



THE SALEM VISIONARY

April 2022

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

Love is What it Takes Breakthrough to Life

In our seasons in life, we may find ourselves in wilderness and desert places. Sometimes those places become absolutely unbearable. The stress and the darkness that surround us, along with the emptiness and sense of being alone, can grieve the heart. It is a hard place to live.

The old saints would refer to these times as the “dark night of the soul.” Martin Luther used the German word “Anfechtung” in describing a moment of contesting, temptation and doubt. The “dark night of the soul” was a heart wrenching place that brought one to a place where all seemed lost. It was a despair beyond despair. Many describe this place as the hardest times of their lives. It is the closest thing to death without being dead. The darkness is heavy, and the darkness is great.

But God... God is in the midst of every place we live. God never leaves or forsakes us. In death, we are in our greatest despair. It is a place where it seems all is lost and that there is no return. When death seems so final, God has an answer for that place in which we are found. God’s answer is love.

Before we knew Christ, we were dead. We were dead in our sins and trespasses. (Ephesians 2: 1-10) But God... God sent forth Jesus to die on the cross, forever destroying the power of death. God’s answer for death comes in an act of love where he sent his only begotten son. The power of love produces in places of darkness and death a breakthrough that brings resurrection.

We must go through the dark places to get to the places where the brightness of God shines through. The dark places cause us to leave behind those things that hinder our life with God. Those dark places force us to realize our only true need is God our Father. In the dark places, where it seems so difficult, we must come to a place that we embrace the pit in which we find ourselves. It is in the pit that we discover that our God is greater than anything that the darkness can throw at us.



It is in the pit that we discover the true hunger of our soul is not bread and water, but rather the very WORD that flows from the mouth of God.

And then it happens. We begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Just when all seems lost, just when it is the darkest moment we have ever known, in that moment God breaks through with resurrection power. We are filled with new life. God restores our lives to a place of being a living, breathing Disciple of Jesus Christ.

This is who we are now in Christ. We are the resurrected people of God. We now know a new day. God had done a new thing in us. We have begun a life of eternity that will never end. When it seemed that all was lost, God gave us a breakthrough with Love that changed us from death to life.

Many who have traveled through the “dark night of the soul” have sung this hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” written by Martin Luther. Read the words to this hymn and know that God is and will bring you out of any darkness that you face.

Winning them to Jesus,

Pastor Gil

A Mighty Fortress is Our God Public Domain

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!


SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

One Night Revival

A NIGHT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

APRIL **3** 6:00 PM

A NIGHT OF **INSPIRING MESSAGES,**
LIFE-GIVING MUSIC, AND A TIME OF **HEART**
TRANSFORMATION



Evangelist - Rev. Tim Reaves With Special Guest - Sherry Melvin

Operation INASMUCH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who was a sponsor, who donated gift certificates and who baked for Bread 'n Bowls. It was greatly appreciated. I am so proud of Salem UMC for being a major sponsor this year.

With your help, Operation Inasmuch raised over \$34,000 for our 15th annual Bread 'n Bowl fundraiser.

OIAM does so much more than just serve breakfast. Check them out online and you will be surprised. So many lives have been changed on Hillsboro Street.

-Betty Smith

Children and Youth Ministries

During the month of March, the children jumped over rainbows and hid from leprechauns. We had a fun-filled month of wearing green and dancing the Irish jig. We held Salem Kids Nights on the 9th and 23rd of March. The kids learned about the history of St. Patrick and the fruits of the spirit. On March 13th, we wore lots of green and celebrated St.

Patrick's Day the only way we know how: eating green foods and dancing. Our St. Patrick's Day Party was a blast!

Other exciting activities included going to Just Claying Around to paint pottery in Fayetteville. We had a wonderful turnout, and the pottery pieces are beautiful! We can't wait to show you what they look like!

We are hopping into April with our Salem Kids Nights on Wednesday, April 6th and 20th. We will be hearing the story of Easter and about the days leading up to Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday, April 10th, the children will be walking down the center aisle waving palm leaves to celebrate the Easter season. Our community Easter Egg Hunt will be April 10th at 12:30 pm. On Easter Sunday, the children's program will remain the same with a short children's message and a children's church following!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me at children@salemnc.org or text me at 910-964-4350

Caitlin Craven



We had a lot of fun with our Photo Scavenger Hunt! The teams were close, but the Blue Team won! We are excited for our next event on April 30th CUPCAKE WARS! CUPCAKE WARS will be a time of fun, food, and plenty of frosting!

On Wednesday nights we will be beginning a series on the book of Ephesians and on Sunday night we will be continuing our series talking about foundations of our faith. Our students are engaging weekly with what God is doing in their lives and the lives around them.

As we enter the spring season, we are reminded of new life, change, and rebirth. In the lives of our students, we are seeing change, we are seeing transformation. We ask that you pray with us for that continued transformation in their lives, that they share the message and hope of the gospel with those around them. That students in our schools will come to know who Jesus is and that they too will be transformed! God is moving in our church and in our schools! Please continue to pray with us for our students, our schools, our ministry, and our church!



Upcoming Events:

- April 3rd - No Youth - Church revival (6:00 pm)
- April 17th - Easter Sunday
- April 30th - Cupcake Wars
- May 8th - No Youth
- May 21st - End of School Bash!



Things continue to go well in in the SMASH and Preschool programs. We are currently accepting early registration for the Summer in our SMASH program for currently enrolled students. We will open to the public on April 4th.

Congratulations to Rachel Horne on her promotion to Lead Caregiver!

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday.

Preschool children will have Spring pictures on April 6th and their Easter Egg Hunt and party on April 13th.

NEW HIRE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- ANY NEW EMPLOYEE WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING CASH INCENTIVE
- AFTER 90 DAYS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT YOU WILL RECEIVE \$100.00, PART-TIME \$50.00
- AFTER 180 DAYS OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT YOU WILL RECEIVE \$150.00, PART-TIME \$75.00

**** LIMITED TIME INCENTIVE**



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Life Lessons from Romans with Max Lucado and Lisa Johnson begins April 26

The Tuesday morning Bible Study with Lisa Johnson RETURNS! In the Spring of 2020, the Tuesday Morning Bible Study had to stop meeting due to the COVID Pandemic. The study using the book Life Lessons from Romans by Max Lucado came to an abrupt halt. Now two years later, Lisa Johnson is prepared to return to this study.

The Bible Study will begin meeting again on Tuesday, April 26 at 11 am. If you need something to invigorate your faith, then mark your calendar and don't miss this study. Lisa is an excellent teacher. She has determined, with the pastor's support, that leading this study is life giving to her. Come share in the life of a weekly study beginning the last week of April.

If you need a study book, contact the church office so that we may include you in our orders for the books being used in this study.



Mission and Outreach

Food Pantry

THANK YOU THANK YOU

**Black's Chapel United
Methodist Church**

for your donation to Salem's food pantry.
In addition to a generous variety of food items,
they donated other useful items such as toilet
paper, baby diapers/wipes & can openers.
BCUMC is located in Godwin and has supported
Salem's food pantry for several years. Together
WE ARE a blessing to MANY !!

**ITEMS NEEDED: Peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit
& cereal.**

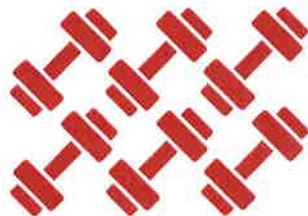
Food Buggy for TWO Families



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



Family Promise

“Salem’s Mission to Homeless Families in Cumberland
County”

On a single night in 2021, more than 326,000 people were
experiencing sheltered homelessness in the United States.
Four in ten were people with children.

Salem serves with Fayetteville Family Promise to assist four
families for one week each season (appx. every 3 months) .
Our spring week of service is May 1-7 . Extra mile donations
are requested for food, basic supplies & utilities/insurance.
Mark your donation: Family Promise.

Contact Debbie Moody for additional information.

The Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed
to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35 (NIV)



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!

Annual BBQ Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who had a part in the BBQ Fundraiser this
year! We raised over \$15,000! Thank you all for your continued
support for Salem!

Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 45,000.00

Total March Offering & Tithes

\$ 54,156.30

March Building Fund Deposits

\$ 315.00

March Memorial Donations

\$ 350.00

YTD Budget Needed

\$ 135,000.00

Year to Date Offering & Tithes

\$ 122,709.74

Year to Date Building Fund Deposits

\$ 1,265.00

Emergency Response Team

Salem UMC was recently awarded by the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church a disaster relief trailer outfitted for emergency response! Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Salem Emergency Response Team, please see Ray Burkart or contact him at Raymond.burkart@phoenixrisingusa.com. Thanks!

There will be NO BREAKFAST meeting in April. Men instead will be preparing the Easter morning Sunrise Service breakfast, served free to all attendees after the early service on April 17th. All men are invited to help with cooking and preparation! Next breakfast will be on Sunday May 15th at 8 AM!



United Methodist Men 2022 Scholarship

Salem United Methodist Men offer a college scholarship to graduating high school seniors. Please visit Salem UMC website at <https://www.salemfnc.org/united-methodist-men> for application and eligibility information. Deadline is May 1st, 2022



Join Our Choir

All are welcome! Choir practice is every Wednesday at 7pm in the choir room! Contact Gary of the office for more information!



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	Conrad Kurtz
Lorraine Kirkwood	Jean Lugar
Lisa Johnson	Gilda Horne
Derotha Fink	Bill Roberts
Sandra Williams	Della Patterson
Carolyn Hardin	Ann Hobbs
Kenneth Sykes Sr.	Marcia House
Ann Hobbs	Grayson Marsh
Weldon Hudson	Bill Marsh
Trillma Prebbenow	Ron Williams
Jarrett Dean	

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

Family and Friends

Khalil Purley, Kyle Powers (heart), Eddie Bowen, Del Gray, Alice Cashwell, Vickie Knoch, Travis Wages (Gary Wages' Brother), J.M. Butler Jr. John Butler, Mike Butler, Linda Butler, Angie Baker, Linda Disbrow, Leslie Horne, Sandra Jones, Randall Idol, Bill Smith, Scott Armentrout, Daniel Knox (cancer), Doug Curry (COVID), Steve Strickland, Banks, Ashley and Chris Woodside, Brooke Autry's mother, Minnie Edwards, Sue Grissom, Atlas Diaz (one of our preschoolers/head injury), Abraham Beniquin, Jennifer Johnson, Del Gray, Bobby Hudson, Sarah Crawley, Ruth Robertson, Irene Bowden, Ed and Helen Kurtz, Al Cox, Theresa Perry, Sharon (cancer), Daniel Knox, Sarah Showman, Danielle Hamilton, Barbara Powers, Chase Fraley, Joanne Gentry, Sarah Crawley, Kenneth P., Joseph Everett, Ron Hardy, Jessica and Joel Hendren, Danny Davis, Sr., Evelyn Moore, Betty Tucker, Alan Tucker, and Anne Hodges

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:

- April 9th: Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition guides participants in discerning God's direction for their lives, practicing daily disciplines, and reaching out in love. Register at Corridor Lay Servant Ministries Team Offer Advanced Course - April 9th - District Office (nccumc.org)
- 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)
- April 30th: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity) to learn about Methodist organizational structure and processes; register at District Lay Servant Ministry Team Offers Advanced Class - Sound District - NCCUMC (sounddistrictnc.org)
- 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 (beacondistrictnc.org)

Memorials

Joan Lovick and Harold Grey

Nancy Gates

Judy McLaurin

Elizabeth Sykes

Mike McLaurin

Kenneth and Claire Lynn