Salem United Methodist Church

November 8, 2026 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107:1-3)
"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south." We give thanks for the steadfast love of God and offer our worship with thanksgiving.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **O God, you are the source of life and the giver of all that makes life good. We offer our thanks and praise to you. We confess that we have often taken your gifts for granted, and we fail to live our thankfulness. We have neglected to put our gratitude into action. Forgive us, and remind us of your faithful love, grace, and mercy. Teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life. Accept our thanksgiving and increase our joy in praising and serving you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*OPENING MUSIC "O How I Love Jesus" #170

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison): **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:34-40 NRSV
Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE "Grow Our Gratitude: Love"

*DOXOLOGY #2036 TFWS
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (repeat)
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." (repeat)
Give thanks! Give thanks!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **Gracious God, we offer ourselves with our gifts in thanksgiving for all your blessings. We make this offering with grateful and thankful hearts. May our gifts be multiplied in their impact for your honor and glory. In the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, the One who lovingly gave himself for us. Amen.**

*CLOSING MUSIC "This Is My Desire" (see screen)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Irish Blessing
May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
*POSTLUDE

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Live stream notice: We are blessed to be able to live stream and record our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Anyone in the sanctuary during that time may appear on camera as part of the service and consents to filming. Our camera is directed at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stacey.

Welcome to Salem United Methodist Church! Thank you for joining us today in worship.

Our Worship Leaders Today:
Carla Frisch, Liturgist
Katy Stevens, Director of Music
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)
Scott Shelton, Tech Team Producer
Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director

Junior Church begins after the Children's Message (Debbie Mattheu, leader)

This Week (see our website for details: salemunited.org)
Monday, 11/9 7:00 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom only; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408)
Monday, 11/9 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)
Tuesday, 11/10 9:30 a.m. – Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)
Wednesday, 11/11 10:00 a.m. – Morning Bible Study (Conference Room)
Wednesday, 11/12 6:30 p.m. – Vespers (outdoors; weather permitting)

Upcoming (see our website for details: salemunited.org)
Monday, 11/16 – prepaid Christmas Poinsettia orders due (forms in narthex and at salemunited.org)
Sunday, 11/22, both services – Harvest Sunday (please see note below)

Harvest Sunday: For this year's Harvest Sunday on November 22nd, we are collecting donations to support families at Magnolia Elementary School in Joppa. They have a specific need for the following items: Canned goods, tuna and cracker kits, pasta and pasta sauce, boxed meals, cereals, peanut butter and jelly, shelf stable milk and mac and cheese cups. A flyer with the full list of donations can be found on the bulletin boards at the Hall and Awning entrances, in the narthex and chapel or online at salemunited.org. Donations can be left at the top of the awning stairwell for the Harvest Sunday service on November 22. You may contribute financially as well. Please designate your offering "Harvest Sunday" or you may give online.

Salem United Methodist Church
7901 Bradshaw Road, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156
(410) 592-2543 salemunited.org · salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

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Upper Falls, MD

Sunday, November 8, 2026