

Salem United Methodist Church

August 24, 2025

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 117:2, NASB)

“For God’s loving kindness is great toward us, and the truth of God is everlasting.” We offer our praise and thanksgiving to God!

OPENING PRAYER (in unison): **Most holy God, we give you praise for inviting us to live in relationship with you through the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the privilege of prayer. You listen to us and offer your care at all times. Focus our minds and hearts on you. Help us to be still and listen for your guidance. Transform us by the power of your Holy Spirit. May we embrace your will for us and respond in faith. In the spirit and name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

*OPENING MUSIC “Be Thou My Vision” #451

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Blessing of the Backpacks

SPECIAL MUSIC

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 Ephesians 4:31-5:2 (NRSV)

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

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

MESSAGE

“Praying in Love”

*DOXOLOGY #95

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison):
Gracious God, we trust that you always provide for us by your great mercy. We are dependent on your grace for all things. In response to your goodness, we place ourselves and our gifts in your hands. Bless this offering for the work of sharing the good news of your kingdom. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*CLOSING MUSIC “Precious Name” #536

*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:

Ellie Brown, Liturgist
Scott Shelton, Tech Team Producer
Bryan Niles, Tech Team Director
Mark Hurley, Musician
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson, Pastor (pastor@salemunited.org)

Junior Church begins after the Children's Message.

Today

9:15 a.m. or Noon – Safe Sanctuary Trainings (Hall; mandatory for Sunday School/Junior Church leaders; all are welcome)

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

Monday, 8/25 7:00 p.m. – Pastor's Summer Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark (Zoom only: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408>).

Monday, 8/25 7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)

Wednesday, 8/27 6:30 p.m. – Vespers (we will meet in the narthex in the event of inclement weather)

Upcoming (see our website for details: salemunited.org)

Saturday, 9/6 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Breakfast Bash (Hall)

Sunday, 9/7 after each service – AED/First Aid training (Hall, all are welcome)

Sunday, 9/7 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School resumes

Sunday, 9/28 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Blessing of the Animals (under the canopy)

Sunday, 9/28 – Pit Beef and Apple Dumpling Sale (Salem Lawn)

Please remember that you have additional opportunities to worship online. The recording of the entire service is available on the website until Monday morning; if you miss the recording, email salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com and we can send it to you. Our message is available anytime on our YouTube channel or church website.

Salem United Methodist Church
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SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UPPER FALLS, MD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025