

# Salem United Methodist Church

## November 2016 Newsletter

«183 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM United Methodist Church 2016



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

### TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community,

November is finally here. The 2016 presidential election will soon be over. This particular election cycle has been hostile, hateful, and divisive. There is little love for neighbor or for political opponent. Yet both the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus call us to love our neighbors. No joke! We are called to love, not just the loveable, but our enemies, those who hate us, and even those who persecute us. Impossible? Challenging? Absolutely! But the love of God shown to us in Jesus is greater than any political party's agenda or candidate. We as Christians are to express God's love in all our actions and words, which include our postings on social media. How do we offer love to those who have a strong, yet very different

political stance? Can we love those who have different political views than ours? Jesus did. His love forgave those who were crucifying him. And Jesus still loves each person. Jesus opens the Kingdom of God to all which includes both Republicans and Democrats.

Our allegiance is first to our Sovereign God who created heaven and earth, who offers all humanity forgiveness, love, and eternal life through Jesus Christ, and whose Spirit is always with us. Our second allegiance is to our nation which for us happens to be the United States of America. During this election cycle, we can so easily get confused where our first allegiance lies. However, if we stay grounded in God's word, stay grounded in our relationship with Jesus Christ, and stay connected to the Spirit of God, we will not forget that our first duty is to love God and love neighbor.

Salem has people with different political loyalties. Thanks be to God. We need that diversity to stay true to our roots as United Methodists. Historically we have been a diverse people united by an open communion table by the grace of Jesus Christ, a table open to all. We can disagree on our politics, but we are all called to live the mission of Jesus which he proclaimed as,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19). When we say, “Yes” to Jesus, we become citizens of God’s kingdom who are called to pray and work for God’s kingdom to happen on earth as it is in heaven.

Several have expressed that they don’t know how to vote. As your pastor it is not my role to advice on these matters. My role is to point to Jesus. So vote as a citizen of the kingdom of God and these United States. Vote to bring good news to the poor. Vote to let the oppressed go free. Vote to proclaim the Lord’s favor. Vote to express your love for your neighbor. These are the values of the Kingdom of God. And pray for all candidates: local, state, and national, who will win and lose this 2016 election. God loves all.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Sue

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sermon Series:** Who is My Neighbor?

Sunday, Nov 6 All Saints Sunday

“Neighbors Who Are Out of This World”

Sunday, Nov 13 “More than Words”

Sunday, Nov 20 Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday

Samantha Larson, Seminary Intern, preaching

Sunday, Nov 27 1st Sunday in Advent

Advent Sermon Series: Down to Earth

Sermon Title: Our Hopes

### YOUTH GROUP

**Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening**

All middle and high-school students are welcome.

You do not need to attend Salem.

6:30-7:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

Nov 6 How to be a Christian? Part 3  
With Sam and Alex Larson

Nov 13 How to be a Christian? Part 4  
With Rev. Sue

Nov 20 Baking cookies for our college students

Nov 27 Making Advent Wreaths

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### Youth Car Wash

**Sunday, October 23 after 10:00 Worship**



The Youth Group dedicated this fund raiser, a carwash, to raise money to support their Compassion Child, Felix. They raised \$284.00; enough to support Felix for 7-months. They would gladly accept any donations you feel led to offer. Youth who washed cars were Donovan and Aiden Thompson, Jacob Weinberger, Joey Brantley and Karl MacDonald. Adult car washers were Cate McDonald, Samantha Larson, and Rev. Sue.



Piper and Shelby Luke helped to soap up cars. They announced that they were now part of the Youth Group!

### **ROCK!**

Feb 3-5, 2017; Ocean City, MD

Presenter: Preston Centuolo

Bands: Sidewalk Prophets and Urban Street Level

Eleven are registered: Six youth and five adults

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

**Advent Wreath Making Evening**

The youth groups invite everyone to come and make an Advent wreath for your home. Rick Myers will be providing live greenery.

- 6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner
- 6:30 pm Advent Wreath making
- 7:15 pm Lighting the First Candle

**SALEM APPRECIATES THEIR CLERGY**



Rose, Sue and Samantha do so much for us, both in front of and behind the scenes. They give us their time, their talents and their treasures, not to mention their hearts. Although the gifts were small, the thoughts were large as we acknowledged how much we treasure them.

**FROM THE CONGREGATION**



“Sharing my thoughts with you....”

In November, several things of importance to all of us take place. Veteran’s Day, and Thanksgiving! Let us first pause on the 11<sup>th</sup> to pray for Veterans of ALL wars, both living and dead; then a special prayer for our Troops who are fighting to keep us a free Nation.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we will all give our thanks to our Master, for once again providing us with so much bounty...tables overflowing with delicious food, family and friends to share it with, special customs being observed. He is the One who is our special Guest at our tables. Let us praise Him and be thankful! Enjoy and God Bless!!

Charlyne Lewis  
Psalm 50:14  
Hymn #97



**Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium’s Thanksgiving Service**

Tuesday, November 22, 7:30 pm  
at Oakdale Church on Georgia Ave.  
“Celebrating Healing in Our Community”

Come give thanks with our  
Jewish, Christian, and Muslim neighbors

**THE BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, at Debbie Ambrose’s home. “Nine Parts of Desire, the Secret Life of Islamic Women” by Geraldine Brooks will be discussed.

**ASP 2016**

December is quickly approaching and our annual Cookie Bake-off is right around the corner. It is time to start thinking about what you are going to enter.

I hope everyone knows this is open to everyone, MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN.

Also it’s time to remember this IS a fund raiser for the June 18-24, 2017 ASP trip. The site yet unknown but wherever it is, people in that area will get the help our crews provide to make their lives just a little more comfortable.

**A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Our lesson this Sunday was about seeking Jesus.



Rev. Sue was telling the story of Zacchaeus and had the children act it out. Tom Luke volunteered to be the tree, while Shelby Luke was Zacchaeus. Mary Morell played the part of Jesus and got to say “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” (NIV).

The children had fun as they learned and the congregation was enthralled with the action of the children. Everyone joined singing “Zacchaeus was a wee little man” as the children left for Sunday School.

## THE LORD'S TABLE

**Saturday, November 24, 1-5 pm**

For October's Lord's Table only 5 people showed up to help, but they got it done! Those 5 people set up the room/tables, cooked the meal, served 40 people and cleaned up! Thank you!!!

Our next commitment is the Saturday after Thanksgiving; what a better way to thank God for ALL your blessings than to serve other less fortunate. As we have been told many times, if you can't spend the whole 4-hours there, pick a time, set-up, cook, serve, or clean-up.

The feeling you have in your heart as you leave the building is well worth the 4-(or less) hours you spend providing a meal for someone who is hungry.

## THE SALEM UMC WOMEN'S GROUP

### Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday, October 10 members and friends joined to enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner. Over \$300.00 was raised by the Women of Salem. Thanks to Mary Ellen and all who contributed to the effort. Again, many hands made light work.

### December 4: Community Tree Lighting

At Salem UMC; 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
All Welcome - Free Family Event - Rain or Shine  
Join us to start the Christmas season with our first tree lighting. Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm with music by the Youth Bell Choir. The evening will include carols, cookies, hot chocolate, a craft for kids, and of course "lighting" the tree on the front lawn.

### December 10: "Salem UMC Christmas Bazaar"

10 am - 2 pm; Community Hall

The Salem Women are again planning an extraordinary event with their wonderful gift baskets, baked goods, lunch featuring Betty's soup, unique treasures, kid's corner, and a visit from Santa. Join us and bring your friends!



## THE SEMINARIAN'S CORNER, NOVEMBER EDITION

Many of the folks at Salem UMC know Samantha Larson already; but, for those who have not met her yet, her name is Samantha Larson and she is the 2016-2017 seminarian from Wesley Theological Seminary. She is finishing the last year of her Masters of Divinity degree at Wesley and is currently in the process of ordination to become a pastor in the United Methodist Church.

Sam's husband, Alex Larson, is also active at Salem and they both attend Salem's church services weekly. Alex misses an occasional service due to his work at NMS Healthcare as a Social Worker. Sam is helping to lead worship with Rev. Sue weekly and will continue to preach and plan worship once a month for the rest of her time at Salem, ending in May 2017.

In addition to being active in worship, Alex is planning to participate in the music at Salem by singing occasionally, as well as playing the trombone for special services. Sam and Alex both attend Salem's Youth Group once monthly to lead their time together. They also participate in the youth group's special activities. Sam took up sponge duty on October 23 at the car wash to help the youth raise funds for their compassion child, Felix. Sam and Alex will also be participating in the weekend retreat in February called ROCK, a time of worship and expression of devotion to God through music, preaching, and fellowship for our youth members.

Finally, Sam is intentionally incorporating herself into the life of the church to learn as much as she can from all of the folks at Salem UMC. This past month she attended Olney's Community Night, Charge Conference, attended a few of the Jesus in the Gospels Bible study sessions, and met with the Friday crochet group at Joann Keister's house in addition to attending and planning worship.

Sam is so excited to be a part of the vibrant life of Salem UMC and the communities of Brookeville and Olney. She hopes to continue to live in love and service as well as grow in Christian discipleship with all the folks at Salem UMC. Sam can be reached by phone or e-mail at 202-607-0311 or [samantha.gangwer@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.gangwer@gmail.com).

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council Meeting Highlights  
October 27, 2016

- † Rev Sue opened the meeting with a devotion based on Mark 1:1.
- † Rev. Sue reported on worship attendance. The average for September was 55, and the Year to Date average is 59.
- † Joys and Concerns – A letter from the Montgomery County Police Department District 4 to Libby Wright was shared. Salem was thanked for the 40 Cruiser Kits donated to the officers. Thanks to our Youth for assembling them and to members who donated the contents. We also celebrated our joyful Homecoming service.  
Please keep the Savages, especially Jacob in your prayers. Rob McClosky is recovering from knee surgery and an unexpected mild heart attack. He will be seeking further treatment for his heart. Continue to pray for Buck Bartley's nephew, Bobby Odle, as well as two members of Buck's company who were injured on the job.
- † Upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas events were reviewed.
- † We spent time discussing decisions and documents prepared for Charge Conference. (October 30 at 5:00 – Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg) Please see this information in the Charge Conference Report which will be available on the table in the sanctuary.
- † Rev Sue shared recent discussions held with our District Superintendent JW Park and our District Church Development Strategist, Christie Latona. Sue and Debbie Ambrose met with these folks to discuss Salem and to seek support for fostering growth and discipleship within our congregation. Council members asked questions and were given information about a program called Readiness 360. Christie will be joining our Church

Council meeting on December 1 to explain this program and help us develop a plan to move forward.

- † Sam Larson, our seminary intern, will be starting a Small Group Accountability group at Salem. Meeting dates and times TBD.
- † Christmas and New Year's services were discussed. We will have one service at 10:00 on each of those days.
- † Buck is continuing to solicit estimates for repairs and painting of the outside of our buildings.
- † We will be preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets again this year.
- † The first Lord's Table was manned by 4 faithful servants and served 40 people. The next Lord's Table will be held on November 26.
- † Suzanne Friis and Mary Abramson are working to consolidate our church documents and records both on the computer and in the Church file cabinet to make them easily accessible to others.

Debbie Ambrose closed the meeting with prayer. Next Meeting –December 1, 2016. All are welcome!!

Debbie Ambrose, Church Council Chair

### A WORD ABOUT MISSIONS Cruiser Kits Delivered!

Our Cruiser Kits were delivered to the Wheaton Police Station, located near Georgia Avenue and Randolph Street. The kits were filled with all sorts of goodies and handy items such as snack crackers, instant coffee, creamers, sweetener, candy, gum, Advil, Band-Aids, Slim Jims ... even dog biscuits!



The purpose was to simply thank them for serving our community and helping to keep us safe. The police were very appreciative of our gifts.

I want to thank EVERYONE who purchased items for the kits. It was very generous of you to do so. Enough items were donated to make 40 kits.

A special thanks to the Youth Group that stuffed the bags on Sunday night.

And a big shout out to Tricia Huff who came up with the idea and made 40 kits on her own. That means 80 of these goodies bags came from our church members.

Thank you again. Libby



Libby with a Montgomery County Police Officer  
Delivering the Cruiser Kits

### **HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS:**

We will be collecting food stuffs again this year for the Thanksgiving food baskets. St. Peter's Catholic Church coordinates this ecumenical event each year and distributes the baskets to make the holidays more enjoyable for those less fortunate.

Sign-up sheets will soon be available for four food baskets. Please pick one or more items to contribute. They'll be due at the church the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Then in December we will repeat this to fill four Christmas food baskets.



### **SIGN-UP FOR:**

#### **Altar Flowers:**

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2016 worship year, please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway.

When signing up, please indicate if the flowers are a tribute (for example: from the Jones family in honor of John's 10th birthday). Tributes will be listed in the Sunday announcements.

Purchase your flowers at the vendor of your choice and bring by Saturday afternoon. Call Rev. Dr. Sue before you head out so she can open the church for you.

Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

#### **Coffee Hour:**

**Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour?** Please volunteer to provide a coffee hour or two this year. You may sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hall or go to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4fa8aa2ba3f85-coffee2>

### **MEMORY GARDEN**

If you are interested in placing an order for a brick to honor/remember someone please see Joyce Howes for more information.

### **RECYCLING AT SALEM**

By Carole Roberts

#### **What to put in the blue bin in the Community Hall:**

- ❖ most paper/cardboard (even paper plates & paper cups)
- ❖ plastic bottles & other recyclable plastics
- ❖ cans
- ❖ glass bottles and jars
- ❖ foil

Please empty things of as much liquid as possible.

#### **What NOT to put in the blue bin:**

- ❖ plastic wrapping or plastic bags
- ❖ napkins or paper towels
- ❖ Styrofoam cups

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact [velma\\_durant@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com). We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

### Our November Birthdays are:

Beach, Sally	11/03
Bancroft, Kulley	11/04
Ungelsbee, Anna	11/06
Blaine, Connie	11/09
Pustis, Joey	11/12
Beach, Alex	11/15
Bittner, Betty	11/17
Smith, Curtis	11/17
Miller, Savannah	11/19
Brown, Adrienne	11/21
Meisner, Thomas	11/21
Paulk, Sandra	11/22
Eide-Altman, Rose	11/23
Howes, Joyce	11/24
Van Druff, Bob	11/30

### November Anniversaries:

There are no anniversaries in November.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**Sandy Spring Lions Club:** The next dinner will be on Monday, November 28th at 7:00 pm. **There is a standing request for help in preparing the dinner and setting up the room for the meeting. If you can help, please contact Mary Ellen Eaton.**

**Eyeglass Collection:** Salem continues to collect used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave them in Salem Community Hall.

**Spirit Club:** Spirit Club, a fitness group for those with disabilities, meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6-7 pm. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

**Seniors on the Move – Exercise Class:** Fridays, 9:00-10:00 am in the Community Hall. Drop in – registration not required! Participate and pay by the session or for the full fall program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at [mjcosgrove58@gmail.com](mailto:mjcosgrove58@gmail.com).

**Our House** is **NOT** collecting egg boxes at this time. Please dispose of or recycle them at home.

## JUST A REMINDER

To order your Café Justo Coffee please contact Kathryn Ennes at church or via e-mail at [k\\_ennes@yahoo.com](mailto:k_ennes@yahoo.com).

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico – a ministry of Frontero de Cristo. They market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice.

## “FOR I WAS HUNGRY...”

**Manna Food Center:** 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
To volunteer call 301-424-1130 or online at [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org).

**Olney Help:** P.O. Box 430, Olney, MD 20830  
To volunteer call 301-774-6829. They still are in desperate need of rice sides (Rice-a-Roni/ Knorr sides), peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, fruit juice, snacks such as granola bars/crackers, cake mix/frosting, canned pasta. Please place items in the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway. No glass jars.

## PRAYER SHAWLS

Prayer Shawls are available in the Salem entry hall on top of the coat rack. There is no cost. If you know anyone you want to share a prayer with all the time, please help yourself to a shawl. The comfort they give is well worth the effort of delivering one to your friends, family, or co-workers. They do help. Just knowing someone cares is sometimes just the right medicine. They will thank you!



Giving a prayer shawl is being a part of this very important ministry.

## THANK YOU NOTES

The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by  
Velma Durant, and edited by Curtis Smith and  
Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling or Suzanne Friis

### **Clergy Appreciation Thank You**

On Oct 9 your worship leaders, Rose Eide-Altman, Samantha Larson, and I were surprised by gifts of gratitude given to us by the congregation. You wanted to make sure that our work among you is noticed and appreciated. Thank you for your gifts and acknowledgment. I am honored and privileged to be your pastor for now eight years! We have journeyed and served together during this time. May God continue to bless our joint ministries at Salem UMC.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Sue

### **For our Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Dear Salem UMC "Prayer Shawl" Ministry,

Some time ago my husband and I received two beautiful prayer shawls kindness of Rose Eide-Altman from your church.

My apologies for not expressing appreciation long before now, but indeed the message of comfort and the soft warmth of the prayer shawls were a wonderful blessing to our lives.

Thank you so much for sharing and for your kind ministry of care.

Most sincerely,  
Harold and Evonne Baasch

### **For our Cruiser Kits**

Dear Members of Salem UMC:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Police 4<sup>th</sup> District, I would like to extend our appreciation for your thoughtfulness during a difficult time. As you know the recent events in our County have caused a lot of concern for the officers and the community we serve. The simple but compassion act providing the case of goody bags helped our officers recognize that the risk they face every day while wearing his badge are appreciated by the community.

Again, thank you again for thinking of the staff at the 4<sup>th</sup> District. We are committed to excellence and professionalism during even the most difficult times.

Sincerely,  
Lieutenant Michael Hartnett  
Acting Commander 4<sup>th</sup> District



