Salem United Methodist Church

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



Nov-Dec
2026

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

The Spirit

SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Join us >>>

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- *10:45 a.m. service is livestreamed at salemunited.org/livestream*

Vespers: *On break for winter*

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

ResourceUMC.org/Vision
#LoveServeLeadUMC

Harvest Sunday

November 22, both services

DONATION LIST

- Shelf-stable food
- Personal care items
- Household essentials
- Canned goods

- Full list available in narthex & online

All donations will support the families of Magnolia Elementary in Joppa.

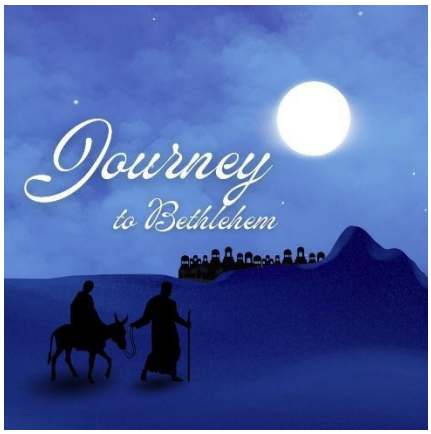
Donations may be left at the top of the awning stairwell. You may also donate online at salemunited.org

Pastor's Message >>>

The holiday season is here! We are getting ready at Salem, and I invite you to join with us as we follow Jesus together.

Preparing for Worship
I encourage you to make worshiping together each week a priority. We have many options for participating in worship: 8 a.m. in person in the chapel; 10:45 a.m. in person or online in the sanctuary; and recording of the message to YouTube (which can be accessed on our church website as well as YouTube). If you would like to view the recording of the entire 10:45 a.m. service, please email me and I can send you the link. I strongly recommend that you prepare for worship by reading the scripture lessons for each week. Be prayerful and intentional about your participation in worship. Come with expectation; be open to receive blessings from the presence of God through the Holy Spirit moving among us and within us.

Our Advent Worship will center around the theme, "Journey to Bethlehem." Here is our worship outline for the next few weeks.



November 29: First Sunday of Advent
"Begin in Hope" Luke 2:1-3; Romans 8:18-25 NRSV

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent
"Peace While Waiting" Luke 1:5-17 NRSV
Sacrament of Holy Communion

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent
"Joy in Simplicity" Luke 1:26-38 NRSV

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
"Humble Love" Micah 5:1-5a NRSV

Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. Family Worship with Handbell Prelude beginning at 6:45 p.m.
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
Both services will be offered in person and live at salemunited.org
"From the Manger" Luke 2:1-20

December 27: The First Sunday after Christmas
We will celebrate College Student Recognition Sunday. Please make sure that I have updated information about our college students.

January 3, 2027: Epiphany Sunday
"Journey From Bethlehem" Matthew 2:1-12
We will celebrate "Star Sunday" with a collection of socks for adult men and women to be shared with various outreach ministries assisting our unhoused neighbors.

January 10, 2027: Baptism of the Lord Sunday Mark 1:4-11

Blessings,
Stacey



Put on your thinking caps to help Salem meet our financial goals! A fundraising meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the parlor. We're looking for new ideas. If you are interested and want to help, but can't make it, call Sue Yurek

Opportunities to Share God's Love >>>

A significant part of who we are as The Church, and Salem Church in particular, is the way we reach out to our neighbors in the community and share God's love. We share of the blessings God has entrusted to us.

I want to share an overview of what we have planned for this holiday season. Please prayerfully consider how you wish to support these missions.

1) Harvest Sunday – On Sunday, November 22 we will receive an offering of non-perishable food items and other needed donations to benefit the families of Magnolia Elementary School. You may contribute financially, if you prefer. Online giving is available. Please mark your donation "Harvest Sunday."

2) Christmas Gifts – we have partnered with Magnolia Elementary School for many years to help brighten the holidays for the students and their families. This year we are asking for donations of gift cards for the families. These items will help address some of the everyday needs and expenses that can be especially challenging for the families during the holiday season. They would like to have Aldi gift cards in the amount of $20 each and gift cards for gas stations in the amount of $25 each. Please bring in your donations by Sunday, December 13. If you prefer to make a financial donation, please mark your donation "Christmas Gifts." You may give online; please select Magnolia Elementary School Gift Cards on the dropdown menu.

United Women in Faith

Sewing Samaritans: Cutting, ironing and sewing continues for the fidget mats and lap quilts. Please feel free to come join us as you can, 9:30-11:30am, on Tuesday's.

Christmas is coming, looking for gifts? The new RADA cutlery/mixes catalog can be found at the back of the church, with a $5.00 coupon attached! One of our ladies reports that "the meat chopper is perfect for breaking down ground meats when cooking, and the bread slicer is the perfect size for most breads." The profits from this ongoing fundraiser go to UMCOR.

We will be selling Wockenfuss Candy for Easter. Look for details in January. Our 2025 Wockenfuss fundraiser covered a donation to Salem's General Fund and our support of UMCOR and National United Women in Faith!

Can Tabs: 4.8 pounds of tabs were collected between Nov 2025-Oct 2026! Thank you to all who collected. The tabs collected provide funds to purchase gas for the vehicles used by the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. Containers are in the back of the Sanctuary and in the church office.

Church – Not So Trivial

A Special Year-End Appeal to Our Congregation

As we approach the end of 2026, we want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to our church. Your prayers, gifts, time, and dedication make it possible for our congregation to continue serving God and our community.

As we look toward December 31, we have an important goal before us: **to meet fully all of our financial commitments and meet our 2026 church operating budget.** We would like everyone to be informed about our financial situation. This is an important issue affecting all of us. Did you know that:

1. Salem's total operating budgeted expenses for 2026 are expected to be **$267,940**, which includes our staff salaries and ALL operating costs to keep the church not only open but vital.
2. Breaking down the total cost of $267,940, here are some of our ongoing expenses:
    a. **Annual Insurance** costs Salem $20,514
    b. **Church/Grounds Maintenance** requires $7,500
    c. **Fuel Oil & Propane** costs us $17,000
    d. **BGE** (electricity) costs us $12,000

Throughout the year, our church has continued to meet its financial responsibilities, maintain our building, support our ministries, and provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service. These things are made possible ONLY through the faithful giving of our congregation. As we enter the final weeks of the year, we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider making an additional contribution or catching up on their regular giving to help us meet our budget goal by December 31. It's this time of year that we all get a little nervous, pray, and keep our fingers crossed so that we can get enough money in to break even. If we don't, we then have to take money from our savings account to cover any shortfalls.

As of **November 1st**, our best analysis shows we could fall **short $14,000** this year. None of us really know for sure if this prediction will hold true as we do get unexpected monetary gifts and other donations in the last couple of weeks in December that get us across the finish line. Every gift matters, regardless of its size. When each of us does what we can, the collective impact can make a tremendous difference. This is not simply about meeting a financial number; it is about supporting the mission and ministry of our church and ensuring that we can continue the important work God has called us to do.

We recognize that everyone has different financial circumstances, and we are grateful for every contribution already made throughout the year. We simply ask that you prayerfully consider how you might help us finish the year on strong financial footing. Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your continued support of our church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Stacey, Mark Carter, Jean Mattheu, or any member of our Unified Leadership Board. May God bless each of you and the ministry we share together at Salem!

With gratitude and appreciation,

YOUR Church's Unified Leadership Board and Pastor Stacey

Working Together . . .

Who Does What at Salem?

We are blessed at Salem to have many people serving in our various ministries. We are welcoming new people into leadership roles. Here are some of the people serving on our committees and leading our various ministries.

As of 1/1/2026, we have a Unified Leadership Board, and two elected committees. We have moved into a designation of rotating classes. Members serve a three-year term with a possibility of a second three-year term before rotating off that committee. All members of these three committees are required to be members of Salem United Methodist Church.

Unified Leadership Board:

Class of 2027/2028:	Mark Carter (Chair)	Judy Jones (Vice Chair)
Robin Wasmer (Secretary)	Lauren Simpson	Susan Yurek
Bob Kimball	Karen Sersen	Jean Mattheu (Treasurer)
Class of 2029:	James Walker	Sharon Marquette

Non-Voting Member: Pastor Stacey Nickerson

This Board is focused on our mission as a congregation. They oversee all ministries, finances, maintenance, and capital needs. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, unless there is an executive session called.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):

Class of 2027:	Susan Walker (Chairperson)	Scott Shelton
Class of 2028:	Mark Carter	
Class of 2029:	Bob Kimball	Karen Fisher

Ex-officio: Pastor Stacey Nickerson

The SPRC specifically attends to our church staff, including the relationship between the pastor and the congregation. They oversee our Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures.

Lay Leadership Development/Nominations Committee:

Class of 2027:	Judy Jones	Susan Walker	
Class of 2028:	Mark Carter		
Class of 2029:	Carla Frisch	Barbara Pumphrey	Brian White

Chairperson: Pastor Stacey Nickerson

This committee identifies people for leadership roles and seeks to encourage people to utilize their God given gifts and talents in service.

Other key leaders:

Sunday School Coordinator: June Dahlstrom
Youth Leader: Lacey Oxendine; assisted by Molly Kauffman
Young Adult Leader: John Sivey
Junior Church Leader: Debbie Mattheu
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Susan Walker

Christmas Cantata & Community Tree Lighting>>>

A joint choir from the Kingsville, Upper Falls, and Joppa area churches will perform a Christmas Cantata, followed by the community tree lighting on Sunday, December 6th at 7pm at St John's Episcopal Church, 11901 Belair Rd, Kingsville. All are welcome.



Christmas Open House >>>



The Salem Youth and Young Adults are co-hosting a **Christmas Open House** on Sunday, December 13 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the home of John Sivey and Mark Colgan, just a two-minute drive from church. All members of the Salem family are invited to join us. Feel free to drop in for any or all of the Open House. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring a dessert to share. Join us for food, fellowship, and games, including the 1st Annual Christmas Pinball Tournament on John's two pinball machines. For directions, email siveyjohn@gmail.com or chat with John, Lacey, or Pastor Stacey.

Youth Day of Service >>>

Our youth are planning a day of service on January 18 (Martin Luther King Day) to make sandwiches and assemble blessing bags which will be distributed to shelter guests. We are inviting other youth from our Hub churches to join us on this day of service. Imagine our fellowship hall full of young people sharing this fun time of serving together. (There may even be pizza!). We welcome adults to join with us. Please let Lacey or Miss Judy know if you plan to attend. In the meantime keep our youth in your prayers.

Thinking of Salem >>>

Dear Salem Church Family,
I am very grateful to be living in Florida near my son, daughter in law and now our new little granddaughter, Harper Rae, but I do miss my home church of Salem.
God bless all of you. ~ Sincerely,

Diana Pajtis
8 Riverview Drive
Sewalls Point, FL 34996



Salem's most "senior" member is getting ready to celebrate her 100th birthday! We thank God for Betty Knight, who joined Salem Church with her beloved husband, Bob, on April 17, 1938. She is not only our oldest member but also the most long-term. We are grateful for Betty.

Let's shower Betty with cards for her birthday on December 22. Please mail to the following address in care of her daughter:

Judith Knight Runyon
1152 Little Magothy View
Annapolis, MD 21409

Betty is looking forward to hearing from her Salem Church Family. May God bless and keep her.

Standing in the need of Prayer>>>

Please remember those who can't be with us in person with your prayers and cards.

Rocky Ails, Lake Wylie Assisted Living, 4877 Charlotte Highway, Apt 334, Lake Wylie, SC 29710
Carolyn Faust, 824 Lisburn Road, Room 239, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Alice and Paul Stewart, 217 Garnett Road, Joppa, MD 21085
Joey Nuetzel, 5730 Allender Road, White Marsh, MD 21162
Judie Cantalupo, Forest Hill Heights Assisted Living, 1 Colgate Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050
Marge Quinn, 11630 Glen Arm Road, Glen Meadows Apt.106, Glen Arm, MD 21057
Carol Burke, 7906 Omega Court, Kingsville, MD 21087
Shirley Fischer, 8215 Greenhouse Lane, Kingsville, MD 21087
Cindy King, 13292 Rolle Road East, Bishopville, MD 21813
Carolyn Hall, 8025 Duvall Avenue, Rosedale, MD 21237

Oak Crest:
Betty Knight, c/o Judith Knight Runyon, 1152 Little Magothy View, Annapolis, MD 21409
Helen Kott, 8810 Walther Blvd. #2412, Baltimore, MD 21234
Martha Bates, 8810 Walther Blvd. #2028, Baltimore MD 21234
Barbara Chelton, 8810 Walther Blvd. #2007, Baltimore, MD 21234
Meredith "Russ" Butler, 8810 Walther Blvd., NG N204, Baltimore, MD 21234
Gerald "Clarke" Scott, 8810 Walther Blvd., NG N207, Baltimore, MD 21234

Help Wanted!

As many of you know, Tara Kully has stepped down from her position as Communications & Social Media Manager. Tara has spent the last 5 years providing cheerful and excellent assistance to Pastor Stacey and our members. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Our search has begun for a replacement. Please see our "help wanted" notice below and share with family and friends, whom you think may be qualified and interested.

Salem United Methodist Church, Upper Falls is seeking an individual for our Communications & Social Media Manager. Responsibilities include preparing weekly worship materials, producing monthly newsletters and seasonal publications, updating the church website, creating promotional materials, maintaining social media accounts, and providing occasional administrative support. Candidates should have experience in graphic design, desktop publishing, and visual communications; marketing and communications experience is preferred, as well as Canva & Wix software. Applicants must be self-motivated, detail-oriented, and able to work with minimal supervision. Part-time hours are flexible, but in-person availability is required for a minimum of 12 hours on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and additional days as arranged. Reports directly to Pastor. Resumes may be sent to sumcresume@yahoo.com. No phone calls.

OFFICE HOURS:
Hours by appointment only

OFFICE EMAIL:
salemunitedupperfalls@salemunited.org

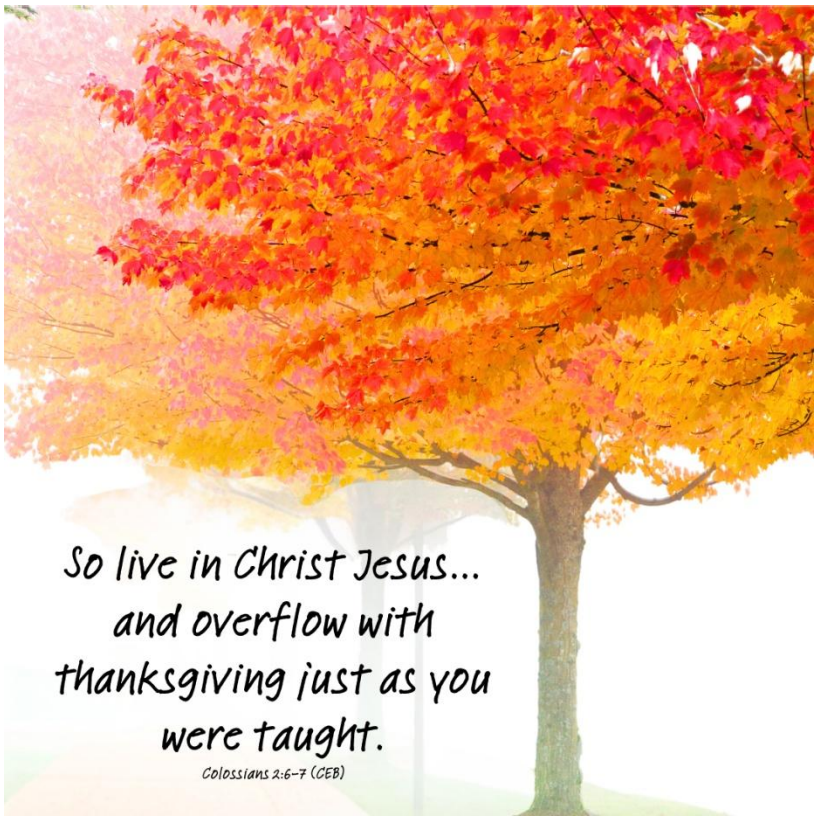
PASTOR:
Rev. Dr. Stacey Nickerson
pastor@salemunited.org
Cell: (410) 627-1944

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:
Katy Stevens
katysmusicstudio@gmail.com

Christmas Card Challenge

A challenge has been issued by Jerry & Karen Sersen...They are donating an additional $200 to the General Fund to assist in paying Salem's operating expenses (heating/electricity/phone, salaries, etc.) in lieu of sending Christmas cards out to friends, family and Salem family. Instead wish everyone a Merry Christmas through e-mails, phone calls, texts, or visit.

Merry Christmas



SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			4	5	6 9am Aerobics (Hall)	7
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						
8 **Holy Communion** 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	9 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	10 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	11 **Veteran's Day** 6:30pm Vespers (outdoors, weather permitting)	12	13 9am Aerobics (Hall)	14
15 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	16 No Aerobics 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	17 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	18 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study 6:30pm Vespers (outdoors, weather permitting)	19	20 9am Aerobics (Hall) 11:30am Women Moving On luncheon (call office for details)	21 Private Party in Fellowship Hall
22 **Harvest Sunday** 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir	23 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	24 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	25 10am Morning Bible Study	26 **Thanksgiving Day**	27	28
29 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	30 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)					

SALEM
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	2 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study	3	4 9am Aerobics (Hall)	5
6 **Holy Communion** 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	7 9am Aerobics (Hall) 7pm United Leadership Board Meeting 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	8 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	9 9am Aerobics (Hall) 10am Morning Bible Study	10 11am Hill & Stream Club	11 9am Aerobics (Hall)	12
13 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	14 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	15 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	15 10am Morning Bible Study	17	18 9am Aerobics (Hall)	19
20 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir	21 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	22 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	23	24 **Christmas Eve** 7pm Family Worship 11pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion	25 **Merry Christmas**	26
27 **College Student Recognition** 8&10:45am Services 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Choir	28 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Parlor)	29 9:30am Sewing Samaritans (Sewing Room)	30	31 **New Year's Eve**		