

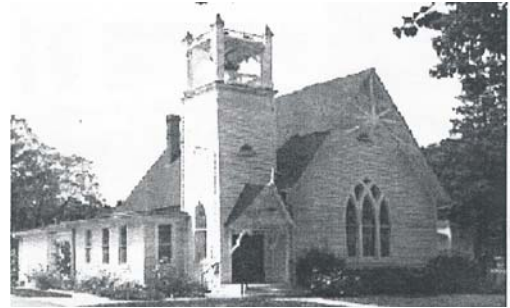
# Salem United Methodist Church

## October 2020 Newsletter

«187 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM United Methodist Church 1833



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 2020

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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



Rev. Emily and Chris Hart along with their 4-legged babies. Teddy and Misha

### Hello, church!

I still cannot believe my blessing to be here. Over the past 100 days, I have:

- Gotten to know some of you
- Preached 12 sermon
- Taught 7 classes
- Attended prayer and covenant small groups
- Sat down to meetings with the Leadership Team
- Helped with a yard sale

- Met community members (and many community dogs!)
- Gone on a walk almost every morning
- Completed my ordination papers
- and more!

This list is a snapshot of the blessing that is my life here.

### *Thank you.*

Through all these experiences, I have been watching, listening, asking questions to learn who you are, who Salem is, and where God is present with us here. This is, as we discussed in July, learning about our “soil.” I expect (hope!) to continue learning about you for years to come. As I’m learning, I’ll share my reflections with you. I pray that if I’m making wrong assumptions, that you’ll tell me! Let’s talk about it. Where did the idea come from? What makes it wrong? Or, perhaps, I’ll learn something as an outsider that will help you to name something you’ve been

thinking about for years. This is a partnership and a process for us to engage in together.

Here's a snippet of what I've learned. You are a church that cares deeply about mission and commitment. When needs are expressed, you meet them faithfully and quickly. That's amazing! Our prayer group is so faithful that they pray for people they haven't had updates on in months. Our Prayer Shawl ministry has been crocheting longer than they remember. Our Covenant Disciple group is committed to learning, trying new things, and connecting with God and each other. People who attend church have been faithful in their "God Jobs" and COVID precautions. Our Leadership Team is faithful in their stewardship of the church. They care about the members, about how we use our money, how we care for our building, and mostly, about serving as Christians.

Because I have now been here 100 days, let's talk about direction. Some folks have asked about starting new ministries or new missions. This is admirable and lovely. I love the passion! However, the biggest need I see at this church right now is for Sabbath rest. Sabbath rest is a little different than just resting. Sabbath rest is taking time to release the world to worship and be fed by God. This can be rest, like sleeping in or having an all-day pajama day. However, it can also be hiking and enjoying God's creation. It can be buying ingredients from the farmers market based on what looks the most beautiful, then preparing a lovely meal for your community. It can mean going to church and really, *really* letting go of life to rest in

awe at God's presence. This is how we fill our souls and live our lives in "overflow."



That's part of the promise of the Gospel. That's what leads us to become Christian: the promise that *there is something more!* Something wonderful and life-changing filled with grace, forgiveness, and hope. The church can be a place where we start to taste the Kingdom of God.

That's what I want us to do. One hundred days in, and all I can think is that I want to see you all enjoying Sabbath rest. I want Salem to be a place where you can let go of chaos and be filled. This is why we open worship with our body prayer, and it's why I'm asking you to do God Jobs for worship.

Does it sound counterintuitive? Perhaps. You understand the body prayer (home meditation below!) we have been working to hold our stress in church and then intentionally let it go. We do this three times because it is so hard. But how are God Jobs related to Sabbath rest? It's still called a *job*. God Jobs are part of Sabbath rest because serving others, knowing you are contributing, and that you are part of something important feeds our souls. God

Jobs make church happen. This is helping with contact tracing, laying down cones for social distancing, setting up the internet wire, setting up the altar and sound system. Claiming a service role could change your entire worship experience. Knowing you did something necessary may illuminate the scripture in an incredible way. When we live into this, we start to see the way it plays out in our lives and communities—more than just on Sunday morning! Who doesn't get rest? Who isn't given time for true enjoyment of God's world?

Stay tuned in the next months for more talk of Sabbath rest. Do you feel rested? Do you feel renewed? What helps you the most? If you don't feel rested—what do you need?

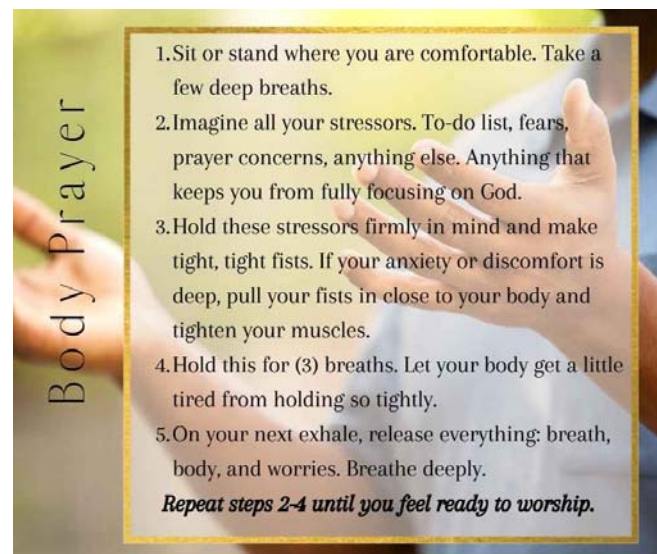
God bless you!

Rev. Emily Hart

## Worshipful Rest @Home

Worship should be a time to bring your worries and stressors to let them go. I want you to bring everything that bothers you and weighs you down, and I want you to encounter it in worship in a way that helps you to release it (even for just a moment!). This is what we're doing in our call to worship. The full meditation is below if you'd like to try it at home. We've done that three times in a row every Sunday. I don't know about you, but once we're finished symbolically and physically releasing these stressors, I am much more ready for worship. Then, when we move on into worship, I am ready. I can actually rest in God's presence.

If you want to do this at home, here are the steps laid out. The image is also on our website.



This doesn't mean God will take over all your cares or change your life. This is preparation for being with God. This is a physical prayer that God would help you to release the things that are hurting you. My prayer is that this will help you to rest in God's presence so that you can feel genuinely renewed.

## God Jobs

My prayer is that many hands and well-established boundaries will lead to deeper worship.

Let's also be practical. We need more than one person to know how to do each thing that we value. Since arriving here, I've learned that sound quality is critical. Perhaps it's the same at every hearing church (we certainly didn't worry about it in the Deaf church!). At this point, I believe we need at least three more people to learn to run and set up the sound technology. If we have 4-5 people, it will be easier for each to take a break because



you are not the only one responsible. Chris Hart and Nancy Wilkie have done the “heavy lifting” to figure out how the new outdoor system works. Soon they will be able to set it up like a “paint by number” so that anyone willing can learn. However, we are moving inside soon, and that system is even easier. If you are interested in helping with our sound or our livestream, please contact me.

### SHARING GOD’S LOVE TO ALL



In the past few months, Salem has defeated the virus by finding ways to continue our services. Zoom was established for members having computers, which was very nice as you had the opportunity to fellowship before service. Then we moved up to service in the Grove. Salem is blessed to have a beautiful grassy spot under the Walnut tree for us to follow the 6 ft. separation, and wear our mask, as we worship God in His chapel. Nancy Wilkie works the Audio and the video as the service is now on YouTube for those who prefer to worship in their homes.



Rev. Emily’s dad, Rev. Smiley closing service in prayer.

Harry does a fabulous job on the portable piano, and singing; close your eyes and listen to the words – such a blessing. We are being taught how to worship our Father in sign language for an extra blessing. The virus may stop us from many things but not Salem in our Worship of our Trinity. Listen for the bells, come one, come All; Salem is Worshipping still!

### SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

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### SOMETHING HAPPENING AT SALEM

#### Another Successful Salem Yard Sale!



A huge enthusiastic crowd turned out thanks to beautiful weather and lots of advertising-thank you Olney News! Our plan was to start at 9 AM Saturday morning, but as all yard sales go, the bargain hunters started arriving a little after 8 AM and continued to shop past the 1 PM closing time. Folks seemed to enjoy the opportunity to do some outdoor shopping with plenty of room for social distancing.

Thanks to our sellers’ cheerful bargaining, haggling and negotiating with our customers, we collected over **\$1,500** for

our Legacy Fund. In Salem fashion, this was a team effort with many contributing their time both behind the scenes and at the sale. Our thanks go to: Nancy Cox and Libby Wright for organizing the sale and to Mary Kay Abramson, Chet Babylon, Buck Bartley and his grandsons, Maryellen Brown, Greg Cox, Lee Cox, Suzanne Friis, Chris Hart, Joe Meisner, Eva Miller, Don Rider, and Yvette Thurston for their help with pricing, toting, selling, advertising, setting up, and moving the many large items to the lawn.

A special thanks to Rev. Emily for asking neighborhood kids to help set up tables on Friday evening. They happily carried boxes too numerous to count from the Community Hall to the front lawn. There were so many donations that twelve tables were needed to hold all of the “unique” treasures.

Salem folks, once again, pulled it together. What a team!

### OLNEY HELP NEEDS HELP

During this unsettling time, you can best help Olney Help by donating food gift cards if you wish to make a financial donation, it can be done online at [www.olneyhelp.org](http://www.olneyhelp.org).

### Missions

#### Stepping Stones – A New Mission



Stepping Stones, a temporary shelter that provides support to homeless families with children, still needs help. As of this

publication, your publisher does not know if they are still accepting clothing and dinners, but if you wish to help, a quick call will let you know their needs. They can be reached at (301) 251-0567. The shelter is in a historic home, the Dawson Farmhouse, in Rockville, Maryland.

### SIGN-UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Salem is planning to reenter the sanctuary on October 25th, COVID permitting (stay tuned). If you would like to provide flowers during the November/December 2020 worship period, please contact Carole Roberts.

### 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 October Birthdays are:

Shear, Myron	10/01
Brown, Robert	10/07
Meisner, Joe	10/09
Chandradasa, Sandy	10/16
Chandradasa, Sandali	10/22
Jones, Weinberger, Emily	10/24
Ambrose, Fred	10/25
Ambrose, Debbie	10/29

#### October Anniversaries

Rider, Don and Joanne	10/10
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### OUR COMMUNITY

#### National Drug Take-Back Day

October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. It will allow you to dispose of your unused or out-of-date drugs safely. Most important, it will prevent them from being misused. The 2018 National Survey

on Drug Use and Health found that 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs and most of them obtained the drugs from family or friends from the home medicine cabinet.

In the Brookeville area, there are 5 locations within 10 miles; all of them start with

1. Leisure World Medstar Pharmacy  
3305 North Leisure World
2. CVS Pharmacy's  
3110 Olney Sandy  
Spring RD, Onley  
Ashton RD, Ashton  
13729 Connecticut,  
Wheaton

If none of these helps you find a location near you, go to  
<https://takebackday.dea.gov>.=7

**The Lord's Table:** The Lord's Table has moved from St. Martin's Catholic Church to Epworth UMC, 9008 Rosemont Dr., Gaithersburg. Volunteers from Salem serve the first Friday of the month from 1:00 – 5:00 P.M. **Please mark your calendar. Please make sure they are still serving during these dark days.**

**Eyeglass Collection:** Salem still collects used eyeglasses, cell phones, and hearing aids to donate to Lions Club. Please leave your donation in the designated box in Salem Community Hall.

#### GROWING IN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

As we are just a few weeks into Salem's NEW BEGINNING, Rev. Emily and your Publisher decided it would begin a new tradition. Let's do 2-things a little differently; Let's drop the letter in Newsletter and call our newspaper THE

SALEM NEWS. Second, let's close our Salem News with a prayer.

The idea is this month, I will choose the prayer, and after that, let's hear from you, the congregation. You may use your own words or get them from another source; HOWEVER, if you get them from another, PLEASE include the name and publication where you got it. Your prayers do not have to be long; short is OK too.

Do you have a personal prayer you want to share with others? Salem has an open Prayer Partners group that will take your prayers to God together. Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Previously, we would pray over the list of names on our bulletin insert. However, we also have a confidential list for prayer partners only that we pray over. If you have a confidential prayer, let us know, and we will keep it private. Please contact Rev. Emily, JoAnn Keister, or me (Velma Durant) to add your prayer to the list. Information we need:

- The person's name
- The problem to be prayed about
- Your name as request giver (for our follow-up)

Everyone on the prayer list is prayed for every single day.

#### PRAYER SHAWLS

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

shawl. Prayer shawls are located above the coat rack in the church hallway.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Emily is available from 9 am-9 pm Sunday through Thursday, excepting emergencies, of course. She takes Sabbath on Friday and takes Saturday off when possible. Monday evening is family time (however, this always changes with Chris's school schedule!).

Church telephone: 301-774-7772

Reverend Emily's e-mail:

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

Salem Newsletter:

velma\_durant@yahoo.com

Church Website:

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

Follow us on Facebook: "Salem UMC Brookeville."

Follow us on Twitter: Salem UMC(@SalemBrookeville)

### PRAYER

It's me again, Lord. I want to thank you for taking care of Salem in this awful virus situation. Our members have been safe, and we have been able to worship you together even when we were apart! We are so thankful we are safe in your loving arms.

This year we have had some of our members or family members join you in your home; thank you for meeting them and welcoming them home; also, thank you for giving family and friends the comfort and peace that only you can provide.

Now, Lord, here comes the "I WANT PART!" It's not a selfish thing on our part. I would like you to look down on our prayer list. There are Family, friends, and neighbors with lots of problems, getting older (it's very hard on some of us),

Addictions, Cancer, and other things that affect our productivity for your service. Be with our nation in the upcoming election, let us forget this party system thing, and after many conversations with you, let us vote for the person YOU have chosen. Help us to draw closer to you and seek YOUR will for our lives so we can be your voice and do your actions down here. We love you, and thank you for being OUR awesome God.

#### SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

The Salem Newsletter is assembled and published by Velma Durant, and edited by Rev. Emily Hart

# BLESSING OUR ANIMALS

**Sunday October 11th 2pm**  
**[rain date-October 18th]**



## WHERE?

Salem United Methodist Church  
12 High Street Brookeville, MD

## BRING

- Your animal or a picture (all animals should be safely leashed and/or contained)
- Treats (if desired!)
- Poop scooping supplies
- Outdoor chair
- Mask

## EXPECT

- A short, outdoor animal friendly worship service
- A blessing for your animal
- A time of memorial for animals who have died-feel free to bring a picture for the memorial display
- Children playing on the playground
- Friendly people to greet you
- Smart COVID precautions

Find our Facebook event or website  
[www.salemunitedmethodist.org](http://www.salemunitedmethodist.org)  
or call Rev. Emily at 443-846-5110