

Salem United Methodist Church

January 2021 Newsletter

«187 Years and Still Loving, Serving and Celebrating»



SALEM Methodist Protestant Church 1833



SALEM United Methodist Church 2021

12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833

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

Salem Welcomes Quinn Anderson

By: Suzanne Friis



On Thursday, December 10, 2020, Quinn Anderson was welcomed into membership at Salem UMC. Quinn, and his wife Terry, are longtime residents of Brookeville and have two grown sons who work with the family's financial planning business. Garrett lives in "downtown" Brookeville with his wife Beth and daughter Hannah, and Evan resides in Colorado. Quinn was mentored through the membership class by his longtime friend Don Rider. Quinn is looking forward to participating at Salem in meaningful ways and views the church as a vehicle for doing good in the community.

Pictured, son Garrett and granddaughter Hannah assist in renewing baptismal vows as part of the membership service.

TO THE SALEM UM CHURCH COMMUNITY



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

Wow, 2021. It's hard to believe. 2020 has been such an intense and full year for me personally, our church, our country, and our world. I'm sure we'll all start reading similar "yay, it's 2021" messages from everyone from the Bishop to our local veterinarian. We're all that happy to be onto a new year.

So, what will this year be for you? Will it be a "new you"? Perhaps just a "back to basics" year. Maybe this is the year you're working on your bucket list.

One of the glorious things about the new year is the chance to start again. I tend to buck convention and create new goals or "resolutions" at any time I want during the year, but there is something nice about a fresh, clean calendar and knowing it's a good time for a reset.

Our God is a bit different. God doesn't hit reset often—we all remember how well it went with the flood (yikes!). Instead, God chooses to transform chaos into something new. God takes the insanity and the mismatched pieces and creates with them.

New beginnings with God aren't quite like a fresh slate. It's more like old clay that's been re-hydrated and re-formed into an unexpected shape. Or perhaps fabric scraps that are turned into a crazy quilt, but into something totally different, new, and wonderful.

In January, we'll dig into Beginnings. What does God do to begin? What does God use? So, let's begin from the middle, from the midst of our chaos, and let's see what God will do.

FROM THE CONGREGATION

My dear friends, I am rerunning Charlyne Lewis' article from 2011. We have not heard from Charlyne recently and would love to hear from her! Here are her words of wisdom in her honor, as good for 2021 as they were for 2011.



*Sharing My
Thoughts*

From Charlyne Lewis

This brand-new year of 2021 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 very 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.

Charlyne

Matthew 2:7-12

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Submitted by: Buck Bartley
December 18, 2020

Beloved:

Mary probably didn't hear the choir of angels. On that first Christmas night in Bethlehem, it would have been chilly, there would have been pain mixed with tears after giving birth, alone in a strange place, as a teenage girl with a man she barely knew, separated from all she loved -- she probably didn't hear the angels.

Joseph probably didn't see the star that night. Traveling on foot for days with a young woman who carried a child that was not his own, kneeling next to her while the barn animals looked on and the baby was born, envisioning all that might lie ahead for a simple carpenter -- he probably didn't see the star.

But there were angels, and there was a star that lit up the sky. Our story tells us so. This year, we

are living through a Christmas like no other. It is probably closer to the original Christmas than those of past years. We might not be hearing choirs of angels or seeing the star of Bethlehem. But the story is still real -- very real. And, the story is still God-anointed. Amid the pain, uncertainty, loneliness, and unfamiliar things that mark this Christmas amid twin pandemics, the miracle still unfolds.

That is one of the joys of Christmas -- each year, the Christ child is born anew into our lives and into the world. We celebrate an ancient story, but as people of faith, we also rejoice in the coming of a savior, the Prince of Peace, who comes bearing the gift of unconditional love. It is both ancient and new every year.

This Christmas, I pray that the spirit of Emmanuel -- God with us -- fills your life. I pray that God will once again break into history and hold you and all those you love in God's embrace. I pray you will share God's love with those around you in acts of mercy and justice. And, I pray that you will hear -- however distant -- the singing of the angels' alleluias and experience the light of God's glory illuminating the year ahead.

This year has taken so much from us, but it has also gifted us with blessings on-line, as well. One of those blessings is unfolding in the night sky. The Star of Bethlehem or Christmas Star, which astronomers theorize may have been caused by the great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn passing one another very closely, will be visible on December 21. This magnificent celestial wonder has not been visible in this way since March 4, 1226 and will not likely occur again before 2239. I hope you will take the time to look up and receive this blessing. I pray we will all quiet ourselves and receive the wonder of the light.

May your Christmas celebration reflect the realities of these uncertain times. But more importantly, may it also be filled with the wonder of a star that caused the angels to sing. I wish each of you love.

Grace and Blessings, the Lord is come!

*From Bishop LaTrelle Easterling
Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church*

**BLUE CHRISTMAS
OR**

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



As with most of our services in 2020, our Blue Christmas was broadcast on-line at SalemUMC.live, YouTube, and Facebook (isn't Technology wonderful!). We are not allowed to meet in our building, but we can still worship our God together. On Sunday mornings we gather on Zoom and can still communicate before and after service. If we don't prefer Zoom, we can use SalemUMC.live on our own instead! Thank God for once again providing worship time together.

Rev. Emily chose 4-candles. I am covering her comments below:

1. Preparation – Clear our minds, our thoughts, and our hearts to receive God and what He has for us, His message to "me"; that message could be different than anyone else's – listen for it.
2. Proclamation - This part of the message is where the candles are lit:
 - a. Candle #1 - We light this candle for the loved ones we have lost this year. Salem has lost quite a few, I can count 10; there could be more; enough to send us in dark despair – if we let it.
 - b. Candle #2 – For the results of COVID-19, Loss of Jobs, in some cases loss of homes, actually this category could be endless, so many things to lead us into darkness.
 - c. Candle #3 – We have lost our direction; we ask ourselves, "Where do we go from here?" or "What next?" Rev. Emily chose Isaiah 40:1; 28-31. Please take a moment to read this scripture; it is full of what candle 4 is all about!

d. Candle #4 – Is a very important candle as it stands for HOPE! As long as we have hope we can make it through any crises. In one of Jesus Parables, He likened us to a candle put under a bushel where it gave no light. We are that candle; we must let our light shine to guide the world to Christ. When we are at our lowest, we can, with Gods help, keep our candle trimmed and burning bright

No one said it would be easy, and this is where our Brothers and Sisters in Christ come into play, an encouraging word, a prayer (or two) a smile, a plate of cookies – yes, all this will bring the HOPE and help trim that candle, so it burns bright again. BLUE CHRISTMAS? Yes, but it doesn't have to put out our light.



Matthew 5:16- In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (NIV)

A Blessed New Year to You and Your Family!

THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE



Once again, COVID-19 steps in to upset our worship time but, technology once again comes to the rescue. At 5:00 P.M., we gathered around our computers and watched, singing along to the old faithful songs and hymns - the Christmas Carols. Sometimes you just quit singing and listened as Dr. Harry, with his beautiful voice, sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

The YouTube description of the service captures it well, so thanks to YouTube and SalemUMC.live (AND Rev. Emily), I will use those words.



"Merry Christmas! Welcome to our family Christmas Eve service! Tonight, we have some very cool special things featured in our service. First, we have Robbie. Robbie was a huge help with dancing and singing. We also had help from his Elmo, and of course, Mr. Teddy and Mr. Misha. Between the four of them, we learned a lot about Jesus birth.



We also have a special story shared from Catonsville UMC, (about the Christmas Promise – the coming King). If you want a copy, here are the details for finding one! Amazon has copies

available. 'The Christmas Promise; By Alison Mitchell and Catalina Echeverri; The Good Book Company 2014'

Thank you, Catonsville UMC, for sharing this awesome story with us!"

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL CANDLE LIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

CHRIST OUR BREAKTHROUGH

As you are all very aware, in-house worship is not possible. With the knowledge God has given humans, we were able to use HIS breakthrough to worship TOGETHER through our computers; the joy we share knowing at any time, day or night, when we need to hear our favorite sermon, it's there! Rev. Emily provided us with much "food for thought" in our "traditional" Candlelight service. I will confess once I finally found it, I watched it three times before I went to bed, and again Christmas morning before I sat down to write this article.

Using the Advent Wreath, Rev. Emily walked us through (as we call it) the Christmas Story. (Think about that – the Christmas story - I will leave that thought with you because it's more than a babe in a manger, shepherds being sung to by a choir of angels, or wise men traveling thousands of miles to follow a star, we each have our own [Christ[mas] story.)

Our first candle on the wreath is HOPE! Hope we find the perfect job; hope I would pass that math exam; hope I get that new computer for Christmas. Hope! Where would we be without HOPE! The scripture reading was Luke 2:1-7. This scripture tells us about Jesus' birth and the shepherds coming to the manger. OK, let's put this in the 21st century. Women, you find you are close to your due date, and you have to make an emergency trip. You and your husband are on a dark lonely road, Say Death Valley – nothing around, and you go into labor. Men, you will have to deliver this child – shall I guess you are feeling a bit of panic? So, birth takes place successfully, but you didn't bring anything for the baby! You search the trunk of the car, find rags you keep for emergencies, wrap the baby in them, and make a

bed for him in an old laundry basket you keep in the car to store things. *Is this hope?*

You haven't had time to settle down when all at once cars start appearing, and men start piling out of their cars, shouting, "where's the baby!" You panic! What are you talking about? you ask. When they tell you angels appeared to them, you think they are crazy. Stop reading a moment and think about a 21st century version of the conception and birth of Jesus. How would your story read? *Oh, I could write a 21st century version of "The Christmas story", but not now! I'll let you finish this part of the story and bring out your HOPE.* And Dr. Harry singing "Away in a Manger" was the perfect song!

The second Advent candle is PEACE. The scripture is Luke 2:8-12. PEACE? What is peace? What does that word mean to you? No more war, our sons and daughters coming home from faraway countries. OK, I just received a message from far away; I am trying to find a way to describe peace. I stop, open the message, and found no words, just a picture of a metal snowflake hanging on a Christmas tree. "Thank you, Lord! Peace is sitting in the window watching snow fall, no noise to distract you, nothing between you and God as you watch the gift God has given you, the beautiful SNOW! You remember the scripture where He promised He would wash us whiter than snow, and you find that PERFECT peace!

Our third Advent candle is LOVE. Oh, we know that word-red hearts, candy and roses, engagement rings, and marriage vows, holding your baby for the first time. I could go on and on... you get the picture! "For God so LOVED the world that HE GAVE his only begotten son!" Would you? Don't even try to answer that, not even to yourself. God puts people in our lives for a time or a reason; some become good friends or even your mate, some are thorns in our side! However, OUR JOB is to love them, really love them. You may get the "being used" feeling – believe me – you are! Being used to bring the love OR RECEIVING the love they/you so desperately need.

The last of the candles is JOY. JOY! The best way for me to explain Joy is in song. Read these

words from "He Touched Me" ("Shackled by a heavy burden"); by Bill and Gloria Gaither *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 367

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Since I met this blessed Savior,
Since He cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise Him,
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole."

Now in these 4-candles where do you see God's breakthrough? It's fun to try to figure out how to solve other people's problems and wish you had the money to help everyone in need, but have you looked in the mirror recently and asked yourself, "where and when has God given me a breakthrough?"

I've written enough; God says, "wrap it up," so, wrap it up I will with these words. Think about the times you were at a breaking point, and all at once, the answer came; or something happened unexpectedly – not by chance? Rev. Emily said, "write it down." Velma says, "Got a problem? Write God a letter, tell him all about it, how you feel, and ask for His help and Guidance. The answer might not come in tomorrow's mail, but it will come."

METHODISM: DID YOU KNOW...

Recently, Suzanne sent me some very interesting facts about the Methodist Church if I printed them all it would take up most of the newsletter; so, I have decided to print them all over a period of months. Enjoy as we learn

something maybe we didn't know before about John Wesley and Methodism.

John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts.

Wesley was deeply convicted that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled *Primitive Physick*. Many of Wesley's tips on healthy living remain widely accepted, including, "drink lots of water" and "eat your biggest meal in the morning."

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 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
Hart, Rev. Emily	01/21
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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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.

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY..."

Olney Help, our local food pantry, is always in need of help itself. It relies on your gifts of foods, grocery store gift cards, or checks. With the effects on the economy because of the pandemic, they "run out" of supplies quickly. Their address is:
Olney Help; P.O. Box 430; Olney, MD 20830-0430; Telephone # 301-774-4334

CONTACT INFORMATION

Salem News January 2021

Reverend Emily Hart takes a Sabbath Day on Friday for rest and renewal! She also honors time with her husband and dogs in the evening and by taking off Federal holidays. Please contact her on Fridays, holidays and after 8:30 P.M. only in an emergency (or a scheduled meeting!).

Church telephone: 301-774-7772

Reverend Emily's e-mail:

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

Reverend Emily's cell phone: **443-846-5110**

Church Website:

www.salemunitedmethodist.org

Newsletter

velma_durant@yahoo.com (There is an underscore between my first and last name)
my cell phone **240-328-4810**



1st photo: Brianna Groves, Matthew Groves, Aiden Thompson, Lexie Groves, Timmy Benson,



?, Jacob Weinberger, Dominic Terry, Savannah, Tommy Meisner, Evie Meisner, Sarah Huber, ?, Amy Roberts, Steve Currier, Tiffany Huber at podium, I think

Thank you, Carole Roberts for a job well done.

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!

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.*

HOW ABOUT A GLANCE OF CHRISTMAS PAST?

Can you name them? I can't! If so, send me the names and I will publish them in January.

As promised, here are the pictures from last month. I received one reply.

9 Spiritual Beauty Tips.

1. Cleanse your heart daily with repentance.
2. Bath thoroughly in the word of GOD.
3. Apply forgiveness to keep wrinkles away.
4. Stay moisturized with prayer.
5. Sprinkle yourself with love; it's the sweetest perfume.
6. Dash plenty of patience.
7. Remember worry and anger causes disease.
8. Faith is the key to ageing gracefully.
9. Wear a smile to give your face a perfect glow.

You are VERY Special

Credit: FACEBOOK for the below reminder

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