



THE SALEM VISIONARY

May 2023

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

Easter People

New Day brings a New Way

Read John 20: 1-18

The old ways were followed by the women that morning. The Women made their way up to the tomb. It was an old way as they carried spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They were doing the traditional things that had always been done. It was the way things had been done for ages. They were doing those things that had been passed down to generations from the generation of Moses.

Things for the women were as they had always been. Nothing was new about this day other than the incredible grief they experienced having been there when Jesus was crucified. They watched as he agonized in pain. They watched as He took His final breath. It was the old way. You are born. You live. And you die. The old way was heavy as they walked that path that was worn with the grief of many.

But it was a new day. The new day began the week for the Sabbath was over. The new day began a time of mourning without Jesus being present with them. It was a new day as the sun broke the horizon. "How will we live without the Savior?" they must have thought to themselves. The grief was almost unbearable.

Then there He stood. The New Day of a world with a risen Savior. There He stood alive!!! This new day was not like the old day. This new day was unlike any day that had ever existed. This new day Death had lost its power. This new day was a life transforming moment that birthed a new way.

It was a new way that Jesus had opened for all to live a life without fear of death. It was a new way of living life without the bondage of sin chained around their necks. It was a new way, a new life, a new hope, a new Day!

We are still living in this new day. It is too easy to fall back into the old ways. To live in this new day, you must be intentional about living. Decisions need to be made every day. These decisions come from a knowledge of this new way that Christ has made known to us.

READ your Bible. It has the instructions for living in this new way. ATTEND worship every week. At Salem, you now have two opportunities. If you oversleep or are out of town, check out the new service on Sunday afternoons. Let this New Day make a New Way for a New Life in you.

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil



Salem Methodist CHURCH



Sharing the Gospel Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

This is the 175th year since Salem's founding as a church in Eastover. We are celebrating all year long. Mark your calendar so that you can join in the celebrations.

May 14 - Mother's Day

June 11 - Old Fashioned Day

July 30 - Christmas in July (Nativity Scenes)

August 27 - Celebrating Sunday School

**SEPTEMBER 10 - 175TH HOMECOMING
(WORSHIP AT 10:00)**

September 22 - Spaghetti Fundraiser

October 8- Methodist Camp Meeting

November 21 - Community Thanksgiving

December 3 - Maranatha Festival

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service

Find Your Place Visiting is a Ministry

Recently, Helen Smith shared with me how much of her life and ministry has been spent visiting the elderly and shut-ins. As she shared her story, I remembered one day as a child asking my grandfather why we would always visit Aunt Leila. Uncle Blake and Aunt Leila lived in Sampson County close to Baptist Chapel. At around 7 years of age it was a long trip to ride from Godwin to Baptist Chapel. Granddaddy told me and my brother of the virtue of visiting others as following a biblical mandate.

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

*1 Timothy 5:8
New King James Version*

Helen and I shared that ministry as we visited with Gilda Horne. Gilda recently moved from her home to Harmony House. Helen was interested in seeing Gilda in her new home, so we scheduled an appointment, and off we traveled. The trip to visit with Gilda afforded Helen and me time to minister with one another. We shared our stories and prepared ourselves for this visit with Gilda. It is amazing how God makes use of all our time to strengthen us in faith.

We found Gilda to be in great condition. She had transitioned well to her new residence. Already, her apartment was filled with gifts and cards from many who were lifting her in prayer for this transition. Gilda invited us in, and we settled in the living room to spend a very restful and encouraging afternoon with Gilda. She misses attending Salem, but this was the next best thing. Our visit brought many remembrances and built some new memories as well. The pastor loves to visit. What he prefers is that someone goes with him. Think of whom you would like to visit. Contact the pastor to invite him to go with you. Schedule the date and renew the ministry of visitation here at Salem.





April was EGG-straspecial this year!!! We started the month with Palm Sunday with our Salem Kids waving palms down the aisles of the sanctuary welcoming Jesus. After church, our annual Easter egg hunt was on the playground, where 368 eggs were hiding. We had such a fun and successful time during our Egg Hunt. Thank you so much to everyone who supported and helped during the month of April in all of our events. Easter was April 9th, and our Salem Kids were able to dye their own eggs!! All 60 eggs were dyed different colors by our children. We also made a craft that celebrated that Jesus is our Shepherd.

May brings flowers, and we can't wait to share with you the fun things we have planned for this month!! During the month of May, Salem Kids will have our Mother's Day party on May 14th during children's church. We will be going to the OMNI Arcade on May 28 together after church.

During the month of May, Salem Kids Night will be May 3, 17, and 31, so mark those calendars!! We will be learning about Mary, Moses, and Noah during the months of May and June.

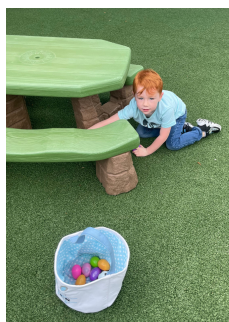
Don't forget to register for VBS this summer!! VBS 2023 is July 17-21 this year! Our theme is "I wonder...". We will be traveling to outer space to discover God's love and how we can use our gifts to honor and serve the Lord. You can find the registration link on our website and Facebook page!

Contact Caitlin Craven if you have any questions





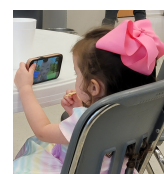
Fun times were had with the Preschool kids in April, having Easter Egg Hunts, parties, and Spring pictures, along with Cap and Gown pictures. On Friday, May 12th we will recognize our mothers with a Mother's Day breakfast. The preschool will have its Pre-K graduation on Thursday, May 25th at 6:30 pm. We have a large graduating class of 17 children. The SMASH kids had a great spring break with an Easter Egg Hunt, movies, bounce house, snow cones, popcorn, and cotton candy. Summer registration has begun for SMASH, and we are working on our activity and Field Trip schedule. SMASH's official start date for summer activities will be on Tuesday, May 30th.



My, how the time flies! This month we will be holding our graduation Sunday, and what an exciting time that is. We are sad to see our Seniors leave us, but excited because this is not the end of their journey, but simply the beginning of living an incredible life for Christ. We have four graduating seniors in our youth group, one of which, Gwen Gorman, is a confirmed member of the church and has served the last 2 years as a youth representative to the church council. I am very proud of all they have accomplished and am excited to see what their future holds.

This past month has been a lot of fun as we brought back the chili cook-off! We had 12 different entries and a lot of hungry people come out and enjoy our delicious chili. A big thank you to all of our chili cooks, Jennifer Lewinski, JR Sevine, Amy Bowden, Frank Moody, Clyde and Gwen Edwards, Joel and Jessie Wise, Betty Smith, Pat Lyons, Carol Hudson, Troop 4100, and Troop 3888. Of course a big thank you to our judges, Jarrett Dean, Maverick Cooper, Reverend Gil Wise, and Dave Gorman. I also want to thank all of you who came out and ate with us and voted on the people's choice chili. Your support is always appreciated as our youth group continues to grow and learn. If you missed who our champions are, be sure to check out the church live stream on our Facebook or YouTube channels to see Jarrett Dean announce our champions at our April 30th service.

Thank you for all you do for our church. Please continue to give your all for Christ as we further His kingdom into our community and onward!



Food Pantry

THANK YOU BLACK'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH for your continued support of Salem's Food Pantry. Pastor Marv delivered "their usual" fine selection of many of the foods we plan to gift away! Their collection is always planned & truly an assortment folks love to receive.

THANK YOU EASTOVER CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL who conducted A SPRING FOOD DRIVE & donated "food & funds" to Salem's Food Pantry! Thanks to ALL DONORS (staff, parents & students), # 1 delivery person – BIG RUSS and to all sorters & stockers.

The last week of March, three teams of two were working in three areas of Salem preparing for our EASTER HAM & TRIMMINGS Gift Away. Jean O & Pat L were sorting & stocking BCMC's donation. Russ H & Estelle were packing the trimmings box for Easter (Estelle serving as a Super Shopper), and Debbie M & Jonathan J were delivering to folks in their cars! John McC, Bryson and Charleen are always sorting, stocking & available to serve as needed.

Thurs April 6 (before Easter), Salem gifted four-pound spiral hams & "several sides" including Hawaiian rolls!! FOLKS ARE SO VERY THANKFUL & asked us to "PASS ON THANK YOU TO ALL OF SALEM & their supporting Donors" (two are listed above)!!



Family Promise

Salem's Mission to Homeless Families

Family Promise envisions a nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future. What began as a local initiative in Summit NJ has become a national movement that involves tens of thousands of volunteers in 200+ communities in 43 states.

Impact of Homelessness on Children

- 3 times more likely to be placed in special education
- 8-9 times more likely to repeat grades
- 42 % dropped out of school at least once
- 47 % suffer from anxiety, depression, or withdrawal
- 7 times more likely to attempt suicide

June 4-10 is Salem's Summer week of service. Monetary contributions are requested.

Contact Debbie Moody for additional information.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Prayer Ministry

In Luke 11:1, the Bible says, "One day, Jesus was praying in a certain place." And in Matthew 6:6, we read, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

These passages are not telling us to go into the Salem Prayer Room to pray, but they do remind us that having a specific place for prayer would be helpful to us in developing a practice of prayer. Being in the Prayer Room, and at the altar in the sanctuary, I can just feel the Holy Spirit's presence and encouragement to me to open up my heart to God, to talk to Him as my loving Father, and to bring all my burdens, my heartaches, my praise and my gratitude to Him. I want that for all of you!

So if you have time in your busy schedules to come by on Mondays & Thursdays from 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, or before church on Sunday mornings at 9:00, please come experience the power of praying in God's house. We can accommodate any style of prayer - private and silent prayer, praying while walking, praying alone out loud or letting me pray with you. Just come pray!

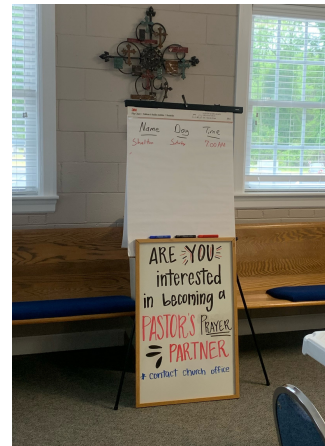
Please continue to fill out the Prayer Request slips in the pews. These are prayed over and are used to update the Prayer Concerns list in the bulletins and the newsletter. Every day in the Prayer Room, I offer a prayer of thanks for those of you that do fill them out because it is a beautiful display of your belief in the power of prayer. My hope is that you are richly blessed by this act of faith and love.

"God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it." – John Wesley

Let us support one another in prayer,
Pat Lyons



The Prayer Team invites you to sign up to become a Pastor's Prayer Partner. When I've asked some members to sign up, they say, "I already pray every day." It is wonderful that we all pray at our own times, in our own way, and for our specific reasons. The intent of the Pastor's Prayer Partners is to ask people to commit to a specific day and time to pray intentionally for the Salem ministries, our upcoming celebrations and our Pastor. We'd love to cover these things in prayer every day by as many people as possible. Whenever we pray, God starts working! We ask that you consider joining us in this prayer opportunity and sign up on the board located in the Upper Fellowship Hall.



Mt. Zion Prayer Line

Mt Zion Church has a Prayer Line open each Monday through Friday at 6:30 AM. They usually last no longer than 30 minutes. They start with a short devotion, then ask for praise requests and prayer requests and then end with a spirit filled prayer. These morning calls are a great way to start your day. Follow that up with a visit to our Prayer Room and you can go through the rest of your day with God's spirit of joy and peace!

The conference number is (720)527-5849 and the access code is 3828555#.

How to Pave the Way for a Stephen Minister

Paving the way is a four-step process that lets you connect a hurting congregation member with our Stephen Ministry.

Step 1: Express Care and Concern in a Way That Feels Natural:

"I'm so sorry to hear about what you're going through, and I want to let you know how much I care."

Then listen if the person wants to share.

Step 2: Tell the Potential Care Receiver about Stephen Ministry:

"Our church has trained caregivers called Stephen Ministers who come alongside people during difficult times. A Stephen Minister meets regularly with a person to listen, care, encourage, and provide confidential emotional and spiritual support."

You don't need to say a lot about the process.

Step 3: Get Permission to Pass Along the Person's Name and Phone Number

"Pastor Gil or Carol Hudson can tell you more, answer your questions, and help decide whether Stephen Ministry would be a good fit for you. I think it would be good for you to talk about the possibility. I'd like to give Pastor your name and number and have him or her call you."

If the person says no or needs time to think about it, check back later in a caring way.

Step 4: If the Person Agrees, Promptly Pass the Information Along to Pastor Gill, or if He is not available, Carol Hudson.

"I will pass this information along right away. One of them will be in touch with you."

Contact Pastor Gil or Carol Hudson with the contact information as soon as possible.

"We are the caregivers, God is the caregiver"



Easter Gifts for Shut-ins

Members of the Juanita Warren Group assembled and delivered flowers and Easter baskets, filled with gifts and goodies, to over twenty-five home-bound members of Salem on April 4. Those receiving them were so excited and grateful to be remembered!

Juanita Warren Group members work throughout the year to help our shut-ins feel connected to Salem and to know they're remembered. The group members send them copies of the Upper Room and bulletins from each Sunday's service so they know what's going on at church. Throughout the year, soup is taken to each person at Thanksgiving and Christmas (along with goodie bags at Christmas), and cards are sent during the year to let them know that they are loved and valued.

This ministry to Salem's shut-ins is an important part of the group's mission of service to others.



Operation Christmas Child

ANSWERED PRAYERS!

Another flashlight blessing and shoes!



Lighting the Way Home
After two to walk several miles to school every day. By the time he headed home after school, he was making the journey in the dark. After was an excited to find a flashlight in his shoebox gift that would make the long walk easier and safer.



Sandals for a Refugee
A girl who fled the conflict in Ukraine with her family had to leave all her personal belongings behind. Once the family was safe in nearby Slovakia, the young girl was joined to an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. Before the shoebox gifts were distributed, she told her friends that what she wanted more than anything...

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations”
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Sunday School

Thank you to everyone who has helped with Sunday School this month. We have enjoyed traveling through the Old Testament.

Please contact Marie McCarroll if you are interested in helping with Sunday School.

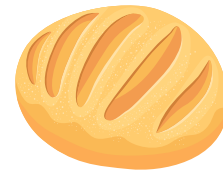


Operation In As Much

Thank you to everyone who supported Bread 'n Bowls this year. Your sponsorships and ticket purchases were a big help. The Cheesy Potato Soup and the Chili were delicious. We did run out of food, but I hope none of you went hungry. That's why it is so important to buy tickets before the event.

We have not had our after-meeting yet but the total raised was somewhere around \$45,000. Most of this money came from sponsorships. A special thank you to all my faithful sponsors. You ROCK.

Love my Salem Family, Betty



Re-Entry House

The Re-Entry House is always in need of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, and deodorant. If you are on vacation please remember to save the little bottles they give you. If you would like to donate, please take items to the church office or contact Betty Smith.

Nursery

Looking for a place to volunteer? The nursery is a great place to start. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office or Betty Ann Crawford 910-578-8139



The GM Church Beyond the U.S.

April 26, 2023

By Keith Boyette

Global Methodists gather for worship in the Philippines.

As the Global Methodist Church prepares to observe its first anniversary on May 1, 2023, it is pleased to announce that nearly 2,000 local churches and 2,400 clergy have joined it. The vast majority of those churches and pastors are from the U.S., causing some to ask, “What’s happening beyond its borders?”

First, it is important to note that many congregations all around the world have already joined the GM Church. Just as it launched last year, all the local United Methodist churches in Bulgaria announced they had withdrawn from the denomination to align with the GM Church. Five months later, all the UM congregations in Slovakia followed their Bulgarian sisters and brothers into the new Church. And this May, GM Church ordination services will be conducted in both countries.

More recently, the four annual conferences in the UM Church’s Eurasia Episcopal Area and the Estonia Annual Conference in the Nordic-Baltic Episcopal Area announced they have initiated the process of separating from the denomination. The GM Church anticipates receiving clergy and churches from these five annual conferences in the coming months. Other Methodist churches and clergy across Europe are considering joining the GM Church. Leaders are courageously navigating an often confusing separation process that slows their local churches’ transitions.

In the Philippines, a group of UM churches withdrew from the denomination prior to the launch of the GM Church. As soon as the GM Church began operations, the congregations immediately joined it, forming the Covenant Philippines Provisional Annual Conference. More recently, all the Filipino expat churches in the Middle East, and the clergy serving them, joined the GM Church. In addition, a broad-based group of clergy and lay persons from across the Philippines have now formed a Transitional Conference Advisory Team to develop an organizational structure for the GM Church in additional areas in the Philippines.

And in Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo Provisional Annual Conference (DRC PAC) began operations in late 2022. Formed by the GM Church’s Transitional Leadership Council at the request of local leaders, the DRC PAC has already planted forty-six new local churches. The provisional annual conference has conducted church multiplication training for its members and is busy constructing new church buildings in partnership with Crosspoint Church in Niceville, Florida, a future GM congregation.

Still, too many local UM churches in Africa that want to join the GM Church must overcome significant obstacles, or they are being told they cannot disaffiliate at all. Unlike churches in the U.S., they are not permitted to disaffiliate using a procedure adopted in 2019 by the UM Church, commonly known as a ¶ 2553 disaffiliation. Bishop Thomas Bickerton, president of the UM Church’s Council of Bishops, declared that disaffiliation process was not available to churches outside the U.S. despite the clear wording of the provision not limiting its geographical application. Consequently, many bishops outside the US have refused to let congregations decide whether or not they want to disaffiliate from the UM Church.

However, leadership groups on the continent are at work helping congregations and clergy prepare to exit the denomination and align with the GM Church. Many plan to make their decisions sometime in 2024, when the UM Church’s often postponed 2020 General Conference is finally held.

Whether in Africa, Asia, Europe, or the U.S., too many local churches find themselves locked in the UM Church because their bishops and annual conferences are not acting on their disaffiliation requests or the terms offered them are so onerous and financially prohibitive it makes an exit – with their property and assets –nearly impossible. Nevertheless, they continue to prayerfully persevere as they explore every possible pathway to the Global Methodist Church. Their sisters and brothers look forward to warmly welcoming them when they finally arrive where they want to be.

This week, clergy and lay leaders from around the world are gathering in Houston, Texas, for Beyond These Walls, an international missions conference; the GM Church is the lead sponsor. The Book of Revelation shares the apostle John’s vision of “a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb,” worshiping, loving, and serving God (Revelation 7:9). The GM Church longs for that day and is dedicated to its vision.

You can learn more about the Global Methodist Church by exploring its website.

Rev. Keith Boyette is the Transitional Connectional Officer of the Global Methodist Church, its chief executive and administrative officer.

Congratulations!



Estelle McPhail
2022 Lay Person of the Year



Come as you are to our worship service EVERY SUNDAY at 5:00 pm in the Salem Gym! We mean it when we say this new space is intentionally set aside for everyone who hasn't found a place yet. So many of us have so much going on in our lives that we don't have time, let alone the right dress. None of the rest of us are dressing up either, so bring what you've got. Jesus will meet you in all your stuff, and oh, what a day that will be!

Choir News

Salem Chancel Choir has been busy in April with various activities centered around the Easter season. Shelton and Gary provided music for three of the Lenten Luncheons held on Wednesdays in April.

Palm Sunday was filled with activities for the choir. They processed into the sanctuary while singing and carrying a book, not an easy task. During the communion, several choir members assisted Pastor Gil with the communion elements. At the conclusion of the service, various choir members took items from the chancel and carried them out of the sanctuary.

Special musical selections for April included "No Other Word for Grace but Amazing", "Risen Indeed", and "At Calvary," featuring Barbara Roberts, Frank Dawson, and Gary Wages.

New choir members are always welcome. Ron Williams joined the choir. We are slowly building up our numbers. Gary is continuing to modify and improve the choir balance and overall sound.



Our Beloved Leader

Prayer Requests

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

Church Members

The Family of Ruth Cain, Charlie Williams (CFVH), Steve Dawson, JR Sevine, Brenda Johnson, Rachel Dawson (Betsy Johnson Hospital), Kenneth Sykes, Bruce Sykes, Betty Register, Kevin Register, Rosine Dexter, Denise Rhodes, Joyce Costin, Eula Snow, Thelma Bullard, Derotha Fink, Bruce & Lorraine Kirkwood, Mickey Kimbell, Colton Honeycutt, Trillma Pribbenow, Darvin Edwards, Weldon Hudson, Sallie Darden, Paula Johnson, Jean Lugar, Gilda Horne, Mary Patterson, Bill Roberts, Daniel and Nancy West.

Family and Friends

Everna Worthen, Bruce Raynor, Family of Bud Budzinski, Larry Smith, Sam Holt, Pam Taylor, Meredith Steihl, Kenan Steihl, Grayson Marsh, Tre Turpin, Judah Turpin, Sam Williams, Patricia McLemore, Jonathan Lenore, Family of Janet Collier, Sheila Wages, Maria Gonzales, Dominique Martinez, Janet Campbell, Family of Marie Beasley, Margaret Ann Heine, Margaret Saccareccia, Jennifer Partney, Aaron Griffith, Brian Moxey, Chloe Creech, Helen Scoggins, Rev. Robert Flynn, Stacey Wiseman, Anderson Stewart, Russell Varner, Clifton Faircloth, Mike Butler, Sue Grissom, Jean Brown, Carrie Jones, Carolyn Ortero, Cale Johnson, Nick Wilson, Anthony Bethea, Angie Baker, Sheila Minschew, Eddie Bowen, John Sange, Will Nash, Leslie Horne, Jason & Brittany Ray, Lin Wheeler, Angela Renfrow, Nelly Johnson, Laurie McLaurin, Vanessa Cuestas (cancer), Tabetha Priest, Ron Hardy, Randy West (cancer), Marilyn Parkin, Melinda Craven, Grant Singletary, Rev. Jan (Poland Methodist Pastor), Matthew Johnson, Gary Page, J.M. Butler, Jr., Del Gray, Vickie Knoch, Sandra Jones, Bill Smith, Daniel Knox (cancer) and Abraham Beniquin.

Memorials

Steve Fussell

Sandra Wells

Dan Raynor

Joyce Jones, Mary Barbara Raynor

Financial Health

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 44,166.00

Total April Offering & Tithes

\$ 99,178.14

April Building Fund Deposits

\$ 1,525.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$176,700.00

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 180,831.14

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 4,680.00

Methodist Men

The Methodist Men's breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 21st at 8:00 am in the Dining Hall. All are welcome!

