



**SALEM**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



## *Christmas Eve Worship*

7:00 p.m. on Zoom with congregational singing

11:00 pm a brief outdoor service – bring your chair, blanket, and battery-lighted candle/light

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10:00 AM ZOOM only  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72121826008>  
**1826008**

By Phone: 1-301-715-8592  
Meeting ID #72121826008

**OFFICE PHONE:** (410) 592-2543

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[pastor@salemunited.org](mailto:pastor@salemunited.org)  
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## *From Our Pastor....*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns  
in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*



*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice  
here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows  
put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us  
forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O  
Israel.*

These ancient words from the 9<sup>th</sup> century capture the mood of Advent in many ways. These words express the deep longing of a community for a Savior who had been promised. These words help us now to articulate the desire within us for a renewed salvation from our faithful God. We are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and we anticipate the realization of his Kingdom, which is everlasting.

During Advent, I invite you to be intentional about your prayer life and reading of scripture. If you would like to follow along with our Bible study group, the passages we are reading together are listed in the calendar. You are welcome any Monday evening to join us on Zoom if you wish or simply study the scriptures on your own. Scripture shapes, instructs and inspires us. Here are the guiding scriptures for our worship during Advent: Mark 1:1-8; Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:26-38 and Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

We are continuing many of our Advent and Christmas traditions with some new adaptations for the current time. One of these traditions is the Blue Christmas Service we have held in recent years. This year we have been invited to share in a community Blue Christmas Service led by the area clergy. We will be pre-recording the service and it will be available starting on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. I will provide the details in the bulletin and in my weekly email updates. Please plan to participate in this special service.

Our plan for Christmas Eve is to have a family service with congregational singing on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. In addition, we will hold a brief outdoor service at 11:00 p.m. (much like our Wednesday evening vesper time). Please bring your own chair; weather permitting.

Currently we are working on two outreach projects – providing Christmas presents for families from Magnolia Elementary School and providing holiday treats to a few groups of first responders and nurses. Here are wonderful opportunities for us to share the love of God in Jesus Christ with our neighbors. Thank you for your generous support.

Remember that the words of the ancient hymn conclude each stanza with hope as we unite in rejoicing in our God, who is Emmanuel – God with us.

With hope and love in Christ,

*Pastor Stacey*



# News from the United Methodist Women

## **RADA CUTLERY - NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

Rada Cutlery has been a United Methodist Women Salem Fundraiser for many years and now you can order these great products online while still supporting the group and its missions! AND it is easy!

Go to [www.radafundraising.com](http://www.radafundraising.com)

Type in Salem Church, Upper Falls MD - Search

Click on Salem Church (Upper Falls, MD) and start shopping!

Choose your items, check out and they will be delivered directly to your home! Please note, that ordering this way supports Salem UMW and the prices are less than ordering through the Rada Kitchen website! Thank you for your continued support! Questions? Please email [2salemshares@gmail.com](mailto:2salemshares@gmail.com) or call Sally Wagner.

## **PRAYER SHAWLS**

The UMW continue working from home on prayer shawls. Size should be 18"-24" X 60". If you need yarn, please call Amy Krebs @ 410-456-8471. If you have shawls that are ready, please contact Lauren Simpson. They are being delivered to Franklin Square.

## **BABY BEANIE**

The Baby Beanie project continues and we've added baby Blankets! Blanket sizes: 18" X 18", 19" X 21", 21" X 23.5", no larger than 24" X 24". A suggested pattern can be found at <https://ravel.me/preemie-blanket> This is a lightly textured pattern, holes kept to a minimum to avoid problems with little fingers and toes getting caught and causing circulation problems. These items will be collected in January, 2021 for the Reston Hospital.

## **SALEM SAMARITANS**

We continue to work on lap quilts and fidget mats from the comfort of our homes! Sure do miss my sewing ladies! If you have quilt/mats completed, please let me know and I can arrange for pickup. I also have labels which need to be hand sewn on the back of the quilts. If you would like a stack of quilts, please call or email and I'll will arrange for a drop off.

Susan – 410-459-2750 / [susanwalker0604@comcast.net](mailto:susanwalker0604@comcast.net)

## **TECH TEAM OPPORTUNITY!**

Anyone have an interest in joining Salem's Tech Team? It is fun, easy, and hands-on training will be provided. Help is needed for our Sunday services operating both our Zoom and Sanctuary worship presentations. Our Tech Team navigates the Zoom/Sanctuary presentations from our loft and, if we can add a few more people to our Team, we can rotate our Sundays to ensure we have adequate coverage for each weekly service. Don't delay, join today! If interested, please contact Scott Shelton at 410-817-4734, email [shelts3@msn.com](mailto:shelts3@msn.com), or Mark Carter at 443-676-1001, email [cartermsp@gmail.com](mailto:cartermsp@gmail.com).

## NOAH'S ARK NEWS

Another month has flown by, and we at Noah's Ark find ourselves sharing the joy of Advent and the incredible news of Jesus' birth with our students! In another way this "COVID school year" looks different, we are running a trial virtual week with our students. While we are blessed to not have any concerns at Noah's Ark at this time, it can only be beneficial for us to have a trial run of our technology and class structure for a virtual setting in case of any scheduled or unscheduled closure. We're also looking forward to a modified holiday shop – where our students choose and wrap presents for their family – set up differently than in the past, but still an active tradition! Noel, our classroom elf, has made his appearance, too! We can't wait to see his antics as we get closer to Christmas. We've even heard from Santa, and he's going to find a very special way to still be able to see his friends at Noah's Ark! Please know that all of us at Noah's Ark – staff, students, and families alike, truly appreciate the prayers and support you give! Merry Christmas!

## Caring for Salem's 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

Hank Danker – 506 Haverhill Road, Joppa, MD 21085

Bettie 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

Judye 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.....*

Hank Danker sent a thank you note to the congregation: "Thank you for your kindness. Thanks to everyone at church for the cards." Please continue to keep Hank in your prayers.

Thank you for your cards, calls, and prayers, on the passing of my mother, Charlotte Walker. We are grateful for the love and support of our Salem Family.

Jim & Susan Walker

## Thursday Trivia

Geography, music, TV, history, food, and anything in between..... that is the trivia you'll discover if you play along every Thursday at 11:30 on Zoom. All you need is paper and pencil and a sense of humor because we have fun while we learn just how much or how little we know. No competition, just fun! Check it out! The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522269034>

## Salem's Middle/High School

Sunday School class continues to meet every other Sunday on Zoom. A big shout-out to the class for providing all the gifts for one of our Christmas families! Way to go Salem Youth!!!



## Tax Statements

As we approach the end of the year I am updating and verifying email addresses. If you are not currently getting your statements via email and would like to do so, please email and I will add you to the list. If your email has recently changed, please let me know! You will receive your end of year tax statement, the same way you received your last quarterly statement, either by e-mail (check your JUNK mail too please) OR by USPS.



God Bless you!

Karen Sersen Financial Secretary

[kqsersen@hotmail.com](mailto:kqsersen@hotmail.com) or 443-402-1924 New Phone

## **YOUR STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We are truly grateful for your faithful and generous stewardship. God is blessing us and in thankful response, we strive to share God's abundance with our neighbors, both near and far. We invite your participation in supporting our church in ministry and mission as you are able financially. You may mail a check to the church if you are not here in-person. A big thank you to our faithful counters! We also offer on-line giving as an option for your weekly donations.

Here is how it works:

- Go to [www.salemunity.org](http://www.salemunity.org) & Click on the "Donate" button located on the menu bar
- Scroll down to the bright green Donate Now button and click
- A new screen will open on a secure website.
- Click next to the \$ and fill in the amount of your gift; you have the option of adding designating your gift to multiple items
- Click the drop-down menu to select Give this One Time or another frequency
- Click the drop-down menu to select Give by Credit/Debit Card or by ACH Transfer
- Click continue Continue to fill in your name, email, card, or bank info
- When finished hit the blue Give button. You will receive an email confirmation of your gift.
- Simple, Safe and Easy!

Should you have any questions regarding finances, please contact Chris Rohe ([crohe51@gmail.com](mailto:crohe51@gmail.com)). For technical questions or help with the online process, please contact Susan Walker ([susanwalker0604@comcast.net](mailto:susanwalker0604@comcast.net) or 410-459-2750)

As always, should you wish, you may mail your donations directly to the church at:  
P. O. Box 195; Upper Falls, MD 21156

**Don't forget if you ordered Poinsettias, and did not designate for our shut-ins, you may pick them up after the 11 pm outdoor service till 11:30 pm.; Saturday, December 26, 9-10 am or Sunday, December 27, 11 am-12 pm!**

## Update on Hope for the Homeless Alliance

Hope for the Homeless Alliance has been meeting throughout the summer and fall looking for creative ways to safely host our Winter Emergency Rotating Shelter this year, especially since last year's ERS ended 2 weeks early as COVID restrictions shut down churches. And new COVID restrictions prohibit the use of churches for housing or for food preparation.

So how will we support our neighbors experiencing homelessness this winter?

Our preparations continue to evolve for the Emergency Winter Shelter as Hope for the Homeless Alliance seeks out new ways to safely house, feed and offer love and support to our neighbors experiencing homelessness this winter.

Despite the challenges of this pandemic we have been truly blessed. Our goal of housing up to 30 people in 15 hotel rooms for the 3 coldest months of winter have been well received and we are happy to say that almost all of our financial needs have been met through grants and major donations. We have partnered with Days Inn, in Aberdeen, the new Aberdeen Epicenter campus, Meals on Wheels, Community Action Agency and local mental health, substance abuse and crisis organizations to provide a warm, safe environment for our neighbors who are in need. God has provided!

We continue to explore opportunities for our local church partners. Specific details will follow regarding additional ways our churches can help.

Donna Bushong, Hope for the Homeless Alliance

Salem will continue to support the Hope for the Homeless Alliance. The Church Council will be meeting in January to discuss and decide how best we can be of service in this vital church mission. Watch for more details in Pastor's weekly updates and upcoming newsletters.





## Our Calendar of Events

December 2020

All meetings/events will be held via the ZOOM platform, unless otherwise noted. Each event has a link. Recurring meetings/events use the same link each time.

### Weekly:

- Sunday 10:00 AM      Worship is via Zoom only  
Weekly Bulletins are posted on the website  
Zoom link - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72121826008>  
By Phone – 1-301-715-8592 / ID 721 2182 6008
- Monday 7:00 PM      Bible Study with Pastor Stacey  
December 7: Luke, chapters 1 & 2  
December 14: John 1 and Isaiah 9  
December 21 & 28: No Bible Study  
Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86945193408>
- Wednesday 6:30 PM      Vesper Service Outside – bring a lawn chair (weather permitting)  
No Vesper Service December 23 or December 30
- Thursday 11:30 AM      Trivia Time with Judy Jones (410-615-9426)  
Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522269034>  
By Phone – 1-301-715-8592 / ID 835 2226 9034

### Other Activities:

- Every other Sunday      December 6 and 20 - Youth Sunday School Class on Zoom at 11:15 a.m. for youth grades 6-12
- Dec 2,4,7,9 & 11      Aerobics classes on Zoom at 9:00 AM
- December 17      Book Club at 7:00 pm on Zoom
- December 24      Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm on Zoom with congregational singing  
11:00 pm, brief outdoor service in parking lot; bring a chair and a battery-operated light – weather permitting