

Dec
2023

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

- 6:30 p.m., weather
permitting



Pastor's Message

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" – Isaiah 40:3-5 (NRSV)

"Preparing the Way" is our Advent theme this year. The scripture above from the book of Isaiah depicts in dramatic language the transforming work of God in our world. How do we participate with God in preparing the way that shapes the redemption and transformation of all creation? We will be exploring components of our work of preparation in worship each Sunday of Advent. Here is the schedule with the scripture lesson of the week. (You can read the scriptures before each worship and be prepared!)

December 3 – Preparing to Bring **Hope**: Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 10 – Preparing to Make **Peace**: Luke 3:2b-6

December 17 – Preparing to Have **Joy**: Philippians 4:4-7

December 24 – Preparing to Embrace **Love**: Luke 1:39-45

On the evening of December 24, we will have two opportunities to celebrate Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. The 11:00 p.m. service will have Holy Communion. Both services will be available in person and online.

Continued on page 2

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

On Sunday, December 31, we will celebrate parts of the Wesley Covenant Renewal Service and share in Holy Communion at both services.

May we open ourselves for God's work among us this Advent -

Hope, peace, joy, and love to all, *Stacey*

Providing Hope to Families in Need >>>

A warm bath and comfy pajamas. Sleeping in a soft bed in a warm house. Coffee and a hot breakfast before starting your day. Do these things sound familiar to you?

What about adding another pair of socks, a sweatshirt, and a hat before covering yourself with a blanket and settling in the back seat of a car? Trying to sleep with four other family members through a cold, frigid night? Waking up to change clothes in that same cold car, before starting your day with minimal food and ice cold water?

There are forty families here in our neighborhoods who face life in a car during the winter months. We don't like to think about it, but there are children who get up and go to school having slept in that cold car.

The Harford County Hope for Homeless Alliance (HCHHA) is trying to get these families in need out of their cars this winter, but they need our help. Their goal is to get those families into hotels for thirteen weeks – through the coldest part of the winter. HCHHA has shared with us that \$69 will house one family for one night at a hotel; \$483 will house one family for one week, and \$6,279 will house one family for all thirteen weeks.

We're reaching out to you – our Salem family – to help those families that need assistance. Any donation amount is welcome. It all adds up! Your family will be sleeping warm and well fed – will your family help another family? If you find it in your heart to accept our Salem challenge to house these families, please note "Winter Housing" on the memo line of your check. If donating online at saalemunited.org/donate, please be sure to select "Donate Now" under "Give Online." In the new page that opens, please select "Winter Housing" from the first drop down menu.

The Church Council has discussed this community need at length and feels led to share this challenge with you. Any amount is truly appreciated and we thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Simpson.



Salem would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Special Agent Sarah Lewis of the FBI Financial Crime Squad in Baltimore. On November 26th, Special Agent Lewis gave an informative talk on how to avoid scams that are often aimed at those who are aged 55 years and over – though the information is good for all of us. After the presentation, a handout was distributed, which you can find at the end of the newsletter. We have asked her to come back for another presentation at a later date.

December Soup Sale

MARYLAND SHRIMP SOUP

\$12 PER QUART

PREPAID ORDERS
DUE DECEMBER
4TH; FORMS IN
NARTHEX & ONLINE



Soup Sale is back >>>

Colder weather has arrived and it's soup time again. Let the kitchen crew take care of your dinner! The cost of a quart of soup is \$12.00, but consider if you dine out the least amount you will pay for a cup of soup is \$6 to \$8. Many places are charging \$9 to \$10 per cup. With our soup sale, you are getting four times the amount of a cup in a restaurant for half to three quarters of the price!

Our first soup, as announced, is Maryland Shrimp Soup, to be picked up on Sunday, December 10th (order form can be found at the end of the newsletter). This soup may be frozen! Other soups will follow. In January, be on the lookout for our Potato Cheddar soup. February will feature Chicken Corn Chowder or Chicken Rice Soup. In March, we will have Broccoli Cheddar soup. Help support Salem and give yourself a night off from kitchen duty! Please contact Lauren Simpson with questions.

On November 26, Salem had a special moment of prayer to recognize our college students. In our Salem tradition, our youth made a blanket in his school colors for our first-year college student, West Virginia University colors! Pastor Stacey has mailed Advent calendars to all our undergraduate college students (if you have a student, remind them to check their mail!). If you would be interested in sending supportive notes in the mail to our college young adults, please see Pastor Stacey.



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will be taking a break for the holidays. The last session will be December 13th at 10:00 am and the group will resume meeting on January 17th at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to join us for a time of study, prayer, and fellowship. May everyone have a blessed and peaceful holiday season. From: Judy Jones



On November 20th, the Helping Hands Food Pantry, housed here at Salem, was able to provide food for Thanksgiving to sixty-five families. Additionally, they were able to provide food to another thirty-three families at five area schools.

If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, please contact the Helping Hands Food Pantry at (410) 592-2226.



Advent at Salem



12/3: 1ST SUNDAY - SERVICES
AT 8 & 10:45 AM; COMMUNION

12/10: 2ND SUNDAY -
SERVICES AT 8 & 10:45 AM

12/17: 3RD SUNDAY -
SERVICES AT 8 & 10:45 AM

12/24: 4TH SUNDAY - SERVICE
AT 9:30 AM; CHOIR CANTATA

Service of *Healing and Hope*



Wednesday, December 13, 2023
7:00 pm service in the Chapel

Youth News >>>

The Middle High/High School Sunday School class was busy in November making cookies (many cookies!) which were delivered to Kingsville Volunteer Fire Department, Joppa/Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department, White Marsh Volunteer Fire Department, the Harford County Sheriff Department's Southern Precinct, and two Baltimore City Fire Houses. They were much appreciated!

The youth requested a special mission project for December. They will be providing Christmas gifts for some of the youth at the Board of Child Care. Each family will "adopt" a youth and fill a stocking with items for them.

Our youth have a tentative trip to Hershey Park planned for between Christmas and New Years! Then in January, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the 15th), the youth will visit the Wash 'n Fold Laundromat in Edgewood. This is part of their mission work to pay for loads of laundry for the customers there. If you would like to support this mission, keep an eye out for the Tide Pod container in January 2024.

Christmas Eve

at Salem

**6:45 pm - Pre-service handbell
music**

**7:00 pm - Family Service (in-
person & online)**

**11:00 pm - Candlelight Service
with Communion (in-person &
online)**





United
Women
in Faith

With many thanks to the talents of Sue Yurek and Su DeLeo, the UWF will be bringing back the Christmas Ornament sale this year! A variety of ornaments will be available beginning at the Pancake Breakfast on December 2nd and after each service on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Contact Su or Sue with any questions.

Also still available are our cloth grocery bags. Each bag costs only \$8.00! These sturdy yet beautiful reusable bags are perfect for shopping! Contact Amy Krebs if you would like to purchase one.

New RADA knife catalogs are available in the rack just inside the awning entrance. This is another way to support the UWF at Salem. Please use the Salem contact information on the sticker of the catalog and contact Sally Wagner with any questions.

Thank You: The UWF would like to share the following thank you note from the 755 Alliance in Edgewood, MD:

“On behalf of the 755 Alliance, Inc., I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$400.00 made on September 25, 2023. Our non-profit organization relies on the generosity of community partners such as Salem UMC’s Women in Faith Group to help maintain our community pantries located at the Edgewood Boys & Girls Club at Cedar Drive. The two pantries are stocked with non-perishable food and essential toiletry items. Individuals can access the pantries on a 24/7 basis. Rest assured that one hundred percent of donated funds will be applied towards the purchase of pantry items to stock both units. I am truly grateful for your generous support of our community members who may be facing economic hardship and emergent food, housing and/or transportation insecurities. With gratitude, Bang Tam Miller, President”



Salem’s United Women in Faith

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

A wide variety of hand-painted ornaments are available. Some can be personalized!

Sales begin at the Dec 2nd Pancake Breakfast! Ornaments will also be available at Vespers and after services on Sundays.

Questions? Contact Su DeLeo or Sue Yurek.

\$5
EACH





**SAT
DEC 2
8-10:30 AM**



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
&
HOLIDAY SHOP**

**GET YOUR CAMERAS READY!
SANTA WILL BE VISITING!**

- ADULTS \$9, KIDS 6 & UNDER \$5
- ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST!
- VISIT THE ADVENT WORKSHOP (9:30-11 AM)
- HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH OUR VENDORS!



**7901 BRADSHAW ROAD
UPPER FALLS, MD 21156
(410) 592-2543
SALEMUNITED.ORG**




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

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

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



Thanks to everyone who donated food items for Harvest Sunday on November 19th! We had an amazing turnout and look forward to this special offering returning next year.



December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
8:00am & 10:45 am services are in-person. 10:45 am service live stream: salemunited.org/livestream Pastor's Study Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408					9am Aerobics (Hall)	8-10:30am Pancake Breakfast & Holiday Shop with Advent Workshop (Hall)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages)	9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers	6:45pm – Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	9am Aerobics (Hall)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 10am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		10am Morning Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Vespers 7pm Service of Healing and Hope (Chapel)		11:30am Women Moving On Lunch (call office)	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8&10:45 am Services 9:30am Sunday School (all ages) 10am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Office & Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)		6:30pm Vespers	6:45pm – Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7pm Book Club (call office)		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am Service for Advent No Sunday School 7pm Family Christmas Eve Service 11pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service w/Communion	Merry Christmas					
31						
8&10:45 am Services						



December Soup Sale

The soup sale is back from its summer vacation! For December, we have a Maryland Shrimp soup. This soup is similar to a Maryland Crab soup. Please note, this soup is freezer friendly.

Please note all orders (\$12 per quart) must be prepaid by December 4th. 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, December 10th in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Please contact Lauren Simpson with questions or for orders to be placed between December 4th-6th 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.

DECEMBER SOUP SALE ORDER FORM

All orders must be pre-paid and are due December 4th.

Orders may be picked up Sunday, December 10th in the kitchen for 15 minutes after each service at Salem UMC.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

# of Quarts	Soup Type	Cost	Total
	Maryland Shrimp Soup	\$12.00 each	

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

LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FINANCES

PRESENTED BY:
FBI BALTIMORE

Most common types of Elder Fraud:

Romance Scams: pretend to be someone they are not, take time to earn your trust, say all the right things

- Will not meet you in person
- Encourage you to communicate outside of dating site
- Always have excuses as to why they cannot meet and why they need your help
- Ask for gift cards, money, open bank accounts, and other items of value

Tech Fraud Scam: pretend to be someone from certain IT companies like McAfee or Norton

- Want remote access to your computer
- Will over pay you during a rebate or refund
- Ask you to send the money back to them via gift cards, cash, wire transfers and/or virtual currency
- Will call you frequently throughout the day trying to pressure you into sending the money fast

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

1. Never send money, gift cards, wire transfers or virtual currency to anyone you haven't met in person
2. Ask for the opinion of others, such as friends or family members, before taking any action
3. Slow down and think about what you are doing. Scammers will try to do everything fast and encourage you to make quick decisions. You don't have to move fast. Take your time. Think before you do anything.



Resources:

- Contact FBI Baltimore at 410-265-8080
- Visit [IC3.gov](https://ic3.gov) to file a complaint
- <https://fightcybercrime.org/programs/peer-support/>
- <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/voa-rest-program/>