

Salem United Methodist Church

Epiphany Sunday January 4, 2026

WELCOME

PRELUDER

CALL TO WORSHIP (quotes Isaiah 60:1)

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." We come by the light of Christ to offer our worship and our gifts. All glory, honor, and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ.

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **Everlasting God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ. We are drawn to Christ by your glorious light. We bow in humility and offer our heart's true worship. In your mercy, fill the world with your glory that all might know your saving power. Use us as witnesses to the One who is the bright morning star, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*OPENING MUSIC

"We Three Kings" #254

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE

"The World Welcomes Jesus"

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We believe this is God's table, and all are welcome. We invite you to join us in receiving God's gifts through the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you prefer prepackaged wafer/juice, please ask an usher.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Almighty and all-loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled the world to yourself. Help us now to be reconciled with one another, that again we might dwell in the warmth of your love. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to put aside the cloak of pride and put on Christ, that we might forgive and be forgiven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pp. 15-16)

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"The First Noel" #245

"Silent Night" #239

#95

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **Eternal God, we give you thanks for your gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for feeding us at your holy table. Lead us by the light of your Son as we serve you in the world. Bless this offering of our gifts that they may be used for your glory, and to witness to the salvation Jesus Christ brings. Amen.**

*CLOSING MUSIC

"Joy To The World" #246

*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

Our Unison Prayer of Confession and Communion liturgy are taken from The United Methodist Book of Worship and used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.

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:

Judy Jones, Liturgist	Scott Shelton, Tech Team Producer
Katy Stevens, Director of Music	Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)	

Junior Church begins after the Children's Message.

This Week (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Monday, 1/5 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)
Tuesday, 1/6 9:30 a.m. – Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)

Upcoming

Monday, 1/12 9:00 a.m. Aerobics Winter Session begins (Hall)
Monday, 1/12 7:00 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom only) on Ruth
Tuesday, 1/13 9:30 a.m. – Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)
Wednesday, 1/14 7:00 p.m. – Unified Leadership Board (Salem Room)
Sunday, 1/18 12:00 p.m. – UMCOR kit assembly (Hall; all are invited to participate in this intergenerational event)
Tuesday, 1/20 3:00-10:00 p.m. – Salem UMC Day at Bacco's Italian Restaurant (3459 Merchant Blvd, Abingdon; ½ price appetizers from 3:00-6:00 p.m. - no flyer needed)

Star Sunday Mission Opportunity: Our mission opportunity will extend for the month of January. We invite you to donate new winter hats, gloves, and socks for those in need in our community; all sizes are welcome.

Pastor's Bible Study: Join us Mondays beginning January 12 for a five-week Bible Study on the Book of Ruth. The only book needed is our Bibles. We will meet at 7pm on Zoom. Please contact Pastor Stacey if you are interested.

Soup Sale: This month's soup is Potato Cheddar and will be available for \$12 per quart. Please note this soup does not freeze well. Prepaid orders are due January 12, with pickup being January 18 for 15 minutes after each service. Forms can be found in the narthex or at salemunited.org.



**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
UPPER FALLS, MD**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

Salem United Methodist Church
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