

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2025

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



In the midst of the darkness, Easter always comes. In the grief of Good Friday, the resurrection always follows three (long) days later. In the midst of grief, there is always the promise of new life.

During Lent we've been focusing on meeting needs. My God, do we have needs! We need all sorts of things. I'm told all you need to do is spend 24 hours with an infant to be newly aware of the depth of human need.

As we've seen some of our needs are more intangible than what we'd see on the bottom of

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. You know, the basics: food, water, shelter, security. To be fully happy, we need much more than that. We need beauty and joy and companionship. We need to see blue skies and smell fresh grass. I certainly need a good dog snuggle in the morning! On Easter morning we'll recognize a need many of us may think of as a "want": the need to rejoice.

Sometimes we need to let joy burst out of us! Sometimes the only appropriate way to respond is with deep, faithful rejoicing!

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And that's just what we'll do. At our sunrise service (really, it's at 7:00am) we'll rejoice as the Sun comes up and we see that our savior defeats death. We'll celebrate with hot coffee, faithful communion, and peaceful music.

Then you're invited to come to our 9:30 service where we will rejoice again, or still (and probably a little louder). One of the ways we rejoice on Easter is by wearing our best Easter hats. I am hoping to remember mine this year because I've been jealous all the years I've forgotten! All people are invited to wear their fun Easter hats in church as part of our celebration. We've had everything from fancy fascinators to fishing hats with lures. The point is rejoicing. Nothing is so painfully permanent that Jesus can't transform it. And that is certainly worth celebrating.

Blessings,
Rev. Emily

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Last month Salem Church had an urgent matter that came to Leadership Team's attention. Rev. Emily informed us that a lien foreclosure had been placed on the Salem Cemetery. Apparently, a series of Water Quality fee notices from the 1980's forward had been sent to a deceased member of the church at a PO Box in Brookeville that no longer existed. The notices were lost and therefore went unpaid. A private law firm purchased the lien and initiated a foreclosure process with the County. The Montgomery County Sheriff's office posted a notice of intent on the door of the church. Members of our team acted quickly and contacted the legal firm. Proper paperwork and payments have been made to the law firm and the County, so Salem is once again in possession

of the cemetery. Salem still needs to change the address of record at the courthouse and will be doing so probably by the time you read this.

In less exciting news, the Leadership Team began a programmatic review of the policies, procedures and guiding principles that now govern most of Salem's actions. Many of our current policy documents were last revised between 2016 and 2019, prior to Covid restrictions. Since then, there have been changes in Salem's congregation and ways of doing things that don't comport to its written word. The Team is reviewing and revising any outdated policies and bringing them into alignment with our current ethos. We have developed several new guiding principles and have started with an overview of Salem's Financial Policy plan. We plan to carry on with this through this year.

The Team has retained Julia Plumer as the pianist/violinist for the next year. She will be a Salem employee and big help for Rev. Emily as she plans services and music. Julia has done an admirable job in the time she has been with us.

The Team has also contracted for one year with Star Maids cleaning service following interviews and pricing discussions with other firms. They came recommended by LaWanda, our past cleaning service provider who left earlier this year.

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

Mark Aebig, chair

Members: Quinn Anderson, Chet Babylon, Buck Bartley, Churchill Groves, David Heinbuch, Janice Vieira, Hisashi Yamagata

LENT-EASTER SERMON SERIES



What do you need to survive and thrive? We all know about the basics: air, food, water shelter. What else do you need? Sleep, perhaps? Human contact? An abiding sense of purpose? Prayer?

What do the people in your congregation need? What are they missing and what do they long for? How about your neighbors, the people beyond your church doors? We need a multitude of different things.

This Lenten season, we're going to talk about it in this worship series, *All We Need*.

Each week, we'll explore what the scripture for the season reveals about our needs, personally and communally. We'll explore needs in our preaching and children's messages, in Sunday liturgy, and in a robust devotional guide. Not every need the series explores is obvious. Inspired by the Revised Common Lectionary, *All We Need* explores topics like the need for sleep, change, and beauty. Each week's scripture will redefine and expand what we think of as needs.

Join us as we explore the intricate tapestry of human needs, and discover the transformative power of Christ and community throughout the Lenten season.

All We Need series © 2025 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. [Adapted by Rev. Emily Hart.]

April 6 5th Sunday in Lent: the need for beauty *Psalms 126; John 12:1-8*

April 13 Palm and Passion Sunday: Jesus needs our help *Luke 19:28-40*

April 18 Good Friday 7 P.M. Joint Service at Epworth UMC, Gaithersburg; The Great Three Days: the need for love, protection, and new life *John 18:1-19:42*

You are invited to Easter Sunday Services

April 20 Easter Sunday: the need to rejoice *Isaiah 65:17-25; John 20:1-18*

Also Easter Sunrise Service in the cemetery at 7:00 A.M.



April 27 2nd Sunday of Easter: Jesus Sought Me *Luke 5:1-11*

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

Our volunteer days at The Lord's Table will take a break this spring and summer, and will continue in the fall.

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 are size 7 diapers, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti sauce, juice

boxes for kids (100% juice, please), and snacks for kids.

Olney Help has an Amazon wish list where items are listed as Highest Priority or High Priority, making it very easy to shop. [Click here](#) to access “Olney Help Pantry Food 2025” on Amazon.

Any pantry friendly item (everything you’re used to seeing on previous lists) can be donated. **Please do not donate expired food – it will only be discarded.**

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

On the table leading into the sanctuary, 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 is a time for fellowship and serving our community. 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.

For our first mini-mission in Lent, we collected a minivan *full* of bedding for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH).



The items were delivered along with a prayer that the recipients will get a good night’s sleep and thank the Lord that they have been cared for. The Coalition volunteer coordinator, Tali, loaded the bedding into her huge cart (too much for just one trip) and said, “Please tell everyone involved with this, that we really appreciate it. Bedding is our main need right now. Everything here will be put into use by the end of next week.” Wow!!



Tali, MCCH Volunteer Coordinator

Our second Lenten mini-mission is collecting items for personal hygiene bags which we’ll assemble for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We’ll be collecting items on the final day, April 6, which is also Packing Day!

Our third Lenten mini-mission will be a special drive to collect food and items for Olney Help from their updated list (see the green announcements sheet, the Olney Help Food Needs section above, and the weekly "What's Happening" email). You can purchase food from your favorite store or from Olney Help's Amazon wish list. Collection days for this special drive are April 13 (Palm Sunday) and 20 (Easter Sunday). Drop off the items at Salem, and as always, a volunteer will take them to the pantry.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

"Introducing the New Testament"
By Rev. Anne Robertson

This third volume in the popular Exploring the Bible series examines Jesus in three distinct ways: A man like other men, a Jewish rabbi, and the Christ of Christian faith.

Then it's on to the cantankerous Paul, the other New Testament authors, and the wild and baffling book called Revelation.

Date	Lesson	Reading (due at class session)
Apr 2	Experiencing Church part 1	Session 6 and any assigned Bible readings from the session
Apr 9	Experiencing Church part 2	Finish Session 6 and reading Acts

To access the meeting, click on this [Zoom link](#). Fellowship begins at 6:30 P.M. and the study is from 7 to 8 P.M.

MONGOL SATURDAY ENGLISH CLASS

More than a year ago, church members began teaching an English class to adult immigrants from Mongolia. The class meets most Saturday afternoons in the Community Hall (but note that Genghis Khan's birthday is a school holiday!).

The class is led by Marcia York who is ably assisted by Don Rider. Recently Chris Hart, Rev. Emily's husband, has also jumped in to help. Each 90 minute session focuses on reading comprehension and building conversational skills. Much to the surprise of the instructors, English is taught in public schools in Mongolia, so many attendees have some basic English reading and writing skills.

Class size varies from week to week but there are generally 2-6 Mongol adults present.

Some of you have attended the annual Christmas pageant put on by the Mongol School in our hall. If so, you have observed that Mongols are unusually welcoming, warm and friendly.

Helping to instruct the class is a pure pleasure and it is safe to say that the teachers get as much from the experience as do the students.

Don Rider

BELL TOWER REPAIRS

Work began on the bell tower on March 27. The roof is being replaced with a new copper one. In addition, the little fences were found to be crumbling, so new ones will be installed. The Genie Lift that you've probably seen in the back of the parking lot will be hanging around for a couple weeks, along with other construction equipment.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

BEAUTIFUL BUT SAD

The Sept., Oct., and Nov. newsletters last year contained articles about some stained glass windows that were researched and written by Rose Eide-Altman, Salem's former music director. Here are two more of those articles.

This first window is located on the left side of the Sanctuary, beside the door which leads out toward the coat rack.

"In Memory of Bertha V. Hett"

Bertha Virginia Hett is buried in Mount Carmel Patuxent Cemetery. Her tombstone states: "Bertha V., daughter of J. D. and Amy F. Hett, Died Jan. 16, 1906, aged 1 year, 18 days." Her parents: Amy Florence Oland (Feb. 22, 1879-Jan. 15, 1959) married on March 2, 1897 to John Douglas Hett (1877-Jan. 19, 1964) are both buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick. They had 5 other children.

The second window is located at the end of the long hallway by the door that exits onto the ramp.

"In Memory of Meredith B. Green by the Sunday School"

The Book of Names states that Meredith Brooke Green (April 12, 1901- Aug. 26, 1910) died at 9 years old. His parents were Dr. William French Green (July, 1851- May 25, 1919), the Brookeville physician, and Edith Farquhar Brooke Green (May 30, 1869 – 1954). They had one other child: Mary F. Green (b. 1904). According to the 1920 census, after Dr. Green died in 1919, Edith and her daughter moved in with her sister, Mary B. Brooke, in Olney.

To read more of Rose Eide-Altman's articles, in Salem's website, go to [Connect > 2025 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 Jan., Feb., and March issues.

VISITATION TEAM – A NEW MISSION

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Salem's Mission calls for us to express God's love through serving others in the community. That community contains a number of nursing homes and retirement centers. We are exploring a plan to form teams of two to visit church family, loved ones, and the lonely housed in these locations. If you have an interest in becoming part of a visitation team, please contact Vern Schinski at vschinski5@verizon.net

GOD JOBS

If you've been wondering how you can serve our Lord, or our Lord has been equipping you to do something for him, please take a look at our growing list of God Jobs that have become available:

- Scripture reader – to read the scripture during the worship service; frequency approx. five times per year
- Money counter – after the worship service is over, count the money collected during the offering; frequency approx. twice a month
- Person to crochet or knit prayer shawls – make as many as you like; generally meet once a week at JoAnn's home
- Visitation team member – team is currently in planning stages (see message from Vern above)

See Rev. Emily for more info or to express an interest. There is a video about God Jobs on our website under the SERVE tab.

CONNECTIONS CLASS



If you are interested in becoming a member of Salem, a new Connections Class will be scheduled where you'll learn about Methodist vows and discipleship. Contact Rev. Emily with interest or if you have questions.

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, Dempsey's and many more. We recently had a wonderful time at Thai Cuisine Restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet for the next group on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary. Bring a friend!

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. You can also call the church and select option 1.

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.

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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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