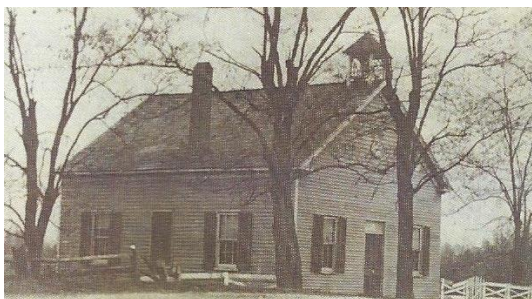


Salem United Methodist Church

December 2017 Newsletter

«184 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2017

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,

Even before Thanksgiving we heard songs playing in the stores like “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” and “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays.” These two songs pull on our heartstrings each year. When people think of Christmas they think of home and family being together. Each family has its own Christmas traditions and memories. In the Northern Hemisphere we are in the darkest time of the year. Christmas becomes a time of warmth and light to our hearts when we come home to our families. In our homes we create this warmth and light by lighting candles, especially on the Advent wreath, decorating the Christmas tree(s), baking cookies, caroling in our neighborhood, and even hosting “open house” parties

for our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Christmastime is all about home and family.

In the church “Coming Home” is a theme of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, as well. We remember Jesus *comes home* to earth as an infant to redeem and renew us. His birth provides warmth and light to us spiritually. And we remember the promise that Jesus will *come home* again to us as the final fulfillment. Our Advent Scriptures challenge us to examine where we are in our spiritual lives and how far we need to go to “*come home*” or to be at one with God through Christ.

During Advent we can come together to create home among us in worship, through making an Advent Wreath, and Christmas caroling to our neighbors. (See dates and times under Worship Schedule.) In addition, Advent and Christmas provide opportunities for people who are searching for “home” to find it in a church community. “Home” is the place where you are welcomed and loved just the way you are. Who do you know who might want to “Come Home” for Christmas this year to Salem? Invite them to “Come Home” to Salem this Advent and Christmas where they will be welcomed and loved just the way they are.

With Advent blessings, Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Sermon Series: Coming Home

- Dec 3 First Sunday in Advent
Sermon Title: Come Home Again
7:00 pm Advent Wreath Making
- Dec 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Sermon Title: Home is Where We Meet
7:00 pm Christmas Caroling
- Dec 17 Third Sunday of Advent- Poinsettia Sunday
Sermon Title: Joy is Our True Home
- Dec 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:15 and 10:00 am
Sermon Title: The Star that Guides Us Home
Jo Schoenwolf, preaching
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Family Service
7:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Service
Sermon Title: Welcome Home

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 Bells

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

Dec 3 Make Advent Wreaths

Dec 11 Christmas Caroling

Dec 17 Youth Christmas Party

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Advent Wreath Making: December 3, 7:00 pm

**Christmas Bazaar: December 9,
10:00 am-2:00 pm**

**ASP COOKIE Bake Off: December 10,
11:15 am**

**Christmas Caroling: December 10, 7:00 pm
Meet in the Community Hall**

**ASP Chili Cook-Off and Epiphany Auction:
January 6, 6:00 pm Salem Community Hall**

Bring your favorite chili for sharing and judging and bid on those Christmas gifts you wish you had received.

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

SHARING MY THOUGHTS



Sharing my thoughts with you ...from Charlyne Lewis

The Advent Season is here - a time for all of us to once again reflect on the most famous and important date in the history of our world...the Birth of the Babe, Jesus. Now, it's true, most of us will be scurrying about with long shopping lists in hand, rushing from store to store and place to place, worrying about the 'material trappings' to fill our lives over the Christmas Holidays, when in reality, we need to dwell more on our 'spiritual trappings'...the Holy Birth; Joy, Peace, goodwill for those not as fortunate as we; worshiping around the Manger with those three Wise Men of old, as they adore the new Prince of Peace.

Yes, this month of December is so very exciting. The whole world will be aglow with sacred worship and celebration to welcome the Infant once again into all their hearts.

May all of you also find the peace, love, and joy of this greatest of holiday seasons, and begin a new year refreshed in the Holy Spirit!

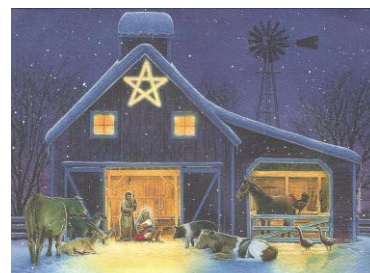
God Bless!!

Charlyne

Hymn #217
Matthew 1:18-25



Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



GREATER OLNEY INTERFAITH MINISTERIUM GREATER OLNEY

Interfaith Ministerium
Thanksgiving Service 2017

By Debbie Ambrose



The 8th Annual Greater Olney Interfaith Ministerium Thanksgiving Service was held on Tuesday evening, November 21, 2017 in the Arts Auditorium at Sandy Spring Friends School. This year's theme was "Thank a Farmer." The service was sponsored and attended by members of 24 different religious congregations and organizations. Worship began with the sounding of the shofar by Rabbi Jonah Layman of Shaare Tefila Congregation and the Muslim Call to Prayer offered by Samkil Jafri of the Muslim Community Center. Included in the service were readings from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, as well as Native American prayers and Muslim poetry. The keynote speaker was Todd Greenstone, a local farmer. Music was provided by an interfaith band and choir led by Caroline Ferrante of Cedar Ridge Ministries. Participating clergy offered Thanksgivings for our national life. Donations of canned goods and money were collected for Olney Help. Salem is proud and thankful for the work of Ginny Weinberger who served on the organizing committee and Rev. Sue who coordinated the event. Once again, we step outside our doors into the community.



SALEM MISSIONS AT WORK

By: Libby Wright

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS



Previous year's baskets

Once again, as part of an ecumenical effort led by St Peter's Catholic Church, we will be creating four gift baskets for the Christmas holidays. These baskets will be distributed to families that are struggling financially and live in the Olney area.

Salem's Thanksgiving baskets were an overflowing success and the effort shows our giving hearts. Once again, for Christmas we will be repeating our effort that none in our community should be without a feast as we celebrate our Saviour's birth.

SNOWMAN GIFTS

We also help with the YMCA Youth Mentoring Program's annual holiday party. This program helps and strengthens some of the most vulnerable children in Montgomery County. As you may recall, we donate gifts for a list of 20 children provided to us by the YMCA.



Every name was taken and the gifts are pouring in. Thank you, one and all, for making a child's Christmas special.

Micah 5:2 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times'".

SPECIAL MUSIC

By Rose Edie-Altman

Salem has been blessed with a variety of special music lately:



Nancy Wilkie

Nancy Wilkie, one of our newer members, enjoys playing the guitar and has been participating with the service music once a month, usually on the 3rd Sunday. She is skilled in playing with a variety of tunings so that is why you will see her change guitars during the service. Each one has a different tuning. See if you can tell the difference next time she plays. She also enjoys working with electronic and recording equipment. She brings quite a set-up that adds to her music. It has been fun to have her add her guitar stylings and sounds to the church music.



Youth Choir from 12/18/16

The Youth Handbell Choir played two pieces on the last Sunday of November. This group of young people have been playing handbells together for several years and when they had their first rehearsal in September they did an amazing job of sight-reading the new music. It is exciting to see how they have advanced! The experienced ringers are: Amy Richards, Aidan and Donovan Thompson, and Jacob Weinberger. To fill out the ringers needed for playing 2 octaves of handbells, Rev. Sue and I

also rang, as well as Jo Schoenwolf has been ringing for many years and is a great asset to the group! Last month 3 new youth group members joined so the choir is expanding. Finally Rev. Sue doesn't have to play! They rehearse Sunday evenings at the beginning of youth group.



Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling, Our Intern Jo Schoenwolf, and Debbie Ambrose tagged as The Salem Trio

For years Salem had a church choir that sang most Sundays, but it hasn't been active since John Howes became ill and passed away. He had been our bass leader. This fall I have been organizing a women's choir that rehearses at 9:15 am on Sundays between services. We sang the Sunday before Thanksgiving and will also sing in December. If you would like to sing and/or know someone who does, please talk to me to get the schedule of rehearsals. All are welcome!



The Apola Sisters

In November Salem had the Apola sisters come and play a violin trio for the service. It was wonderful to hear these young girls play the hymns and classical music in such an experienced way. The sisters are in 10th, 7th, and 4th grades. They moved from Indiana to Maryland last year and have been playing for churches in the area. They go to school at Atholton Adventist Academy in Columbia, where my husband teaches piano, and take violin lessons from a friend of mine. We are very fortunate that

they have agreed to play for the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service!

If you or someone you know would like to share your musical talent with Salem church please let me know. It doesn't have to be a solo. You can play your instrument along with the hymns we all sing. Or you can sing with the choir. My email is RoseOnKeys@gmail.com and my cell is 240-731-6056. - Rose Eide-Altman, Salem music director

A SPECIAL DAY AND A TIME FOR CHILDREN

November 26th at Salem was a very special day as we celebrated Christ the King Sunday! The music swelled throughout the building as the hymn

**“All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all”**

filled air with His sweet spirit.



I used an older picture the background glare was so great I could not get a good picture (as you can see.)

We were honored to hear the Youth Bell Choir as they presented “Still, Still, Still” and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.” A fantastic job! Well done!



Jo Schoenwolf explained to the children the Baptism process, showing them the Baptismal font; and Rev. Sue spoke to us on “Why a King?” The Israelites insisted on a human King instead of proclaiming God as King of Kings.

During Sunday School the children made crowns in honor of “Christ the King.”



Matthew Savage is wearing a turkey hat from Thanksgiving Sunday. No, this is not the Christ the King crown!

After the message, we were thrilled to observe the Baptism of Kyla Rose McKeever, daughter of Blake and Lori McKeever.



Thank you Deb McKeever for the following information on Kyla: “Kyla Rose McKeever, daughter of Blake and Lori McKeever was baptized on November 26! This would have been her great-grandfather, Robert McKeever’s 98th Birthday! She wore her great-great-grandmother’s christening gown! Her little brother is Cole and her grandparents are Deb and Doug McKeever and Judy and Paul Felsenfeld. Her great-grandmothers Kay and Ginger were also present along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Blake’s Godparents, Rob McKeever and Shirley Musgrove, were also there! Kyla’s godparents are Eric and Jackie Felsenfeld.” Truly a wonderful time of worshiping our Savior!

APPALACHIN SERVICE PROJECT

ASP 2018

ASP is a volunteer home repair ministry with the goal of making sub-standard housing in Appalachia “warmer, safer and drier.” Our teams are traveling to Appalachia June 17-23, 2018. To join a crew contact Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling at shorster@yahoo.com. Youth and adults are welcome and you do not need to attend Salem.

For more about Salem visit www.salemunitedmethodist.org.

For the schedule of fund raisers please see “Christmas Events” above.

OUR CONDOLANCES



Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Brown, Sr.

To Bob Brown and his family upon the death of his Father Robert W. Brown, Sr. Below is a tribute Bob posted on Facebook for his Dad.

“Robert Watson Brown 01/03/1920 East Kilbride, Scotland. - 11/27/2017, Pittsburgh, PA. Devoted husband. Loving Dad, Pap Pap and Great Pap Pap. We love you for your lifetime of wisdom, guidance, and devotion to family and friends. You were the perfect role model and you will live forever in our hearts. WE LOVE YOU! ❤️☐ Give Mom a kiss for us.”

OLNEY HELP NEEDS HELP

Olney Help, our local food pantry, shelves are in need of restocking. They specifically need these items: boxed spaghetti, juice boxes, shelf-stable bottled juice, canned pasta (Chef Boyardee, etc.), instant potatoes, canned chili, boxed pasta sides (Knorr/Ronie, etc.), peanut butter, and jelly.

Please place items in the box marked for Olney Help in the church hallway.

THE LORD’S TABLE

Salem UMC is committed to serve a meal at the Lord’s Table to those on the margins in our community on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Thank you to all who came out in November to serve. Next date is December 23rd from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, 201 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Please come and help us serve.

BOOK CLUB

Salem’s Book Club will not meet again until after the holidays, date to be announced. Stay tuned for more information.

SALEM UM MEN

The Salem UM Men meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 am for a breakfast meeting. All men are welcome to attend on December 9th.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
12 High Street
Route 97 - Georgia Avenue
Brookeville MD 20833
Presents

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Theme Baskets
Bake Table / Craft Table
Unique Treasures / Book Nook
Santa Shop for Children
Lunch Menu for Children and Adults

FEATURING
LUNCH WITH SAINT NICK
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Take Your Own Pic with Saint Nick

DECEMBER 9, 2017 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2018 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. Sue before you head out so she can open the church for you. Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

MEMORY GARDEN

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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact velma_durant@yahoo.com. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

Our December Birthdays are:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Espejo, Christina | 12/08 |
| Gundersen, Magne | 12/08 |
| Groves, Lexie | 12/10 |
| McClosky, Barb | 12/11 |
| Achstetter, Barb | 12/11 |
| Shorb-Sterling, Sue | 12/21 |
| Gregg, Kasey | 12/28 |

December Anniversaries

There are no Anniversaries this month.

COFFEE HOUR

Have you signed up to provide snacks for coffee hour? Please volunteer to provide a coffee hour or two next year. You may sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hall or please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949a9aa2aa1fc1-coffee> or contact Joyce Howes.

OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 pm. This will be the club's Christmas party with the Encore Singers. We will need extra help that evening. 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 in the designated box in Salem Community Hall.

Spirit Club: A fitness group for those with disabilities meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6:00-7:00 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 entire program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at mjcosgrove58@gmail.com.

Alcoholic Anonymous Groups: Meet in the Community Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 pm.

PRAYER SHAWLS



Know someone who could use some spiritual comfort? Give them a prayer shawl.

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

