

Salem United Methodist Church

December 2019 Newsletter

“186 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating”



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833

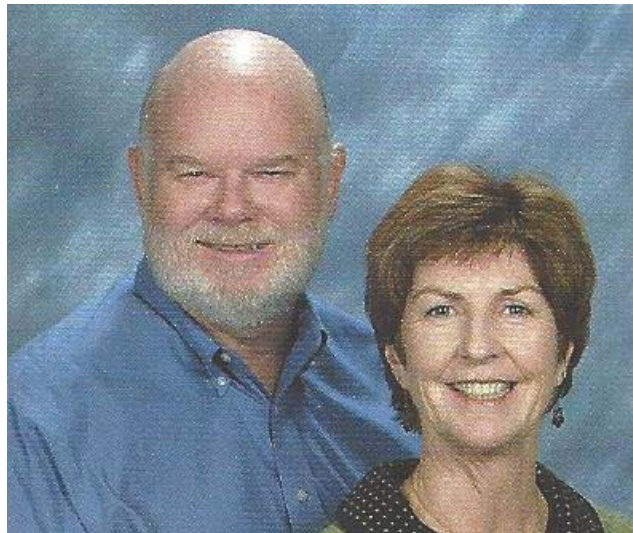


SALEM United Methodist Church 2019

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

A SAD FAREWELL



This picture was taken from Salem Directory of 2007.

We are sad to report the death on November 4th of Robert McClosky. Rob and his wife, Barbara (Barb), were long-time members of Salem UMC where he served for many years as Financial Committee Chair. Upon retirement they moved, eventually to Florida where Rob died after a long battle with cancer. Rob served his country during the Vietnam Combat in the U.S. Navy. Beside Barbara he is survived by a son, Todd, and a daughter, Christi Espejo, and seven grandchildren as well as many friends at Salem. There will be a Memorial Service celebrating his life at Salem on Sunday, January 5 at 2:00 P.M. Please add Barb and the children to your prayer list during this holiday season.

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

To the Salem UM Church Community-

Where has this year gone? It's Christmas again! We are already busy trying to create Christmas memories with the buying of gifts, baking cookies, decorating our homes, throwing parties, attending concerts, and gathering as a family. Every day seems to be packed with something that needs to be done before December 25. Christmastime can be filled with worry, stress, and even dread. Many hate Christmas because of all its expectations. In the midst of busyness and anxiousness, we forget that this is the season of Advent. Huh? Advent? Isn't it a time to prepare for Christmas? Advent is just the four Sundays before Christmas when we light that big wreath with four candles? Yes, it is, but Advent is much more than these.

Advent is a holy time in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. During Advent we are reminded again that we worship a God who loved the world so much God became one of us. God in the form of Jesus lived among us to teach us by his life, death, and resurrection the depth of divine love for humanity. God became Emmanuel, God with us. First, he was born into poverty. Then to protect him, his parents became refugees by fleeing to a foreign land. As an adult, Jesus reached out to the outcasts and sinners, made friends with both men and women, and taught both the influential and those outside his faith. Later he was arrested, tortured, abandoned by those closest to him, humiliated, and was executed to save the world. This divine/human Jesus, the Emmanuel, came to offer hope to the world with his life, death, and resurrection.

We still need this hope in our personal lives and in our world today. Our busyness in celebrating Christmas between Thanksgiving and December 25 can drown out the practice of Advent: the wonder and anticipation of receiving this holy gift of hope.

We shop until we drop or until our credit cards are maxed out because we think this will create Christmas. We endure the self-created stress and forget the One for whom this season has been created and the purpose of his coming.

This Advent would you covenant with me to slow down, create a less stressful December, and focus on the wonder of the coming of the Christ Child into the world? Ponder how his birth has created hope in the world for over two millennia and how it is still creating hope. Advent is a time to be intentional with our worship God, prayer, reading the scriptures so our eyes, ears, hearts and minds can be open to new ways to love God and to serve others as we share this hope. Advent is a time to wait and prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Advent is also a time to show the world how to live like God is with us.

As you slow down this Advent, take time each week to read the scriptures listed below before Sunday's worship. As you read them, ask yourself, "How do they illustrate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us?" Also, I invite you to obtain a book online called *Advent: God is With Us* by Robin Wilson and read the chapter designated for each week in Advent as you prepare to worship on Sunday mornings. Practicing Advent might just be the salve we need to calm our anxious, stressed souls and live with hope. After all, God is with us!

With Emmanuel's Hope,

Rev. Sue

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Worship Series:

The Gift of Hope-Emmanuel

First Sunday of Advent, Dec 1: A Future Reminder

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;

Matthew 24:36-44

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 8: God's Better Way

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec 15: Why Not?

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10;

Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 22: We've a Story to Tell

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

THE LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP

The Longest Night Service: Sunday, Dec 22, 6:00 P.M. This worship is an intimate time for those who find Christmas with all its merriment challenging. Come connect with the Holy in a special way.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC 24

Christmas Eve, Dec 24: The Best Gift
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-20

**Worship Times: 5:00 P.M. Family Service
7:30 P.M. Traditional Service**

A SPECIAL INVITATION

The Mongolian Saturday School (Mongol Erdem) is inviting the Salem UM Church community to a New Year's Concert on Saturday, December 21 at 6:00 P.M. Dinner will be served.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Saturday, December 7
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

Salem's Christmas Bazaar will have a bake table, crafts, holiday treasures, food, fun for children, and more. Santa will be visiting the Bazaar at 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M..

Needed: Volunteers to make gift baskets, crafts, baked goods, donated gently used items for the Trash and Treasures Shop, and help in the kitchen as well as the Children's Christmas Shop.

Can you work for two hours in the kitchen preparing and serving lunch? If so, contact Suzanne at friis17@yahoo.com

Can you be Santa's helper for picture taking from 11:30 AM-1:00PM?

If so, contact Suzanne at friis17@yahoo.com.

Can you work for 2 hours in "Unique Treasures" or help pack up afterwards? If so, contact Nancy Cox at nancykcox@yahoo.com.

Can you provide "Treasures" for the "Unique Treasures" room? If so, before Dec. 7, please bring clean "gently loved" items to the Treasures room (upstairs in the Hall) such as: Smaller decorative items, Christmas decorations, household items (no appliances), Jewelry.

Books, games, toys. Please do not bring clothing, electronics, larger "yard sale" items or anything dirty, rusty, or damaged.

Can you provide bake sale items? Drop these off Friday, Dec. 6 beginning at noon or Sat. Dec. 7 before 9:30 AM. Label all baked goods containing nuts, milk or eggs. Contact Carole Roberts with questions at bsgsmom@gmail.com.

Can you supply items for a themed gift basket? A comprehensive list is forthcoming. Bring items or a gift card to the "Basket Room" upstairs in the Hall by Nov. 30. For questions, contact Kulley at kulley1145@hotmail.com.

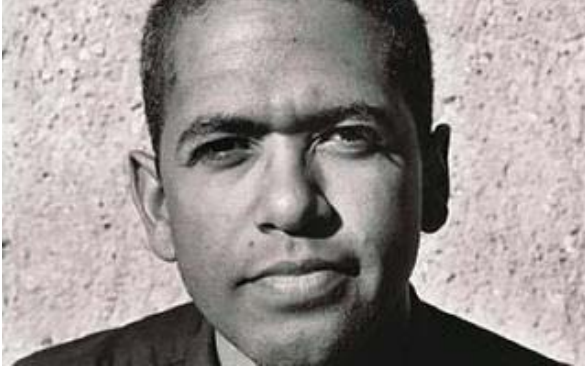


NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

**Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.**

**There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!**

SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM



On Tuesday, November 5, Salem proudly hosted Anthony Cohen, a local resident, who has devoted his life to researching the history of the Underground Railroad in Montgomery County. Tony shared how when he was an intern for the Historical Society, he asked if they had any info on the Underground Railroad. He was told that the Underground Railroad didn't exist. Tony persevered to retrieve information about it. He found enough information to write his graduation thesis which was later published. His research included interviews with locals as well as newspaper clippings that gave information about runaway slaves. He found out that Montgomery County played an important role in the Underground Railroad. It was a hub of stations helping slaves escape to the north and beyond into Canada.

In 1996 he decided he would take the trip the ancestors did to escape freedom and recreate the trip as best he could. This included being shipped in a wooden box for a day. In total he traveled 1200 miles from Sandy Spring to Ontario, Canada by foot, boat, and train. It took him two months.

Tony talked about being on the Oprah Winfrey show where he shared his knowledge of the struggles the escaped slaves encountered and the assistance they were given along the way. He also shared how he trained Oprah for her part in the movie, *Beloved*, right here in Sandy Spring.

In addition to being an expert on the Underground Railroad, Tony began The Menare Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Underground Railroad history, historic sites and the creation of educational programs. One of these projects is the Button Farm, a living history center which sits on 40 acres inside Seneca Creek State Park in Germantown. This is a working farm which

depicts a 19th slavery plantation. It is open to visitors from spring through fall.

Tony's passion for this important part of our history was very evident in his breadth and depth of knowledge. Thank you, Tony, for your brilliant and heart-felt presentation.

COATS FOR CENTRAL UNION MISSION

Salem collected 38 coats and gave them to Central Union Mission to give to those in need. Thank you to Rick Myers and Randy Kennedy for organizing this.



This picture shows the second half of collection.



Rick Myers presenting the first half of collection. Well done Salem for helping many be warm this winter.

THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord's Table is now at Epworth UMC, 9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg. Volunteers from Salem serve the first Friday of the month from 1:00 – 5:00 P.M. Please consider serving.

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.

STEPPING STONES FAMILY SHELTER



The shelter is in need for people to provide a dinner. It can be prepared and delivered any time before 5:30 P.M. The meal can be reheated for serving. If you are interested in providing a simple meal, call the shelter 301-251-0567, so they will know it is coming.

BOOK CLUB

Our next Salem Book Club Meeting will be at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, Dec. 3 the home of Suzanne Friis. We will be reading: "God and Churchill: How the Great Leader's Sense of Divine Destiny Changed His Troubled World and Offers Hope for Ours" by Jonathan Sandys and Wallace Henley.

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 14th.

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

A 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CURT!



On November 17th Curtis Smith joined Virginia Smith and Randy Kennedy in the 90's Club, if there are others please let your Publisher know so they can be honored also.

A WARM THANK YOU

By Curtis M. Smith

A WARM THANK YOU!

To: My Personal and Salem Families

My deepest thanks to all of you for attending my 90th Birthday Festival on November 17th. There isn't enough space to recall all those I need to thank, my memory isn't as good as it used to be, but here are some of them, please forgive me if I missed you; also listed are other things I am thankful for:

- Pastor Sue's health, welcome back to service! Chuck's safe return and both being at the party AND providing the delicious SALEM sausage dip and the extra cake.
- EVERYONE who worked, cooked, cleaned up, guided my darling-slaving wife, Velma, in the multitude of preparations for the festivities. Velma keeps saying she would not be able to pull the party together without the help of Joyce Keister.
- Virginia Smith for the beautiful Birthday cake. Everyone said it was delicious (I couldn't have any, I'm diabetic), however

there was a sugar-free cake (prepared by Velma) I did enjoy.

- Debbie and Fred for the balloons that set the theme for the party.
- To everyone who gave me cards as well as all who signed the group card. I will treasure them all.
- Russ McWilliams for the wonderful memories in the pictures he took. I can relive the moment each time I look at them.
- And finally, to my family who made the trip from almost everywhere! Germany, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia and locally.
- Many arrived Friday evening but swept me away on Saturday for a visit to their Mother's (Barbara) resting place at Columbia Memorial Cemetery in Clarksville.
- For taking Velma and me to dinner both Saturday and Sunday nights (there was 11 of us).
- And finally to Russell McWilliams for all the wonderful memories he gave me in pictures.

There are probably many more I should thank, but I can't remember so if I missed you in the above list please forgive me and remind me so I can tell you how much I appreciate your effort.

Thanks again and I LOVE ALL of you.

OUR COMMUNITY

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 P.M. Our own Philip Weinberger is an avid participant.

Seniors on the Move Exercise Class: Thursdays and 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

Church telephone: 301-774-7772

Reverend Sue's e-mail:

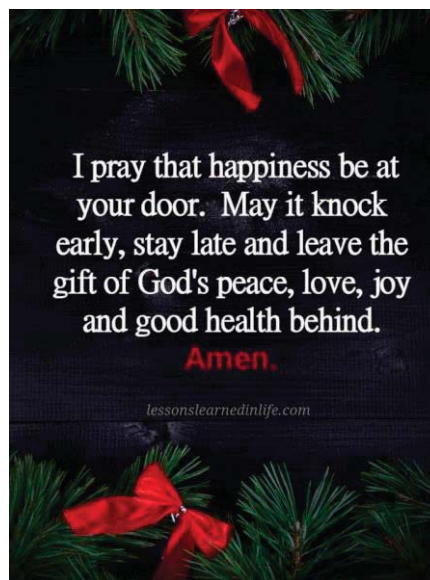
pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

Church Website:

www.salemunitedmethodist.org

Newsletter

velma_durant@yahoo.com



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