

## 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](http://salemunited.org)  
and follow us on Facebook &  
Instagram @salemunitedupperfalls



Lent  
**2026**

*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](http://salemunited.org/livestream)

Vespers

- Resuming April 8 at 6:30pm



Luke 6:36, NRSV

IT'S TIME FOR THE SALEM UMC

## BREAKFAST BASH!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 - 10:15 AM

ALL YOU  
CAN EAT!

## DELICIOUS MENU!

- PANCAKES
  - BLUEBERRY CREAM CHEESE BREAD PUDDING
  - BREAKFAST CASSEROLE
  - BAKED HAM
  - FRUIT PLATTER
  - BEVERAGES AND MORE!
- ADULTS: \$10  
KIDS 6 & UNDER: \$5

SALEM  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7901 BRADSHAW RD  
UPPER FALLS MD 21156  
SALEMUNITED.ORG

## **Pastor's Message >>>**

We are preparing for a meaningful observance of the Season of Lent. Our sermon series is called "**Songs of the Cross**" and is based on the book Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion by Pastor Adam Hamilton. You are welcome to join our study on Monday evenings, or you can read the book along with us. The scriptures for each worship service are listed for your prayerful reading and meditation. A key phrase from the main hymn text is included as well.

### **Ash Wednesday – February 18 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary in person and online**

- Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV) "Cherish the Old Rugged Cross"
- Key Phrase: "To the old rugged cross I will ever be true"
- Opportunity to receive ashes and sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

### **February 22 – "Keep Us Near the Cross"**

- Scripture: Mark 8:31-37 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever..."

### **March 1 – "Lift High the Cross"- Worship with Holy Communion**

- Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "Follow this triumphant sign..."

### **March 8 – "O Love Divine"**

- Scripture: Hebrews 10:10-18 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "The immortal god has died for me..."

### **March 15 – "Lamb of God"**

- Scripture: Exodus 12:21-28 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "Have mercy on us."

### **March 22 – "Were You There"**

- Scripture: Matthew 16:24-26 (NRSV)
- Key phrase: "Sometimes it causes me to tremble..."

### **March 29 – "Wondrous Love" – Palm/Passion Sunday**

- Opening Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11 (NRSV); Scripture Lesson: 1 John 4:7-12 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "To God and to the Lamb I will sing..."

**April 2** – Holy Thursday Worship with our Hub at Bel Air UMC, 21 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air 21014. Livestream will be available through BAUMC. Watch the bulletin/our website for details.

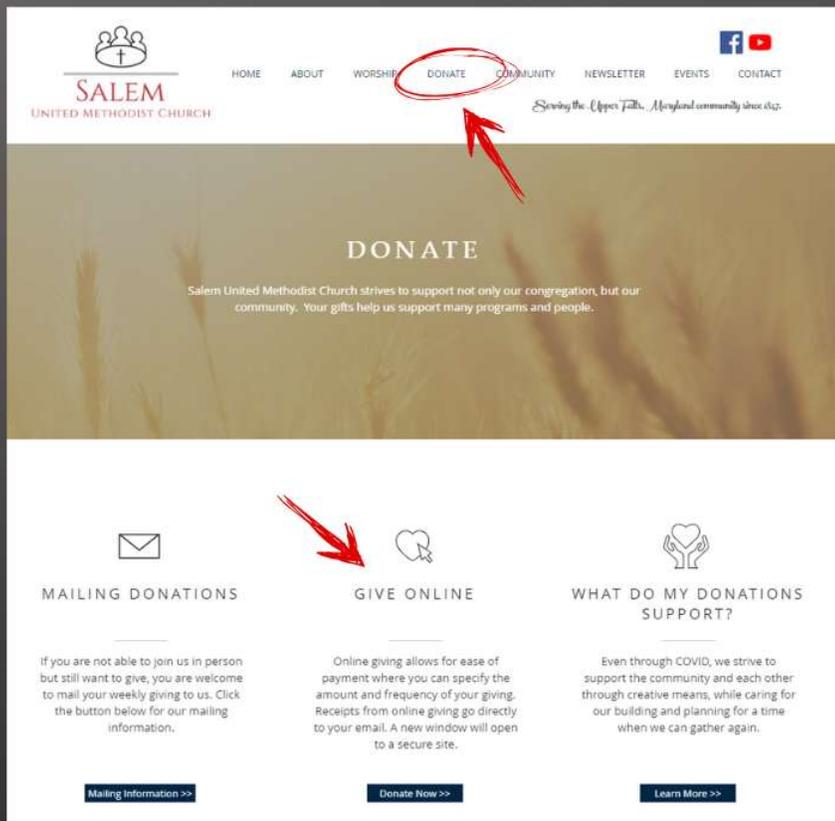
### **April 5 – "Risen Today" – Easter: Celebration of our Lord's Resurrection**

- Sunrise Service at the cemetery at 6:30 a.m.; Breakfast in hall between services
- Worship services at 8:00am (chapel), 10:45am (sanctuary); Service of Holy Communion
- Scripture: John 20:1-18 (NRSV)
- Key Phrase: "Soar we now where Christ has led..."

**Lenten Offering:** Our special offering this year will benefit Manna House ([mannahouseinc.org](http://mannahouseinc.org)) and our general fund. We have supported Manna House for many years. Here is their mission statement: "Manna House provides the homeless and poor of Baltimore City with the assistance and support to move towards independence and stability. We help transform people's lives by feeding them first." One half of our Lenten Offering goes to Manna House and one half to Salem's general fund to help meet our ongoing operating expenses. Envelopes are available at church or you may give online at [saalemunited.org/donate](http://saalemunited.org/donate).

Make a commitment to join together on our Lenten journey to the cross with Jesus our Savior.

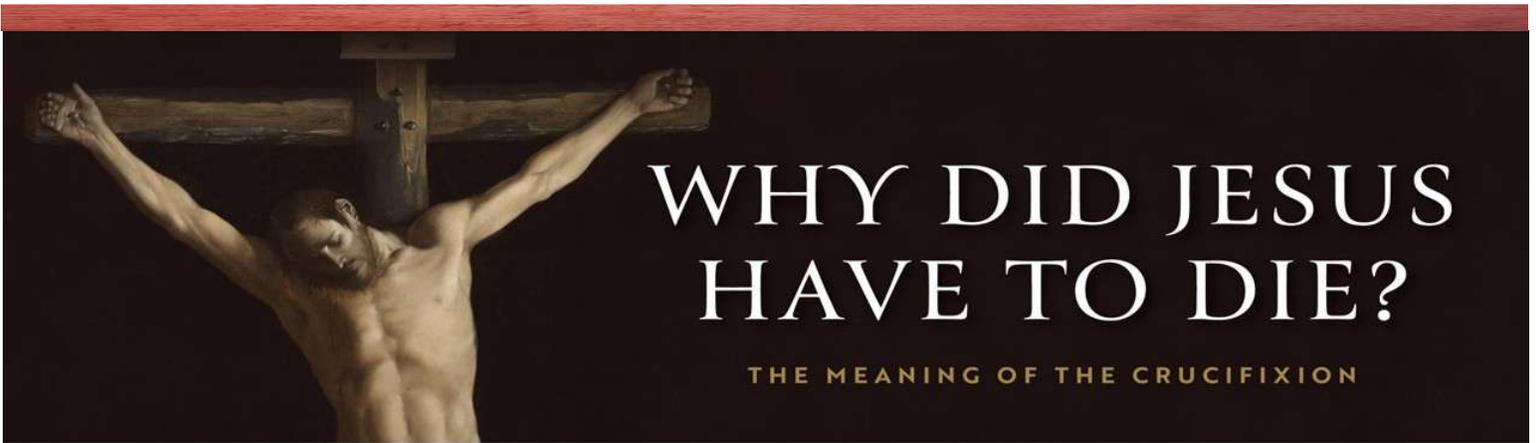
Grace and peace, *Stacey*



Online giving is easily accessible on our website! You can choose one time or recurring donations.

## Mother's Day Flowers >>>

Mark your calendars! We will once again be offering red geraniums for Mother's Day! They will be \$5 each, and orders will be due May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Watch for order forms in April!



## PASTOR'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY MONDAYS AT 7PM ON ZOOM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23RD

BASED ON PASTOR ADAM HAMILTON'S BOOK BY THE SAME NAME.  
CONTACT PASTOR STACEY IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.



# VESPERS

→ Resumes April 8, 2026 at 6:30pm ←

## ***Salem's 2026 Budget >>>***

From The Unified Leadership Board – As we begin a new year and as we embark together as Salem's new Unified Leadership Board, we are grateful for the spirit of transparency, faithfulness, and shared responsibility that continues to guide our church. This month, we share the adopted 2026 budget, a thoughtful plan shaped by prayer, stewardship, and our collective mission. We do so with thanksgiving, as we also celebrate closing 2025 slightly in the black – a quiet but meaningful reminder that careful generosity and faithful commitment truly matter. We invite you to review the budget, reflect on where God is leading us, and join us in hopeful anticipation for the year ahead. The budget can be found at the end of the newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Carter.

## **February Soup Sale**

MARYLAND SHRIMP  
SOUP

\$12 PER QUART

PREPAID ORDERS DUE  
FEB. 16  
FORMS IN NARTHEX  
& ONLINE

PICKUP FEB. 22



## ***Fundraising >>>***

From Lauren Simpson:  
We're looking for some fresh ideas for fundraising. Please give some thought to some possible fundraising ideas which you think our church and community would enjoy and support. Fundraisers do not need to necessarily involve the kitchen. All ideas are welcome. Reach out to me with any ideas! Thank you.

## **Thank you >>>**

From Diana & Steve Pajtis: Thank you to my Salem Church family for the prayers and concern you showed during my son Collin's recent accident. I know God was looking out for him as it could have been much worse. We are grateful for the people in our lives who are so supportive even from afar. God's blessings to all of you.

From Keesha Mack, Community School Specialist at Magnolia Elementary: Thank you for your partnership and support throughout the year. Your generosity and commitment make a meaningful difference for our students, families, and school community. We are truly grateful for all that you do.

From Lovely Lane UMC to the Youth: On behalf of the congregation and staff at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of \$200 received on April 27, 2025. Your support makes a meaningful difference in furthering our mission to spread love, compassion, and faith in our community. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our church and its ministries. Your contribution enables us to continue providing valuable services and outreach.

From Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care): Thank you for your 2025 gift of \$500 in support of the people and programs at Everstand. Our donors are the heart of everything we do, and your generosity and compassion are transforming lives and strengthening communities. Thank you for choosing to support Everstand's most pressing need. Your trust in our ability to direct your gift where it can make the greatest impact is an extraordinary expression of hope and kindness. Your generosity is both a testament to the power of kindness and a spark of hope that will continue to illuminate the paths of those we serve.

## **Financial Secretary's Note >>>**

From Karen Sersen: Your 2025 Annual Giving Statements were emailed on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please check your spam and/or junk email folders if you do not see it. First quarter 2026 statements will go out near the end of the second week of April. If you would like to receive personalized giving envelopes or need assistance with on-line giving, please contact me.



From Helen Kott: Thank you for the delightful Christmas surprise bag. It was nice to be remembered. I especially like the lantern that lights up! Blessings!

Please continue saving aluminum can tabs (soda, soup, pet food, etc.) for the Ronald McDonald House. These tabs provide money to supply their shuttle buses that run between the House and Johns Hopkins with gas. We have collected a pound so far.

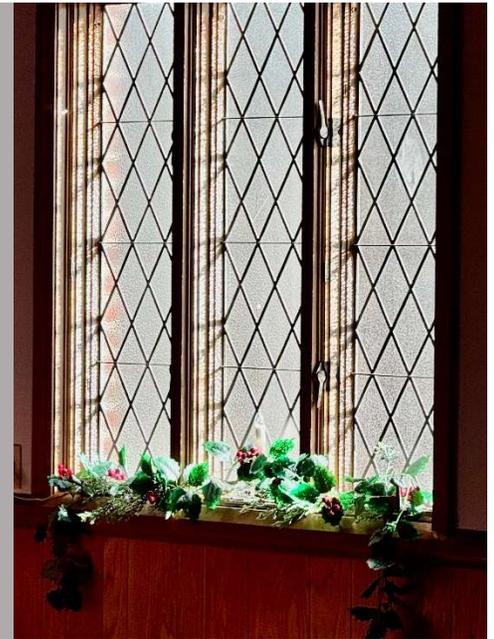
We have a new fundraiser! Beginning February 1, Wockenfuss Candy orders can be made, which will include items for Easter! Order forms can be found in the narthex and on the Salem website ([salemunited.org](http://salemunited.org) under announcements). Orders must be prepaid and are due February 25<sup>th</sup> (place in the offering plate or drop off in the office). Candy will be picked up on Sunday, March 29 after each service in the hall. Please share this with your friends and family. The return is a generous 35% of sales, but we do need a minimum total order of \$500 to qualify. Proceeds will support UWFaith missions.

What missions does UWFaith support? An example is the Susanna Wesley House in Baltimore. This is a home with 9 apartments and a playground which provides supportive housing and other services needed to transition to independent living. If you would like to know more about the Susanna Wesley House, please visit <https://susanna.oidev.org>

Sewing Samaritan dates can be found on the calendar at the end of the newsletter. In case of inclement weather, if Baltimore County Public Schools delays or closes, we will not meet.

## Youth News >>>

**From Judy Jones:** Our youth have been busy since Christmas. On January 16 they, along with other members of our church family, put together 200 hygiene kits for UMCOR. Thanks to all who participated in this mission project. On Sunday, February 8, the youth will be celebrating “Souper Bowl Sunday” by collecting canned pasta, boxed macaroni & cheese, cereal, and hygiene products which will be delivered to the 755 Alliance in Edgewood. Monetary donations are welcome, too. (You may donate online at salemunited.org – please use the Souper Bowl designation.) The donations will be stocking the free outdoor pantries in that community. On Monday, February 16, the youth will once again visit the Wash ‘n Fold laundromat to pay for clients’ laundry – one of their favorite mission projects. Applause for our youth and thank you to all of you who support them and keep them in your prayers.



## UNIFIED LEADERSHIP BOARD

**MARK CARTER, CHAIR**  
**JUDY JONES, VICE-CHAIR**  
**ROBIN WASMER, SECRETARY**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>MIKE BROWN</b>                        | <b>JERRY SERSEN</b>   |
| <b>BOB KIMBALL</b>                       | <b>KAREN SERSEN</b>   |
| <b>TARA KULLY</b>                        | <b>LAUREN SIMPSON</b> |
| <b>MARY LIST</b>                         | <b>SUSAN WALKER</b>   |
| <b>JEAN MATTHEU</b>                      | <b>SUSAN YUREK</b>    |
| <b>REV. DR. STACEY NICKERSON, PASTOR</b> |                       |

## Contact Us!

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday & Wednesday  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
*All other hours by  
appointment only*

**PASTOR:**  
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson  
pastor@salemunited.org  
Cell: (410) 627-1944

**COMMUNICATIONS &  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
MANAGER:**

Tara Kully  
salemunitedupperfalls@  
gmail.com

**DIRECTOR OF  
MUSIC:**

Katy Stevens  
katysmusicstudio@  
gmail.com

## 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, Baltimore, MD 21236

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

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

Please continue to hold Joey Nuetzel in prayer and send cards: 5730  
Allender Road, White Marsh, MD 21162

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                                      | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday  | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|----------|---|----------|
| 1<br><b>Holy Communion</b><br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School  | 2<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br><br>7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)  | 3<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)  | 4<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)   | 5        | 6<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)  | 7        |
| 8<br><b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b><br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir   | 9<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br><br>7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)  | 10<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) | 11<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)<br><br>7pm Unified Leadership Board (Salem Room)   | 12       | 13<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)   | 14       |
| 15<br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School  | 16<br><b>No Aerobics</b><br><b>Prepaid Soup Orders Due</b><br><br>Youth mission – Wash 'n Fold in Edgewood<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor) | 17<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) | 18<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)<br>1pm Book Club (call office for details)<br><br>7pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion (in-person & online) | 19       | 20<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>11:30am Women Moving On luncheon (call office for details) | 21       |
| 22<br><b>Soup Order Pickup</b><br>8&10:45 am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir   | 23<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br><br>7pm Pastor's Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)                                    | 24<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) | 25<br><b>Prepaid candy orders (UW Faith sale) due</b><br><br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)   | 26       | 27<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)   | 28       |
| <p>8:00am &amp; 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am live stream service: <a href="https://salemunited.org/livestream">salemunited.org/livestream</a></p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study Zoom link:<br/><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408</a></p> |  |  |  |          |   |          |

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|---|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
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| 8<br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir   | 9<br><b>No Aerobics</b><br>7pm Pastor's Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)   | 10<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) | 11<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)  | 12  | 13<br>9am Aerobics (Hall)   | 14                                   |
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| 29<br><b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b><br>8&10:45 am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir<br><b>UW Faith Candy Sale pickup (Hall)</b> | 30<br>7pm Pastor's Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)                        | 31<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) |  | 8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am live stream service: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408">saalemunited.org/livestream</a><br><br>Pastor's Bible Study Zoom link:<br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408</a> |   |                                      |

| Sunday  | Monday                                     | Tuesday                                      | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am live stream service: <a href="http://salemunited.org/livestream">salemunited.org/livestream</a>  |  |  | 1   | 2<br><b>Holy Thursday</b><br><br>7pm Worship with HUB at Bel Air UMC (in-person & online) | 3<br><b>Good Friday</b><br><br>1pm Cross Walk (meet at Franklinville Presbyterian) | 4        |
| 5<br><b>Easter Holy Communion</b><br>6:30am Sunrise service (Cemetery)<br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir<br><i>Continental breakfast through 10:15am (Hall)</i> | 6<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)  | 7<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)  | 8<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)<br><br>6:30pm Vespers   | 9   | 10   | 11       |
| 12<br>8&10:45am Services<br>9:30am Sunday School<br>9:45am Choir  | 13<br>7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor) | 14<br>9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room) | 15<br>10am Bible Study (Salem House)<br><br>1pm Book Club (call office for details)<br><br>6:30pm Vespers | 16  | 17<br>11:30am Women Moving On luncheon (call office for details)                   | 18       |
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**Salem United Methodist Church**

**2026 Budget**

**Income**

|                        |           |                |  |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Regular & Misc. Giving | \$        | 251,990        |  |
| Fundraising            |           | 10,000         |  |
| Special Offerings      |           | 2,950          |  |
| <b>Total Income</b>    | <b>\$</b> | <b>264,940</b> |  |

**Expense**

|  |           |                |        |
|--|-----------|----------------|--------|
| Education                              | \$        | 407            |        |
| Youth/Children's Ministries            |           | 200            |        |
| Program Ministries                     |           | 750            |        |
| <b>Upper Room/Alive Now</b>            |           |                | 415    |
| <b>TLC Team</b>                        |           |                | 60     |
| <b>Outdoor Banners &amp; Signs</b>     |           |                | 100    |
| <b>Hospitality Fund</b>                |           |                | 125    |
| <b>Publicity/Advertising</b>           |           |                | 50     |
| Worship                                |           | 390            |        |
| Stewardship                            |           | 1,534          |        |
| <b>Offering Envelopes</b>              |           |                | 600    |
| <b>Safe Deposit Box Rental</b>         |           |                | 70     |
| <b>Breeze monthly fee</b>              |           |                | 864    |
| Church Council                         |           | 1,350          |        |
| <b>Conference Attendance</b>           |           |                | 500    |
| <b>Staff Year-end Bonuses</b>          |           |                | 850    |
| Staff Salaries                         |           | 133,717        |        |
| Staff Support Costs                    |           | 33,187         |        |
| <b>Pastor's Reimbursed Expenses</b>    |           |                | 4,100  |
| <b>Pastor's Medical</b>                |           |                | 12,600 |
| <b>Pastor's Pension</b>                |           |                | 14,395 |
| <b>Payroll Taxes</b>                   |           |                | 2,092  |
| Operating Expenses                     |           | 63,649         |        |
| <b>Custodial Supplies</b>              |           |                | 300    |
| <b>Insurance</b>                       |           |                | 20,514 |
| <b>Church Maintenance</b>              |           |                | 4,000  |
| <b>Grounds Maintenance</b>             |           |                | 3,500  |
| <b>Water System</b>                    |           |                | 800    |
| <b>Alarm System</b>                    |           |                | 3,790  |
| <b>Oil</b>                             |           |                | 15,000 |
| <b>Electricity</b>                     |           |                | 9,000  |
| <b>Telephone</b>                       |           |                | 3,745  |
| <b>Kitchen - Permit &amp; Supplies</b> |           |                | 1,000  |
| <b>Propane</b>                         |           |                | 2,000  |
| Office                                 |           | 6,356          |        |
| <b>Postage &amp; Box Rent</b>          |           |                | 500    |
| <b>Supplies</b>                        |           |                | 575    |
| <b>Publications</b>                    |           |                | 125    |
| <b>Copier Maintenance/Lease</b>        |           |                | 1,968  |
| <b>Comcast</b>                         |           |                | 2,458  |
| <b>Website/Zoom</b>                    |           |                | 250    |
| <b>Office - Misc. &amp; Bkgrnd Cks</b> |           |                | 480    |
| Mission Share                          |           | 33,390         |        |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <b>\$</b> | <b>274,930</b> |        |
| <b>Favorable(Unfavorable)</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>(9,990)</b> |        |

February Soup Sale

# Maryland Shrimp Soup

\$12 per quart

Prepaid orders due

February 16th

Pickup February 22nd



This delicious Shrimp Soup is similar to a Maryland Crab Soup - and it's also freezable! Orders may be placed in the collection plate at Salem or mailed to the office. Mail checks to: Salem United Methodist Church, PO Box 192, Upper Falls, MD 21156.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Quarts: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 per quart = \_\_\_\_\_