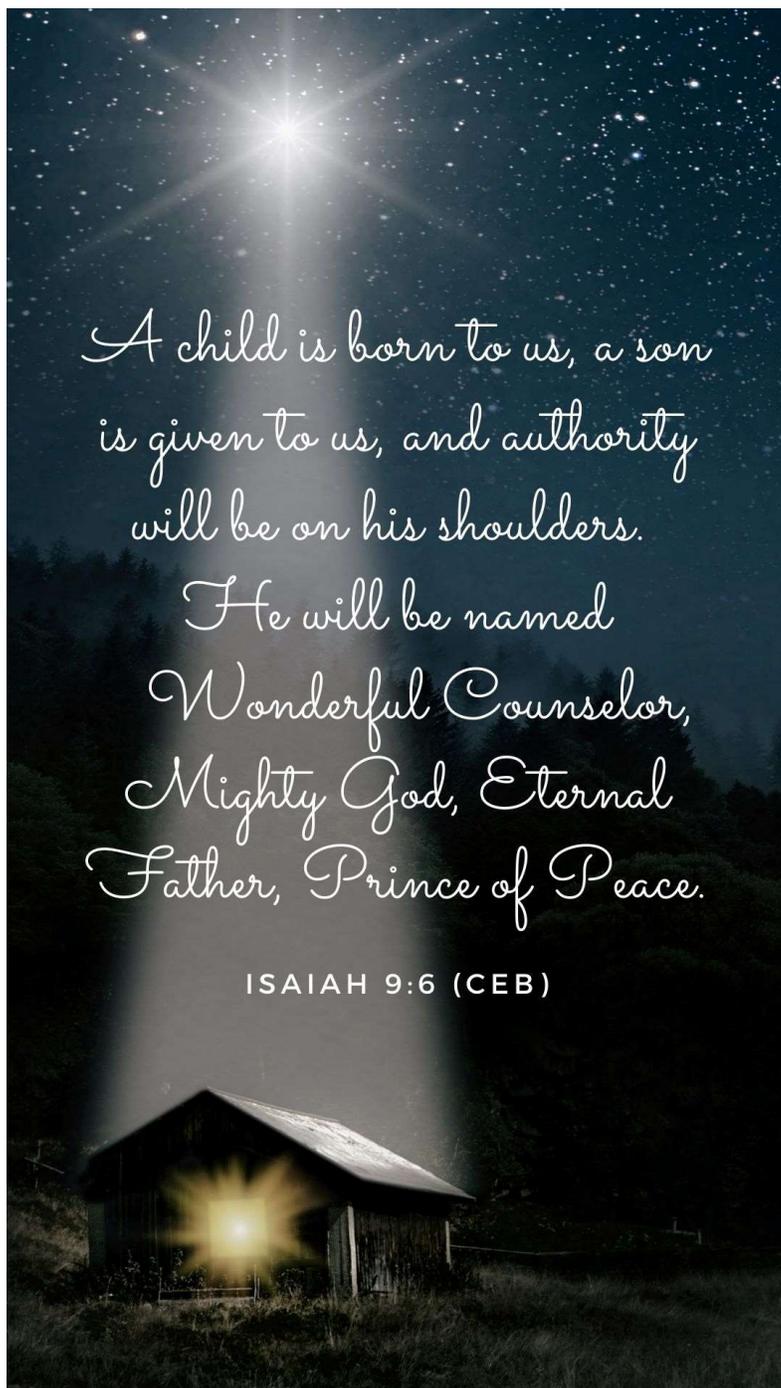




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2021



*A child is born to us, a son
is given to us, and authority
will be on his shoulders.*

*He will be named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Eternal
Father, Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6 (CEB)

Salem United Methodist Church
7901 Bradshaw Road
Upper Falls, MD 21156
Phone: (410) 592-2543

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM in Chapel

10:45AM in person and ZOOM

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72121826008>

By Phone: 1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID #72121826008

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

**ORGANIST/MUSIC
DIRECTOR:**

Matthew Bunn
MatthewBunnMusic@gmail.com

**COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL
MEDIA MANAGER:**

Tara Kully
salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE:
www.salemunited.org

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

Pastor's Message

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:23, NRSV

Our theme for Advent is taken from this promise of Emmanuel: "God With Us." God is with us always and forever. No matter our current circumstance, God is with us. Whatever is happening around us in the world, God is with us. Because God is with us, we have hope, peace, joy, and love. In this busy season, I ask you to take time and make space so that you can experience the blessing that God is with you.

Please be sure and read about the many opportunities for you at Salem. I hope that many of you are using the at-home activities. Thanks to Tara for creating these packets for us and to Judy for helping to assemble them.

Here are some things I wish to highlight:

- Sunday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. we will gather in our chapel for an informal Service of Healing and Hope. This will be a time of quiet prayer and shared reflection. All who wish to experience healing and a renewed sense of hope in God are invited. You and your grief are welcome.
- On Christmas Eve, we will have two services. The 7:00 p.m. is designed as a family service and everyone will need to wear a face mask. This service will also be available online through our usual Zoom worship link. Glowsticks will be used. The 11:00 p.m. service is a more traditional candlelight service. At both services we will be singing many of the Christmas carols we love and hearing the story of Jesus' birth. Celebrate Christmas at Salem!
- Our youth in the Confirmation class will be meeting with me at church on Thursday, December 30, 10 am to 3 pm. As a reminder, we will all wear masks during our meeting. Please contact me for details/to sign up!
- Christmas Missions Opportunity: we are donating gifts for Magnolia Elementary School families again this year. If you would like to contribute, please note "Christmas Families" in the memo of your check. A huge thank you to Cindy Carter for completing all of the shopping for us!

December is going to be filled with the blessing of God's presence. My prayers and warmest wishes to each of you and your families for a wonderful Christmas!

- Pastor Stacey

Staff Updates

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Erich Boin for his faithful service as our custodian for over 10 years. Thank you, Erich! We pray God's blessings for you as you retire from this role.

We would like to welcome our new custodian – Ms. Kris Bannasch. She started this week and we look forward to working with her.

God With Us - Churchwide Advent Activities

We hope everyone is off to a great start with our churchwide Advent activity! Don't forget to check your packet for each week's activities and devotions. If you are willing, please take a picture of some of your creations or how you are participating in the Advent calendar activities for us to share on our social media channels. Sharing these activities provides a powerful witness to our community! Please send any pictures to Tara at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com.

Support the UMW through Rada

Don't forget! We are quickly approaching the holiday shopping season! If you are interested in quality & unique gifts to give, please consider RADA Products & support Salem's UMW mission. A portion of all sales directly supports the UMW mission. New catalogs are in the quiet room at the back of the sanctuary. Directions on how to order online are on the front of the catalog and are also located on the UMW page of the Salem website (salemunited.org/united-methodist-women).

Church Conference

Thank you to all who were able to attend our virtual Church Conference on Saturday, November 6. It was wonderful to join as a group in our sanctuary to worship and celebrate our shared faith. We were able to share about Salem's year as well as learn about what others in our cluster of United Methodist Churches are doing to spread the Good News. The picture to the right was taken while our District Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Ann LaPrade, addressed the conference. As part of the conference, churches were asked to answer two questions – in what way(s)



has the past 17 months changed the shape and direction of your church's ministry, and how will those changes carry you into the future. The short video created to showcase Salem's answers to those questions was shown during the 10:45 am worship on November 21. If you were unable to see that video, contact Tara at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com for a link to view the video.

Missions Corner

We've all seen them – the tabs on soda cans, cat or dog food cans, power drinks, soup cans – anything with a pull tab. We have a small favor to ask – save them for us! The Missions Committee needs them! We are collecting aluminum tabs in support of the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House has locations close to many children's hospitals. This location allows "parents who are far from home to stay close to their hospitalized child and benefit from the comforts of home without incurring hotel and food costs. (<https://www.rmhc.org/about-us>)" At the local Ronald McDonald chapter, the aluminum tabs are an essential part of fundraising – the funds made from recycling those tabs help to provide gas money for the shuttles that provide transportation to families staying with them as they visit their child.

If you have any question if a tab can be saved, a quick check with a magnet will help. If it doesn't stick, save the tab! There will be a container in the back of the Sanctuary to collect any donations, as well as a container in the office. If you attend service via Zoom, please call the office and arrangements can be made to pick up your tabs!

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 7th, Salem gave thanks for the lives of those in the congregation who have gone on to eternal life in Christ in 2020 and 2021. We honored the following:

Ralph Ashley	Robert Heacock
C. Benjamin "Ben" Bates	Jane Hill
Marion Becker	Alexander "Sandy" Mitchell
Carmine Cantalupo	Fred Nickerson
Calvin Dietz	Barbara Sonberg
Warren Dillon	Rev. Clifford Webner
Kenneth Dryden	Laura Yurek

We would like to say a special thank you to Lauren Simpson and all who helped in the kitchen for providing a special brunch between the services.

Our Condolences

Salem extends our condolences to Mark & Cindy Carter and their family on the death of his aunt, Verna Cooper. Verna went home to be with our Lord on November 5, 2021.

College Student Recognition

During services on Sunday, November 28th, we celebrated our first-year college students from 2020 and 2021. The Youth Group lovingly gave their time to create blankets for each student in their school colors. We were blessed to celebrate the following students:

Jonas Bradshaw - UMBC

Natalie Kully – University of Delaware

Emily Carter - Widener

Brian Schomo - Towson

Jeffrey Fisher – University of Maryland

Lauren Tamulevich - Towson

Notes of Thanks

From UMCOR: Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - *Thank you!* And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the US and more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer. Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary



Dear Pastor Stacey & the Salem Church congregation: Thank you for including Cliff in your All Saints Service on Sunday. It was a beautiful service and a blessing to all that were able to attend. Your prayers, cards, emails, phone calls and visits helped to put a smile on Cliff's face during his illness. Thank you all for blessing our family with your Christian love. Carole, Matt, & Kerry Webner

From UMCOR: We have received your donation of \$492.00 to UMCOR Sager Brown. Thank you for your support. Gifts such as these help us to move our ministry forward. Perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill. UMCOR, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering while advancing hope and healing. UMCOR has responded to this call for over 81 years. Thank you and all those involved in the donation of this generous gift. Your support is appreciated. Grace and Peace, Amy Fuselier, Director of Relief Supplies

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

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

Betty Zengel – 1617 Searles Rd, Baltimore, MD 21222

UMW Updates

The UMW would like to share the following updates:

- 22 prayer shawls, 23 lap quilts and many baby beanies were blessed on 10/24/2021. Thank you to all who donated time, and /or materials. These continue to be ongoing projects.
- A memorial donation was given to the choir fund in honor of Sandy Mitchell
- Mission donations were made to the following organizations:
 - Sew Powerful, for \$250.00
 - The Board of Child Care Auxiliary's Christmas Shop, for \$100. The BCC Christmas Shop provides a place for the children to shop for their family members and loved ones.

Also, be on the lookout for details about the return of the Popcorn Sale at the end of January!

Red Stockings for the Board of Child Care



As part of our missions moment on the calendar for December, as well as included in the Advent packets for our children, was a red stocking card. This card is a special opportunity for our young people to make a small, but significant donation to the Board of Child Care (BCC). As you may know, the BCC has a mission to "enrich communities, one family at a time." At Christmas, the BCC works to help provide those families with a blessed holiday season, grounded in God's love. These stockings, while a small gesture, help our

children to begin to learn John Wesley's lesson to "Earn all you can, give all you can." Thank you for being a part of this annual tradition!

Party of Three presents

Merry and Bright

Join Alyson Moore, Katy
Stevens, and Todd Harrison
Twining for a festive evening
of Christmas music!

Sunday, December 19
7pm

Salem United Methodist Church
7901 Bradshaw Road
Upper Falls, MD 21156

A free will offering will be collected at
the door. Proceeds benefit Salem
United Methodist Church.

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Bible Study with Judy	2 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 8 & 10:45 am Service 9 am Trustees meeting 2pm Service of Healing and Hope	6	7 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 10am Bible Study with Judy	9 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 8 & 10:45 am Service	13	14 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 10am Bible Study with Judy	16 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 8 & 10:45 am Service 7pm Concert: "Merry and Bright" with Party of Three in the Sanctuary	20	21 4:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30pm Live Handbell Prelude 7pm Family Service (in person & Zoom) 11pm Candlelight Service	25
26 8 & 10:45 am Service	27	28	29	30 10-3pm Confirmation Class, Fellowship Hall	31	

8:00am Service is in-person in the Chapel. 10:00 or 10:45am Service is in-person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72121826008>

Jesus...

Celebrate the Holiday Season at Salem

Sundays of Advent:

November 28: Our theme will be Hope: God With Us. Please join us at 8 or 10:45 am for College Student Sunday, where we will recognize our college students and have something special for our first-year students.

December 5: Our theme will be Peace: God With Us. Holy Communion will be offered during both services.
At 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary there will be a special Service of Healing and Hope. All are welcome.

December 12: Our theme will be Joy: God With Us.

December 19: Our theme will be Love: God With Us. At the 10:45 am service we will enjoy the choir's cantata "Emmanuel – God With Us!"
Join us at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a concert with Alyson Moore and Katy Stevens.

Mission moment: We invite you to make a donation toward Christmas gifts for the Magnolia Elementary families we are supporting this season. Please note "Christmas families" on the memo line of your donation.

HOPE IS BORN



Celebrate Christmas and Epiphany at Salem

Christmas Eve, December 24: The Handbell Choir will provide a live music prelude to service beginning at 6:30 pm. For the 7:00 pm Family Service, all will need to wear a mask. You may participate online through Zoom for this service. Glowsticks will be used in place of candles.

The 11:00 pm service will be a candlelight service.

December 26: Chris Rohe will be the Guest Preacher at both services.

January 2: Epiphany Celebration and Holy Communion at both services. Bring a decorated star for our awning outside; we will hang them after the worship services.

Mission Moment: Children are invited to fill and return to church the Red Stockings for the Board of Child Care, which were included in the Advent Activity Packets. In addition to this offering, Salem has made a donation to the Board of Child Care from our Missions Fund. Thank you for your generous giving!