



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER December 2024

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



“Come, let us adore him”. After a challenging fall, let’s take a breath and do what we know: adore God.

To some of you, that may sound trite in the face of natural disasters, political dissonance, and chronically rising prices. “Come let us adore him? What’s *that* going to do?”

What’s worshipping God going to do in the face of my real life problems? What’s worshipping God going to do as I worry about politics? What’s worshipping God going to do to help me afford my groceries?

On the surface, maybe nothing. Coming to church and worshipping will not write your senators for you. It won’t smooth things over with your kids or pay for your housing.

However, spending time in worship can spark a change in you that’s worth more than anything else. The things we gain from worship are, for the most part, intangible. We pray, sing songs, listen to a sermon, give an offering. Sometimes we enjoy it for the nostalgia. And sometimes it strikes a chord in us that rings into our souls.

Continued on page 2

CONTENTS:

A Word from our Pastor	Page 1
Leadership Team Update	Page 2
December Sermon Series	Page 3
Baptism	Page 3
Missions	Page 4
Visit with Santa	Page 4
Standing on the Shoulders of Giants	Page 5
Wednesday Bible Study	Page 6
Sunday Childcare Reminder	Page 6
Special Thankyou’s	Page 7
Cemetery News	Page 7
Social Hour	Page 7
Lunch for Six	Page 7
Birthdays	Page 7
Reading Room	Page 8
Giving	Page 8
Contact Information	Page 8

When I was in seminary I actually felt very far from God. I was so overwhelmed by everything I was learning *about* God that I couldn't talk *to* God. One Sunday I went to church and the pastor preached a very simple sermon about who God is. Today I can't remember what he said. I can only remember what he didn't say. He didn't tell me what to do, how to change, or even what to believe. It was a sermon of pure adoration for God in the midst of the chaos of a faith in transition. I left that service with an incredible sense of peace that I can feel even now, 10 years later.

The Advent season (December 1-24) is a time of preparation for Christ's birth. We'll recognize the chaos of the world and our deep need for God in the midst of it. And we'll do all of it because we love God.

I want you to come to worship this season to rest in God's love for us and in your love for God. I want you to feel the life changing peace that comes with this God-love, especially as we move towards Christmas.

Come, let us adore him together.

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

November brought a couple of different things for the Leadership Team to consider.

First, the Amazing God International Church reached out to Salem and asked if it could use our facilities to worship. They were formerly housed at Oakdale and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. However, extenuating circumstances arose and now they find

themselves without a church home. The Leadership Team discussed this in October and Reverend Emily did interview the other churches and got glowing references for the church. They are a small community of Indian Christians. We have decided to welcome them here.

We agreed that a lease agreement would address both sides' needs more fully than a facilities use agreement. We have a template agreement from another church for this kind of church use and we are amending it to suit our situation.

The second matter that came to us from Reverend Emily is that some of Salem's parishioners want to be involved in volunteer mission work but did not want to be leaders of a group. After some discussion we thought to deepen the volunteerism in our three active missions, Olney Help, The Lord's Table at Epworth Church, and the prayer shawl ministry led by JoAnn Keister. All three can always use help.

The next Leadership Team meeting will be Dec. 8.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas!

If you have anything you would like the Leadership Team to consider, please forward to Mark Aebig (aebigm@gmail.com)

Mark Aebig, chair

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

DECEMBER SERMON SERIES



O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

It's that time! Time to prepare for a holy mystery where God comes to earth to become a vulnerable baby in order to live a full life among us. Sometimes we try to think of new, exciting ways to tell the familiar story. And yet, remembering the traditions, songs, and stories from this annual journey to Bethlehem as we always do, it can transform us and bring us closer to who we are called to be. You may be surprised to know that Advent and Christmas are separate seasons. The Christmas season does not begin until December 25th. Until then, we are in a time of preparation. We will spend the month in the paradox of seeing our deep need for Christ and the way he has already shown up. So, this season, come, relax into our Advent preparation and *Come, let us adore him*.

Advent

Dec. 1 Preparations

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36

Dec. 8 Passion

Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 3: 1-6

Dec. 10 (Tues.) Soul Rest Service 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 15 Presence

Isaiah 12: 2-6; Luke 3: 7-18

Poinsettia Sunday

Dec. 22 Promise

Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 39-55

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24 (Tues.) Joy

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-20

Family Worship Service 5:00 P.M.

Traditional Candlelight Worship 7:30 P.M.

1st Sunday after Christmas

Dec. 29 Home

Slippers and Sing Along

Psalm 148

BAPTISM

A beautiful baptism service was performed on Oct. 27.



It was a blessing for us to participate in the baptism of Avery Jane, daughter of Brett and Marie Thomas. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Sharon Lyon.



The Thomas family

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

The next Salem volunteer day at The Lord's Table is **Friday, December 6**. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Our Administrative Specialist, Michael, is the new coordinator. He has set up 2-hour shifts: 1-3 P.M. and 3-5 P.M. To sign up or for more info, email Michael at admin@salemunitedmethodist.org.

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. For a list of the most needed items, see the Sunday bulletin or the previous newsletter. 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.

Thank you letter from Olney HELP:

October 28th, 2024
Dear Rev. Hart,

On behalf of Olney HELP, we sincerely thank you for your generous donation to our food pantry in September 2024.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support!

Sincerely,
Christine Nesbitt
Olney HELP

December 2024

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

In the sanctuary, on the front, right pew, there's a basket full of greeting cards as well as a directory of addresses. Feel free to find the perfect card to bless someone.

Mini-Missions during Social Hour!!

Social Hour will not only be for fellowship, but it will also be a time in which all of us can participate in 5-15 minute mini-missions and other activities. The tentative schedule is:

Dec 1 – Christmas card writing to folks we haven't seen in a while.

Dec. 8 – Walker decorating! Bring your walker (even if it's one you're not currently using) and your canes and crutches for a fun time of sprucing up.

Dec. 15 – Prepare crafts for the YMCA party for the children who will be attending.

Dec. 22 – Jigsaw puzzle exchange/give-away. Bring a puzzle or two to give-away. Pick a puzzle or many to take home. Whoever takes home the most puzzles wins a prize.

Dec. 29 – Hot cocoa fellowship

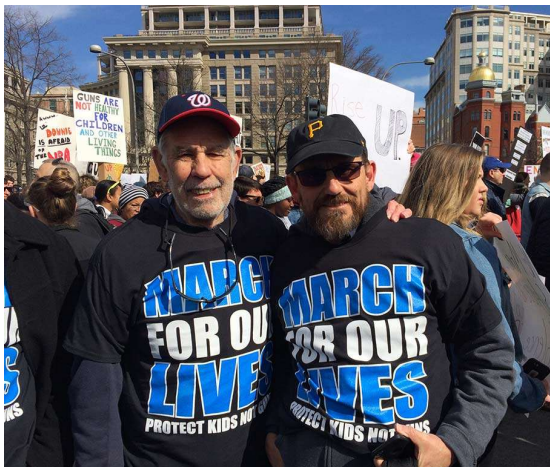
VISIT WITH SANTA

The Visit with Santa will be on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 2:00 - 4:30 P.M. Santa will make an appearance in the Community Hall. Little ones will talk to Santa and Father Snow, make candy, and enjoy light refreshments and Mongolian delights. Come celebrate! All are welcome.

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

In the mid-nineties, Buck Bartley and his wife Susan were living in Silver Spring, MD and attending St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington where they'd both been members before they married. Susan found their 'forever home' in Brookeville and they moved to 5 Church Street in 1996.

Three years later, their daughter Rachel joined their family that included Buck's four children from his marriage to his college sweetheart, Marsha Doyle, who had died. Buck and Susan split their Sunday worship time between Salem UMC and St. Paul's UMC until Buck said, "Salem just felt right for us," and they joined the church in 2002.



Buck and Bob Brown

It didn't take long for Buck to become an active volunteer: helping raise funds at sausage grinds and Lion's Club dinners served in the community hall and working on major projects like installing a new furnace in the parsonage, converting the church's old oil furnace to propane gas, and helping replace

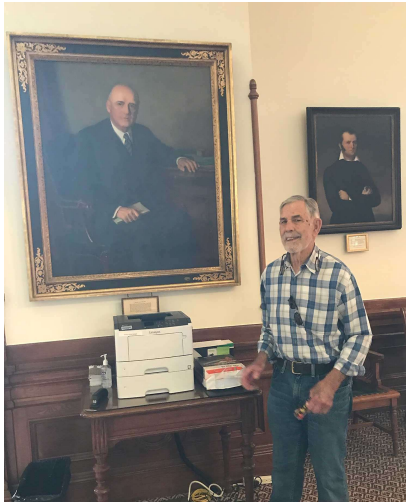
the old rotted wood around the original church steeple.

He also volunteered with other church members at The Lord's Table in Gaithersburg where free meals are served to all who are hungry. "It was a gratifying and humbling experience for the 20 years I was involved," Buck remembers. "While you're preparing and serving food for people who are hungry, you're also bonding with volunteers from area churches as you work together."

Buck served on Appalachia Service Projects every year for 13 years. He recalls traveling to Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia to help make repairs on prefab houses with electrical issues, poor insulation, weakening structures and many in need of wheelchair ramps. Families lived in their houses while they were being repaired so ASP volunteers got to know them; Buck especially enjoyed having the curious and friendly children around.

Volunteering at the annual Epiphany Dinner, Live & Silent Auctions, and the Annual Chili Cook Offs (which he won occasionally with a recipe from a special family friend) were especially rewarding for Buck who says, "If you really want to get to know people, work alongside them. You'll learn where they're from, what they do, and you'll make good human connections."

For a decade, Buck served as Chairman of the Trustees (now called the Leadership Team) helping Salem navigate through the challenges and changes faced by a small but active church. He has always envisioned Salem as the centerpiece of the Brookeville community, and he still hopes that someday that will become a reality.



Buck with the portrait of his uncle, Sam Rayburn, in the Texas Capitol building

When asked what his take-away is from 23 years of membership and service at Salem, Buck replied: “If you would like to be a part of a community that thinks love and respect are important aspects of living, I suggest that you join a church.” And Buck’s church is waiting with open arms.

Buck, we stand on your shoulders today benefitting from your time and talents that you have so generously shared with Salem UMC over the past two decades through your leadership, fundraising efforts, mission support and genuine connections with so many others.

Please contact Rev. Emily about current God Jobs openings – you’re probably the perfect person to fill one of them.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday nights to dig into a simplified Advent Study to complement what is often the busiest time of the year. In each class we will use the format of “Inspire,

Inquire, Irk, and Require.” This means that in preparation for class you will read the scripture and note what inspired you, what make you think or question, what (if anything) bothered you, and what the scripture requires of you.

Date	Topic	Reading
Dec 4	Preparation and Passion	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 3: 1-6; Luke 21: 25-36
Dec 11	Presence	Isaiah 12: 2-6; Luke 3: 7-18
Dec 18	Promise	Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 39-55

Click [here](#) for a copy of the study booklet in color.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the study booklet in black and white.

Click on the link below to access the 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=T256VnlzQ1VwVWk83eGljeGRLL3pNQTO9#saccess>

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.

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Many thanks to Barbara Teague who crafted the beautiful altar for Thanksgiving. It was admired by all!



A special thank you to Janet Howes, 99, who graced us with her organ playing one afternoon. We sang along and enjoyed cake and other goodies.

Thank you from Joan Aebig—I am so grateful to be a member of this loving, praying congregation. Your kindness, cards, flowers, meals, and visits were such a blessing during my surgeries and lengthy recovery throughout this year. But especially, thank you for all of your prayers. I could not have gotten through this without you and Jesus.

CEMETERY NEWS

The price of a cemetery lot is now \$2,000. We have a limited number of lots for cremains only for \$1,000 a lot. See Quinn Anderson or Chet Babylon.

SOCIAL HOUR

Have you heard? Social Hour will be held every Sunday for the next month and a half. During this time of fellowship, you will be able to participate in mini-missions. Our first mini-mission on Nov. 24 was a lot of fun – coloring placemats for The Lord's Table. Our works of art will be taken to Epworth UMC on Dec. 6 to brighten the tables. There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary if you want to sign up to bring food for any of the Social Hours. Nothing fancy. 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. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, Silo Falls, Olney Grille, Dempsey's and many more. There is a sign-up sheet for the next group on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary. Consider putting your name on the first space, then you can select the restaurant and date you'd like to go!

BIRTHDAYS



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

Birthdays

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

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 and 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.

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

Michael, Administrative Specialist:
admin@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
Kyle Mauzy, Intern
Michael, Admin Specialist