



# THE SALEM VISIONARY

## March 2022

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

### **Seasons of Our Lives** **Preparing for Easter**

Salem as a church shares the seasons of the lives of its members. We rejoice at births and baptisms. We celebrate birthdays and weddings. We share the burdens of sickness and the death of loved ones. Life is filled with moments that mark our days here on this earth.

Likewise, the seasons of the Christian Year become a part of our moments in time that help give meaning and inspiration to the personal events of our lives. Salem has been celebrating revival and renewal in the month of February. The month of March begins an observance of Lent that encourages our commitment to prayer and fasting.

Prayer and fasting help us to remember from where we came, from whom we receive our identity, from where our strength for life comes and for the one in whom we have placed our HOPE – Jesus the Christ. This season of Lent is exciting for me because I rediscover and meet new the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ not only in my personal life but also in the Body of Christ gathered here at Salem.

This season of Lent, in preparation for Easter, will be a time of focus and teaching on PRAYER. Every Tuesday and Thursday, I will be offering an opportunity to experience the LORD's Prayer as you may have never experienced it before. I am inviting everyone to join me at either the Tuesday evening or Thursday Noon studies entitled "Could You Not Tarry One Hour?" Don't miss one week of this dynamic series that will bring new life to your regular prayer of the Lord's Prayer.

Lisa Johnson and I have been in conversation since I arrived in July. Our conversation has been encircled with prayer. One thing continually has arisen in our conversations and it is the wonderful Bible Study that once met on Tuesday mornings.

With our hearts crying out to God for an open door, Lisa and I will co-lead the Lenten Luncheon every Thursday, and we invite all the former group members to join us and bring friends. We pray that you will join us in this commitment to Prayer and Study for the 6 Thursdays of Lent.

Also, in preparation for Easter, Linda and I will host all who are interested to join us in ministry of prayer taking place at the Parsonage on Thursday, March 10 at 7 pm. We will pray over all who attend, petition for healing with the laying on of hands, strategize in prayer how to reach our area for Christ and explore the start of monthly Cottage Prayer Meetings in the neighborhoods of members who call Salem home.

Our first Friday night Cottage Prayer Meeting is being hosted by Jeremy and Lauren Marsh. We will meet in their home on Friday, April 1 at 7 pm to continue the prayer ministry of covering the Baywood Neighborhood with prayer. We will also focus our prayer on mailers that are being sent out to over 5,000 homes in our area. These mailers will invite our community to share with us in Easter celebrations in the month of April. We will pray for our ONE NIGHT Revival that will be held on Sunday night, April 3. This prayer meeting will give you a good vision of how prayer can make a difference in your life and neighborhood.

There are many opportunities to pray at Salem. Every Monday-Thursday morning at 7:30, I invite you to join me in prayer. Every Sunday morning at 9 am there is a time for prayer in the Prayer Room before Sunday School begins. There are prayer resources available in door hangers, weekly lists for prayer and Sunday morning corporate prayer at the altar. Don't miss these opportunities. Make prayer a focus for you in this season so that prayer becomes a focus of your life all year long.

Winning them to Jesus,  
Gil

# Children and Youth Ministries

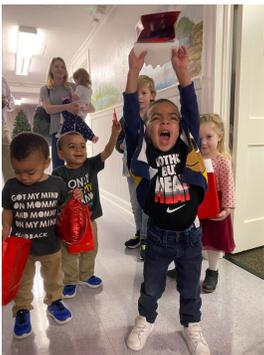
February was a month filled with love and kindness in our children's program!! We celebrated by Jumping at Defy Gravity and Bowling at B& B Bowling! Our Valentine's Party was very successful and filled with exchanging Valentine's cards, sweets, and plenty of pizza!

We are going green in the month of March! We are celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 13 during Children's Church. We will also go to Just Claying Around in Fayetteville, NC to paint pottery on March 27!

Salem Kids is our (every other) Wednesday night program where the students can enjoy a cooked meal, a short Bible lesson, and tons of fun activities and games! The dates for March are the 9th and 23rd. We hope to see you there!

I am excited to announce that I accepted the full-time position as a School Counselor at Overhills Elementary in Spring Lake, NC. I will still be working hard and diligently with Salem and growing the children's program! I wanted to say thank you to everyone for their loving words of encouragement and support!

Caitlin Craven  
SUMC Children's Director



**SUMC CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

# MARCH

**9 SALEM KIDS NIGHT**

**11 BBQ FUNDRAISER**

**13 ST. PATTY'S DAY PARTY**

**23 SALEM KIDS NIGHT**

**27 PAINTING POTTERY**





Was it just me or did February feel like it flew by? We are so excited for March as we enter into the season of Lent. God has so much prepared for us as we enter into this season, and we are excited for what God is doing in our youth ministry!

Our photo Scavenger Hunt is quickly approaching! We are excited about this event! It will be filled with competition, fun, and excitement! We will meet at Salem on March 19th at 2:00 pm and begin our hunt! We will return to the church around 4:00 pm, and we will announce our winners on Sunday night March 20th.

Please continue to pray with us as we work to discern new leaders in our youth ministry, as we pray for students in the local school, and as we pray for God to continue to move in our youth ministry in ways only He can.



March 19th, 2022 at 2:00 pm  
we will gather at the church for our a Photo Scavenger Hunt! We will break into teams and the team with the most points after 2 hours will win!  
2165 Middle Rd, Eastover, N.C. 28312

- Upcoming Events:**  
March 2nd - No Youth  
March 19th - Photo Scavenger Hunt  
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!

## NCC UMC Disaster Response Trailer



Salem's Emergency Response Team recently received a trailer to assist in our disaster preparedness efforts to provide Christian support to our neighbors. Those wishing to join the Emergency Response Team, please contact Ray Burkart.

## Stephens Ministries

We are looking for compassionate volunteers to support our Stephens 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!

## Welcome Edwin!

Edwin is new to Salem and currently cleans the Church. SMASH and Preschool are still under a different service for the time being. Please say hello if you see him around!





February was a great month in the childcare programs. SMASH had Valentine's parties in their classrooms and a Valentine Dance. The preschoolers had Valentine's parties in their rooms and exchanged Valentines as well!

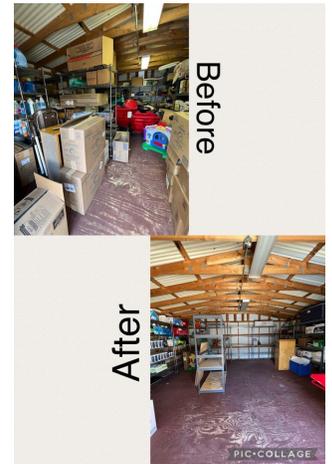


We have made some upgrades to our preschool playground, and the kids are having a blast.



Denise and the team in both the Preschool and SMASH programs are doing an exceptional job. The Preschool recently had a surprise building inspection on which we received a Superior rating and an unannounced visit from our state consultant, on which they received a 93%.

With the nicer weather we decided to tackle the storage building and clean and reorganize. We are getting ready for the Spring weather.



Both programs continue to have a wait list for all rooms. We are looking for some additions to our team in order to grow our programs. We have created a new hire incentive program. Please share with anyone you know who may be a great fit and have them contact Mrs. Denise. Thank you all for your continued support!

**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

Salem Preschool & Childcare

SMASH e-Merge

\*\* LIMITED TIME INCENTIVE

# Mission and Outreach

## Food Pantry

Thursdays 9 - 11 am  
Other times by prearrangement

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH is the message heard on Thursdays from grateful receivers, whoat this time are mostly senior citizens.

Pasta Sauce ( NO glass - please )  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
are the most needed items at this time.

FOLKS were happy to receive several of these special treats recently.

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



## Family Promise

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

As reported in Feb. newsletter: Salem served 14 individuals (4 families) in January, our winter week of service. The cost (we paid) per family was \$173.00 which includes temporary housing, food, misc items (like hand soap & detergent) and staff support for seven days. Our investment for these FOUR families was just under \$ 700.00. NOTE: I spend in excess of \$ 173.00 per week for a family of two.

WE are doing GREAT WORK; continued support is appreciated !!

Contact Debbie Moody for questions or information.

Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.  
1 John 3:18 (CEV)

## Annual BBQ is BACK!!!

Volunteers needed for BBQ Fundraiser, March 11!  
We need servers, delivery drivers, cleanup crew, etc. Please contact Fred McDaniel (910-709-9281), Betty Ann Crawford (910-578-8139) or call church office. Also please see Kim McPhail for baked good donations to the Bake Sale. Let's make this a great success!

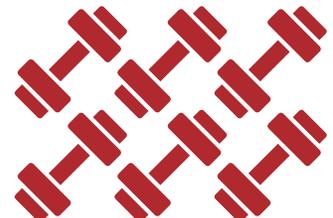


**Salem**  
*United Methodist*  
2165 Middle Rd • Eastover NC  
**BBQ**  
FRIDAY MARCH 11, 22  
**11AM - 7PM** Tickets \$10  
BBQ Pork or Chicken Breast  
Slaw • Green Beans • Hush Puppies  
Desserts Available for Sale  
Delivery Available on 10 plates or more  
Eat In or Take Out  
910-483-8959

## 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



Budget Needed Monthly

\$ 45,000.00

Total February Offering & Tithes

\$ 34,991.56

February Building Fund Deposits

\$ 475.00

February Memorial Donations

\$ 50.00

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Please contact Betty Ann Crawford  
or church office if interested!



Please join us for a delicious country style breakfast at 8 AM in the lower fellowship hall on Sunday March 20th, 2022. Enjoy sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits, juice and coffee! We will be starting our Barbarian Way journey! See you there! Many thanks to the men and women who made our Valentine's Day celebration a success!



## 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

# Prayer Requests

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\*\*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.	Weldon Hudson
Ann Hobbs	Marcia House
Weldon Hudson	Grayson Marsh
Trillma Prebbenow	Bill Marsh
Jarrett Dean	Ron Williams

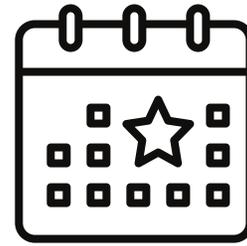
Jerry McLaurin-Highland House  
Sallie Darden-Heritage Place  
Paula Johnson-Haymount Rehab  
Lynn Baker-Fayetteville Manor  
Shirley McLaurin- Bethesda

## 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

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**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/>.

Thank you

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Thank you to my Salem family for the prayers, calls, texts, and many acts of kindness shown to me and my family during my dad's stay in hospice and following his death. Living so far away from family is hard, and I cannot thank Salem enough for allowing me the time to spend my dad's final days with him and my family. I will treasure those days forever.

Blessings,  
Denise

Join Our Choir

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

## Memorials

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Nesbeth Fischer

Mary Barbara Raynor