



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER March 2024

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



Happy March, my siblings in Christ!

By this point, we are a few weeks into Lent. On February 14th we had a holy Ash Wednesday service with the South Damascus Charge and St. Paul UMC, Laytonsville. Rev. Will Newton preached. It was my favorite of his sermons thus far! If you haven't seen it, check it out on our YouTube channel or Facebook page. He had everyone take a Palm branch (as if it was Palm Sunday!) and imagine inscribing everything that we needlessly carry onto it.

When we came forward to receive our ashes, we reverently (or with a good spirit of "good riddance!") passed it off to remember that we are only mortal and need God to sustain us.

From dust you have come, and to dust you will return.

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I have been a little bit obsessed with our dusty identity. As we enter this Season of Belovedness, we go back to our origin stories in Genesis to see the way that God began human life and relationships.

It all begins with dust and love. God created us out of the dust of the earth and animated us with a holy CPR. We still need God's breath within our lungs. No matter how advanced our society, our technology, our medicine, we still need to breathe. So, this Lent, perhaps you will want to practice your breath.

Sometimes that means literally sitting still and breathing. Sometimes, it's the more complicated breathing of adding in exercise. Sometimes, it means sitting down with a book that just gives you pause and you find yourself breathing deeper. Maybe it's time with a friend who really understands you. Here are some things that are helping me breathe deeper right now:

- Reading "Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Held Evans (and Jeff Chu). She is sharing her legacy of faith through the women who have taught her, loved her, and come before her. Her writing is gorgeous and gentle and gives me hope.
- Listening to "The Bible Binge" podcast. They have a great tongue-in-cheek way of thinking about reverent topics. It feels like listening to my seminary friends talking about faith.
- Walking through the woods behind the church cemetery with my dogs. Winkie and I have been playing a game where he runs around and then comes back and gets a treat. It's so nice to be able to communicate and play with him

without drama! We love the peace in the woods (as long as we stay out of prickly bushes!)

- Our Bible Study, Introducing the Old Testament. Even though I have a fancy theological degree I am learning so much from this study. It helps me breathe to know that I don't have to know everything and that there are still things to learn.

What helps you to breathe?

Blessings,

Rev. Emily

NEWS FROM KYLE MAUZY, INTERN

Rev. Emily and I attended the **Maryland Legislative Advocacy Day** in Annapolis on Feb. 21. For those unable to join us, we focused on three different bills that different groups have shown to senators and delegates. At first, I was skeptical of politics, but upon going I was shown how much it can connect to our lived faith.

The first one is the Gun Industry Accountability Act, the second is the Empower Act Accountability Act, and the third is the Affordable Housing Bill. With your prayers, we are hoping these bills will be voted on by their respective delegates and senators. (Pastor Emily and I have fact sheets on the bills for those who want to learn more. Let us know if you would like them.)

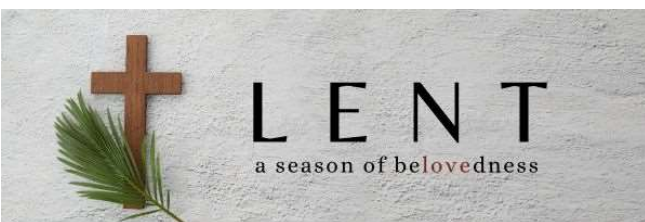
One of these bills even connects to our members. Yvette's story reflects why these

bills are important to us. As many of you know Yvette was unable to get custody of her father because of her housing situation. So her father was then taken away from her and given to a caregiver. In this case, she might get help through the Affordable Housing Act, so these bills aren't just something that we look at through a political lens but as a way for us to help those we care about. These are just some of the ways that we can use our gifts to help our neighbor and to help ourselves. Our spirituality isn't just limited to the church building but can be lived to change the world in large and small ways and one of these ways is through advocacy.



Pastor Will Newton, Kyle Mauzy, and Rev. Emily enjoying the long day at Asbury UMC in Annapolis.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



This year, it's all about BELOVEDNESS. Who's belovedness? Yours. And mine. And hers, and his, and theirs. Everyone's

belovedness. One of our scriptures for this series is our famous John 3:16: "for God so loved the WORLD...". That includes you (and your unfortunate neighbor down the street. Sorry.) This season, take a breath and wonder at the ways God's love prepares us to understand the ultimate (and baffling) love of Christ on the cross.

In the ancient church, they took Lent as a time to prepare new members for their baptism and official entrance into the church. You may be a new member, or you may not even remember the first time you stepped into a church. Either way, this is a time for you to re-prepare yourself, to re-understand exactly what brought you to this place and the belovedness God has bestowed on you.

March 3 Nothing can separate us from God
Genesis 3:8–21; Romans 8:31–39

March 10 Love is from God
Song of Songs 4:7–16; 1 John 4:7–12

March 17 We Join the Family
Isaiah 51:1–8; Romans 11:13–24

March 24 Palm Sunday Sacrifice
Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 14:32–52

March 29 Good Friday Joint Service with St. Paul in Laytonsville

March 31 Easter Don't Be Afraid, Beloved
Matthew 28:1–10

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

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

The Salem volunteer days at The Lord's Table are held the first Friday of each month at 1 P.M. The next one is March 1. 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 in the Meeting Room behind the Sanctuary or in the marked box in the Community Hall. Items needed most at this time: (updated 2/15/24) **canned fruit (in juice), peanut butter (16 oz, smooth), size 7 diapers, baked beans and pancake syrup.**

Also, canned chili, canned chicken, sloppy joe sauce and canned pasta, canned tomatoes (prefer low salt), adult cereal, 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, corn, peas (low/no salt), Jelly - all sizes, all flavors, condiments – BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes for kids - 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice, frosting for all our cake mixes, and pancake mix.

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 wishlist 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.

Special thank you to Nancy Cox

Nancy requested and coordinated the storage of Olney Help food in our choir room for a couple months. The project is now over. This was such a simple way for Salem to further assist the Olney Help community. And the need was great. People were so generous with their donations that there were thousands of food items that needed to be kept somewhere while it was sorted and packaged into weekly food bags for the many families who depend on this 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.

BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night Bible study has resumed and will be completed on March 20. But join in anytime. The study is of the book "Introducing the Old Testament" by Rev. Anne Robertson. (It's the next book in Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series".)

The Amazon link to buy the book is

<http://tinyurl.com/2w77vcfj>

The Christianbook.com link to buy the book is

<http://tinyurl.com/3j35ky3b>

6:30-6:45 P.M. gather

6:45-8:00 P.M. study

(Note: 6:45 P.M. is the new start time.)

The zoom link for all the Wednesday night studies is

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

FORMER PASTORS AT SALEM

Since the passing of two of Salem's former pastors, there has been some conversations of the names and dates of pastors over the last 40 or so years. There's a plaque in the choir room, but here are some of them, for your convenience.

How long have you been here? Do you remember any of these pastors?



| <u>Pastor</u> | <u>Dates at Salem</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| James Ditto | 1978-1980 |
| Jeanne Klauda | 1981-1985 |
| Lucy Hogan | Jan 1986 - Jun 1986 |
| Mark Waddell | 1986-1998 |
| Gary Sheffield-James | Jul 1998 – Jun 2000 |
| E. Dwight Byrne | Jul 2000 – Jun 2001 |
| Donald Bailey | Jul 2001 – Aug 2001 |
| Lillian Geib | 2001-2008 |
| Janet Craswell, Deacon | 2003-2013 |
| Sue Shorb-Sterling | Jul 2008 – Jul 2020 |

JOANNE RANSHAW'S ADDRESS

Letters can now be sent directly to Joanne. That's the best way to support her. Please do not ask her when she will be coming home, or when she will be coming to church, or if anyone has passed away. Because she is in a memory care unit, we can support her by telling stories or talking about the past in nice ways.

Joanne Ranshaw
Country Meadows
5955 Quinn Orchard Rd.
Frederick, MD 21704

NANCY NULLMEYER'S NEW ADDRESS

Nancy Nullmeyer has moved  to the Knollwood Community in Washington. We are so sad  to see her go, but know she and her son will be happy being close to each other. Hopefully, we'll see her in church occasionally.

Nancy Nulleyer
6200 Oregon Ave., N.W. Apt. #412
Washington, D.C. 20025

ADVENT POSTERS FOR SALE

The Advent and Christmas posters you've seen in the hallway and on the altar are for sale. The price is \$30 each. Contact Mollie Haines at mollie.beth.haines@gmail.com.

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—maybe the third Sunday of the month. Nothing fancy. Just 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, 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.

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. Take the time to wander up there, browse, and take advantage of this wonderful resource. It's located upstairs in the Community Hall. Thanks to everyone who has donated books.

The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



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

March Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Briana Groves | 03/11 |
| Nicholas Groves | 03/12 |
| George Robinson | 03/29 |

March Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Fred and Debbie Ambrose | 03/22 |
|-------------------------|-------|

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Brian Zahnd
@BrianZahnd

Replying to @austintfischer

That Guy: Why don't you preach more on sin?

Me: Okay, tell me your sin and I'll try to preach a sermon on it.

That Guy: No, I mean, why don't you preach on _____?

Me: Is that your sin?

That Guy: No.

Me: Well, why would you want to hear a sermon on someone else's sin?

(From: *Clergy Coaching Network* on Facebook)

♪ **HYMN 282**

'Tis Finished! The Messiah Dies
By Charles Wesley

Considered one of the great hymns of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil

1. 'Tis finished! the Messiah dies,
cut off for sins, but not his own.
Accomplished is the sacrifice,
the great redeeming work is done.

2. The veil is rent; in Christ alone
the living way to heaven is seen;
the middle wall is broken down,
and all the world may enter in.

3. 'Tis finished! All my guilt and pain,
I want no sacrifice beside;
for me, for me the Lamb is slain;
'tis finished! I am justified.

4. The reign of sin and death is o'er,
and all may live from sin set free;
Satan hath lost his mortal power;
'tis swallowed up in victory.

This four-stanza version, written mostly from 1749-51, is commonly seen. He was inspired by John 19:30:

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Upon his deathbed, Wesley completed an eight-stanza version. That final stanza ensures that "redeemed sinners" are granted entrance to heaven – a common feature of Wesley's hymns.

In 1853, 70 years after Wesley's death, William Bradbury, a Baptist revival composer, wrote the tune "Olive's Brow" for these lyrics.

(From umcdiscipleship.org)

Other great Lent and Easter hymns written by Charles Wesley:

- Hymn 173 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
- Hymn 287 O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done
- Hymn 302 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
- Hymn 312 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

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!

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