

Salem United Methodist Church

February 2018 Newsletter

«183 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2018

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
Pastor

To the Salem UM Church Community,

This month we begin the Lenten journey to the cross. Each year the dates for Lent and Easter are different because they are based on the Jewish lunar calendar which places Easter near Passover. This year's dates are unique. Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day, February 14 and Easter is on April Fools' Day, April 1.

Traditionally Lent has been a time to prepare ourselves spiritually to journey to the cross. Lent becomes both an inward and outward journey. The inward journey is one of self-reflection and introspection using the spiritual disciplines of fasting and prayer. The outward journey is one of repentance, making a change that leads us to take a

step closer to God. The outward journey is also one of living out one's faith, living what one believes. This outward/inward journey is one of "Being and Doing." In the inward journey God changes our hearts (being). In the outward journey we respond to our changed hearts through action (doing) with a more Christ-like spirit of being loving, kind, compassionate, and even sacrificing our lives.

Another way of looking at the inward/outward journey is the cross. The vertical piece of the cross is the "being" part - the work between God and us. The horizontal piece of the cross is the "doing" part - the work between others and us. Where the vertical and the horizontal meet is where our heart meets with God's heart and the hearts of others.

During our Lenten worship we will focus on the being and doing aspects of the journey to the cross - the inward and outward journey. Both can be difficult work, but rewarding as well. As we head into Lent, think about : what does the cross mean to you? Every Sunday in worship we will share these meanings with each other in a creative way. And each Sunday we will be challenged to practice a different spiritual discipline each week. Are you ready to journey to the cross?

Journeying with you,
Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Schedule:

Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, in the Community Hall.

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14-7:30 pm at Salem
"Heart Day"

Joint Worship with St. Paul/Mt. Carmel UMC Churches

Lenten Sermon Series: A Lenten Journey-Inward and Outward

Sunday, Feb 18 "The Wilderness"
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;
I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
Lenten Discipline: Abstaining/Fasting

Sunday, Feb 25 Youth leading worship from
World Vision's 30-Hour Famine
"Love God. Serve the Hungry.
Do the Famine"
Lenten Discipline: Serving

Sunday, March 4 "Disturbance"
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
Lenten Discipline: Clean or Create

Sunday, March 11 "The Darkness"
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
Lenten Discipline: Centering Prayer

Sunday, March 18 "Suffering"
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
Lenten Discipline: Praying your Day

Rev Sue Preaching at Pleasant Grove UMC;
Reisterstown, MD:

Pleasant Grove UMC is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2018. They have invited former pastors to preach. Rev. Sue served there as a student-pastor from 1998-2002. She will be delivering the morning's message on Sunday, February 25.

Sermon Team Evaluative Project (STEP):

Sermons are to inspire, challenge, and teach us about our faith. Rev. Sue is looking for people who listen closely to her sermons to critique them and offer suggestions to help them be heard more fully. If you are interested in becoming part of this STEP team, contact Rev. Sue.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meets Every Sunday Evening

All middle and high-school students are welcome. You do not need to attend Salem services.

6:30-7:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00-8:00 pm Time Together

Sunday, Feb 4 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

While many feast during the Super Bowl, the youth will remember the hungry in our community. They will be asking for financial donations through the Discretionary Offering in worship. With the money from this offering they will purchase food and donate it to Olney Help, our local food bank.

Sunday, Feb 11 Church Game Night

6:30-8:00 pm (No Bell Choir tonight)

Everyone is invited to play games in the Community Hall. Bring a game and a snack to share.

Sunday, Feb 18

Bell Choir- 6:30-7:00 pm

Time Together- 7:00-8:00 pm

What is Lent?

Friday, Feb 23-Saturday, Feb 24

World Vision's 30-Hour Famine



Be Hungry-So the World can be Hunger-Free

Our youth will be fasting for 30 hours: from noon on Friday until Saturday at 6:00 pm to raise money for World Vision, a world-wide organization that feeds the hungry. In addition to fasting, the youth will have a lock-in on Friday night and Saturday with thought-provoking Bible studies, games, inspirational videos, and they will learn about the root causes of hunger. Then Saturday afternoon at the height of their hunger, they will cook and feed the hungry on Saturday afternoon at The Lord's Table in Gathersburg. On Sunday morning, the youth will lead worship and share their experiences with us. There will be a special offering to support their efforts in raising funds through their fasting.

ROCK 2018 Submitted by: Jo Schonewolf



ROCK gave us the chance to participate in some of the best parts of our United Methodist faith: worship, social awareness, and fellowship. Our youth group gathered in Ocean City with thousands of other youth and adult leaders from around the Baltimore-Washington Conference to attend four large group sessions, led by two different bands and featuring Bishop Latrelle Easterling as the main speaker. Many of the bands' songs offered messages of encouragement, bringing to life the weekend's scripture verse, 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are already doing." The bishop used her parts of her life story and testimony to bring a message of unity in Christ and the power of God's deep love for us. The weekend ended with a Sunday morning service and communion.



In between the three-hour car rides on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning ("They're like extended youth groups," one of the youth said), the youth attended breakout sessions put on by the conference on Saturday morning and afternoon, focused on human trafficking, bullying, and the opioid crisis. During free time on Saturday afternoon, we all went to lunch at Dumser's (a tradition), played mini-golf, and fellowshiped together. From sharing meals (prepped by Mary Ellen Eaton and cooked by Pastor Sue) to debriefing sessions to just being together, the weekend was full of good conversation and fellowship.

We thank all those who sponsored us so we could experience this special weekend event.

Leadership Days: Saturday, Feb 24th
8 am-3 pm at Reservoir High School,
Fulton, MD



"One Degree: Igniting Leadership" is the theme of the Washington Region Leadership Day as participants discover their "boiling points" for igniting missional passion and creating disciples. A comprehensive event guide and workshop catalog provides more information about the event and the 19 workshops at

<http://www.bwcumc.org/events/leadership-days/>

Registration is \$45. The registration deadline is Sunday, Feb. 18.

The Commission on the Way Forward

In 2016 the Council of Bishops and the General Conference approved a commission to examine and possibly revise every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality. They were to explore options that would help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The Commission consists of diverse people with different theological perspectives. They have been meeting for about a year. In January 2018 they proposed three models for the church. Here is the summary of the models presented to the bishops:

- One proposal affirms the current Book of Discipline language and places a high value on accountability.
- Another proposal removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. This also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons.
- A third proposal is grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as

accountability, contextualization and justice.

Each proposal represents values that are within the Council of Bishops and across the church. These proposals could still be modified or others proposed. Each proposal also includes a gracious way of exit for those who feel called to exit from the denomination. A special General Conference was called for 2019 to vote on this issue.

“Pray for the work of the Commission and for the bishops as they continue to discern God’s plan for the future of the UMC; a future that shows love for all of God’s people and a future with hope,” said COB President Bishop Bruce R. Ough.

For more information: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

FROM THE CONGREGATION



“Sharing My Thoughts With You”

from Charlyne Lewis

(a favorite repeat from years past)

February, as we all are aware, is the “LOVE” month. We can express and show our LOVE in numerous ways during this fun month! Valentines, special gifts to that ‘special someone’ in our lives, all kinds of neat things to be happy about. Do you remember as a child – ‘way back when’ – giving and receiving those cute penny Valentines? – and what about those little heart-shaped candies with cute ‘sayings’ on each one (which are still around today) - I always LOVED that period in my life as a child, didn’t you folks?

Well, our Heavenly Father has also given to each of us His abiding LOVE which is mentioned often in His Holy Word. We are so blessed to know that we can go to Him anytime and receive from Him an abundance of LOVE overflowing to us every day, and not just at ‘special’ times of the year.

God Bless!!

1 Corinthians 1-13 (*the LOVE chapter*)



REFLECTIONS ON SALEM

By: Jo Unglesbee

This article is dated Spring 1985

[Sue Daley found this article in the Brookeville Town files and thought we as a Congregation would enjoy it. Thank you Sue for thinking of us.]

It was not yet light when I got up to prepare for this special day. Soon, the sun had come out and shining brightly through the cold. There was a special quiet, a stillness. Traffic had slowed down, and everything was beautiful in the recently fallen snow. As I made my way to the church on this Ash Wednesday, I could feel the snow crunch under my feet. It glistened like diamonds as the sun’s rays touched it. How beautiful and clean everything looked.

For awhile, I stood still – looking and thinking of days gone by when we would pack tracks for the children to have a safe place to go sledding – across the field and into our yard. Oh, such memories! Even before going into the church, a special warmth had come over me – a sense of peace in remembering.

Before my eyes adjusted to the dimness of the sanctuary, I could see the sun filtering through the beautiful stained glass windows. I knew each window held its own special meaning to those who had given them many years ago, in honor of a loved one. As I sat quietly praying and listening to the soft music, I began to think about the many Sundays the choir members had given of their talents. I thought of how often we take the beautiful anthems for granted...

Then, almost as if in a dream, I was remembering all the people who had once occupied these pews – where they had sat, Sunday after Sunday, year after year. There were those who came with heavy burdens, those who were rejoicing for various reasons and those who were there to exchange vows uniting their lives. There were the sad times of funerals, special people moving away, and seeing the flag tied with black ribbons because our president had been killed,

Oh, if the pews could only talk! What would they say? Would they remember how the sanctuary would come alive just before Christmas with the children practicing for the pageant? Or how the young people would clean the church and

have every pew polished and shining for the candlelight service? Would they remember the tears of a thanksgiving shed by an elderly gentleman for the privilege of being in church? Could they know he couldn't read and would walk to church very early so he wouldn't be late, or that he had memorized much of the Bible simply by his invalid wife reading it to him?

I know I must have been sitting there a long time, but before leaving, I prayed one last prayer that this church would always have the hearts and hands which would reach out to everyone, in times of joy, despair, disappointment, and sorrow. Though this could be true of any church, to me, this was Salem.

SALEM BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 20 at 7:30 pm

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Meeting at the home of Suzanne Friis. For info contact Suzanne at friis17@yahoo.com

Coming Meetings:

Tuesday, March 27

Tuesday, April 24

Tuesday, May 22

ASP 2018

Annual Chili Cook-Off and Epiphany Auction

Written By: Velma Durant

Saturday, January 6th found the Community Hall very busy as the ASP team sponsored their annual Chili Cook-Off and Epiphany Auction.

There was a wide selection of chilis to choose from and one had to try each and every one of them to decide which to vote for. As usual, some had to be tried more than once. This year a dessert table was included and it was also very busy



Those brownies were outstanding! And yummy!



The "Money Changers" were kept busy with people buying voting chips. And everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.



As the chili ran out, everyone was anxiously waiting the winner of this year's contest. Salem News is proud to announce the Winners:



1st Place: Carole Roberts

2nd Place: Buck Bartley

3rd Place: Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling

Rev. Sue was so excited. She said this was the first time ever she won a contest.

On the side tables were items for a silent auction. There was a suggested starting amount. The bidder would write his/her name and the amount s/he were willing to pay. The highest bidder got the item.

Dinner was over and everyone was anxious for the main event: the actual auction. There was a very good assortment of items and everyone was ready with their auction paddles. Our auctioneer Steve Currier, and his helper Barbara Achstetter, were in place and all eyes turned to them. There was a slow beginning but the action began as one person tried to out bid the others. There were too

many items up for auction to list who took what home but I can truly say everyone had fun trying to win their favorite thing.



There were a lot of fun things as well as very useful things. Who bought the Wicked Witch from the West?



After a fun night of fellowship, food and “a little extra” from the auction, everyone was very pleased that over \$900.00 was added to the funds raised for the next trip, June 17 - 23, to Appalachia as two teams prepare to help those less fortunate than the rest of us.

The future ASP fundraisers are:

- Breakfast: Feb 11 after the 10 am worship
- Yard Sale: Saturday, April 28
- Encore Concert: Sunday, April 29 6:00 pm

A TIME FOR CHILDREN



Matthew Savage was the only child in Service one Sunday. He likes Jo’s story but he enjoyed the Altar rail so much more.

THE LORD’S TABLE

The next Lord’s Table is Saturday, March 24, 2018, 1-5 pm. This is the same day as the Leadership conference in Fulton, so please fill the gap and volunteer. Your help is desperately needed.

OUR SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy to the Beebe Family on the loss of Eric’s Dad on January 9th in Johnson City. NY.

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. Dr. Sue before you head out so she can open the church for you. Contact Suzanne Friis with questions.

THANK YOU

Dear Rev. Sue and Libby,

The winter holidays are over, but for us, the feelings of gratitude remain. Thank you and the SUMC congregation for so generously making this the best holiday party ever for the youth and families in our mentoring program - over 200 happy people attended! Because of your donors, our youth had gifts to open for the holidays and families felt the support of your community surround them.

I'm sharing pictures of the holiday event: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskqA9byp>

Thanks again for everything you do!

Best Laura

Laura Brown

Mentoring Recruitment Specialist

YMCA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

9601 Colesville Road

Silver Spring, MD 20901

Phone: 301-576-9068

Cell: 240-432-6530

Fax: 301-587-3132

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.

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 February Birthdays are:

Gregg, Eddie	02/02
Friedrich, Jeff	02/07
Whaley, Janet	02/07
Roberts, John	02/08
Wahl, Jerry	02/08
Sterling, Sarah	02/12
Roberts, Austin	02/15
Lyon, Anna	02/17
Blaine, Ed	02/23
Rhinehart, Roger	02/24
Pustis, Amanda	02/25

There are no Anniversaries in February.

OUR COMMUNITY

Salem Men's Meeting: Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 am in the Community Hall.

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday February 27th at 7:00 pm. **There is a standing request for help in preparing the dinner, setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Mary Ellen Eaton.**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Tuesday Feb. 28, 5:00-7:00 pm in the Community Hall.

Pancakes and more prepared by the Salem Men. Eat in or carry out.

Eye-glass 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: 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.

“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.

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!

Song of Solomon 2:10-13 (KJV)

¹⁰My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. ¹¹For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; ¹³The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

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

