

Feb
2025

Salem United Methodist Church

7901 Bradshaw Road
PO Box 192
Upper Falls, MD 21156
(410) 592-2543
salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com

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



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

- Will resume March 12, 2025



IT'S TIME FOR THE SALEM UMC

BREAKFAST BASH!

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
8:00 - 10:30 AM

ALL YOU
CAN EAT!

DELICIOUS MENU!

- PANCAKES (BLUEBERRY & PLAIN)
- CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF
- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- BAKED HAM
- TATER TOTS
- BEVERAGES AND MORE!

ADULTS: \$10
KIDS 6 & UNDER: \$5



7901 BRADSHAW RD
UPPER FALLS MD 21156
SALEMUNITED.ORG

Pastor's Message >>>

Are you getting used to writing 2025 for the year? We are moving forward quickly into this year! We spent time in January looking at our year-end financial reports and preparing our Statistical Report for 2024. Overall, we have a great deal for which to give thanks to God! Please read the report from our Finance Committee in this newsletter, especially if you didn't hear Bob Kimball's brief report during worship on February 2. We give thanks for your support and for God's providence. It is truly amazing how God blesses us and our faithful efforts. I am humbled by the way God blesses others through our sharing of God's gifts.

I will be sharing with the Church Council and our various committees additional information from our 2024 statistics. We continue together to fulfill our mission: "to be active in God's blessing of the world through our commitment to welcoming one another, growing in grace, serving our neighbors, and caring for all God's people." I am grateful for the opportunities we have every day to serve God and to follow Jesus Christ through Salem Church.

I am working with our youth confirmands and opening our activities to all the youth who are interested in participating. We are engaged in several outreach efforts (such as MLK Service Day and Souper Bowl of Caring) and will continue with more opportunities throughout the rest of winter and the spring. I am putting together a number of trips for our class. We appreciate your support of our youth-led missions as well as your prayer support for all our young people. Please especially keep our Confirmation Class in your prayers.

In worship, we continue with our series, "***Lighting The Way***." Here are the scripture lessons and themes for the rest of the series:

February 9	Luke 5:1-11	" <i>Voices Lighting The Way</i> "
February 16	Luke 6:17-26	" <i>Blessings Lighting The Way</i> "
February 23	Luke 6:27-38	" <i>Love Lighting The Way</i> "
March 2	Luke 9:28-56	" <i>Glory Lighting The Way</i> "

You may wish to read our scripture lessons in preparation for our worship together.

Looking ahead: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. We will have a worship service that evening at 7:00 p.m. available both in person and online. Also, I have selected our study book for my Monday evening Bible study: [The Message Of Jesus: Words That Changed The World](#) by Adam Hamilton. You may want to order the study book on your own. If you want me to order one for you, please let me know. Our sermon series in worship will follow the themes of this study.

I would like to share a quick personal update on my healing journey. On Sunday, February 2 I celebrated with our congregation the one-year anniversary of receiving my new "jaw" (TMJ) joints. I give God thanks for all of the healing I have received and will continue to receive. It is truly a miracle that I can preach, sing, and eat so many foods now! I thank you all for your support and I ask that you continue to keep me in your prayers. My healing journey continues. I am in physical therapy still and slowly cutting back on the number of times I go to the office. I am working on incorporating my stretching exercises into my daily routine. You may notice on Sunday mornings that I am using a face roller between services – this is an ice roller, and it helps with the inflammation that occurs, particularly when I use my jaw for preaching/singing. I experience muscle fatigue easily. I continue to work with my healing team to develop strategies for my wellness. I am grateful for where I am at this point, and I do not take it for granted that I am able to do what I do.

Let us praise God together and lift up the needs of God's people and all of God's creation in our prayers. You are always welcome to contact me with specific prayer requests and/or pastoral concerns by phone (call/text or email pastor@salemunited.org).

Blessings, Stacey

Financial Committee News >>>

From Bob Kimball, Finance Chair: As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support and faithfulness of our congregation. At one point, we faced a nearly **\$40,000 deficit**, a challenge that seemed daunting. But through **God's provision and your generosity**, we have finished the year **almost at break-even**, with a final shortfall of just **\$587** – a truly remarkable turnaround!

This achievement is a testament to the strength of our church family. Through **faithful giving, special contributions, and careful stewardship**, we witnessed the power of coming together in **prayer, trust, and action**. Your dedication not only helped us meet financial obligations but also ensured that our ministries continued to serve our community with love and compassion.

Though we fell just short of breaking even, we celebrate this milestone as a **victory of faith**. We move forward into the new year with renewed commitment, knowing that **God provides** and that together, we can overcome any challenge.

From the bottom of our hearts, **thank you** for your unwavering support. May we continue to walk in faith, serve with love, and trust in God's abundant grace.

Thanks a Latte!



Our youth are participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring to help tackle the challenge of hunger and food insecurity in our community. They are collecting non-perishable foods (canned soup, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and/or canned ravioli) and monetary donations to benefit the outreach work of the 755 Alliance in Edgewood.

Bible Study Opportunity >>>

Please join Rev. Dr. Marcelena Holmes on Saturday, February 15, 2025, on Zoom (from 12:00 pm to 1:00pm) for Bible Study online. We will be continuing our study on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The link to the Bible Study is <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/2wjAQYxrRsGqH2laiVZZAQ> We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth News >>>

From Judy Jones: Our youth and confirmands met on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January to assemble health kits for UMCOR. They were able to complete 75 kits! Pastor Stacey spoke to them about why they were doing the project and where they are distributed. And, of course, there was pizza! Thanks to all our youth for completing this project.

We also want to thank Derrick Bayne for volunteering to help the Wreaths Across America organization do a cleanup of Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens on Saturday. Way to go, Derrick!



United
Women
in Faith

We want to thank Terri Booth from Union Chapel UMC for speaking at our planning meeting on January 26th. She is the Baltimore-Washington Suburban District President for the United Women in Faith. She spent time reviewing our history through the changes in names and service to women and children (world-wide). Additionally, she spoke about the five channels of giving (also known as the five stars)

and how that money is used to support the missions of the UWFaith as well as supporting the missions of the United Methodist Church. (UMCOR is one of those missions.) Eighteen out of twenty-four UWFaith groups in our District meet the five-star giving level, and Salem is one of those eighteen! Also of note are the resources available to anyone through the UWFaith website (<https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/deepend-discipleship/united-women-in-faith/>). Among those are a book club reading list, the "RESPONSE" magazine, and lectures. Please check out the website. There may be a topic close to your heart that you want to know more about. More information on the UWFaith will be provided in future newsletters.

Mission Moments >>>

Salem is continuing to collect donations of Bibles and past issues of the Upper Room for shipping internationally through Love Packages. There is a labeled box for drop-offs in the main entrance to the church on the table across from the coat racks. Also, don't forget about saving those aluminum tabs from your soft drinks, soup or pet food cans, etc. Recycling these tabs helps to raise money for services at the Ronald McDonald House. You can drop tabs off in the office or in the sanctuary under the offering plate.

Hats for NICU Babies >>>

We are collecting crocheted/knitted baby hats to support NICU babies at local hospitals. If you have any questions, or have hats to donate, please contact Angela Spinner. Hats should be donated by April 1st.

Thank You >>>

From Kingsville Volunteer Fire Department: In remembrance of Mr. Bruce King, a memorial gift has been made to Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company. Thank you for your donation!

Vegetable or Vegetable Beef



February Soup Sale

YOUR CHOICE OF SOUP

\$12 PER QUART

**PRE-PAID ORDERS DUE
FEB 17**

**ORDER FORMS IN
NARTHEX & ONLINE**

COME,
LET US
WALK IN
THE
light
OF
THE
LORD!

ISAIAH 1:25, NRSV



In Memoriam – Bill Packer >>>



Mathias William Packer (Bill to his friends) went home to be with our Lord on January 19, 2025. He leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and unwavering dedication to family, work, and community.

Bill was preceded in death by his beloved wife of over fifty years, Jo-Ann, his lifelong partner and soulmate. A proud and loving father, he is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Gail Packer, D.D.S. (husband Konstandinos “Gus” Rigopoulos), and Deborah Lynn Packer, M.D., as well as his

cherished grandchildren. Bill’s family was his greatest source of pride and joy, and his role as a father and grandfather was his most treasured calling.

The above is a snippet from Bill’s obituary. The full text may be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/nottingham-md/mathias-packer-12206751>

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

Betty Knight – 8830 Walther Blvd, Garden Terrace #308, Baltimore, MD 21234

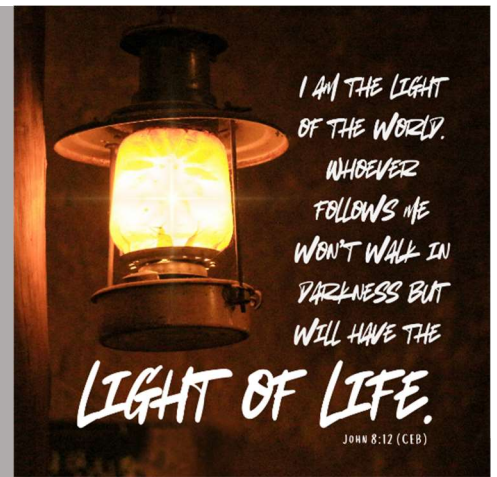
Myrna Martin – 8100 Rossville Blvd, Brightview Room 207, Baltimore, MD 21236

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

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

Please continue to hold Joey Nuetzel in prayer as he recovers from his car accident. You may send him cards to 5730 Allender Road, White Marsh, MD 21162



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am live stream service: salemunited.org/livestream Pastor's Bible 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) 9:45am Choir (Chapel)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Office)		9am Aerobics (Hall)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Souper Bowl of Caring 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 9:45am Choir (Chapel) 12:00pm Confirmation Class	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Office) 7pm BWCUMC Town Hall on restructuring (call office for assistance registering)		9am Aerobics (Hall)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 9:45am Choir (Chapel)	NO AEROBICS Soup Sale prepaid orders due 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Office) 1pm Book Club (call office for details) 7:00pm Finance Committee (Salem Room)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 11:30am Women Moving On luncheon (call office for details)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 9:45am Choir (Chapel) Soup Sale order pickup (15 min after each service; kitchen)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Office)		9am Aerobics (Hall)	8:00-10:30am Breakfast Bash (Hall)



February Soup Sale

The soup sale is back this month and another delicious soup is on the menu! February features your choice of Vegetable or Vegetable Beef Soup. This soup, a perennial favorite and wonderful winter comfort food, will leave you feeling full – and if you can't finish it, you can freeze it for another day!

Please note all orders must be prepaid by February 17th. 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 will be picked up Sunday, February 23rd in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Questions? Contact Lauren Simpson.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to print an order form, please call the Salem UMC office at 410-529-2543 or email salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com to place an order.

FEBRUARY SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

All orders must be pre-paid and are due February 17th.

Pickup will be picked up Sunday, February 23rd in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

# of Quarts	Soup Type	Cost	Total
	Vegetable	\$12.00 each	
	Vegetable Beef	\$12.00 each	

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