. You see, Winkie always treats me the way he wants to be treated. Always.

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This means if I collapse on the couch in exhaustion when he's ready to play he steals my things, runs around the corner to show me the coaster or pen or shoe, and then takes off in great joy that he can teach me how to properly play chess. Friends, he is treating me exactly the way he wants to be treated.

Learning to treat someone the way I want to be treated is a vital step in learning that other people are as real as I am. Their feelings are as important as mine. And yet, this is a kindergarten concept. Some people never move past this, and we can bless them where they are. As Christians, we are actually called to do more. We are called to love people the way THEY want to be loved.

The way they need to be loved.

That's much harder. Because we all actually receive love in different ways. The only way we can do this is through developing relationships.

"But pastor, how can we do that in the midst of this polarization??" I bet most of us have experienced strained relationships in the past 10 years. It's harder than ever to make and sustain relationships with people who disagree with us. Yet God calls us to a holy unity, not an isolated silo of people who agree with us on everything.

That's what we're focusing on this fall. This is coming straight from your vision statement to your leadership team to me.

We hear you and this fall (and then into 2025!) we're going to give you as many chances as possible to help you heal and sustain your relationships.

We're starting with our Paradox series to get uncomfortable with paradoxical things we're

weirdly comfortable with. Then we're doing Do Unto Others to move practically into how Christians can love each other well in our stereotypical red/blue divide. Outside of worship we just had our first Braver Angels session: Depolarizing Within on September 29th. We're having another session, called Disagreeing Better on October 20th. Each of these sessions can stand alone but I'm personally excited about both! (If you miss a session they have online sessions on their website!). Lastly, we're continuing to offer evening Bible studies on Wednesday nights on zoom. We'll offer a "Do Unto Others" Bible study starting October 16th (see below for more information).

This is a painful time. Let's be in it together and start healing.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Salem's Leadership Team met on September 8 following the end of summer travels for everybody. A few issues were discussed that are of interest to the congregation.

Reverend Emily has asked the Leadership Team for two new part-time positions: an Administrative Assistant and a Church Facilities Manager, and they have been approved. Both will be paid positions and will involve 5-10 hours a week after the job responsibilities become familiar to the individuals filling the jobs. Reverend Emily is advertising these so if you are interested, please get in touch with her. The two jobs will fit within the Salem budget for next year.

Salem’s roofing project will start sometime after the holidays. The first portion will replace the bell tower of the roof. Mark Aebig and Reverend Emily signed the papers and issued a Notice to Proceed to Hardin Construction. The Team will keep you informed as things move forward. Quinn Anderson will liaise with council members of the Town of Brookeville for creative suggestions in applying for grants in the future for the rest of the roof.

Through September 2024, Salem has received \$139,430 in revenue through pledges, plate offerings and identified giving against \$126,150 in expenditures for a net operating revenue of \$13,266. Thank you to the members of Salem UMC, Brookeville.

Mark Aebig, chair

Members: Mary Kay Abramson, Quinn Anderson, Chet Babylon, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, Carole Roberts, Hisashi Yamagata

FALL SERMON SERIES



This October, you're invited to hear the final sermon in the paradox series—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 discover the depth of God’s love and creativity.

20th Sunday after Pentecost:

Oct. 6 Unity in Diversity
Ephesians 4: 1-16

OCT-NOV SERMON SERIES



Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

21st -23rd Sunday after Pentecost

DO UNTO OTHERS

Oct. 13 Blue and Red Make Purple: Kindness
Luke 6: 31-36

Oct. 20 The Polarization Within: Compassion
Isaiah 11: 6-9

Oct. 27 Listen More, Speak Less: Humility
Ephesians 4: 1-6

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

LAST CHANCE!! 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 November 8. 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: canned or pouches of tuna (a main source of protein), canned pasta for kids and adults, snacks for the kids (cookies, granola bars, crackers, popcorn, raisins, Goldfish, animal crackers, etc.) cake, cookie, brownie mix, frosting, small boxes of Cheerios and juice boxes. 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.

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, see their webpage at 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

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" during church services. 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.

WEDNESDAY 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.

To purchase book from Biblestore.com, go to their website and search for "I Think

You're Wrong."

To purchase book from Amazon.com, you can use this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdecbabb>

Remaining class schedule:

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

Click on link below to access meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays. Fellowship at 6:30 P.M. and study from 7 to 8 P.M.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

DO UNTO OTHERS

This fall let's Cultivate Kindness. As we work on depolarizing, the most important thing we can do is practice kindness in all its forms. One way you can go deeper into these topics is by joining us for our Wednesday night Zoom Bible Study. We'll take four weeks to explore the scriptural call to bless others and wrestle with what this looks like in our day-to-day lives. Specifically, we'll look at why we struggle so much with loving our neighbors, and how the complexity of the world can challenge our most basic assumptions. All the while, we'll explore how to engage with people both inside the congregation and outside our church on a journey toward practicing the Bible's great love ethic: "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12). I suggest reading each

scripture before class so you are ready to bring questions for discussion. However, we will also have time to read in class. Come as you are and be ready to think with your heart.

Date	Lesson	Homework (due on class day)
Oct 16	Calling: The call of Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12: 1-3 and discussion questions
Oct 23	Fear: The universal experience of fear	Leviticus 19: 33-37 and discussion questions
Oct 30	OFF	

Continues for two more weeks in November.

Click on this link to access the study booklet:

<https://tinyurl.com/DoUntoOthers2024>

Click on link below to access meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays. Fellowship at 6:30 P.M. and study from 7 to 8 P.M.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVWk83eGljeGRLL3pNQ09#success>

NOTICE: SALEM’S FINANCES SURVEY

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

ALL ABOARD – THE DEPOLARIZED EXPRESS

Here at Salem, on Sept. 29, we were thrilled to host the first of two (pre-election) workshops with an organization called Braver Angels. We first became aware of Braver Angels last Fall at our Leadership retreat. We got on the topic of political diversity within our congregation and our group moderator told us that she had held a workshop at her church with a group called Braver Angels.

Braver Angels is a non-profit, ALL VOLUNTEER organization whose mission is to “Bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic”. It was founded in 2016 with the goal of building relationships, not changing minds (we had to be reminded of this point several times).



Rev. Emily and guest

This workshop (Depolarization Workshop) focused on becoming more aware of our own inner polarization. We each answered a few questions and then paired up with someone

to discuss what we learned about ourselves from the exercise. We discussed the stereotypes of 'the Reds' and 'the Blues' then asked how we resist stereotyping others.

Some of the recommendations were to distinguish between positions and people (it's ok to think an idea is bad without thinking the person who thinks it is bad); distinguish between policies and core values (we may have the same goals but just envision different ways of achieving them); distinguish between inconsistency and hypocrisy (be reluctant to assign the label of hypocrite to large numbers of fellow citizens who disagree with you). Think about the way you phrase questions or statements, are you displaying curiosity, or trying to pick a fight? It is important to be respectful.

An interesting technique we learned about was called 'eavesdropper'. When having a conversation with a 'like-minded' person, imagine that a friend who does not agree with that position is listening in. Ask yourself how they would feel. Would they feel that their perspective is being considered?



Workshop participants

This was a really eye-opening experience. We had about 25 attendees, mostly from our own congregation, but several from the community. Our follow-up workshop (Disagreeing Better) will be held at Salem on

Sunday Oct. 20 from 11-2. There is no prerequisite to attend the next workshop. It is open to everyone who is interested. Isabel did a great job keeping us on track, and will be leading the next workshop.



Isabel O'Brien, leader from Braver Angels

Feel free to check out Braver Angels website@ <https://braverangels.org>. They have several resources, workshops, podcasts, and you can even sign up to debate someone who disagrees with you.

I hope you can join us at the next workshop. Feel free to invite anyone you know who could benefit from this.

Churchill Groves

THE AMERICAN LEGION AT SALEM

American Legion-Norman Price Post #68 meets the first Monday of each month in Salem's Community Hall at 2 P.M. We thought you may be interested in the history of The American Legion and this post.

Part I

At the end of WWI, in 1918, several Senior Military Officers met in France to hold a caucus to discuss a "Moral Conference" and the need for Veterans to have a voice upon their return to the U.S. One of the senior officers was 'Teddy' Roosevelt's son, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. Included among the many items discussed were various benefits such as health and education. There were several name suggestions, and THE AMERICAN LEGION was approved.

A thirty-year old lawyer, John Thomas Taylor, enlisted in the Army the day the U.S. entered WWI and fought in 4 major offensives, raising to the rank of Captain. He was an official delegate to the Paris caucus that established the American Legion. As vice chairman of the Legion's legislative committee, Taylor fought to get more than 600 pro-veteran bills passed into law.

The first convention was held in 1919 in the U.S.

The post in Sandy Spring, established in 1920, was named in honor and memory of Norman Price who was from Brookeville. He was raised by a Deacon at St. John's Episcopal Church and was a chauffeur for Dr. Byrd prior to entering the Army. In 1918, he

died of pneumonia in France and is currently buried at St. John's cemetery.

Also in 1920, the MGH Women's Board was organized. One of its first leaders was the wife of Arthur Douglas Farquhar, the first Post Commander. Many of the women were married to members of Post 68. (Truly a family tradition.)

Halsey Smith

For Part II, see the next newsletter.

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. Have you 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.

The following window is in the back of the sanctuary.

"In Memory of Geo. W. & Susan R. Parsly"

George W. Parsley, Sr. (May 30, 1820-July 15, 1902) was married to Susan R. Lewis (Sept. 16, 1822-Nov. 5, 1898). George was a shoemaker and they had 3 children: Margaret E. Parsley (b. 1847, married William Hicks

Jones who also has a window); John Henry Parsley (Nov. 28, 1851-Dec. 14, 1923) and George W. Parsley, Jr. (1853-May 16, 1895). George, Sr. and Susan are buried in the Salem cemetery where the last name is spelled "Parsley", not "Parsly" like the window.

George W. Parsley, Sr. was the brother of Margaret J. Parsley (whose window is on the right side of the sanctuary). They 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.

The Maryland State Archives also records the name as "Parsley", not "Parsly".

Did you know...that the original purchase price of each stained glass window was \$15!!

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.

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, Silo Falls, 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.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY



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

Birthdays

Myron Shear	10/01
Pati Fekete	10/01
Joe Meisner	10/09
Emily Johns	10/24
Fred Ambrose	10/25
Debbie Ambrose	10/29

Anniversary

Mark and Joan Aebig	10/13/79
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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.

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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