



SALEM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

February 2023



We love
because He
first loved
us.

1 John 4:19 (NRSV)

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 am in Chapel

10:45 am 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

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](#)

Pastor's Message

February is going to be an important time for us at Salem! Our Church Council met on January 28, and we planned for some new initiatives designed to help Salem move forward in ministry and mission. We are answering Jesus' call to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

On February 1 we will begin our "Survey for Salem." We encourage your participation in taking the online survey. More information is found later in the newsletter and on our church website. We would like to have as many people as possible complete the survey. You do not need to be a member of Salem to participate; we want to include all who have a commitment to Salem's future. Assistance is available for those who are not confident in their ability to participate online. I will be emailing the link to the survey on February 1. Please complete the survey by midnight on February 12. The results of this survey will guide us on building on the strengths of our congregation and our openness to increasing our impact in sharing Jesus Christ in our community.

The month of February brings us new opportunities for mission/outreach, study, service, worship, and sharing fun together.

The Souper Bowl of Caring: On February 12 our youth will be collecting our donations to support our outreach through serving at the laundromat. We will be collecting money as well as personal hygiene items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo. If you can, please donate at least \$1 and 1 item, which will be given to this outreach helping the Edgewood community. We all have the opportunity to hear more about this community outreach on that same day during the Sunday School hour. Please see Judy's introduction to Bang Tam Miller in this newsletter. Our youth are planning to go to the laundromat on February 20. I am excited because I'm planning to go with the group so I can experience firsthand this outreach experience. Our donations from Souper Bowl of Caring will benefit the 755 Alliance Inc., the non-profit organized by Bang Tam and her family.



Improvements to Online Worship: On Sunday, February 19 we will begin livestreaming our 10:45 am worship service directly through our website. You will not need to sign in to Zoom anymore and we will have a much better experience for worship. We want to make this transition as easy as possible for online participants. Tara has included more thorough instructions later in the newsletter. Please note that I will continue to email the link in my weekly email so you will be able to use that if you wish. We are committed to offering good online options and improving those experiences for our participants.

Ash Wednesday: The season of Lent begins on February 22. Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be available online as well as in person (in the sanctuary). We will have the opportunity to receive ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our choir is planning to sing for the service. If you are not able to receive ashes in person, please let me know and I will make other arrangements for you.

Activity Packets for Lent: We will have packets for at-home activities available on Sunday, February 19 and at the pancake dinner on February 21. Our theme for Lent is "***Reflections on The Heart.***" Please take a packet and share with your family and neighbors. These activities will correspond with our sermon series for Lent. Please call or email the church office if you would like to have a packet delivered to you (salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com).

Pastor's Bible Study: I will be leading a Bible study during Lent on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning on February 27. We will meet in the Salem House; also available online through Zoom (use the Bible Study link found on the website under the Community tab). We will be studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5 – 7. This biblical passage contains some of Jesus' most profound and memorable teachings. The guiding book for our discussion is Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at

Vanderbilt University. The book is not required but if you would like me to order a book for you from Cokesbury, please let me know as soon as possible. The book costs \$13. You may be interested in reading the book on your own even if you cannot attend the study. Please let me know if you plan to participate in the study. I am looking forward to studying and discussing these challenging teachings from Jesus with you.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

In Christ, *Stacey*

Survey for Salem

Salem has an opportunity to participate in a conference program called "Congregational Vitality Pathways." The pathways are a guide to help us not only grow our ministry, but also to help understand God's direction for our church (God's preferred future). The Church Council has endorsed the first step in this program, which is called a Readiness 360 Survey. The results of this survey will help identify our congregation's strengths and focus how we share Jesus Christ in our community.

You can participate in this online survey and give your input on the development of our future ministry and mission at Salem. The survey will be open from February 1 - February 12, 2023. The survey is available on the home page of our website. Look for the "Salem Survey" button in the announcements bar. If you have any questions, or need help completing the survey, contact Tara by calling the church office or at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com. Want to learn more about the Congregational Vitality Pathways? Information can be found on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website at www.bwcumc.org/ministries/new-faith-expressions-newfx/congregational-development/

Safety & Security Update

There has been an uptick in people parking along the curb from the side awning doors around and in front of the main entryway doors. Please DO NOT park in this area. It needs to remain clear in the event we would ever need Fire/EMS personnel to respond during either of our Sunday services or during the week when visitors are using our buildings. Thank you!

Worship Live Streaming is coming!

Since early 2020, we have been blessed to be able to offer online worship through the Zoom platform. Beginning February 19, we will move our online worship platform from Zoom to a live stream on our website! Moving to our website allows for better quality sound for our music and a clearer picture for those watching from wherever they may be. Plus, you won't have to take the extra step of logging in (though we hope you will drop a "hello" in the chat to let us know you are there!). We are very excited to be able to offer this upgraded worship experience.

There are currently two ways to access the live stream. One is to go directly there by typing salemunited.org/livestream into the address bar on in your web browser. You can also go to the home page of our website (salemunited.org). On a desktop, look at the top of the webpage. Where you see the word "worship", place your cursor over the word so the drop-down menu shows up. When that shows, select live stream, and you will be taken directly to that page. If you have any questions, or need help finding the live stream, contact Tara at salemunitedupperfalls@gmail.com.

From Our Financial Chair

From Bob Kimball: As your newest Chairman, I am honored to be asked and anxious to serve. Many thanks to Cindy Carter who took up this mantle last year after the unexpected departure of the previous chairman and did a herculean job. Her organizational skills and attention to detail have made this transition so much easier.

Going forward, I wanted to share with you news on how we ended our fiscal year.

Our increased giving and our dedicated fundraising efforts last year, unfortunately, did not give us enough income to meet our 2022 expenses; specifically, in how we break out and categorize our income. When the final report of our finances came in, we fell short. However, due to an unexpected and special unrestricted gift, we received at Christmas, (which does not technically count in our income for the budget), we were able to cover our expenses and break even for the year. **Praise God!**

No question, we made significant strides this past year especially when we needed it the most, but we will need to be as diligent as we can in 2023 in our tithes and offerings. We also are planning additional fundraising activities that will be a great time of fun and fellowship for all. More to come on that!

That seems to be our Salem legacy. To step up and support the mission of our congregation whenever it's needed. It makes taking on this role, although challenging, very rewarding.

By the way, a replacement AED unit has been ordered and paid for. It has been installed and is operational.

So, here's to a blessed and fruitful 2023!

With Thanks



From Betty Knight: To all the Salem people who have made my life better with love and prayers – A special thanks to those who sent great surprises each month. I loved each gift. My heart seems to be ticking well. My eyes are fading each day. May God hold each one of you in the palm of His hand.

United Women in Faith News



United
Women
in Faith

FREE YARN! Yarn is available for making prayer shawls to be donated to Franklin Square Hospital. Please give any completed shawls to Lauren Simpson. Shawls should be 18 to 24 inches wide and 60 to 65 inches long. Any colors or patterns can be used! The yarn can be found in the basement of the Fellowship Hall. Go to the hallway across from bathrooms (has the murals on the walls) and enter the back classroom through the door on the left (the old Noah's Ark storage area). The yarn is sorted by color and the bins are labeled. The baby yarn is in the shopping bag. Please contact Amy Krebs with any questions!

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner – from Susan Walker, Worship Chair

During the 40 days of Lent, we focus on prayer and our relationship with God, making more of an effort to be kind and charitable. We typically begin Lent by giving up or abstaining from something we enjoy (like chocolate or television). It was customary for Christians to use up all the rich foods in their home in the days leading up to Lent—like meat, eggs, milk, lard, and cheese—ahead of the 40 days of lighter eating and fasting. Calling this season of the winter “Carnival” also has origins in the tradition of fasting: “carnelevarium” means to take away meat in Medieval Latin.

Fat Tuesday is also called Shrove Tuesday (because Christians in the Middle Ages would confess and be “shriven” or absolved from their sins on this day), Carnival Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday, since making pancakes used up many of the ingredients that were forbidden during the fasting season of Lent.

Plan to join us on Tuesday, February 21 as we celebrate Fat Tuesday with pancakes, sausage, and other goodies! Dinner will be served from 5 -6:30 pm. Bring your family and friends. A free will offering will be taken.

Soup Sale!

It's back! The delicious soup you enjoyed in January was just the beginning. Many thanks to everyone for supporting the January soup sale. February's soup will be a "Carrabbas-style" Minestrone and can again be ordered by the quart. Forms will be available in the Narthex or on our website. Please note all orders must be prepaid by Monday, February 20th. All orders will be picked up Sunday, February 26th in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC. Mark your calendars for the last soup sale in March - orders will be due March 13th for a March 19th pick up.

You're Invited to Join Us!

We have invited Bang Tam Miller, co-owner of the Wash-N-Fold laundromat in Edgewood, to come and speak during the Sunday School hour on February 12th (9:30 a.m.) in the Chapel. Our youth have visited the laundromat as a mission opportunity to pay for laundry services for the customers on several occasions. During our visits, we have had conversations with Bang Tam, and have found her personal story fascinating – and we think you will, too. She and her family are constantly giving back to our country, who welcomed them when they immigrated here from Vietnam. Come and listen to how they are "doing all they can," as John Wesley said, to make our community – and the world – a better place.

From Our Financial Secretary

Please remember to check your Junk/Spam email folders for your 2022 giving statements. They were emailed on January 6th; please look at them and contact Karen Sersen with any questions and/or discrepancies. Anyone without e-mail should receive a printed copy by mid-January. If you still have not received a statement, please contact Karen.

Members Corner

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

William Erich Boin – 3900 Loch Raven Boulevard, 1st Floor Hospice, William Boin, Baltimore, MD 21218

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

Summer Camp Brochures

Available

Are you interested in summer camp offerings for your child? The Manidokan and West River Summer Camps of the Baltimore-Washington Conference offer summer camping programs for children and youth (grades 3 -12). Brochures are available in the church office, or you can view more information on the BWC Retreat & Camping Ministries page at <https://www.bwccampsandretreats.com/>





SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor)	2	3 9am Aerobics (Hall)	4
			← Survey for Salem →			
5 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)	6 9am Aerobics (Hall)	7 7pm Finance Committee (Salem Room)	8 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers	9	10 9am Aerobics (Hall)	11
← Survey for Salem →						
12 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) Souper Bowl of Caring Survey closes at midnight →	13 9am Aerobics (Hall)	14	15 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30 pm Vespers	16 7pm Book Club (call office)	17 9am Aerobics (Hall) 11:30am Women Moving On Lunch (call office)	18
19 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) Online worship moves to live stream on Salem website	20 NO Aerobics Prepaid soup orders due	21 5-6:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (Hall)	22 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10-11:30am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 7pm Ash Wednesday Service (in person & online)	23	24 9am Aerobics (Hall)	25
26 8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) Soup orders distributed 15 min after each service (kitchen)	27 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom)	28		8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 is also on Zoom at https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72121826008 Pastor's Study Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408 10:45 am service live stream (beginning February 19): saalem.org/livestream		



February Soup Sale

The soup sale is back this month and another delicious soup is on the menu! February features a “Carrabbas-style” Minestrone soup. This soup, featuring cabbage, bacon, carrots, onions, and cannellini beans in a tomato broth, will leave you feeling full – and if you can’t finish it, you can freeze it for another day! Another bonus – all of the ingredients in this soup are gluten free!

Please note all orders must be prepaid by February 20th. 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 26th 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 20th.
Pickup will be picked up Sunday, February 26th in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

# of Quarts	Soup Type	Cost	Total
	Minestrone	\$10.00 each	

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



GOD
IS
LOVE