



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER April 2023

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Have you been praying for our world? For our community? For our church?

I have.

Y'all.

It's rough out there! Have you noticed? From politics to violence to personal opinions and challenges in the church it feels like things are absolutely falling apart. We're praying for a solution... but I bet some of you have been praying for a solution longer than I've been alive!

Every Easter we celebrate Christ's resurrection and triumph over death. We gladly sing, "Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting?" and yet we still witness deaths both physical and metaphorical.

Where, O Christ, is your victory?

That's what Easter is going to be all about. What does Christ's victory look like now? How can we live into it? How can we live into it if the world isn't cooperating?

Let me tell you—Christ has won the victory and *we just don't recognize him*. We see the problems, but we don't see what we can do or who will lead us to solutions. And we're not alone in that. Again, and again Jesus spells it out.

- In John 20, the disciples can't believe until they see the nail holes in Christ's hands.
- In Luke 24, the disciples walk with Jesus *for an entire day* without recognizing him.
- In John 10, Jesus tells us explicitly that he is the Shepherd and the gate—he will protect us.
- In John 14, the disciples are confused about how to follow Christ.
- In John 14(:15-21), Jesus promises to leave us with a guide because *we can't see on our own*.
- In John 17, Jesus actually prays for the disciples: for their unity and understanding.
- In Acts 2, the Spirit falls on the disciples and they begin to shout the victory we've been struggling towards (but the rest of the world thinks they're drunk).

We are certainly not alone in not recognizing how Jesus shows up in our lives. This Easter, we'll use the Serenity Prayer to center and encourage us. If you don't have it memorized, this would be a great season to do that!

*God, grant me the **serenity** to accept the things I cannot change,
the **courage** to change the things I can,
and the **wisdom** to know the difference.*

My friends, the world may be falling apart, but God is not overwhelmed. God *is* and **was** and **will be**. God may call us through the painful work of change, but God does not give up in despair. Let's learn to **seek Christ when things fall apart**.

Blessings,
Rev. Emily Hart

LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

At March's meeting a change in leadership team personnel assignments occurred as Debbie Ambrose stepped back from the Leadership Chair for many reasons, and Mark Aebig was asked and agreed to step in as Leadership Chair pro tem. Pastor Emily may be looking to fill vacancies on the team.

At the end of the first quarter of CY2023 Salem's operating budget is strong and holding going into the second quarter of this year.

Salem is still seeking a Music Director to fill the position recently vacated by Alan Naylor's departure. The Team will have to advertise the job in a wider context and pray that an interest is taken. If you know someone who may be interested please contact Pastor Emily emily@salemunitedmethodist.org.

Current and past (archived) service contracts will now be housed in the Policies and Procedures binder for quick access.

The team wants to move forward with attracting new community interest by hosting Playground Day, Church picnic at Sundown Rd local Park, Wednesday Night Dinner and reviving Something's Happening at Salem Church. We have a group of local youth volunteering to brighten the playground equipment with a good scraping off the old and application of new paint. Work groups will need to be formed once dates are set by the Team. We hope to see lots of volunteers for these events.

The Mongol Erdem School has requested to use Salem's Sanctuary for Sunday afternoon

services. This is a complex issue with contractual and other factors that require several levels of review and authorization. Pastor Emily is working with the District on if and how to accommodate this request.

If you have thoughts or ideas concerning the above, please contact Mark Aebig (aebigm@gmail.com).

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SEASON



*Happy
Easter*

April 2 Palm Sunday
Blessed are the Rejected
Matthew 21: 1-11

April 7 Good Friday at Salem anytime between 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross. Enter from the Red (front) door.

April 9 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 A.M. in the cemetery, park in the church parking lot and bring a chair

April 9 Easter Service 9:30 A.M. indoors
Blessed Are Those Who Hope Still
John 20: 1-18
Remember your Easter hats!

April 16
Our Scarred Lord Gives Us What We Need
To Believe
John 20: 19-31

April 23
Our Knowable Jesus Journeys with Us
Luke 24: 13-35

April 30
Our Good Shepherd Gives Us Abundant Life
John 10:1-10

ALAN'S FAREWELL

It is with sadness we had to say farewell to our Music Director Alan Naylor. He is an amazingly talented individual, and we have been blessed to have him for worship serving our members. We are sure he'll have much success as he moves into the next phase of his career. Thanks to Churchill who arranged a wonderful potluck so we could all say goodbye.





Alan's favorite hymn #189

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man, Glory and
honor,
Praise, adoration, now and forevermore be
thine.

NEW MEMBER VOWS



We celebrated three new members: Nancy Nullmeyer, Janice Vieira, and Mollie Haines who took their Membership Vows in March. They took the Connections class led by Rev.

Emily to learn about the Methodist vows and discipleship.

WELCOMING SERIES

Have you ever wondered how we welcome guests to our church? In February, during Grace in Action, Rev. Emily presented a talk on welcoming guests into church, from the neighborhood to further out in the community.

The second presentation in the series was by a member of the SMYAL organization (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders), a group that meets the needs of LGBTQ youth in the Washington, D.C area. He, Connor, a transgender man, gave an informative talk on LGBTQ 101 – terminology and pronouns. He described various terms, such as gender identity, gender spectrum, transgender, allyship, and transitioning. For example, transitioning can be social, medical, or legal.

We spent a lot of time on pronouns. When a guest walks through the church doors, one of us could walk up to the person and say, "Hi, I'm Emily and my pronouns are she/her." This informs the person that no matter how Emily looks or dresses, she prefers to be called a she. More importantly, that opens up the avenue for the guest to say, "Hi, I'm Charley, and my pronouns are they/them." This is a friendly way of indicating how they want to be addressed.

Of course, we at Salem, had many, many questions for Connor (especially with the they/them pronoun), and he made a noble attempt to answer them all. But there were so many questions, Rev. Emily is thinking of inviting him back. We hope you will attend the next session of LGBTQ literacy.

LENTEN STUDY CONTINUES

Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom for our continuing Lent study:

Bless the Lives We Actually Have book and
Bless this Lent daily devotion

6:30-7:00 P.M. gather
7:00-8:00 study

The zoom link for all the Wednesday night studies is
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVWk83eGljeGRLL3pNQOT09#success>

April 5 will be the last class.

The *Bless the Lives We Actually Have* book by Kate Bowler is available on Amazon:
<https://www.amazon.com/Lives-Actually-Have-Blessings-Imperfect/>

You are invited to download the daily devotion booklet "Bless the Lent We Actually Have":
https://salemunitedmethodist.org/225_Bless_the_Lent_We_Actually_Have.pdf

PRAYER CLASS

Would you like to deepen your prayer life? Do you ever feel like you just don't know how to get started? Join us on the last Wednesday of every month on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather
7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

There will be a total of five classes, the last two being on April 26 and May 31. Email Barbara Teague to sign up:
Barbara1.teague@outlook.com.

MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

The Lord's Table serves hot meals to those in need. All members of Salem UMC are invited to help them on the first Friday of every month from 1-5 P.M. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. Additional volunteers are always needed. The next invitation is for Friday, April 7.

Olney HELP Food Needs

Thank you, Nancy Cox, for hauling our donated food to Olney HELP and for working there each week. Here is a new way to find out what nonperishable food items the pantry needs. Control+click
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24NT3T45084TG?ref=wl_share

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone in need, please call their Helpline at 301-774-4334.

If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so at: www.olneyhelp.org.

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls are available free for anyone who is ill or needs comfort. Feel free to pick one up near the coat rack.

UPCOMING SPRING STUDY

A new Zoom study will begin April 12, go through May 24 (except for the April 26 prayer class), and take a break for summer. It will conclude in the fall.

The book is *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren.

It's available from Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Do-Stay-Christian>

The class will be on zoom (same link as Wednesday Bible study).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94812192432?pwd=T256VnlzQ1VwVk83eGljeGRLL3pNQ09#success>

6:30-7:00 P.M. Gather
7:00-8:00 P.M. Class

NEWSLETTER SURVEY – IMPORTANT- WE NEED YOU!

Salem has been sending a newsletter for over 30 years! From the typewriter days until now with word processors, things have certainly changed! We are looking at the purpose of our newsletter. We would love hearing from you about how the newsletter is (or is not!) serving our community and needs.

We'd like responses by April 16, 2023 so we can tell you about our findings!

Please point your camera on the QR code below and follow directions to a survey form to share your feedback with us. (Or you can click on a link in our weekly email or on our website.) The survey should take less than 10 minutes.



LUNCH FOR SIX

Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? The first group of six had a wonderful time one weekday at Panera. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary for the next group.

SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

We would like to expand the number of people who will read scripture during the worship service. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Emily.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS

A volunteer is needed to send email announcements. This would include sending the weekly "What's Happening at Salem" email and some others from time to time. This is approximately a two hour a week commitment – about one hour composing the emails and attending the Communications Team meeting via Zoom each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M. If interested, please contact Rev. Emily.

READING ROOM

The Reading Room shelves are full! We cannot accept any more books. The good news is there are well over 400 books and DVDs. Take the time to wander up there, browse and take advantage of this wonderful resource. The Reading Room is open on Sundays from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Thanks to everyone who has donated books.

Additional books we have acquired:

- 1) *He Did This Just For You* by Max Lucado
- 2) *In the Grip of Grace* by Max Lucado
- 3) *I've Got to Talk to Somebody, God* by Marjorie Holmes
- 4) *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- 5) *The Martian* by Andy Weir
- 6) *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

GIVING

Offerings can be sent to:
Salem United Methodist Church
12 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833

If you would like to give by app, you can download the "Vanco Mobile" app and search for Salem United Methodist Church or by its invite code R8A63K.

If you haven't been able to access Vanco and would like to give electronically, we now have a PayPal option. You can use this link: <https://paypal.me/SalemBrookeville>

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



If your name should be on the list, please contact the church. We don't want to leave you out. Thank you!

April Birthdays

JoAnn Keister	04/03
Carole Roberts	04/04
Patti Rhinehart	04/10
Phillip Weinberger	04/14
Don Rider	04/17
Anne Ennes	04/18
Katelyn Currier	04/29

April Anniversaries

Myron and Kim Shear	04/04
Al and Judy Ercolani	04/13
Bill and Bobbie Lavelly	04/16

COVID

COVID POLICY: Confused? Our policy is currently that masks are strongly recommended.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Emily Hart takes Sabbath days on Saturdays and Mondays for rest and renewal. She also honors time with her husband and dogs in the evening. Please contact her on these days (or after 8:30 P.M. on other days) only in an emergency or a scheduled meeting.

Church Address:

Salem UMC
12 High Street
Brookeville, MD 20833

Church Telephone: (301) 774-7772

Church Website:

www.salemunitedmethodist.org

Rev. Emily's cell phone: (443) 846-5110

Rev. Emily's e-mail:

pastor@salemunitedmethodist.org

Music Director:

music@salemunitedmethodist.org

Building Use:

building@salemunitedmethodist.org

Salem Cemetery:

salem12cemetery@yahoo.com

The newsletter is prepared by the Salem United Methodist Church Communications Team. Contact any team member with questions or comments. Thanks!

Rev. Emily Hart

Joan Aebig

Carole Roberts

Mollie Haines

Nancy Joie Wilkie
