

THE SPIRIT

Salem United Methodist Church

“Where You Matter”

April 2020

March 25, 2020 Update

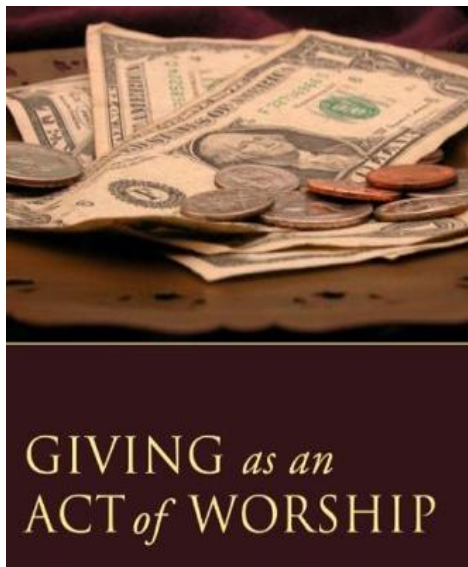
COVID-19 INFORMATION

In accordance with government directives, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling is advising:

Churches in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the panhandle of West Virginia are not to meet in their buildings now through April 26.

Please continue to support the church by mailing your weekly gifts.

Our ministry and our basic expenses continue, even though we are not using the building.



Salem United Methodist Church
7901 Bradshaw Road
Upper Falls, MD 21156
Phone: (410) 592-2543

WORSHIP:

8:00 AM in Chapel
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM in Sanctuary

OFFICE PHONE: (410) 592-2543
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9 AM-1 PM

PASTOR:

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

**FAMILY MINISTRIES
COORDINATOR:**

Judy Jones
familyministries@salemunited.org

**ORGANIST/MUSIC
DIRECTOR:**

Dr. Alyson Moore
alysonshirk@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.salemunited.org

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Salem United Methodist Church,
Upper Falls, Maryland



From Our Pastor...

It is near the end of March and we are deep into our Lenten journey. We should be beginning to prepare for the celebration of Easter. How can we plan and observe Holy Week this year, given our present circumstances with the current pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus?

We are going to have to do things in creative and new ways as we have been doing the last couple of weeks. I am discerning that we can receive inspiration from the earliest followers of Jesus and their actions in the days between Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, death and burial and His ultimate victory in resurrection. It was a time period of three days. Yet those three days made all the difference.

Meditate with me on the Gospel accounts of those days. There is not much detail given, so we will have to be prayerful and intentional to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Turn with me in the Gospel of Luke, chapters 22-24. Reread these events. These events unfold quickly. First, we recall the Last Supper. Then Jesus is arrested and led away to be tried and convicted. The crucifixion occurs after all of Jesus' disciples and followers have left him except for a few women, including his mother.

After Jesus dies, the centurion proclaims Jesus innocent. The crowd returns home. Verse 49 states, "But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things."

The women "stood at a distance" and yet they are present and watching. They are waiting on God.

Joseph of Arimathea asks for the body of Jesus and buries him in his own tomb. Once again, the women are present. "The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment" (Luke 23:55-56).

We don't know exactly what they did between the evening when Jesus is buried and the first day of the week when they return to the tomb. Scripture tells us that they observe the Sabbath according to God's holy law; they rest.

They rest and are ready for the dawning of a new day.

Go ahead and read Luke, chapter 24 to see what they find at the tomb – the tomb where they saw Jesus being buried and the stone rolled to seal the entrance.

My friends in Christ, we know how this miraculous life-changing story ends: Jesus is not in the tomb! God raised Jesus from the dead! Jesus Christ is alive! If we believe, we will be like Christ and share in His resurrection.

I would invite us to consider what God is teaching us and how we might look at the power and promise of the Resurrection in the context of what is happening in our world and our lives today.

How can we open our lives to the transformation and new life God has waiting for us? How can we observe sabbath time, rest and pray and wait on God? What do we need to let go of in order to embrace the new?

I pray that revisiting the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection will guide us in our spiritual journey to God's something new.

One thing I do know: we will never be the same after this Lenten experience. We will never be the same Church we were before these days of the coronavirus.

My prayer for all of us is that God will shape us and mold us according to God's vision and that we will open ourselves for God's holy, transformative work.

As one who will rise again –

Pastor Stacey



To my beloved Salem Church Family:

We have received direction from our Bishop that we will be continuing to connect only through non in-person ways through at least April 26. Salem will continue to be the Church while physically distanced. I know that this is disappointing news for us, especially in regards to the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. We will continue to have something available for at-home worship each week and for special observances during Holy Week. I hope to provide resources in a variety of methods because I know that everyone has differing abilities when it comes to technology and the internet. I am having to learn new things very quickly!



Here is what I am working on with Alyson and our Tech Team.



Palm Sunday, April 5: Worship will be available through a YouTube recording posted to our church Facebook page as well as our church website (salemunited.org). Palms have been ordered and if we receive them, I would like to share them with the congregation in some way. I will let you know by email as soon as I can.

Holy Thursday, April 9: We will have the opportunity to share together in a Love Feast in our individual homes. Love Feasts were started by the Moravians in the early 1700's and were used by the early Methodists in the days of circuit-riding preachers. A Love Feast draws people together around a simple, shared and holy meal. We will be able to come together to a common virtual table – online or by phone – so that we can pray together, offer blessings, and eat simple food items such as crackers, fruit, or bread and drink juice or water. I am working on how to do this and I looking forward to a new way for us to share fellowship and worship God together (while physically apart). I will send an email with details but plan now for a Thursday evening virtual gathering.



Good Friday, April 10: Our ministerium was planning the traditional Cross Walk but we will not be able to do it this year. I plan to send you resources for reflecting and meditating on the passion and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Easter Sunday, April 12: Our Baltimore-Washington Conference is planning a Conference-wide celebration online but we don't know the details yet. I would encourage us to worship through this opportunity and I will let you know how to do so. In addition, there will be a recording from Salem Church for Easter.

In terms of the Easter flower orders, unfortunately we will not be able to purchase flowers at this time. I would like to hold all orders until we know when we will be gathering together again in person in our sanctuary. We may be able to order flowers for that Sunday or soon thereafter. If you would prefer a refund of your money, we will be able to accommodate those requests when we re-open the church office. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please contact me directly with prayer concerns and joys (cell #410-627-1944 or pastor@salemunited.org). If you are on Facebook, be sure to follow Salem's page and you are welcome to "friend" me personally if you wish. Susan Walker is updating the church website. I am sending emails and we have started a phone calling tree for our church family.

Please continue to reach out to others in our church family and keep one another in prayer daily. It is a blessing to be the church with each and every one of you every day by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With my love and prayers always,
Stacey

News from our Youth

This summer our Youth will be serving the community in and around Virginia Beach, VA. There continues to be much need, resulting from flood and hurricane damage to homes in the area. Our kids will be working "hands on" to clean, paint, repair, etc. where needed. In order to do this the group is required to raise funds. There will be a bulletin board in the church with envelopes indicating monetary amounts ranging from \$1-\$100. If you are able to contribute to this youth mission trip, simply take an envelope, put in the designated amount, and place in offering plate. Your support is appreciated as the youth serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you.

A WORD OF THANKS....

To Pastor Stacey Nickerson, Site Coordinators Bill & Joy Cogburn, and the Volunteers & Members of Salem UMC:



Foy you shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; happy shall you be, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:2

The Hope for The Homeless Alliance sincerely thanks you for your wonderful service to the guests that you received and sheltered February 17, 2020 through February 24, 2020. Your gifts of time and talent, of service and warmth were appreciated not only by those guests but by the entire community of people who believe that no one should be hungry or homeless when there are hearts which can receive them. You certainly picked up the torch and ran with it. There was fun and food and love and laughter in addition to prayers and comfort. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

Howard Magness, Volunteer Chair



We remember and thank God for the lives of our sisters in Christ who have gone home....



Nancy Kemp Rafferty

November 22, 1942 – March 6, 2020

United with Salem Church June 29, 2008

Lillie Marion Becker

August 23, 1924 – March 15, 2020

United with Salem Church March 18, 1951

Salem's Homebound Members

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



- Kay Butler – 8810 Walther Blvd, #1318. Baltimore, MD 21234
- Verna Cooper – 9600 C Haven Farm Rd, Perry Hall, MD 21128
- Bob Heacock – 1802 Sandee Ct, Edgewood, MD 21040
- Bob & Bernadette Jones – 311 Tufton Circle, Fallston, MD 21047
- Betty Knight – 8810 Walther Blvd, #1626, Baltimore, MD 21234
- Judy Miller – P.O. Box 238, Upper Falls, MD 21156
- Alice Stewart c/o Paul Stewart – 217 Garnett Rd, Joppa, MD 21085
- Betty Zengel – 1617 Searles Rd, Baltimore, MD 21222

A Word of Thanks

The family of Nancy Rafferty would like to thank the congregation for all the cards, thoughts, prayers, calls, visits to mom and everyone who came to the visitation and funeral. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Thank you also for the meal at the church after the funeral. The food was wonderful. Thank you for hosting all of our family and friends and providing all the food. We had plenty of leftovers which helped with meals for several days.

Thank you to each and every one of you who was a part of her service. A special thank you to Pastor Stacey for spending time with our family during the final hours and helping ease the pain our family has experienced during this very difficult time. You were always so faithful in your visits and we appreciated each and every visit and prayer said for Mom during her 3 months of hospitalizations and rehab stays. Nancy missed her family at Salem UMC these past 3 months.

Thank you again for thinking of our family during this difficult time.
In Christian love, Fred Rafferty and family

Sunday Funday

Here comes Sunday Funday, Sunday, June 14 from 1-4 pm. Sunday Funday is a very special day when we invite our friends and neighbors to come and enjoy lots of free activities and food. We are adding pony rides and animals this year, along with the Kona Ice, photo booth, hot dogs, popcorn, kids crafts, face painting, 4-H, fire equipment, and much more! We hope Poe from the Baltimore Ravens will be here too. If you would like to help, please contact Rita Talley, 442-617-1820 or Judy Jones, 410-615-9426. There are lots of jobs, both before, during and after! Many hands make light work!



This & That

Spring Cleanup at Salem

The Trustees invite you to get out of the house and do a little work as we tackle our “spring cleaning” in and around our buildings. Normally we would spend a day working together, but times require us to be a little creative. There are many jobs to be done, all different skill sets are needed. If you have an interest in tackling one of the many outside projects, please call Jerry Sersen at 410-960-5777. Jerry will be happy to assign a task that fits your skills and arrange a time for you to work, so everyone isn't there at the same time! We may not all be there at once, but we can be there in spirit with one another!

Ironbirds Game

We have reserved 25 tickets for a church outing to the Aberdeen Ironbirds game on Friday, July 24 at 7 pm. This is a night when there will be fireworks following the game, which are always awesome! Tickets are \$12 each and can be reserved through Judy Jones. This is a fun family event.



Sight and Sound



The current production at Sight and Sound is “Queen Esther”. There are a few tickets available for the show on Wednesday, June 24 at 11 am. The cost is \$62. We can carpool from the church and have lunch at one of the local restaurants following the show. If you are interested, please contact Judy Jones (410-615-9426) as soon as possible.

Yoga

Angela Spinner will be holding a Yoga class on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All levels are welcome. Cost is \$20. Bring your mat and water.

Financial Statements

You have the opportunity, to receive your quarterly giving statements via email. Be on the lookout for an email from kqsersen@hotmail.com early April with an attached file-your 1st quarter statement. You may want to add my email to your address book, so the email does not end up in your Spam or Junk file. If you do not have email or would prefer to receive a paper copy, please contact me as soon as possible. Phone: 410-538-5856; Text: 410-458-9063 or email kqsersen@hotmail.com. Thank you – Karen

THERE IS NO CALENDAR THIS MONTH AS THE BUILDING IS CLOSED!