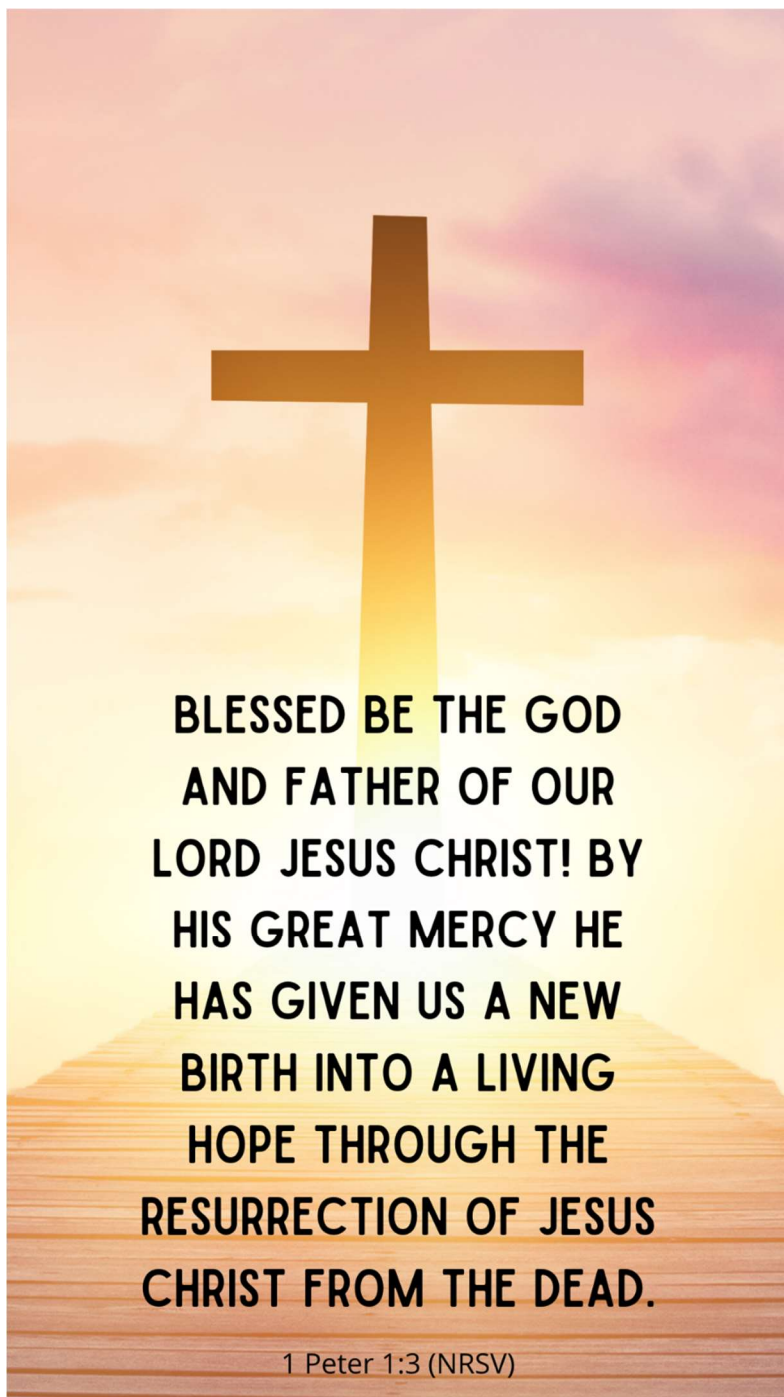




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April 2023



**BLESSED BE THE GOD
AND FATHER OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST! BY
HIS GREAT MERCY HE
HAS GIVEN US A NEW
BIRTH INTO A LIVING
HOPE THROUGH THE
RESURRECTION OF JESUS
CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.**

1 Peter 1:3 (NRSV)

Salem United Methodist Church
PO Box 192, 7901 Bradshaw Rd
Upper Falls, MD 21156
Phone: (410) 592-2543
salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am in Chapel
10:45 am in person and on web
salemunited.org/livestream

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday:
9am – Noon
Other hours by appointment

PASTOR:

Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson
pastor@salemunited.org
Cell: (410) 627-1944

FAMILY MINISTRIES

COORDINATOR:

Judy Jones
judyjones149@gmail.com

**COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL
MEDIA MANAGER :**

Tara Kully
salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Katy Stevens
katysmusicstudio@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.salemunited.org

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM:

[@salemunitedupperfalls](https://www.facebook.com/salemunitedupperfalls)

Pastor's Message

As we move into the month of April, we approach the time we, as followers of Jesus Christ, observe as Holy Week. We shift our gaze to the cross of our Savior's loving sacrifice, and then to the empty grave as we celebrate His resurrection.

I encourage you to participate in our Holy Week worship services, devotional readings, and activities. Please remember our opportunity to give through the special Lenten Offering. One half of this offering will benefit outreach at Manna House; one half will support Salem's general fund.

This Sunday – April 2 – is our celebration of Palm and Passion Sunday. Our 10:45 a.m. worship will conclude with everyone receiving palm branches. Our children and youth will lead us in a Palm Parade from the sanctuary to the Salem Lawn. Our egg hunt will follow with a visit from the Easter Bunny! Please invite our young friends to join us for this special celebration.

On Holy or Maundy Thursday, we will remember our Lord's Last Supper. We will have a simple soup supper in the fellowship hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Our worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You may participate online for worship through our live stream (see our website for details). Our service concludes with the stripping of the altar. If you are worshipping online, please have your Communion elements ready; you may want to have a candle for your worship as well.

On Good Friday – April 7 – we will join with our neighbors in the Community Cross Walk. Please meet at Franklinville Presbyterian Church. The walk begins at 1:00 p.m. Here is a prayer from our Book Of Worship for Good Friday: "Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

We do not gather on Holy Saturday. Here is a prayer for your personal use from our Book Of Worship: "Merciful and everliving God, Creator of heaven and earth, the crucified body of your Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy day. Grant that we may await with him the dawning of the third day and rise in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

During Holy Week, we remember the journey of Jesus' final days: from the entry into Jerusalem with cries of "Hosanna!" to the upper room where Jesus shares in a last meal with his closest disciples. Then to the agony of the Garden of Gethsemane and his arrest. On to Golgotha and his death on the cross. But this is not the end. By the power and grace of God, Jesus is raised from the dead, and we celebrate his Resurrection on Easter Sunday!

Yes, we worship and serve a Risen and Living Savior!

Join with your family in Christ in worship as you are able. Please remember our online options for worship on Sundays, and on Holy Thursday evening.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

With the joy of our living Lord, I pray for you and yours a Blessed and Joyous Easter!

In Christ's love,

Stacey

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Romans 6:5, NRSV

Pastor's Bible Study

A group of us have been meeting on Monday evenings to study Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven by Professor Amy-Jill Levine. We have found our discussion of her study very meaningful. We will finish this book on April 10 and have decided to begin another one of her study's on April 17. This will be a six-week study on this book: Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus. We will study selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. Dr. Levine addresses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions. We meet on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Salem House as well as on Zoom. Please let me know if you would like a study book (cost is \$13) and/or if you would like to participate in this Bible Study session.

Graduate Recognition

During both worship services on Sunday, May 21st we will be recognizing all those who graduated in December 2022 or will be graduating this spring. Please contact the church office if you or a family member have graduated or will be graduating from high school, college, graduate, or trade school so no one will be missed.

Live Stream Notes

We've been 'live' on our website for almost 6 weeks now! Our tech team is still working out glitches and are very appreciative of your patience. If you have been on the live stream and have noticed particular issues, please contact Tara at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com. We've received great feedback about the quality of the worship experience, and are always open to ways to improve our online worship.



Celebrate
EASTER AT SALEM
APRIL 9

✦

6:30AM SERVICE AT SALEM CEMETERY
7:00- 10:00AM BREAKFAST - HALL
8:00AM SERVICE - CHAPEL
10:45AM SERVICE - SANCTUARY WITH
LIVESTREAM AT SALEMUNITED.ORG

New Hope Center Reopens

From Lauren Simpson: This is an exciting time for New Hope Ministries! New Hope is anticipating moving into their new (to them) 70 foot triple wide trailer in late Spring 2023. Once again, they will be serving lunch to the homeless as well as any other neighbors who are in great need. It would be nice to start this outreach ministry once again. I am looking for persons who would be available one day each month to participate in either providing enough food to serve 30-35 people or to provide funding so the kitchen can prepare, deliver, and serve the lunch. At this point, the balance of the shelter fund is \$25.00, which will not feed many people. If you would like to be a part of this heartwarming, much needed ministry, contact Lauren Simpson. If you would like to provide any funding, please make your check payable to Salem and designate it as mission outreach on the memo line. If a group would like

to band together for this ministry, that would be fine as well! Thank you for your consideration of this ministry.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith News

Thank you to all who supported the Easter Egg sale! There were over 175 eggs ordered, which is a wonderful start for an annual fundraiser!

Look for details in the May newsletter for what mission project(s) was funded by the fundraiser. We will be investigating the UMCOR and United Women in Faith mission projects. To help us in choosing projects, we will be considering Matthew 25:40 – “The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'”

Thank you!

We received this thank you letter from Manna House:

Dear Salem United Methodist Church,

Thank you for being a member of our Breakfast Club. The Club is unique because instead of serving its members, the members empower the Club to serve the poorest among us. Club members support at least one day's breakfast per year.

A hot breakfast is served to about two hundred hungry people 365 days a year. Providing this critical humanitarian service costs \$500 a day. (Salem donated \$500 in January 2023.)

You have joined over 280 Club members comprising individuals, families, groups, churches, synagogues, businesses, and other institutions. The Club seeks to have all 365 days sponsored by a member to make the daily breakfast for the poor self-sustaining.

Best regards,
Antonio Coffield, Executive Director

From the Aerobics class: “Thank you for opening your doors and hearts to us.” The class gave a kind donation to Salem for our general fund.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

On Friday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Cindy King will lead us in demonstrating how to start a combination planter with flowering annuals and an herb, in an 8” pot. The added touch of a handmade bow will make a lovely gift for a loved one for Mother's Day or a special treat for yourself! Reservations for this fun event must be pre-paid and are due to the office no later than April 14th. A registration form can be found at the end of the newsletter or on our website (look for the link under “Announcements” on the home page of salemunited.org).

In Memoriam

On March 25, 2023, William Erich Boin went home to be with our Lord. Please keep his daughter, Erika, and granddaughters, Jasmine and Sofia, in your prayers. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 29th at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with a lunch to follow. The family has asked for memorial donations to be made to Salem.

Youth News

Keep an eye out...the Tide Pod container will be out on April 16th and 23rd. The Youth would be very appreciative of your donations to support their visit to the Wash 'n Fold laundromat in Edgewood on April 30th. This is an ongoing mission ministry that our Youth are blessed to support. You can also donate to this mission by going to the church website, salemunited.org, and clicking on the "Donate" link at the top of the page. Scroll down and select "donate now" under give online. A new window will open. Please choose "Laundromat Support" in the first drop down menu.

We have 6 youth and 2 adults who will be heading to Altoona in July on their mission trip! This is a fantastic opportunity for them to be the hands and feet of Christ in an extremely depressed area. Please keep this mission team in your prayers.

From Our Financial Secretary

You should receive your 1st quarter giving statement in your e-mails on Good Friday, April 6th. Please check your "spam/junk" box for an email from Karen Sersen (because they go out in bulk). Please review your statement and contact Karen with any questions.

Mother's Day Geraniums

We will be offering red geraniums for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th. The 4" pots will be offered for \$3.75 each and can be purchased in honor or in memory of your mother or special woman in your life. Please pre-pay all orders by April 30th. Flowers may be picked up after service on May 14th. An order form can be found at the end of the newsletter, on our website, or in the Narthex. Please contact Susan Walker with any questions.

Members Corner

Please remember our members who are unable to join us with a phone call or card.

Kay Butler – 8810 Walther Blvd, #1318. Baltimore, MD 21234

Hank Danker – 506 Haverhill Road, Joppa, MD 21085

Betty Knight – 8810 Walther Blvd, #1626, Baltimore, MD 21234

Bill Packer – c/o Dr. Debbie Packer, 4172 Knollcrest Circle N., Augusta, GA 30907

Alice Stewart c/o Paul Stewart – 217 Garnett Rd, Joppa, MD 21085

Betty Zengel – 8100 Rossville Blvd., Brightview Room 308, Baltimore, MD 21236

The Shrimp Boil is Back!

The Shrimp Boil returns this year for more delicious food on May 6th! With shrimp, smoked sausage, corn, potatoes and onions, this meal is sure to satisfy your taste buds. Reminder – this event requires prepaid reservations at specific time slots. Reservations are due by April 24th. A reservation form is available at the end of the newsletter. You can also pay for your reservation online at salemunited.org/shrimpboil – make sure to include your email so you may be contacted for your time slot.

Soup Sale Thank You!

We cannot thank the Salem family enough for your incredible support of our Soup Sales in January, February, and March. While you received a delicious meal, you also are providing support to Salem's operations, ministry, and mission. A special thank you to Lauren Simpson and the kitchen crew that helped to cook and distribute the soup for this new (and tasty!) fundraiser!

March 26 Congregational Information Summary

On Sunday, March 26, Pastor Stacey, Mark Carter, Church Council Chair, and Bob Frisch, SPRC Chair, provided an informational session on what is happening within the United Methodist Church, as well as the Discipleship Pathway initiative from our conference. Where is Salem in all of this? Pastor Stacey would like to offer the following summary of that informational session.

In our denomination and in our congregation, we are not of the same mind when it comes to the ordination of persons who are gay/lesbian, and same gender marriage. This has been debated at General Conference for decades. In 2020 there was to be a vote, but COVID prevented the Conference from being held then; a special session was to occur in 2021 but it didn't. Some clergy and some congregations want to leave the UMC. This process is called disaffiliation. Because we are a connectional church, this is complicated. According to the UM Book of Discipline, each annual conference Board of Trustees must outline the process for congregations to disaffiliate. If you are interested in the details, please see the BWC website - <https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/trustees-outline-process-for-disaffiliation/>

The biggest financial cost in leaving the denomination is due to the fact that the annual conference owns the church buildings. For Salem, this would be an extremely high cost.

A vote for disaffiliation requires a process: congregational meeting with District Superintendent; time for study and discernment; and a vote by the official membership of the church. Disaffiliation requires 2/3 of the votes in order to pass; then approval by the Annual Conference. The vote must be completed no later than April 30 of this year.

In January our Church Council met and discussed the process of disaffiliation. I explained my support of inclusivity and that I will remain with the denomination. We decided not to pursue leaving the denomination. We voted not to take any steps to disaffiliate. The General Conference should meet in 2024 and we hope a vote will be taken to make our denomination's stand clear.

Our Bishop – Bishop Easterling – has shared that she will abide by an interim agreement worked out when General Conference was not able to meet. Therefore, she has ordained and appointed pastors who are openly gay/lesbian persons. She has stated that she will not appoint a pastor a congregation is not ready to accept. Also, she has stated that she will not pursue charges against clergy who officiate same gender marriages. If you would like to see more information from the Bishop's town hall meeting addressing all these matters, please see the BWC website: <https://www.bwcumc.org/faq-on-disaffiliation/>

The bottom line about Salem: we agree to work together regardless of our beliefs on this matter. We agree to respect one another. We will continue to welcome all persons in our congregation.

This leads us to our Discipleship Pathway and the Readiness 360 Survey.

I want to thank everyone for their participation in the survey. Our goal was at least 25 people completing the survey. We had 56 persons take the survey!

This is no small accomplishment. Thank you!

The survey assesses our congregation's spiritual and practical readiness for faithful and effective ministry in the 21st century. We learned about our strengths and weaknesses. We are strongest in terms of Spiritual Intensity. We are the most challenged in terms of Cultural Openness. We will be

working to build on our strengths and learn more about what we need to do to move forward in multiplying our impact.

As we were close to completing our application for a Discipleship Pathway program, I learned that my jaw surgery would be necessary in the next four to six months. I immediately spoke with our SPRC Chair and our District Superintendent. We all agreed that we should not apply for the conference pathway program this year.

While we are not applying for this specific conference program, we will be working on moving our congregation forward. Our survey results provide us with some suggestions on strengthening our position to multiply our impact and grow in our ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ as we share the grace and love of our Savior. We need to work on building our capacity. I will be working with our Church Council to address our internal structure and articulate a vision for our ministry together. We started this work at our Council meeting this past week. If you would like to participate in discerning the future of Salem in some way, please speak with me.

I am excited for our future! I believe in God's ability to bless us and guide us. I know that God is doing something more wonderful than we can even imagine. I am asking you to trust in God deeply for our future. And I invite you to work together with me as your pastoral leader.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Mark Carter, or Bob Frisch. Please note that in addition to serving as Salem's SPRC Chair, Bob is serving in our Baltimore Suburban District in assisting our District Superintendent, Dr. Ann LaPrade, with several congregational meetings on disaffiliation in our district. This is a critical time for our United Methodist connection.

Please continue to keep Salem and our denomination in your prayers.





SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am service live stream: salemunited.org/livestream Pastor's Study Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) Palm Parade & Egg Hunt to follow 10:45am service	7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom)		No Morning Bible Study No Vespers	5:30pm Soup & Bread Dinner (Hall) 7pm Holy Thursday service (Sanctuary & live stream)	1pm Community Good Friday Cross Walk (meet at Franklinville Presbyterian)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
HAPPY EASTER 6:30am Service at Cemetery 8&10:45am Services 7-10am Breakfast (Hall – Sunday School meet for Breakfast first @ 9:30)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers		9am Aerobics (Hall)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers	7pm Book Club (call office)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 11:30am Women Moving On Lunch (call office)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers		9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm How Does Your Garden Grow Planter Workshop (Hall)	11am Memorial Service for Erich Boin
30						
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)						

Community
Good Friday
CROSS WALK

Friday, April 7, 2023
1:00 P.M.

All are welcome to join the Kingsville/Upper Falls Area Churches for our annual Community Cross Walk. Walk begins at Franklinville Presbyterian Church (11846 Franklinville Rd, Kingsville), proceeds along Franklinville Road to Bradshaw Road and concludes at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Parking with shuttle is available at St. Stephen (8030 Bradshaw Rd, Kingsville - arrive by 12:45 p.m.).

For more information, contact: salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com



How Does Your Garden Grow?

A PLANTING WORKSHOP WITH CINDY KING, FLORAL DESIGNER

JOIN US AS CINDY DEMONSTRATES HOW TO START A COMBINATION PLANTER, WITH FLOWERING ANNUALS AND AN HERB, IN AN 8" POT WITH A BOW. PLEASE BRING A GARDEN TROWEL AND GARDENING GLOVES. ALL OTHER MATERIALS WILL BE SUPPLIED.

COST: \$35.00 DUE APRIL 14

EVENT: FRIDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

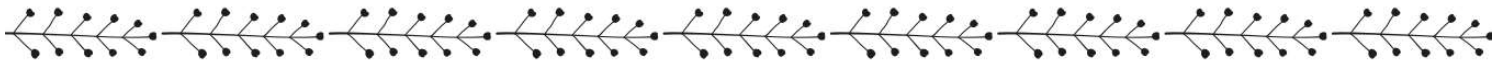
PO BOX 192

7901 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS, MD 21156

(410) 592-2543 SALEMUNITED.ORG



ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID AND RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 14. CHECKS PAYABLE TO SALEM UMC (NOTE PLANTER 4/28 ON MEMO LINE). ONLINE PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE AT SALEMUNITED.ORG AND CLICK ON "PLANTER EVENT" UNDER ANNOUNCEMENTS.



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Cost: \$35.00 due April 14 - Event: Friday, April 28

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Attending: _____

For Counters: Check: _____ Cash: _____ Online: _____

Low Country Shrimp Boil



It's time again for good food & fellowship! Come have both at Salem United Methodist Church's Shrimp Boil!

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Salem UMC, 7901 Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls, MD 21156

4:00 – 6:30pm

\$23 per person (pre-paid only by 4/24)

Indoor dining and carry-out available!

Treat yourself to a delicious low country style shrimp boil! With shrimp, smoked sausage, corn, potatoes, and onions, this meal is sure to satisfy your taste buds! Choose your time slot, make your reservation, and join us!

Please note all meals ***must*** be prepaid by April 24th. Orders may be mailed to the Salem office (must arrive by April 24th), or via our website (salemunited.org/shrimpboil). Mail checks payable to Salem UMC with "shrimp boil" noted on the memo line to: Salem United Methodist Church, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156.

Please contact the office with any questions: (410) 592-2543 or salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com.

SHRIMP BOIL RESERVATION – May 6, 2023

All orders must be pre-paid and are due April 24th.

You must select a time slot for dining/pickup when placing your reservation.

Mail checks to Salem UMC, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156.

Name _____ Phone/Email _____

# of Orders	Time for dining/carry-out (please circle)					Cost	Total
	4:00pm	4:30pm	5:00pm	5:30pm	6:00pm	\$23.00 ea.	

Counters: Date _____ Amount: _____ Cash / Check # _____

HONOR THY MOTHER

We will be offering red geraniums for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th. The 4" pots will be offered for \$3.75 each and can be purchased in honor or in memory of your mother or special woman in your life.



Please pre-pay all orders by April 30th. Flowers may be picked up after service on May 14th.

Questions, please contact Susan Walker @ 410-459-2750

Mother's Day Geraniums

Name _____ Phone _____

I wish to order: _____ # plant at \$3.75 each Total: _____

In Honor Of:

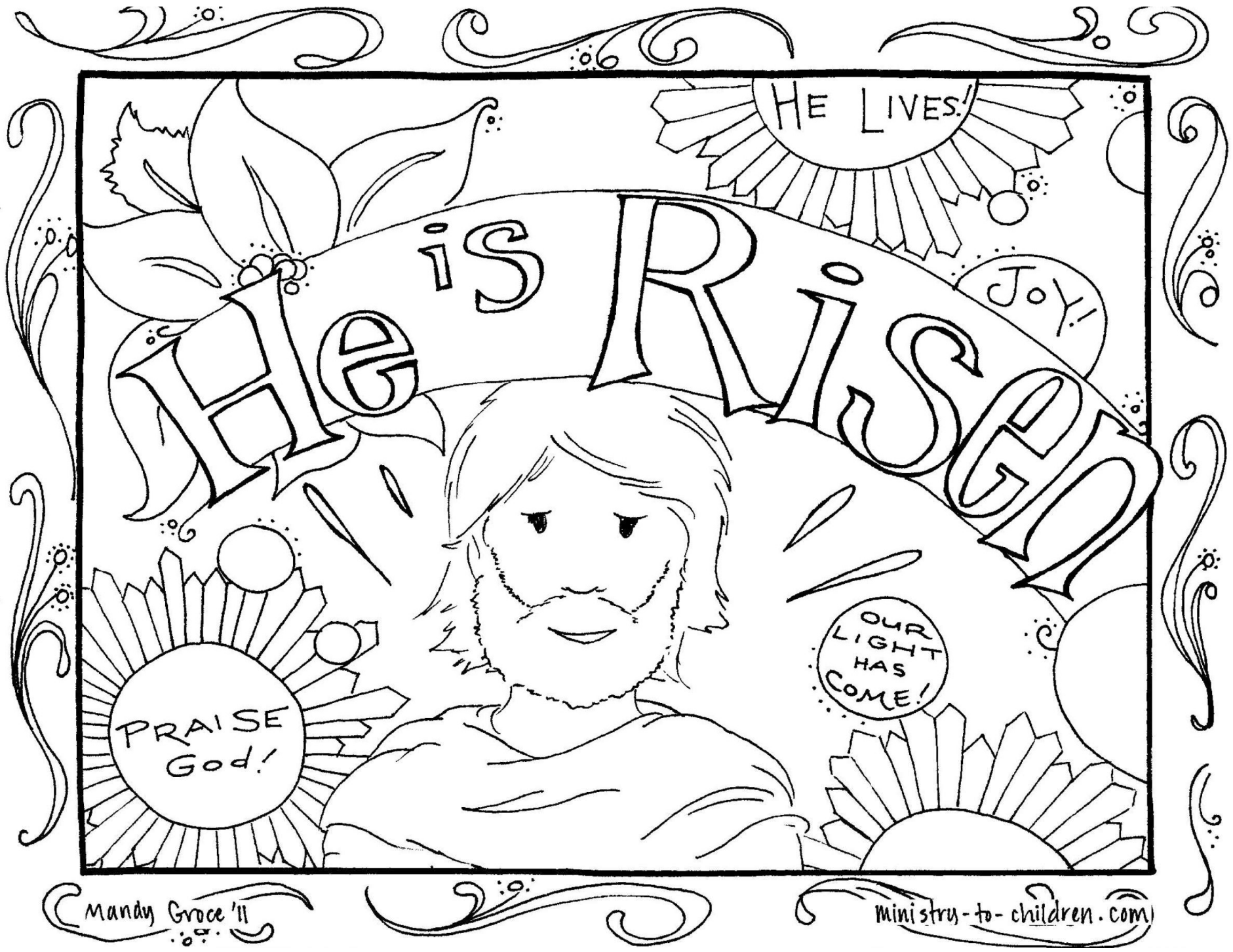
_____ By _____
_____ By _____
_____ By _____
_____ By _____

In Memory Of:

_____ By _____
_____ By _____
_____ By _____
_____ By _____

Counters Only:

Amount Rec'd _____ Cash Check # _____ Date _____



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com