

# Salem United Methodist Church

## January 2020 Newsletter

«187 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.**

**SALEM SAYS A SAD FAREWELL TO OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**ROSE EIDE-ALTMAN**



From the 1998 Salem Directory



From the 2010 Salem Directory

In 1994 Salem was blessed when Rose Eide-Altman joined our staff as Music Director. For twenty-four and a half years Rose has led the choir, worked with the children, held classes in reading music, created the fantastic hand bell choir, provided special music, and brought us many spiritual blessings with her music from both the piano and organ. On January 19, 2020, Rose will play her last worship service for Salem. She has accepted a position with Andrew University in Berrien Springs, Michigan as Operations Coordinator of Center for Digital Learning and Instructional Technology (DLIT).

Salem will have a celebration of Rose's ministry among us after the 10:00 worship service on January 19. We are giving Rose a gift of money. Donations towards her gift can be made to the church with a notation that it is for Rose.

Rose, you and your musical talents among us will be missed greatly! May God bless this new chapter of your life.

## TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

To the Salem UM Church Community,

We have just finished Christmas. The parties are over. The gifts are unwrapped, used, and maybe even broken by now. The decorations are put away and a New Year has begun. What will 2020 hold for us? We know in our nation there will be a presidential election. And we know that the denomination will hold another General Conference in May. Like the one held in February 2019, this one will also wrestle with the issues of clergy officiating at same-sex weddings and the ordination of LGBTQIA+ persons. Both our presidential election and the General Conference are creating divisions among us, as well as fear. We are afraid of what will happen if the election goes one way or another. We are afraid of what will happen to the church if it goes one way or another. We are afraid of the changes that will happen.

During Advent and Christmas, we heard scriptures that told of angels proclaiming, “Fear not!” when they appeared to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Angels appearing, I guess, can be frightening. Those who were receiving the message needed reassurance that all was going to be well. God uses the words, “Fear Not,” in the King James Version over seventy times to deliver news of change. These words assure us that no matter what changes we do not need to fear. God is with us.

There are many things that can cause us to fear, such as: climate change, international disputes, economic concerns, health issues, among others. We can be afraid of what the future may hold and that which we can’t control. Fear can either motivate us to act or cripple us to where we can be

non-functional. What can we do when we are afraid? Turn to our faith in God. Our faith can assist us to both face our fears and overcome them with courage and hope.

In this New Year, we need to hear God’s words again, “Do Not Fear, for I am with you,” (Isaiah 43:5a, NRSV). During the Epiphany season in which God is manifest to us through Christ, the sermon series “Do not Fear” will help us identify our fears, and hopefully overcome them with faith.

Adam Hamilton’s book, *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*, will be used as a resource for this sermon series. Feel free to order this book for your devotional reading during Epiphany.

Each day of each year can bring change. We need to be reminded again, “Do not fear!” We can face our fears with our faith and courage. We can even overcome our fears with the hope that comes from Christ being made known to us in new ways.

Blessed New Year!

Rev. Sue

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 5: Epiphany Sunday

Sermon Title: “Our Light Has Come”

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 12: Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Sermon Title: “Dearly Loved”

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-35;

Matthew 3:13-17

Epiphany Worship Series: “Do Not Fear!”

Sunday, Jan. 19

Sermon Title: What Do We Fear?

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; Romans 8:14-17;

Luke 4:16-30

Sunday, Jan. 26

Sermon Title: Facing Fear with Faith

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; I Peter 3:13-18;

Matthew 4:12-23

Epiphany Worship Series, “Do Not Fear!” will continue in February.

## FROM THE CONGREGATION



*Sharing My  
Thoughts*

*From Charlyne Lewis*

This brand New Year of 2020 brings with it all kinds of unexpected “surprises” for all of us. We only have to be open in our minds and hearts to receive them when they come our way!!

The Epiphany is truly a wondrous thing, isn't it? Wouldn't it be neat if we could be 'little mice' and be at the stable when the Magi arrived on that eventful day, and saw the Babe for the first time? What a picture that must have been! They were truly in awe of Him! We are so blessed each year to celebrate His birth and a 'new beginning' ahead for each of us.

May all of you, dear ones, be loved and blessed in this New Year.

God Bless!!

*Charlyne*

Matthew 2:7-12

## SALEM BOOK CLUB

The next Salem Book Club will meet at Suzanne Friss at 7:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 14. We will host Nancy Wilkie who will discuss her newly published book of short stories "The Seven Sides of Self." Nancy will enlighten us about the writing and publishing process, as well as discuss the messages she conveys through her writings.

## SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

As we continue to connect with those in our community, Salem has scheduled monthly events of interest. Here is one upcoming event.

**The Opioid Crisis,  
Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 P.M.  
Community Hall**

Dr. Marilou Tablang-Jimenez, Medical Director of the Addiction and Mental Health Center, along with a group of therapists will present information on the opioid crisis in our area and share resources available for those addicted, as well as for their loved ones.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2019

Salem's Annual Christmas Bazaar was another success!



The Faithful Workers



Thanks to all who baked for the Bake Table. Carole Roberts at that table.



Betty Bittner made her famous beef vegetable soup which sold out again!



From left to right: Santa's Helpers: Mary Ellen Eaton, Cristin Cooper, Kim Shear, and Judy Ercolani.

Many people put together about 150 gift baskets. Special thanks to Kulley Bancroft and her sister, Karen Smith, who did the majority of them.



Kulley reported that when the Bazaar closed there were 16 baskets left. Since then, all sold.



The Christmas Treasures Room was overseen by Nancy Cox.



And a special "Thank You" to Eva Miller who created a children's craft area.

The Bazaar would not be complete without a visit from Santa. We know who you are as his representative, so thank you so very much for filling in for him. If I told your name it wouldn't be a secret anymore. The following pictures prove young and older alike love Santa Claus!



Matthew and Nathan Savage



Carole Roberts with the Jolly Elf

Thanks to everyone who made it happen and thanks to all shoppers for making it a success. Total income from all the sales at the Bazaar was \$5,292. Well done, faithful Salem Servants!

### MONGOLIAN CHRISTMAS

Submitted by: Suzanne Friis

The evening of Saturday, December 21 brought a large, festive holiday celebration by the Mongolian Culture School to our Community Hall which was decorated to the hilt and filled to the brim with Mongolian families from the DC area. They graciously invited members from Salem and we were warmly welcomed. Along with a delicious buffet, the crowd was treated to delightful song, dance and piano performances by children of all ages, giving us a glance into their rich culture. Although the spoken word was exclusively Mongolian, we all felt the spirit of each presentation. Thinking the evening couldn't get any better, the celebration was capped off by a visit from Santa, confirming that he indeed visits all who believe!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, REV. SUE**



On December 22 at coffee hour the congregation surprised Rev. Sue with a birthday party. Thanks Joyce Howes, Suzanne Friis, Mary Ellen Eaton, and others for all your work in preparing this celebration.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS  
OR  
THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

Christmas isn't a joyful time for everyone. Many feel blue for a variety of reasons. On Sunday, December 22, members of the congregation met to remember. Remembering our loved ones who were celebrating this joyous season around the dinner table of our King and singing "Happy Birthday" to Him. Remembering the "time" that is so quickly slipping away from all of us.



As we placed a flower in the wreath for each of our loved ones gone before us, we knew our loved ones were safe in the care of the One who made us all. We lit the candle of light to show that His light is guiding us through each moment of our lives and God is still on the Throne.

Thank you to Rose Eide-Altman for providing meditative music.

**THE CHRISTMAS EVE  
WORSHIP SERVICES**

Christmas Eve 2019 the children and their parents along with others gathered to worship at the 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve worship.

After the Call to Worship, the Christ candle in the Advent Wreath was lit. It is the center candle in the picture.



The children helped to tell the story of Christ's birth by placing the different pieces in the Nativity Scene.



Each child was given a flashlight with the inscription, "Jesus is the Light of the World." They could light it as their parents lit candles during the singing of "Silent Night."



After the worship the children were invited to make Nativity crafts that could be hung on their Christmas trees at home.

At both the 5:00 and 7:30 Christmas Eve worship services, we were blessed to have Kathie and Ralph Lillie accompany the Christmas carols using a variety of instruments: harp, guitar, pennywhistle and African drum.



Chuck Sterling sang, "Nino Lindo," accompanied by Ralph on the African drum.



At the 7:30 Candlelight Service, the bell choir played. Rose Eide-Altman, our Music Director arranged all the music. What a blessing!

After an encouraging message by Rev. Sue, "God is with Us," we celebrated Christ's birth

with Holy Communion. Then we remembered that Jesus is the Light of the World. As the lights were dimmed, the light of Christ was passed from one person to another as we sang, "Silent Night, Holy Night."



After Rev. Sue gave her Christmas blessing, the service ended with the congregation singing "Go, Tell It On The Mountain." What a wonderful way to begin celebrating Jesus's birth and praise God He still lives today!



## A WORD ABOUT MISSIONS

### HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS

Once again, our congregation stepped up and provided four food baskets for those in need could celebrate the holidays.



Our Missions Director "Libby" Wright making delivery of our food baskets

## YMCA MENTORING PROGRAM



These gifts were for the 22 names in the YMCA Mentoring Program's "Snowman" effort to make sure underprivileged children are not forgotten at Christmas. The children received their gifts at the YMCA's Christmas party.

## OUR SYMPATHIES

Our condolences to Kim and Myron Shear on the loss of Kim's mother, Jean Williams.

And to the Roberts Family on the loss of Carole's Second Dad, Joe Schaap.

## 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 Community Hall.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If your name should be on one of these lists, please contact [velma\\_durant@yahoo.com](mailto:velma_durant@yahoo.com). We don't want to leave you out. Thank you.

### **Our January Birthdays are:**

Van Horn, Deb	01/02
Bartley, Rachel	01/03
Lange, Marilyn	01/06
Stanley-Brown, Maryellen	01/18
Ranshaw, David	01/20
York, Marcia	01/20
Ennes, Kathryn	01/22
Poe-Yamagata, Emma	01/27
Harischandra, Wathsala	01/29
Myer, Rick	01/30

### **January Anniversaries:**

Ennes, Mark and Anne	1/25
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## WHERE'S TITO?



After 16 months with the Roberts family, Tito has gone to live at the Hero Dogs facility where he is receiving advanced training with the professional trainers. They will teach him many more commands and refine those he has already learned. They say he is an A student and they were impressed by his knowledge of the Hero Dogs vocabulary and his good manners. When he's about 2 years old, they will look at his strengths and the pool of applicants and hopefully be able to match him to a veteran or first responder. At which point, they will work on specific skills for that person and then as a team they will undergo more extensive training. Only 1 in 3 dogs in training actually have what it takes to be a service dog. If they don't make it, Hero Dogs strive to find a way they can still be a helper. Some become therapy dogs where volunteers bring them into hospitals, nursing homes, and schools to bring comfort to many. Some go to work every day with a staff member in those kinds of places and they are called facility dogs. And some are placed as skilled home companions where they help a specific person, but do not have public access. Whatever Tito ends up doing, we all know he will be great!

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

**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.

**Spirit Club:** 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:** On 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 full program. For more information contact the leader, Mary-Jo Cosgrove, at [mjcosgrove58@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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.

### “FOR I WAS HUNGRY...”

**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, please.**

### 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!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church telephone: 301-774-7772

Reverend Sue's e-mail:

[pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org)

Church Website:

[www.salemunitedmethodist.org](http://www.salemunitedmethodist.org)

Newsletter velma\_durant@yahoo.com

Copies of this and previous newsletters can be found on the Church's Website.



**Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

*A Blessed New Year to You and Your Family!*

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