

Salem United Methodist Church

September 2018 Newsletter

“185 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

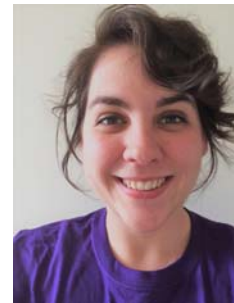


Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

September means another school year begins. And with this, we are blessed to have Jo Shonewolf returning to serve among us for a second year. Jo is a Masters of Divinity student at Wesley Theological Seminary. Salem is her Practice in Mission and Ministry site for two years. One gift that Jo brings is seeking ways to connect faith with science. Last spring she led a small group which explored this connection. Jo will offer this group again.

(See her statement below.) Along with leading this group, Jo will be leading us in worship, preaching once a month, and leading our youth group.

Salem welcomes you back, Jo!



Jo Schonewolf, Seminary Intern

Science, Religion, and Spirituality: An Intersection of Wonder

You've all by now likely heard me talk a little bit about wonder, that feeling that you get when you see something truly amazing or awesome. It's an emotion that religion and science hold in common. "The heavens

declare the glory of God," writes the psalmist, and we who are Christians can attest to that sentiment. The glory of God can be seen in the world all around us and we join together in worship on Sunday mornings to celebrate that glory and all the other ways God's love, grace, and wonderful creation break into our lives during the week. Wonder at and care of creation are common threads throughout many of the world's religions.

Science often grows out of wonder as well. Many scientists who work in the life or physical sciences have stories of seeing a clear night sky or a dinosaur in a museum for the first time and feeling that spark of wonder and curiosity that can drive a career in science. The "Eureka!" moment in a scientific discovery can be as jubilant and profound as any religious experience. And for those scientists who are also people of faith, the wonder that they find in their work is shared with their understanding of the source of wonder in the universe, what we Christians call God.

Even for those who are unchurched or not a part of a religious community, wonder plays a role in their spirituality. Instead of gathering with others to sing hymns and offer prayers on a Sunday morning, they might go on a hike, searching out the beauty of a hidden waterfall or the peace that you can only find deep in the woods. They can stand at the edge of the ocean and wonder at the vastness of it, or find themselves intrigued by the pattern of a spider's web. There seems to be a base spirituality shared amongst all humans, and wonder is at the root of it.

Now, this can show up in all sorts of interesting ways. Anyone or thing that gains a cult following has benefitted from a human predisposition toward wonder. Superstition often builds on our wonderings and imaginings about things we don't fully understand. But when we turn our wonder toward God, when we seek out not nature but the Creator of it, we deepen our faith and connection to God and, consequently, our connection to each other.

In the coming months, I'll be offering a study on science, religion, and spirituality where we can explore all of these ideas and how they relate to our Christian journeys. I hope you'll be able to join me as we delve into wonder and all it has to offer!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Series: Faithful Living

Most of our September worship will be based on the Epistle of James. Only five chapters long, this short Epistle is packed full of wisdom on how to live our faith.

Sept 2: "Dancing to the Music"
James 1:17-27

Sept 9: "Playing on the Same Team"
James 2:1-10, 14-17;
Blessing Prayer Shawls

Sept 16: Appalachia Service Project
Salem's ASP teams will share how they lived their faith through serving.

Sept 23: "Visiting Jesus by Night"
John 3:1-12, Jo Schonewolf, preaching

Sept 30: "Talking with the Boss"
James 5:13-20

YOUTH GROUP

Meets Every Sunday Evening

6:30-8:00 P.M.

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

September 2: No youth group (Labor Day)

September 9: Welcome Back Bash! We'll have food, conversation, and games.

September 16: Question Night. Bring any and all questions about Christianity, faith, or church and we'll answer as many as we can!

September 23: Tournament Night. Four Square, Horse, Board Games-- come and see who can be the best of the best!

September 30: Relay Night. Its competition week-take two, but this time, we'll team up to take on challenges!

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) 2018

**“Call(ed) to Action”
“Here I Am, Lord. Send Me”
Isaiah 6:8**

We invite you to worship with us on September 16 as we share how we answered the call to make two homes warmer, safer, and drier in Louisa, KY this past summer.

Something Happening at Salem

We have our first event this month!

**"Understanding the New Tax Law"
Tuesday, Sept 25 at 7:00 P.M.
Community Room**

**Invite Friends and Neighbors to find out
the latest info about the changes in our
Federal Income Taxes for 2018**



Joe Bell, partner of BFJ Financial Group will present current information about the changes in the Federal 2018 tax law. Joe is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner with more than 40 years of experience in working with business owners and individuals to deal with their tax, accounting, and other financial matters.

Helpers needed for publicity, room set-up, and coordinate refreshments. If you can help, please see Rev. Sue.

"Something Happening at Salem" events connect our community with Salem.

*Stay tuned for October's:
“Something with Pumpkins”
Date: TBD*

FAITH ON TAP FRIDAYS

After a long week join us at Waredaca Brewing Company for a beverage and eats as we have discussions on various faith topics. Waredaca serves both beer and non-alcoholic beverages. A food truck is usually present or (BYOF) bring your own food. Bring lawn chairs for outdoor seating. There is also indoor seating.

Dates: Fridays, Sept. 14 & 28
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Address: 4017 Damascus Rd. Laytonsville

UPDATES FROM SALEM'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our newly formed Leadership Team has met three times since May. Here are the highlights.

Staff/Parish Relations: Upon the death of Tony Hopkins, we hired his wife, Lisa, to be our custodian. Updated all contracts with staff: custodian, music director, and nursery attendant.

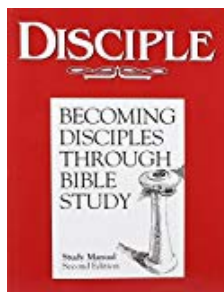
Trustees: Kitchen refrigerator quit working. A new one was purchased through the kitchen renovation funds.

Finance: Giving is down for 2018. We are \$18,000 in the red as of July.

Connecting with our Community: Developing ideas for "Something Happening at Salem" monthly events, contacting speakers, and calendaring them.

Church Conference: Sunday, Oct. 28; at 2:00 P.M.; Oakdale Church. Reports will need to be completed one week in advance.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY



As followers of Jesus Christ, how well do we know our Holy Scriptures? Disciple Bible Study offers us an opportunity to know them better. This is a 34 week study in which biblical passages are read daily with weekly study sessions. During these sessions, a video is presented by a biblical

scholar and the group discusses the week's readings. If you are interested, see Rev. Sue. Graduates of Disciple are invited to read through the Bible again. You may discover something different.

A WAY FORWARD

Rev. Tom Berlin be presenting information on the issues and options facing The United Methodist Church as it approaches the February 2019 General Conference and makes decisions on how the Church will address issues of homosexuality.

Location: Nichols-Bethel UMC, 1239 Murray Rd, Odenton, MD US 21113

Time: Sat., Sept. 15, 2018 10:00 A.M.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN



Playing with a beach ball in church? What is going on? Rev. Sue demonstrated how God's mercy flows from God to us like a beach ball that goes up and down. And how we are to then show mercy to each other like a beach ball that is passed back and forth. Based on the Beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7).



WORSHIP ON THE LAWN



On Sunday, August 29 at the 10:00 worship service, we moved our worship outdoors to both share our faith with our community and experience God's beauty.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord's Table has been discontinued. If you know of a way Salem can minister to the least of these in our community might please contact Rev. Sue or Libby Wright.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Salem's Newest U.S. Citizen



Wathsala and Yvette at the Keys Game

On Saturday, August 11 Wathsala Harischandra became a U.S. citizen! She celebrated with Salem at a Keys Game in Frederick. Wathsala serves as Salem's nursery attendant.

Congratulations, Wathsala!

To August Birthdays



Celebrating at Coffee Hour

From left to right: Kim Shear, Yvette Thurston, Halsey Smith, Jessamy Barnes

To the Newlyweds



On Saturday, August 25 Brittany Nicholson and Josh Gregg exchanged marriage vows in front of family and friends with Rev. Sue, officiating.

Josh is the grandson of Edie Gregg and nephew of Barbara Whalen.

Salem Book Club

Salem Book Club will resume in the fall.

Salem Men's Meeting

The Salem UM Men meet the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 A.M. for a breakfast meeting. All men are welcome to attend.

Covenant Discipleship Group

The Covenant Discipleship Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30-9:30 A.M.

SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers during the 2018 worship year, please signup on the list posted on the bulletin board in the Hallway in the church. 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 contact Joyce Howes.

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

Our September Birthdays are:

Lyon, Robert	09/01
Whalen, Doug	09/04
Whalen, Barbara	09/06
Miller, Tim	09/11
Meisner Evelyn,	09/20
Luke, Piper	09/22

There are no September Anniversaries.

OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinners will be on Monday September 24th 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.**

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.

Olney Help Food Needs: At this time Olney Help MOST NEEDS: Boost or Ensure, jelly (28-32 oz.), beef stew, pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), pancake mix, and syrup, hot beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, kids box drinks. They currently have enough boxed pasta, and canned beans. No glass jars. Gift cards appreciated.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls
Sunday, Sept. 9



Know someone is hurting?
Take them a handmade prayer shawl
Lovingly created with prayer and offering God's love.