



SALEM BROOKEVILLE

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER August 2023

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR



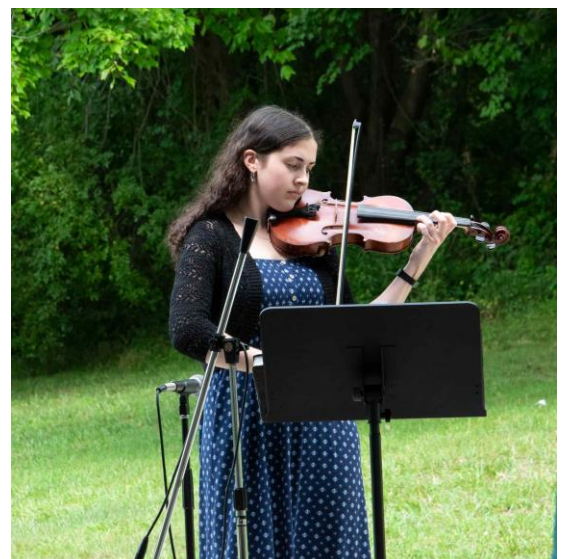
I'm at the beach!

Wish you were here.
(Ad lib by Joan)



MEET OUR MUSICIAN

Thank you, Julia Plumer for, being our musician for the entire summer! Julia, a college student at UMBC, is studying Social Work and Violin. We really do appreciate her enhancing our worship services with her grace and talents. Thank you so much!



AUGUST SERMON SERIES

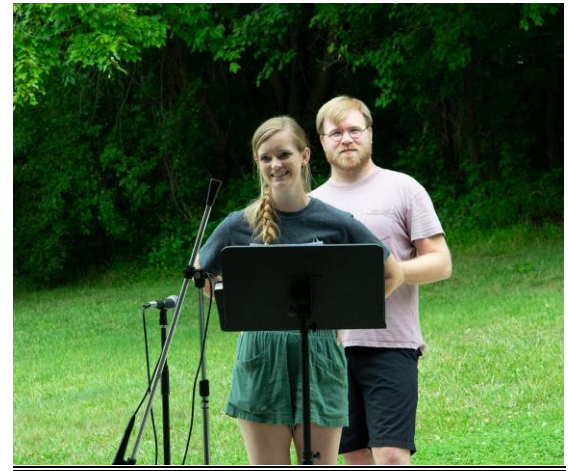
Scripture readings: To be determined

WORSHIPPING OUTDOORS

July 2 was a special worship service in that it was a joint service with St. Paul UMC, Laytonsville. It was held at Sundown Park, shaded by a shelter. Pastor Will accompanied us on his guitar as we sang hymns, and Julia swept us away with her violin playing.

Rev. Emily gave the sermon. If you missed it, her sermon can still be found at [2023-7-2 sermon "Breathe" Rev. Emily Hart](#). Genesis 1: 1-2; Romans 8: 26-27. Breath = Wind = Spirit.

After the service, a pot luck lunch with grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers was enjoyed by all.



MISSIONS

The Lord's Table

There will be no Lord's Table this summer, but will resume in the fall. The location is Epworth United Methodist Church, 9008 Rosemont Drive, Gaithersburg, MD. See Churchill Groves for information.

Olney HELP Food Needs

(Updated 7/7/23) You may leave non-perishable food donations in the box in the Meeting Room behind the Sanctuary or in the marked box in the Community Hall. Food items needed most at this time: adult cereal, pancake syrup, canned peas (low salt), boxed white spaghetti, spaghetti sauce – plain kind, canned meats, such as tuna, chicken, turkey, corned beef, spam, salmon, Vienna sausage, etc.; sloppy joe sauce, canned chili, canned pasta, boxed spaghetti and pasta, 1 lb. bags of rice and rice sides (Knorr/Roni), pasta sides (Knorr/Roni), baked beans, canned green beans, corn,

Canned fruit in juice, Jelly - all sizes, all flavors, condiments - BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing; instant mashed potatoes - pouches and boxes, juice boxes - 100% juice, shelf stable bottled juice. 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.

PRAYER CORNER

What Do You Seek?

By Barbara Teague

This month several hard questions from God rooted in my heart like an underground plant, a potato or beet bearing fruit from deep within. The first question was, "When you pray, what are you seeking?" It seemed like a silly question to me. Immediately my mind concluded that I was as always seeking communion with God. Seemed like a simple answer. But then God presented a second question to me. "Do you seek me for my mercies, or do you seek me for your love

of me?" Well, that changed my answer from simple to complex.

While weathering this life of joy and suffering I've always been consoled and comforted by prayer. I've celebrated my life in Christ through prayer because it brought me so much understanding of the character of God but best of all it exposed my own character good and not so good. Just that confession, knowing I consider God's revealing my character as the "best" part of prayer, answers the second question. In truth, what I seek is God's mercies, most of the time.

My first defense was, 'Of course I seek God's mercies. Why wouldn't I? I'm human and stuck having to live in this creepy, fallen world and God is my way out of it. There in my heart God revealed to me that I was seeking a way out of this difficult world, perhaps a way out of the life God has fashioned for me.

I had frequently prayed, "Help me Lord, to live in better circumstances, better health issues, different friends, better family relationships, different finances, different job, kinder spouse, better career, different kids, talents, desires, just a better life, not this broken one." In the end, God was asking me not so much about what was I seeking but rather he asked, "What makes you content? What makes you grateful? Can you be content with just me?" His question brought tears that burned and blurred my eyes.

To be honest, at that point, I was grateful that God blessed me with his counsel. The hidden truth was that communion with God was secondary in my compulsion to pray but I didn't know it until I listened to his voice. Now, I have the information. Now I can pray for my heart. I have a direction for where I'm going in my prayers and being content with

just God is the goal even though I struggle with the idea of it.

Isaiah 28:23 says, “**Give ear and hear my voice!**” God’s speaking to me when I deliberately listen to Him, gives me hope, comfort and a great deal of information about myself but most importantly or best of all, information about Himself.

Genesis 12:1 says, “The Lord **had said** to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 31:11 says, “The angel of God **said to me** in the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here I am.’”

1 Kings 19:11 says, “The **Lord said**, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’”

Job 35:15 says, “But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; **he speaks to them** in their affliction.

Psalms 85:8 says, “**I will listen to what God the Lord says**; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants.”

Psalms 143:8 says, “Let the morning **bring me word** of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. **Show me the way** I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

Isaiah 30:21 says, “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, **your ears will hear a voice** behind you, saying, ‘this is the way; walk in it.’”

Isaiah 50:4 says, “The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens

me morning by morning, **wakens my ear to listen** like one being instructed.”

Isaiah 55:2 says, “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? **Listen, listen to me**, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the riches of fare.”

Ezekiel 3:10 says, “And **he said to me**, ‘Son of man, **listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you.**”

The first part of Joel 2:28 says, “And afterwards, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people.**” (That means we no longer need prophets or priests to hear the voice of God.)

Habakkuk 2:1 says, “I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts, I will look **to see what he will speak** to me.”

Matthew 1:20 says, “But after he had considered this, an angel of **the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said**, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”

Matthew 2:19 says, “After Herod died, an **angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said**, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.’”

Matthew 17:5 says, “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. **Listen to him.**”

Luke 1:13 says, “But the angel **said to him**: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard.** Your wife Elizabeth will

bear you a son, and you are to call him John.”

John 10:2-5 says, “The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep **listen to his voice. He calls** his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him **because they know his voice.**”

John 10:25-28 says, “Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.**”

Acts 2:16-18 says, “No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.’**”

Acts 10:11-16 says, “He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. **Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’** ‘Surely not, Lord!’ Peter replied, ‘I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.’ The voice spoke to him a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’”

Hebrews 14:7-8 says, “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**”

Revelation 2:11 says, “Whoever has ears let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

From Genesis to Revelation God’s systematic plan speaks to us, telling us that God has been calling for us to listen to him and allow him to guide us.

So, regardless of whether we hear from the Lord through that still small voice, see him in a dream, have a visit from an angel, see a vision, hear a bright cloud of witnesses, meditate on scriptures, receive a prophesy, observe God in your circumstances or however he reaches us, he has made it clear throughout all of scripture that he will go to great lengths to communicate with us and has given us the means by which we can do that. That means is prayer in all its forms.

We are in a continual conversation with God. But too often we don’t believe God is present or we don’t believe that he speaks with us. But he is and he does. He continually covers us and with a cloud of love and says to us, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

**STUDENTS EARN SERVICE HOURS
WHILE THEY HELP THE COMMUNITY
AND SALEM UMC**

The Maryland State Board of Education requires every public high school student to complete at least 75 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours to graduate from high school. They can start earning their SSL hours the summer after graduating from 5th grade and continue through middle and high school.

SSL is an instructional strategy combining community service with curriculum-based learning to teach students what it means to be an active and engaged citizen.

On July 11, students ranging from 8th graders to high school seniors started earning SSL hours through their first project with our church: restoring, planting and bringing our three community gardens back to life. They're working three to four days a week, two hours a day and when this project is completed they'll donate what they've grown to a local food bank. Then, they'll move on to our next project.

Week 1 - Not The Garden of Eden
They worked very hard this week, made new friends and helped each other solve problems. They cleared thick undergrowth, pulled weeds and removed debris from three long-neglected raised-bed gardens. They toured the gardens of one of our local gardeners, tasted different herbs and saw how different things grow. They also learned the difference between good and bad weeds and talked about the importance of root systems for erosion control.



Week 2 - They Make Worker Bees Look Lazy

This week they repaired rotten boards around the gardens, pulled weeds, planted seeds in starter cups, figured out where to place the plants, and connected many hoses together to create a 'monster hose' that reaches from the community hall across the parking lot and down to the garden. By week's end: all beds were mixed with compost, a weed block path was laid, some pumpkin and cucumber sproutings were planted and the new fencing was up. Phew!



LUNCH FOR SIX

Would you like to chat with others outside of church while enjoying lunch out? This is the perfect opportunity to meet people who sit outside your pew. Groups have gone to GrillMarx, Mama Lucia, and Olney Grille. Fun!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary for the next group.

Good reasons to go out to lunch:

**You might smile the rest of the day.
You might make a new friend.
You may see someone sitting in a
different pew, waving 'Hi' to you.**

SOCIAL HOUR

Also remember to sign up to bring snacks to the Community Hall so Social Hour can continue. This is another great way to encourage fellowship following the Worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board down the hall from the sanctuary.

This doesn't have to be fancy. Rev. Emily likes brownies, but a dozen donuts is good, too.

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.

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



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

August Birthdays

Kim Shear	08/08
Halsey Smith	08/16
Mark Aebig	08/24
Cooper Weinberger	08/29

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:

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

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