

Salem United Methodist Church

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salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

Find us on the web at salemunited.org
and follow us on Facebook &
Instagram @salemunitedupperfalls

Jan
2024



We are called to be active in God's blessing of the world!

The Spirit



Join us >>>

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

- 10:45 a.m. service is
livestreamed at
salemunited.org/livestream
- Summer worship: 2nd
service is at 10:00 a.m. in
person & online from
Father's Day to Labor Day

Wednesday Evening Outdoor
Vespers

- 6:30 p.m., weather
permitting



Pastor's Message

We give thanks to God for our blessings in 2023 and a great year of "doing all the good we can" together! We look forward to what God will be doing in the new year and how we can "be active in God's blessing of the world." I would like to offer a prayer for us as we approach this new year. It is written by Maren C. Tirabassi and is taken from The United Methodist Book of Worship:

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.
We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears,
new decisions and old controversies,
new dreams and old weaknesses.

Because you are a God of hope,
we know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

Because you are a God of love,
we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past.

Because you are the God of our faith,
we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise,
we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful
noise,
and we serve and bless you. Amen.

I hope that many of you will be able to join us for worship on
Sunday, December 31, 2023 – New Year's Eve. Our service will
include portions of John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service.

Continued on page 2

Pastor's Message (cont. from page 1) >>>

This is a time for us to renew our covenant with God and with one another as we seek to serve Jesus Christ together through Salem United Methodist Church. Our worship will include the opportunity to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I decided that we will conclude 2023 and begin the new year of 2024 with Holy Communion. If you are worshipping from home, please remember to have Communion elements ready so you can join with us.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your kindness and generosity. Many of you sent cards and I have enjoyed reading each one. I especially love the cards with pictures of your families! Thanks, also, for your thoughtful individual gifts. I am blessed to serve as your pastor and to work with you in serving God together.

Rick and I decided to give our church family a special gift this year – the wooden nativity scene that has been displayed outside. We hope you enjoy it as a celebration of God's love in Jesus Christ.

We continue to celebrate the Christmas Season into January with the Celebration of Epiphany ("Star Sunday") on Sunday, January 7 and our Celebration of the Lord's Baptism on Sunday, January 14.

Also in January we will celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with an opportunity for service on Monday, January 15, 2024. Our youth will be going to serve at the laundromat that day, and we will gather at Salem to serve. We will be focusing on three projects:

1. Assembling gift bags for the families being served through winter housing. We need the following new items: coloring books for all ages; crayons; winter hats in all sizes; small puzzles; socks in all sizes; children's books; deodorant; and toothpaste. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to church by Sunday, January 14.
2. Baking cookies and/or cooking for local first responders.
3. Creating cards and coloring pages – birthday cards for Board of Child Care youth; thinking of you coloring pages for the United Women of Faith to use in their blessing bags for members of our church family; other cards to be sent to members of our church family to remind them of our loving prayers.

Everyone is invited to participate. We will work from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

I would like to thank you for your continuing prayers. As I have shared with you, I will be having surgery to replace my temporomandibular joints; currently my surgery is scheduled for February 2, 2024. Working with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, I have arranged for a wonderful retired clergy colleague, Reverend Melissa McDade, to serve Salem while I am recuperating and healing from my surgery. I am grateful she is willing to come for this time; she will be preaching and leading worship as well as providing pastoral care. We will give you more details in the February newsletter. Pastor Melissa is planning to be with us on the Sunday before my surgery so that we can welcome her to Salem.

May God lead us into the new year with grace –

Stacey

Security Alert >>>

Safety and security have to always be at the forefront of all that we do for our staff, families, and for those who visit our church each week. There has been a recent uptick in people leaving our exterior doors unlocked. There are many people within our church who have keys to the building, so it is hard to pinpoint who may have unknowingly left the doors unlocked. There are occasions where people will unlock one door to enter the building, forget to relock the door, and then leave the church out of another door. For obvious reasons, this has to stop for the safety of everyone who comes into the building and to ensure we are never vulnerable to a break-in, theft, and/or destruction of property. We have had several recent incidents of homeless people coming to our church or food pantry who have shown outward signs of having mental health issues. We can never allow ourselves to be vulnerable to any type of attack or, again, allow entry into our church for theft or destruction. Please be vigilant and do YOUR part to ensure the personal safety of everyone in our church.

General Reminders:

- Stay alert for any suspicious activity, especially when entering and leaving the church.
- When at church for evening activities, particularly when it's dark, use the buddy system and walk together whenever you can. LOCK the doors once you enter the church.
- Ensure your car is locked and that all valuables are secure and out-of-sight! (i.e., loose change, money, spare keys, cell phones, backpacks, computer bags, etc.)
- Carry a small container of mace and have it ready at all times. It's inexpensive and effective!
- LOCK the doors once you leave the church..



Please see the article on page 5 of the newsletter for a full update on the Winter Housing Fund Drive!



United
Women
in Faith

The UWF are adding \$1,143 to Salem's donation to the Harford County Hope for Homeless Alliance to provide temporary housing for families during the 13 coldest weeks of winter. Staying in a hotel will be such a blessing for the families involved. Thank you to all those who bought ornaments and grocery bags, and those who also gave donations during the month of December!

Save the date! On January 28, 2024 we will have our annual planning meeting from 12-1:30pm in the Parlor. Please be thinking of possible fundraisers for 2024 – all of you have had an incredible impact through your donations, time, and abilities! Also, please come with any ideas for speakers or topics you would like to learn about.

Additionally, the UWF website has many resources you may find useful. Take a few minutes and check it out! <https://mailchi.mp/uwfaith.org/uwfaith-2024-resources-available?e=3fbbe98498>



Your 2023 year end giving statements will be e-mailed on January 15th at 9am. Please check you junk and/or spam folders for this important tax document, especially if you itemize deductions. Call or text Karen Sersen, Financial Secretary with any questions.

The Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on January 17th at 10 am in the parlor. Our study this time will be “Revival” by Adam Hamilton – a message of John Wesley’s faith and Hamilton’s journey to England through Wesley’s land, life, ministry and teachings. Everyone is invited to come for a time of prayer, study, and fellowship.



Youth News >>>

Salem should be very proud of our youth. The Sunday School class very generously provided Christmas gifts for 7 students at the Board of Child Care, and on January 15 they will be going to the Wash ‘n Fold laundromat once again to pay for laundry services for their customers. Way to go! They will be having a special project coming up for Lent. You may be seeing chickens around the church!



JANUARY SOUP SALE

Potato Cheddar

\$12 per quart

**Prepaid orders due
Jan 16. Forms in
Narthex & on our
website**

Winter Housing Update >>>

As a church, Salem is very mission oriented. Whenever issued a challenge to meet a need, our Salem family always steps up! This winter season, we have taken on the challenge to relocate as many homeless families who are living in their cars as possible. You have been very generous toward meeting these needs, and Salem is very grateful to you for your commitment – “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)”

To date, the food pantry has been very generous and donated \$6,279 to house one family for the 13 week program. Our United Women in Faith refocused their funds from the sale of grocery bags and Christmas ornaments, totaling \$1,143, to support this mission. In addition to those funds, our Salem family has donated \$9,809. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, we have sent a check for \$10,952 from Salem!

The children in these families will now be able to stay warm and stretch out while sleeping in a comfortable bed, having completed their homework at a well-lit table and eating a hot meal. Thank you so much for providing loving care for some of “the least of these.”

- Lauren Simpson

Members Corner >>>

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

Rocky Ails – Lake Wylie Assisted Living, 4877 Charlotte Hwy, Apartment 334, Lake Wylie, SC 29710

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

Ann & Rowlan Stumpf – Forest Hill Heights, 1 Colgate Drive Room 415, Forest Hill, MD 21050

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



Contact Us!

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday,
and 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



January

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year	2	3 6:30pm Vespers	4	5	6
7 Star Sunday – Celebration of Epiphany 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)	8 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	9	10 9am Aerobics (Hall) 6:30pm Vespers	11	12 9am Aerobics (Hall)	13
14 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 10am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	15 10am – 1pm Day of Service Volunteer Activities 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	16 Prepaid soup orders due	17 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers	18 7pm Book Club (call office)	19 9am Aerobics (Hall) 11:30am Women Moving On Lunch (call office)	20
21 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 10am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Soup order pickup 15 min after each service	22 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	23 7pm Church Council Planning Meeting (Hall)	24 9am Aerobics (Hall) 6:30pm Vespers	25	26 9am Aerobics (Hall)	27
28 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 10am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 12-1:30 pm – UWF Planning Meeting (Salem Room/Parlor)	29 9am Aerobics (Hall)	30	31 9am Aerobics (Hall)	8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am service live stream: saalemunited.org/livestream		



January Soup Sale

Start the new year off right with some delicious soup! For January, we have Potato Cheddar soup. With the complimentary flavors of potato, cheddar cheese, bacon, and onion, you'll have a delicious meal ready and waiting for you in the refrigerator!

Please note all orders (\$12 per quart) *must be prepaid* by January 16th. Orders may be placed in the collection plate at Salem, mailed to the office, or emailed to the office at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com with payment mailed or dropped off to the office. Mail checks to: Salem United Methodist Church, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156.

All orders may be picked up Sunday, January 21st in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Please contact Lauren Simpson with questions at (410) 592-3176.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to print an order form, please call the Salem UMC office at 410-592-2543 or email salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com to place an order.

JANUARY SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

All orders must be pre-paid and are due January 16th.
Orders may be picked up Sunday, January 21st in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

# of Quarts	Soup Type	Cost	Total
	Potato Cheddar Soup	\$12.00 each	

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