
THE SALEM VISIONARY

January 2022

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

God's Message to the World **FEAR NOT**

Christmas time is not the only time we need to hear this message. Our "Welcoming Engagement" heard this theme throughout December. It is a message that now we carry with us into a new year with new fervor.

It is a message that is still fresh and needed. It is a message that the world continually needs.

Gathered on the hillside in the cold of winter, Shepherds watched over their flocks of sheep. Mary, in the confines of her home, was living through the everyday routines of her life. All the world lay weighted with the anxiety of the demands of hunger, sickness and threats in human relationships. It was not an easy life. Then, Angels appeared. Appearing to Mary to announce that she was laden with Child. Appearing to the shepherds to announce the birth of a baby in the manger. Proclaiming to all the world that the Savior had come.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. - Luke 2:10 (King James Version)

FEAR NOT!!! These words arrest the anxiety of our lives. These words, coming from the God of the Universe, redirect our focus away from ourselves and back to God's Reality for us all. One minute we are consumed with ourselves. The next minute we are a part of a greater story. The story of the Christ Child invites us into a story of redemption. The story of the Christ Child invites into a place of peace. The Story of the Christ Child reclaims our story. Our story is that of a story told from the Love of God that transcends all things. God's Story encounters our Story and we are transformed from a place of fear into a life of FAITH.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

- Luke 1:30 (King James Version)

Our lives are made new. We have favor with God. God's design is for us and not against us. We have been claimed as children of God. And it is God's only Son that has brought reconciliation, redemption and restoration into our days. For those who have received this good news, the world has forever changed. A light has shown in our darkness that has brought us to life. The World is still in need of a WORD that is spoken to them.

Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.
- Isaiah 41:10 (New King James Version)

Who will speak this Good News? May we be those who speak this Good News. We have received much and have the Good News in us. Will we share that Good News? Will we be those angels that make the announcement for our world today? FEAR NOT!!!

Take up anew the hymn of the church sung in January each year following the Christmas Season.

"Go Tell it on the Mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go Tell it on the Mountain that Jesus Christ is born!"

Winning them to Jesus,
Pastor Gil

Children and Youth Ministries

The past few months for the Children's Program have been nothing but exciting! In November we hosted our Homecoming, Thanksgiving Potluck and shared laughter and a meal together during our Wednesday Salem Kids Night. Our activities included making turkeys and their very own Thanksgiving placemat about their favorite Thanksgiving things.

In the month of December, we packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child and sent them off to children across the globe so they too can experience Christmas. We also had our Annual Christmas Party. Special thank you to Linda for putting together the Christmas Pageant this year for the children to have fun and learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

2021 has been an amazing year for the Children's Program here at Salem! We have grown so much and participated in so many fun events and activities! There is so much to look forward to in 2022!

In January we are Jumping into the New Year at Defy Gravity on January 23 at 2:00 pm! Salem Kids Night will be every other Wednesday from 6pm-7pm during the 2022 year. January's dates are the 12th and 26th.

In February, Salem is hosting a Valentine's Dinner where childcare will be provided along with the children's very own Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 12 at 6pm. We are also going Bowling on Sunday, February 27 at 1:30pm at B&B Bowling!



Mrs. Linda Wise would like to thank all the children, their parents and volunteers who helped make our Christmas Program a huge success. She is looking forward to our next one and excited to work with everyone again.

Happy New Year!





We are so excited for this New Year! Last year has been fantastic for our youth and we are really excited for all of the amazing things that we are going to do this year! Last year we went roller-skating, in June we had movie nights, in July we had a block party, in August we had our Messtival, in October we did something we called pumpkin night, in November we had a bonfire night, and in December we had our (Not so) Silent Night! It was a great year and God has moved in our ministry! In 2022 we are looking forward to Fry-day, cupcake wars, and most of all M28 Camp in July! If you are interested in joining us for Camp in 2022 please contact us at Youth@salemfnc.org. Back in November, we had a great Bonfire. We want to thank Fred and Rita McDaniel for hosting us for our bonfire.

Upcoming Events:

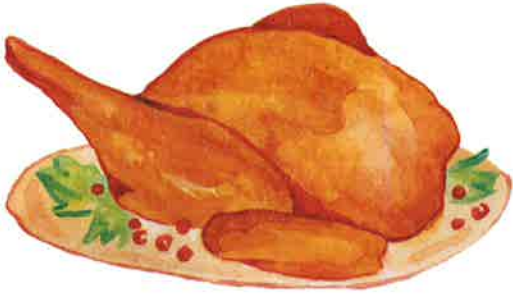
- January 5th: First Wednesday night youth of 2022: 6-7 pm
- January 9th: First Sunday Core night of 2022: 5-7 pm
- January 16th: No Youth
- January 23rd: Core Night Serve – 5-7 pm
- January Fry-day Event: January 28th 7-9 pm
- February 26th: Photo Scavenger Hunt



December was a busy month for the Preschool and SMASH programs. Several children from both programs participated in the Play "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", directed by Mrs. Linda Wise. The kids had a great time and did an awesome job. A huge shout out to Mrs. Linda for her time and dedication to the children of SALEM. The Preschool kids made Christmas decorations, had Pajama day, a Christmas celebration and pictures made with Santa and the Grinch. SMASH participated in pajama day, had pictures with Santa, Christmas attire day and a Grinch dance party. Fun was had by all. We are currently looking to hire more caregivers in both departments, so please help spread the word. We have been very blessed this year with enrollment being at capacity in both programs and 112 on the waiting list in the Preschool and 38 on the waiting list for SMASH. Happy New Year!

Mission and Outreach

THE WORK OF A DOZEN -or SO TURKEY'S & Their Families



A dozen or so SAVVY SHOPPERS loaded BIG TURKEYS (purchased at Food Lion for .29 cent a pound) & delivered the BIG BIRDS to Salem for the food pantry. A BIG TURKEY assisted with receiving & storing the birds. A BUSY TURKEY worked purchasing many trimmings and boxing for a quick hand out.

The BUSY TURKEY also helped their folks get the birds to Salem. Nov 18 a TALL STRONG TURKEY pushed appx. 200 pounds of turkeys from the rear freezer – up four ramps and through two fire doors to our gift away area. The BIG TURKEY & THE BUSY TURKEY assisted the TALL STRONG TURKEY in carting/gifting frozen turkey, trimmings and two bags of grocery pantry items to nineteen folks. The author of this story is A REGULAR TURKEY who helped lots as well. 60-80 community folks enjoyed the FOOD BLESSINGS from Salem Church. SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF SALEM'S WORKING TURKEYS !!

EASTOVER ELEMENTARY and CAPE FEAR HIGH each conducted a HUGE FOOD DRIVE for Salem's pantry. A special thanks to the staff, students and their families who donated food items. THE BIG TURKEY coordinated transportation and storage of all the donated items. AT SALEM WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS !
ALL TURKEYS ARE LOVED AND NEEDED !!

Food Pantry

THANK YOU

EASTOVER CENTRAL ELEM. SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
and
MAC WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL/ CAPE FEAR HIGH SCHOOL -
CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Several truck loads of food were donated by the students & staff during the past six weeks. Lots of work was completed by these schools to collect & load the food. Volunteers & staff @ Salem unloaded the donations. MANY FOLKS ARE BLESSED TO RECEIVE the food Salem donates each Thursday from 9 - 11 am.

Nov 18 & Dec 16 forty families each received a frozen turkey and a box of trimmings in addition to their typical bundle of food. "This church has sure been a blessing to us" is one of the many comments we were asked to pass on. THANKS to those who bought & delivered frozen turkeys. Special THANKS to the Juanita Warren Group United Methodist Women who worked (located & provided) the side "trimmings" for this holiday season.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce
Jelly
Peanut Butter
NO GLASS - please



Mission and Outreach

Salem's Toy Drive

Salem's Toy Drive coordinators delivered toys and items to the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation on November 11. The items will provide Pediatric patients at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center with comfort during their illness. Thank you so much to everyone who provided toys, baby clothes, and monetary donations for this project. The hospital staff was very pleased to accept the many items for the children being served!



Family Promise

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

During the entire year we collect gently used and new items for homeless families enrolled in FAMILY PROMISE of CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Often families have never lived independently and thus have few household items. We repair items & proudly deliver.

SALEM'S WINTER WEEK OF SERVICE IS: JAN 9-15.

For seven days Salem provides funds to purchase food which they cook. We also provide "essentials" such as soap, detergent, diapers & formula (if babies are in the family) & a week of utilities/insurance support.

This support is for a maximum of fourteen people.

Please mark extra mile giving to: FAMILY PROMISE.
Contact Debbie Moody for additional information.

A Special Thank You from Our Angel Tree Family

The Salem Angel Tree Family would like to thank everyone from the bottom of their hearts. They feel so blessed and are forever grateful.

A Special Thank You!

Several members of the Juanita Warren Group, along with a few wonderful volunteers, worked hard to make our sanctuary beautiful for the Advent season! The sanctuary tree is adorned with handmade Christmas ornaments, and the Angel tree is decorated with beautiful angels. Many treasured Nativity sets are arranged throughout the entire church. These decorations for the Advent season are a labor of love for our Lord. Take time to look at the meaningful decorations throughout the church and allow them to fill your heart with the joy of Christ's birth!



Several members of the Juanita Warren Group gathered on November 16 to deliver Thanksgiving meals to our shut-ins at home! Each person received a homemade jar of vegetable beef soup, a KFC chicken pot pie, and apple turnovers. Thank you to those who provided the delicious food and to those who delivered the meals. Each person was so grateful and touched to know that they are remembered and missed at Salem.



NC Conference Events



- Disaster Ministries Sanford Floods: Volunteers are needed to help repair flooring and cabinets in a parsonage in the Sanford Circuit. If you are interested in volunteering for a day, please contact 888-440-9167 or disaster@nccumc.org.
- Disaster Ministries Western NC Floods: Tropical Storm Fred impacted the Western NC Conference of The UMC in August. The Western NC Conference is in need of volunteers and licensed electricians to help make homes habitable for families to return home before winter. If you are interested in volunteering in Western NC, please contact Ann Huffman at 888-440-9167 or disaster@nccumc.org.
- Maysville, Kentucky Tornado Disaster Relief: You can give financially to support relief operations via the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR).
Checks may be mailed to:
The Kentucky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
Disaster Response Ministry Fund
Attn: Treasurer
7400 Floydsburg Road
Crestwood, KY 40014
Please note "Disaster Response: Advance 200902" on your check.
OR You may give electronically using the portal Disaster Relief Donations (brtapp.com), <https://kyumc-reg.brtapp.com/DisasterReliefDonations>
- Conference-wide Leadership Training: Join us for one of four virtual workshops designed to equip you to serve in your local church as Lay Leader or on the Finance, Trustees, or Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. Event Date: January 9, 2022 at 03:00 pm, Contact Name: Josey Snyder, Contact Email: josey.snyder@nccumc.org, Location: Zoom. Event Link: <https://nccumc.org/leadership/event/conference-wide-leadership-training/>
- UMVIM Basic Team Leader Training – Jan. 15, 2022: This United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) training is highly recommended for all Team Leaders of missional-exchange groups from the NC Annual Conference and required for groups applying for Conference Missional-Exchange Grants to aid in funding their trip. Note: all previously trained team leaders are due for recertification in 2022 given new policies and our fast-changing world in the midst of COVID-19. NCC UMVIM Basic Team Leader Training – January 15, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Methodist Building, 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner NC 27529. Event Date: January 15, 2022 at 10:00 am, Contact Name: Miles Baker Hunt, Contact Email: mhunt@nccumc.org, Location: Methodist Building, Event Link: <https://nccumc.org/outreach/umvim/training/>

Operation INASMUCH

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 25, 2022. - 11:00 - 2:00. Snyder Baptist Church

15th Annual Bread 'n Bowls - FAOIAM

Tickets pre-sale. \$10.00. Day of event - \$15.00

Delivery will be available with purchase of 10 or more orders.

Please see Betty Smith for your tickets.

CALLING ALL BAKERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP

Tricia Smith is in charge of the bake sale and cookie boxes for Bread 'n Bowls.

She has requested your help by donating cookies or cakes. Please let Betty Smith know if you are willing to bake.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to my Salem Family. With our combined donations, Salem UMC is a Manna Level Sponsor for Bread 'n Bowls this Year. This mission is dear to my heart, and Salem has supported us from the very beginning. I have seen the donations make a difference in so many lives. I am so proud to be part of the family of Salem.

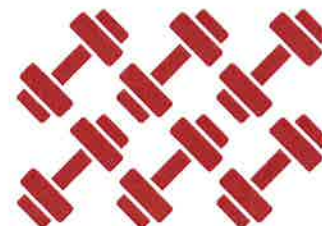
Betty Smith



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



2021 Year End Financials

Budget Needed
\$ 530,000.00

Tithes & Offerings
\$ 575,650.58

Total Monies Received
\$ 625,355.39

Thank you to all who made Maranatha a
Success



Nursery Volunteers Needed

Please contact Betty Ann Crawford
or church office if interested!



Please join us Sunday January 16th at 0800 for country style breakfast. Guest Speaker will be Allen Morris, Gateway District Leader of the United Methodist Men, speaking on Men's Ministries in our region.



Annual Valentines Dinner

This will take place on Saturday
February 12th at 6 PM. Tickets are \$25
for men and women eat free!!!

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

Are sponsored by Salem UM Church
United Methodist Men.

Cub Scouts Pack 745 meets on Sundays at 4 pm
at the playground/gym .

Boy Scouts Troop 745 meets on Tuesdays at 7 pm
in the gym.

Call: Frank Moody for info. 910-892-5746 x 1



Prayer Requests

**If you know of someone that needs to be removed from the prayer list please let the office know. Thank you!

Church Members

Darvin Edwards
Lorraine Kirkwood
Lisa Johnson
Derotha Fink
Sandra Williams
Jennifer Partney
Carolyn Hardin
Kenneth Sykes Sr.
Ann Hobbs
Weldon Hudson

Conrad Kurtz
Jean Lugar
Gilda Horne
Bill Roberts
Della Patterson
Ann Hobbs
Weldon Hudson
Marcia House
Grayson Marsh

Jerry McLaurin-Highland House
Sallie Darden-Heritage Place
Paula Johnson-Haymount Rehab
Lynn Baker-Fayetteville Manor
Shirley McLaurin- Bethesda

Family and Friends

Scott Armenstrout, Minnie Edwards, Sue Grissom, Atlas Diaz (one of our preschoolers/head injury), Abraham Beniquin, Jennifer Johnson, Alice Cashwell, Del Gray, Bobby Hudson, Sarah Crawley, Ruth Robertson, Irene Bowden, Ed and Helen Kurtz, Johnny Butler, Mike Butler, Al Cox, Angi Baker, Theresa Perry, Bill Smith, Sharon (cancer), Ann Hodges (cancer), Doug Curry, Daniel Knox, Sarah Showman, Danielle Hamilton, Barbara Powers, Chase Fraley, T.H. Perry, Joanne Gentry, Del Gray, Sarah Crawley, Kenneth P., Bill Marsh, Joseph Everett Ron Hardy, Jessica and Joel Hendren, Danny Davis, Sr., Evelyn Moore, Betty Tucker, Alan Tucker, Jennifer Billings, Janice Belden, Victor Hottel, Leon Horne, Bobby House, Barry Lane, Patsy Jackson, James Chambers, Nevis Ruffin, Mary Stevens, Diane Fuller, Linda Carter, Josh Powell, Stacey Faircloth, Jim Blanton, Kenneth Adams, Laura Leach, Martha Enzor, Nicole McGuinness, Kay Edwards, Bob Jones, Marilyn House Parkins, J. M. Butler, Jr., Erica Sutton, Eddy Clark, Brian Ramage, Ada Milagroski, Jeffrey Phillips, Denise Rhodes, Brian Wallum, Betty Parks, Betty Thompson, Camrin Hales, Cora & Sam Presley, Angie Baker, J'mair Bronson, Cici Shaw, Sammy Williams, Darla Clark, Mika Martin, Thomas Hoffler, Shenee Ruffin, Priscilla Sellers, Sandra Jones, Sharon Dunn, Jonah Nelson, Tiffany Mullins, Giridhar Sadhu, Julia Sessoms, Drew Smith, Gary and Brenda Wilson, Vickie Knoch, Leslie Jackson, Family of Bobbie Gray, Kathy Smith, LB Faircloth, Nathan Gainey, Larry Hall

Cleaning Crew Treat Trays

Seven Salem BAKERS provided various treats for our cleaning crew.

THANKS TO: Bonnie, Carol, Charleen, Daphne, Debbie M, Denise S, and Gwen for providing these gifts of appreciation. A large wrapped tray was gifted to each crew member & THEY SEND THEIR THANKS !!



Memorials

George Tatum

Denise and Kenneth Sykes, Sandy McDaniel, Bonnie and Jimmy Crabtree

Chris and Lacy McDaniel

Sandy McDaniel

Dan Raynor

Estrelita Lugar, Joyce Jones, Mary Barbara Raynor

Lawrence E. Lugar

Estrelita Lugar

Elizabeth Sykes

Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes

Robert Warren

Estrelita Lugar

Doug and Jeff Bake

Pat Baker

Honor

Kenneth and Claire Lynn Sykes Anniversary

Ruth Rich

Bonnie and Jimmy Crabtree

Mike and Jean Outlaw

Tracy Gist

Chris and Cheryl
Hudson

Gary Wages Music Ministry

Sandy McDaniel