



THE SALEM VISIONARY

May 2022

But be Doers of the Word, and not Hearers only. James 1:22

Hearing the Voice of God **"In Between Times"**

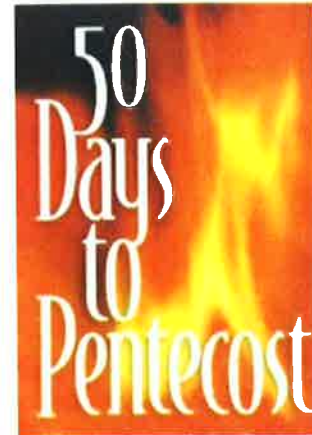
We are in a season of "In Between Times". What are in between times? "In Between Times" are times when we are not finished with where we are and not yet where we will be. "In Between Times" are like those of us in school, about to graduate, yet have not started our jobs. It can be like the times in our lives when we are waiting on a baby to be born.

Those times need us to intentionally live into the present moment with some active waiting.

In those places, a great activity is to carefully discern the voice of God. What are we hearing God say? What is God telling us about our present moment? What is God doing in us to prepare us for what is to come? Are we celebrating where we have been? How is where we have been preparing us for where we are going?

I have found that "In Between Times" is a time full of questions. This is why our fellowship with other believers in the church is so important. The Resurrected Christ was only with the Disciples 50 days following His resurrection. When he ascended to heaven he told the Disciples to "tarry in Jerusalem until power came upon them from on high." The Holy Spirit helps us to discern and know the voice of God.

We do not have a sole responsibility to hear God's voice. Hearing God's voice requires that we know how to discern rightly what it is that God is speaking to us. We need others that will hold us accountable to what we are hearing and also hold us fast to the truth the Bible teaches.



The most important thing to remember in the "In Between Times" is the people that are around you. They are sharing this journey with you to help you make it to where you are going. Wait actively by doing these things:

1. Read God's WORD, The Bible
2. Listen for God to speak – God is closer than you realize
3. Share Time with other Christians (Worship, Meals, Listening to one another, etc.)

The "In Between Times" build the best of times to come. Don't miss out on the great foundations you can build during these times when you are waiting. Heed well what Hebrews 10: 25 reminds and encourages us to do.

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25
King James Version

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil

Church Nursery Update

I can't believe that it has been one year since we started the church nursery! Wow, how we have grown! We started with 2 preschool-age little girls and have grown to 10 little people on any given Sunday. I want to give thanks to those who have supported this ministry with their time as volunteers.

Shout out to Ruby Bullard, Jenae Notto, Jennifer Lewinski, Heather Kurtz, Charleen Wallace, Donna Drake, Pam Wooten, Del Peluso, Betty Smith, Logan Heine, Lisa Geddie, Marie McCarroll and Ben Wise. If you want to help with this ministry, please contact me or the church office. God is good!

-Betty Ann Crawford



Armstrong Thank You

Thank you so much for our treat bags for Teacher Appreciation. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated.



Life Lessons from Romans

Bad decisions? Wrong choices? There is one solution. His name is Jesus. This is the leading line of the book used by the Wednesday morning Bible Study held every week here at Salem. We meet at 11 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall. You are invited to join in this study authored by Max Lucado and being taught by Lisa Johnson. Have you ever headed in the wrong direction? Made a wrong choice? What about choices that affect everyday life decisions – choices that take you further away from your goals, your dreams, and your loving Savior? Of course. We've all made poor choices. The early Church did too. They were often sidetracked by pride and distracted by pleasures. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he reviews the wrong turns the Church was making. But he doesn't stop there. He gives them the big picture and shows the one correct solution to help them stop making wrong choices-Jesus Christ. Because even though all have sinned, Jesus is waiting to restore all by grace. Each chapter in the [Life Lessons from Romans with Max Lucado](#) series brings the Bible to life in twelve lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational stories and poignant reflections to take you deeper in to God's Word. Each chapter includes an opening reflection, background information, excerpt of the text, exploration questions, inspirational thoughts from the author and a closing takeaway for further reflection. Join others on Wednesdays. Books are provided at class time with your attendance.

Choir Notes:

Salem chancel choir meets Wednesday evening at 7 pm. All voices are welcomed and needed. Come help the choir as they prepare worship music for the weekly services. Our new choir member is Joy Leaneagh (alto).

The choir will be providing music for the upcoming revival at Black's Chapel UMC on May 15. My thanks to all the singers who are sharing their gift of music with others. Gary



Children and Youth Ministries

April was filled with EGG-citing activities!! The SUMC kids participated in a Parade of Palms on Palm Sunday. The kids made their very own palm leaf with the words Hosanna! Following Palm Sunday service, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt on our playground!

Congratulations to Cullen for finding the golden egg!

During our Wednesday Salem Kids Nights, we enjoyed Pizza and Chick-fil-a chicken nuggets and mac-n-cheese while we learned about the importance of Easter. Our Salem Kids Nights are every other Wednesdays from 6pm-7pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall.

Our Easter celebration was EGG-cellent! We dyed Easter Eggs and made a He is Risen craft during our Children's Church time and enjoyed yummy cupcakes.

May is quickly approaching, and we are so excited for the fun things happening. Salem Kids Nights will be May 4 and 18! We will be celebrating and honoring Moms on May 8 during Children's Church. On May 15 we will be going to the arcade! Lastly, on May 29 we will be going roller skating immediately after church! We hope that you can join us and be a part of the Salem family!

As our Children's Program is growing, I need your help! During Children's Church time I need assistance with the children. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at children@salemfmc.org or 9109644350.

Caitlin Craven
SUMC Children's Director



April was a blast! We started a study through the book of Acts and are going to continue that for the next few months. We are also gearing up for summer camp in July and as we prepare for that we ask that you pray with us.

We ask that you pray:

For the truth of the Gospel to be made known.

For the salvation of students and adults who have not yet decided to follow Christ.

For students and adults to understand the need for discipleship and studying God's Word consistently.

God is at work in the lives of our students and leaders. He is moving in ways that only he can. We saw a small piece of that at CUPCAKE WARS. We had great turnout and we had so much fun. Students came and decorated cupcakes, made giant cupcake projects, and then had an all-out cupcake war! It was such a great time, and we look forward to the opportunities we will get in the future to continue to impact the lives of students!



April was a great month for Easter Egg Hunts, visits from the Easter Bunny and Spirit Week, for both the Preschool and SMASH programs. This month we will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week and our Mothers and Grandmothers. We have completed our Summer registration for our SMASH program and currently have a waiting list. We are currently hiring in both the preschool and SMASH department.



The Church has left the Building **Pentecost in the Park**

It is a different kind of Sunday. Instead of being building centric, Salem is electing to be community minded on Sunday, June 5. Being Methodist was never about building a church. Being Methodist was never about being a denomination. Being Methodist IS about reaching a community for Christ. So, on Sunday, June 5, Salem United Methodist Church is leaving the building and going to the Eastover Ballpark for a day focused on family and community with preaching, singing, eating and celebrating our Savior Jesus Christ.

We will forego our Sunday morning activities in the building on the campus of the church. The men of the church are preparing an outdoor, grilled lunch, and the pastor is organizing some good ole camp meeting songs and preaching. Begin now to invite your friends, family and neighbors to come share a day in the park for our Pentecost in the Park event. Come out anytime that morning to share in the preparations for services that will begin at 11 am.

After services we will share a noon meal together. Children can play on the playground equipment. There may even be some pick-up ballgames to share. Bring your lawn chair. Bring a blanket. Make it day to share with your family in the great environment at Eastover Ballpark and the company of the Body of Christ at Salem Church.



Summer Literacy

An initiative of The Duke Endowment

SALEM SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DUKE ENDOWMENT'S SUMMER LITERACY INITIATIVE

Eastover, N.C. — Salem United Methodist Church has received a grant from The Duke Endowment to host a summer literacy program designed to help early readers avoid the learning loss that can happen over the long school break. Along with other rural North Carolina congregations, Salem will offer the program to elementary school students this summer.

Research shows that if students aren't learning during the summer, they can lose ground academically. Consequences can be cumulative and long-lasting – and the gap is often harder to close once it opens.

In 2012, the Endowment launched an effort to help rural churches provide a multi-faceted summer-learning intervention to improve literacy among elementary school students in their communities and keep young minds engaged. With promising results from a pilot, the Endowment launched an evidence-building process and began expanding the program. Long-term plans include conducting a rigorous impact evaluation and potentially replicating and scaling the model to help struggling readers in rural areas across the state.

“We know from an external evaluation that this summer literacy model has helped students improve their reading accuracy, speed and comprehension,” says Kristen Richardson-Frick, associate director of the Endowment’s Rural Church program area. “Just as exciting is the fact that students reported positive changes in their reading behaviors and attitudes. We’re pleased to support churches that want to embrace this opportunity to meet a critical need in their communities.”

Salem is one of 20 churches selected for this program statewide and the only church selected to operate a pilot program offering 2 Sessions during the Summer. The first session will be held June 6-July 1, and the second Session will be held July 11-August 5. The four-week sessions will enroll 24 children in each session providing 80 hours of reading instruction during the morning hours.

The Summer Literacy Program is led by certified teachers who demonstrate excellence in their skills as a teacher. Salem’s program works in collaboration with the area Public Schools to enroll qualified students and to provide continuity of instruction in between the school terms. The program is hosted in the church buildings at the church in Eastover. The design of the program engages the families with their children in afternoon and evening activities.

“High quality summer reading and learning programs can prevent the “summer slide” – and even give students a boost,” says Marie McCarroll, Summer Literacy Director of Salem United Methodist Church. “It’s exciting for our congregation to be able to offer this program and help make a difference in a child’s life.”

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Based in Charlotte, N.C., and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has awarded more than \$4.2 billion in grants.

Mission and Outreach

Food Pantry

EASTOVER CENTRAL ELEMENTARY conducted a Spring Food Drive and donated to Salem Food Pantry. MANY THANKS to the families & staff who supplied the much needed food for folks in our area.

THANKS TO: Steve Fussell & John McCarroll for loading, hauling & unloading items prior to spring break. We are blessed that several SMASH students "LOVE TO PACK BAGS" (we call bundles) to give away. They follow a list & provide much needed support to our food program.

FINALLY – EACH THURSDAY – we "GIFT AWAY" food from 9-11 am & other times by prearrangement.

MANY FOLKS PROVIDE FUNDS & LABOR to stock our community food pantry; BLESSED ARE WE TO PROVIDE.

NO VEGGIES – please. Canned meats & jelly are requested. Money donations are used to buy items low in inventory.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13



Family Promise

"Salem's Mission to Homeless Families in Cumberland County"

As you are reading this newsletter (1st week of May), SALEM is SERVING FAMILIES the entire 1st week for our "Spring Week of Service 2022".

Please pray for these four families as they work to change their lives and live permanent housing. The staff of Family Promise meets regularly with the parents to evaluate employment, budgeting, housing, and educational goals. Mark your "extra mile giving": FAMILY PROMISE. We supply a week of food (staff buys in bulk & families cook), essentials, and utility/insurance support.

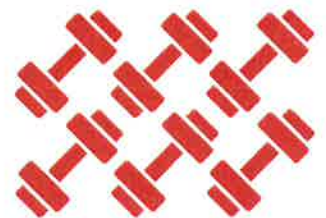
As our week end's on Mother's Day we plan to present each mother with a "special gift"; details to follow in June's newsletter.

Call Debbie for more info.

Silver Sneakers

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 10am-11am in the Dining Hall

If you have any questions please contact Melodie Malcolm at malcolmm0216@gmail.com



Stephen Ministries

We are looking for compassionate volunteers to support our Stephen Ministry Team providing support to church members experiencing pain and grief. Want to make a difference? This is a great opportunity to serve by actively addressing the suffering of humanity. Make a difference! Please see Ray Burkart or Carol Hudson for more information, thank you!

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 45,000.00

Total April Offering & Tithes

\$29,061.25

April Building Fund Deposits

\$1,375.00

April Memorial Donations

\$ 160.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$ 180,000.00

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 153,162.12

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 2,640.00

Juanita Warren Group

The Juanita Warren Group delivered Easter bags to our 25 shut-ins on April 12. Each bag contained an assortment of goodies provided by group members. Those shut-ins living at home were also gifted with rolls and slices of Honeybaked ham. The gifts and visits reminded each person that they continue to be an important part of Salem's church family.



Methodist Men are Barbaric!!!

If you have ever wondered why the Methodist Men are the way they are, then you have a new word. Methodist Men are Barbaric. The men meet every third Sunday for Breakfast at 8 am. They are currently reading the book The Barbarian Way by Erwin Raphael McManus. It is a book that is helping the men "unleash the untamed faith within."

Barbarians are a scary bunch. You can't quite predict what they will do. They don't fit the norm, and they are definitely not civilized. The pastor is helping the men to lay claim to their "wild" side and be the men that God has called them to be. It is a radical life that they live. The radical life they are being called to live is very unlike the civilized world in which we live. Their calling is to love their wives like Jesus loved us by giving His life for us. This is barbaric. They are called to take a stand against the injustices and hatred of this world, not siding with the status quo. This is barbaric. They are living sold out to a life modeled after Christ. This is barbaric. The Barbaric Way is changing the lives of our men in a way that they are better men for themselves, for their families, for our community and for the world. Pastor Gil will lead in a second installment this month. If you have been looking for a breakthrough and want to be someone significant in life, come share in this month's Men's Breakfast on Sunday, May 15 at 8 am at Salem United Methodist Church.

DO YOU CROCHET?

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for more people to serve in this ministry. If you are interested please contact the church office or Bonnie Crabtree.

Prayer Requests

Pray for: Our Military, Our Shut-Ins,
Our Schools, Our Church, Our Country,
Ukraine

Church Members

Del Peluso, Phil Davis, Estelle McPhail, Helen Smith, Denise Sykes, Sandra Williams, Salem Youth, Teri Williams, Lisa Johnson, Della Patterson, Jay (Army Basic Training), Mickey Kimbel, Ann Hobbs, Conrad Kurtz, Kelsey and Justin Smith, Michael Diaz, Tyler Lesse-Roberts, Colton Honeycutt, Trillma Prebbenow, Darwin Edwards, Rachel Dawson, Pat Baker, Grayson Marsh, Weldon Hudson, Lorraine Kirkwood, Sallie Darden, Paula Johnson, Bill Marsh, Dorothea Fink, Jean Lugar, Gilda Horne, Bill Roberts and Lynn Baker

Family and Friends

Jean Brown, Carolyn Ortero, Liam Dixon, Cale Johnson, Nick Wilson, Anthony Bethea, Angie Baker, Denise Rhodes, Barbara Powers, New Baby Bennet Beal, Sheila Minschew, Eddie Bowen, John Sange, Michael Knoch, Robert Knoch, Will Nash, Leslie Horne, Jason & Brittany Ray, Lin Wheeler, Angela Renfrow, Betty Price, Jen Partney, Nelly Johnson, Laurie McLaurin, Ann Hodges, Vanessa Cuestas (cancer), Tabetha Priest, Cale Johnson, Julia Cretko, Shannon (cancer), Ron Hardy, Randy West (cancer), Marilyn Parkin, Melinda Craven, Grant Singletary, Robin Barber, Rev. Jan (Poland Methodist Pastor), Matthew Johnson, Wayne Byrd (cancer), Whitney Larimore, Linda Disbrow, Gary Page, J.M. Butler, jr., Kyle Powers (heart), Del Gray, Vickie Knoch, John Butler, Mike Butler, Linda Butler, Angie Baker, Linda Disbrow, Sandra Jones, Randall Idol, Bill Smith, Scott Armentrout, Daniel Knox (cancer), Brooke Autry's mother, Minnie Edwards, Sue Grissom, Abraham Beniquin and Jennifer Johnson

NC Conference Events

Online Learning: The NC Conference of the United Methodist Church Media Center has created the new Online Learning Opportunities Calendar to learn about upcoming events you may join. Please explore the website at <https://nccumc.org/mediacenter/events/>.

The following Lay Servant Ministry classes are being offered:

- a. May 14th: Introduction to Lay Ministry (Basic Class) is the foundational course designed to equip new church leaders and renew current leaders in The United Methodist Church, and is the initial required course for all individuals interested in a lay servant ministry certification. Register at Corridor Lay Servant Ministry Team offers May 14th Course - District Office (nccumc.org)
- b. May 14th: Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage) offers a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of The United Methodist Church, and is a requirement for Lay Speaker certification. Register at District Lay Servant Ministry Team Offers Advanced Class - Beacon District - NCCUMC (beaondistrictnc.org)

Memorials

Dan Raynor

Joyce Jones

Ken Fraizer

Sue Spruill

Wyoma Lovick

Ron & Linda
Montgomery

Shirley B. Cooper

The Cooper Family

Estelle's Mom

Jimmy and Bonnie
Crabtree

Neva's Mom

Jimmy and Bonnie
Crabtree

Honor

Bill & Myra Roberts
50th Anniversary

Debbie and Frank Moody