

Salem United Methodist Church

December 2018 Newsletter

«184 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.

To the Salem UM Church Community:

Winter is coming with its howling wind, cold temperatures, blowing snow, and longer hours of darkness. Winter can be a gloomy, hopeless time of year. And the news media reports seem to be void of hope, peace, love, and joy. Even during this time of festivities and parties, we can be lost in a sea of hopelessness. We can think, "What's the purpose? Who cares?"

In the church as we wait for the arrival or advent of Jesus, our worship centers on hope, peace, love, and joy. This year the Advent theme is Hope as God's Gift to us. The Gift

of Hope provides us with a purpose. The Gift of Hope tells us that there is Someone who cares. Everyone needs this Hope. The world needs this Hope. This Hope is not wishful thinking. This Hope provides us stability in unstable times. This Hope provides calmness in the midst of chaos. This Hope provides a light in the darkness. This Hope exceeds any material thing that the world has to offer.

As followers of Jesus, our Hope is in the Son of the Living God. He came to show us that in the midst of despair and fear, there can be healing and mercy. He came to save us from our false hopes as well as our sins and guilt. In the midst of hopelessness, he came.

During the busyness of this season, be alert for the Gift of Hope. Where do you find it? Where does it appear? Be willing to receive the Gift. Then open it and find a way to re-gift it to someone who needs Hope. And keep a little for yourself, too!

Living in the Hope of Christ....Rev. Sue

Salem News December 2018

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Sermon Series:

God's Gift of New Hope

First Sunday of Advent, Dec 2

What is Hope?

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 9

Historical Hope

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11;
Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 16

Hope Brings Joy (Poinsettia Sunday)

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7;
Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 23

Unexpected Hope

Jo Schonewolf preaching

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-55

THE DARKEST NIGHT WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec 23, 6:00 P.M.

For some of us Christmas is not a merry time. The Darkest Night Worship is designed to address our pain and/or grief this time of year.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24

5:00 p.m. Family Worship

7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship

Sermon Title:

The Best Gifts: Hope and Love

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.

December 2- The Prophets: Chariots coming down from the sky. Lions and bears. Dead

bones coming back. Come hear stories from the Old Testament prophets and the words they had for the people of their day and today.

December 9- The Christmas Story Retold

December 16- Christmas Party and Gift Exchange: bring a gift of less than \$10 and celebrate the season!

December 23 and 30- No youth group.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

All Christmas events will be in Salem's Community Room.

Christmas Bazaar: Benefit Women's Group

Saturday, December 8,

10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Needed: Bake Table Items; Theme Baskets; Gently-Read Books, and Unique Treasures

Free Entry for Holiday Shopping, Selfies with Santa, Bake Table, Book Nook, Children Craft-Making, Unique Treasures, Theme Baskets, Lunch Menu for Children and Adults

ASP Cookie Bake Off: Benefit ASP

Sunday, December 9 11:15 A.M.

Bring your favorite Christmas cookies as well as taste and pay to judge your favorite.

ASP Chili Cook-Off/Epiphany Auction

Benefit Appalachia Service Project (ASP)

Saturday, January 5, 6:00 P.M.

Bring your favorite chili for sharing and judging. Bring unwanted Christmas gifts or other items for the auction. And bid on those Christmas gifts you wish you had received.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Remember to turn in your Giving Commitment Card by Sunday, Dec. 9. We need this information to plan our ministries and staff for 2019.

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; worshipping 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*

“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.”

Isaiah 9:6



A NOTE FROM SAM AND ALEX LARSON



Alex and I are doing extremely well in the Twin Cities. I finished my chaplaincy residency on August 24 and am now officially able to secure employment as a chaplain to begin building hours towards professional certification as a chaplain. An important beginning step in the process. Additionally, I am looking to secure a hospice chaplaincy position in the city and am working shifts as a chaplain at the hospital where I completed my residency, Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, MN, a suburb of Minneapolis.

Alex is still enjoying his job as a social worker with Fresenius Kidney Care, a dialysis center in Robbinsdale, MN. He continues to also work towards his final license of LICSW and is less than a year away from securing it. Something that requires many, many working hours as well as supervision hours.

Over this last year we were so excited to adopt two wonderful cats, Polo and Cleo. I'll attach some photos for you of them. We love them very much! We have also been exploring the wild outdoors of Minnesota in the sunshine and green of summer and spring as well as in the bareness and lush whiteness

of the snow in winter; and, of course, the beauty of the changing leaves in fall. We just got our first official accumulation of snow today.

I pray all is well for the Salem community. You remain a part of my story and my spiritual formation as a pastor and chaplain. All our best!

Love, Sam and Alex

P.S. Polo is the grey and white cat and Cleo is the black cat.



HAPPY 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Bill and Caroline Herndon

On November 14 Bill and Caroline Herndon celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. How does one celebrate 70 years of marriage? Why go out for dinner! The Herndons are now living in Country Meadows Retirement Community in Frederick. There Bill has rediscovered his

love of drawing and painting. Here is an example of his artwork.



One of Bill's many paintings

SALEM MISSIONS AT WORK HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Once again, as part of an ecumenical effort led by St Peter's Catholic Church, Salem contributed Thanksgiving food items for four boxes. They were full to overflowing. We also had a cardboard box filled with extra items. These baskets were distributed to families that are struggling financially and live in the Olney area.



Purple containers and box are from Salem

We will be creating four more boxes for Christmas. Sign up in the church's hallway for food items. All items must be in by Sunday, Dec. 16. Thank you, Salem, for your generous spirit.

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.



At press time another box was waiting to be filled.

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

APPALACHIN SERVICE PROJECT

ASP 2019

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 16-22, 2019. To join a crew contact:

Rev. Sue Shorb-Sterling at
pastor@salemunitedmethodistchurch.org.
Youth and adults are welcome and you do not need to attend Salem.

Schedule for ASP Fund Raisers

December, 9, Annual Christmas cookie bake-off after the 10:00 A.M. worship service in the Community Hall

January 5, 2019, Epiphany Auction and Chili Cook-off: 6 P.M. in Community Hall

February 3, Breakfast after the 10:00 A.M. worship service in the Community Hall

April 14, Breakfast after the 10:00 A.M. worship service in the Community Hall.

April 27, Yard Sale, inside and out at the Community Hall starting at 8 A.M.

Also, in April, no date at press time, The Green Turtle will give a percentage of sales, with coupon to Salem's ASP. This will be an all-day event. Watch the newsletter and weekly announcements for details and coupons.

May, date to be announced later, is the Spring Concert by The Encore Singers in the Sanctuary at 7:00 P.M.

During the time frame June 2-9, the adoption of ASP members will take place. This involves providing a "goodie bag" for their trip, and praying for them while they are gone.

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.

BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Suzanne Friis. We will be reading "The Art of Living: The Classic Manual on Virtue, Happiness and Effectiveness" by Epictetus.

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30 P.M. Location TBD. We will be reading "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande.

Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Joanne Rider. We will be reading "Accidental Saints: Finding God in all the Wrong People" by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

SALEM UM MEN

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

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:

Groves, Lexie	12/10
Achstetter, Barb	12/11
Shorb-Sterling, Sue	12/21

December Anniversaries

There are no Anniversaries this month.

OUR COMMUNITY

Sandy Spring Lions Club: The next dinner will be on Monday, December 18 at 7:00 P.M. 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.

Spirit Club: A fitness group for those with disabilities meets Wednesdays in the Community Hall from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

Seniors on the Move Exercise Class:

Fridays, 9:00-10:00 A.M. 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 8:30-9:30 P.M. and Thursdays, 8:00-9:00 P.M.

PRAYER SHAWLS



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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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