

The  Newsletter of the Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

The Mountain Shepherd

Volume 38 May 2020 Number 5



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

Food Pantry
 OPEN
TUESDAYS
 6:30-7:30 pm

The Food Pantry at Salem will remain open every Tuesday 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Coronavirus forces continued church closure— at least through May 15

Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." —John 14:1

It was March 8th when we last gathered for worship in Salem's sanctuary. To reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, non-essential establishments were ordered closed. Presidential directives were issued and Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency in Maryland. And so, based on these governmental decisions, Bishop Easterling announced the closure of all United Methodist churches in Maryland— now extended through May 15th.

Salem's Ministry Continues

Although the church building is closed, Salem's ministry continues. Pastor Bob is continuing to provide pastoral care as usual.

It's not the same as being together at church, but we are using all the tools we have to stay connected as a church family.

Every morning, Pastor Bob writes some "Words of Encouragement" and sends it to 75 families via email; and for those who do not have email, he records a phone message which goes out to nearly 50 homes by phone.

For worship services, Salem is continuing to use Zoom each Sunday. Pastor Bob places paper copies of worship materials at the church for those without internet, usually available for pick up by 10 a.m. Saturday.

Families who do not have internet or a computer may dial in by phone to listen to the worship service.

The Women's Bible Study is using Zoom on Wednesday evenings, the Church Council meeting was held that way, as well as the Salem Iron Men, Building Committee, and other meetings.

Food Pantry is Open

Salem's food pantry ministry continues. We will be providing pre-bagged items. Please knock on the door and we will bring food to the door or to your car. If you have requested

Photo by Donna Snyder



On Easter Sunday, April 12, nearly 50 Salem families worshipped virtually together from their homes using Zoom. Photo shows Salem folks on the screen.

items that are not in your bag, please let us know and we will try to find them for you.

A Different Holy Week

Holy week was a particularly hard time for many of us. Yes, we worshipped together virtually from our homes on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Sunrise Service, and Easter Sunday. But still, we missed waving palms, the Last Supper presentation, the egg hunt, the lilies and tulips in the sanctuary, and Holy Communion at the altar.

Although virtual, the sunrise service hosted by Bill and Joyce Weaver at their home was beautifully done. The early morning fire in the fireplace and the choice of music was very inspiring.

At the 9:30 a.m. Easter service, Pastor Bob announced he was planning to ring the church bell at noon. Several families drove to the church parking lot to hear the bell. Others reported hearing it as far as two miles away. We understand neighbors enjoyed it too.

And, yes, we know that Easter is not just about special programs. It's about a living Savior who is still transforming lives today. Easter is about the hope of tomorrow and the gift of everlasting life. Blessings to all.

—Bill Burrier, Editor



Published monthly by Salem United Methodist Church – Wolfsville.
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Chair, Board of Trustees: Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
Church Treasurer: William Burrier
Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations: Robin Haupt
Food Pantry: Jennifer Gormer, Patrick Boyton
and Dennis Draper

Salem Membership Statistics:
Current Membership: 244
2020 New Members: 0

Salem Physical Facilities:
Church built 1847
Educational Building built 1967
Parsonage built 1974–75

Salem Website:
www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Colophon:
Produced using macOS Pages 10.0 and
macOS 10.14.6 on an Apple iMac computer,
HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer,
and Ricoh MP-3054 digital copier.

Purpose of Newsletter:
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communicating with our members, their families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville community and surrounding areas. We pray that this newsletter will inspire you, our readers, to regularly attend worship services, Sunday School, and all other activities of the church. For those who are unable to attend, this newsletter is a means of bringing part of the church to you.

Salem Mission Statement:
At Salem, with God’s help, we pledge to INVITE others to Christ, HELP each other grow in faith, and SERVE those in need in our congregation, the community, and the world.

Salem Vision Statement:
We will direct our efforts out into the community to serve people’s needs and bring them to Christ.

Go  **2020 MISSION PROJECTS** **2020 Goal**

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission	\$2,460
2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes)	45
3. Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs)	1,180
4. Wolfsville Elementary School PTA - “All Pro Families Breakfast”	900
5. Wolfsville Community Food Pantry at Salem	1,180
6. Mary E. (AIM - France)	1,320
7. United Methodist Board of Child Care Christmas Offering	750
8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew)	300
9. Middletown High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes	300
10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)	780
11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	600
12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania)	456
13. Hero’s Club after school ministry	4,500
14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia)	420
TOTAL GOAL for 2020	\$15,191

Here’s how you can give . . .

1. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church, or place cash in an envelope marked “Missions.”
2. Tell us which mission project(s) you wish to support by making a note on your check or envelope.
3. Place your contributions in the offering plate at Sunday worship or mail to Salem.
If you do not designate a project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals.

MISSION PROJECTS - NEWS & UPDATES

Salem Mission Project No. 11

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick

Dear Salem United Methodist Church:

The beauty and power of Easter is not dependent on how we gather together, but instead on the Truth of the work that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross and in His resurrection! I am so thankful that God, His plan, and His provision do not change, especially in the midst of this coronavirus. We pray that you and your family are safe, healthy, and seeing God move in very special ways in your life.

Your continued faithful giving is one of the ways that we are seeing God move in a special way at the center. We do not take your giving for granted and thank you for your generosity! Please continue to pray for the center as we navigate through these difficult times.
Blessings, Linda King, Executive Director



OFFICE HOURS for PASTOR BOB SNYDER

Sunday
7am - 1 pm Prep, worship, Sunday School (at church)
6 - 7 pm Bible Study (at church)

Monday (day off)
6-7 am Devotions (at home)
9-11 am Planning Time (at home)
5-6 pm Hero’s Club (at church)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
6-7 am Devotions (at home)
9 am - Noon Parsonage Office
Noon - 1 pm Lunch
1-5 pm Visitation, meetings, or parsonage office

Saturday
7-9 am Final touches on Sunday’s sermon (at home)

Also, Pastor Bob will be at church or in homes to attend meetings or check-in on evening activities at the church. He will make hospital visits and other visits as situations arrive. He will be working at home in Myersville, at the parsonage office, or elsewhere, as needed.

\$10.00 each

Salem history published in 100-page book

Limited number of copies remaining

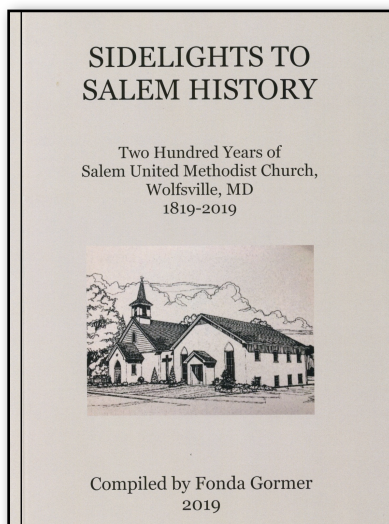
In honor of Salem's 200th anniversary, Fonda Gormer compiled a series of 14 articles for Salem's monthly newsletter *The Mountain Shepherd*.

The articles expanded upon the short version of Salem's history and introduced the people who helped prosper the church; explored the neighborhood around the church; and told some of the interesting events that shaped the Salem congregation.

Fonda used church records, area newspapers, diaries, personal anecdotes, pictures, and internet searches to piece together the roots of the Hoover family and much about the Wolfsville community relating to Salem.

The series began in the December 2018 issue of *The Mountain Shepherd*, with plans to write thirteen chapters. However, one of Fonda's friends advised that 13 was an unlucky number, and Fonda realized that she had a few more interesting items to share. So, the final chapter appeared in January 2020.

100 copies of the book were printed. As of this writing 75 copies have been sold.



Here's how to obtain a copy of the book

14 chapters - 102 pages

Contact Fonda Gormer
301-293-2436
fonda.gormer@comcast.net

\$10 each

Proceeds from sales go to Salem's Building Fund for the planned building addition.

How to give tithes and offerings during church closure

■ By Bill Burrier, Church Treasurer

Salem's ministry will be continuing during the church closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. The pastor continues to work, writing sermons, pastoral care, etc. The usual utilities and other expenses continue.

Some have asked how they can give their offering during this time. For electronic givers, your offering continues as usual.

For those of you who normally place your cash or check in the Sunday morning offering plate, may we suggest two alternatives during the closure period:

◆ By Mail

You may mail your tithes and offerings to:
Church Treasurer
Salem United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 94
Myersville, MD 21773

Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church.

◆ Electronically Online (Safe & Secure)

You may give electronically by viewing our website (SalemChurchWolfsville.org) and select GIVE. Create an account on the secure server at Vanco Payment Solutions, a United Methodist endorsed service. You may set up recurring giving, e.g., weekly, monthly, or give one time. Funds will be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account.

The scriptures tell us we will be blessed by our giving ministry and God will be pleased.

(Deuteronomy 15:10)

Giving tithes and offerings is a part of our spiritual worship. We don't give in order to get. We give to make an impact; we give to make a difference in people's lives; we give to further the ministry of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

new prospective dates are August 31-September 10, 2021.

According to UMNews.org these dates, disclosed by the Council of Bishops, are tentative and have not been confirmed by General Conference organizers.

The year-long postponement of General Conference is unprecedented. The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies typically have held a General Conference at least every four years since 1792.

News & Notes

Salem's annual Plant Sale, usually held in May, has been cancelled.

Creation Music Festival scheduled for June 23-27 has been cancelled. Advance tickets purchased by Salem may be used at next year's event.

Pastoral Appointments of Local Interest

March 9, 2020 — **Rev. Katie Bishop** has been appointed as lead pastor at Middletown United Methodist Church in Middletown, from the Greater Brunswick Charge in Brunswick.

March 30, 2020— **Rev. Katie Hamilton** has been appointed to Greater Brunswick Charge in Brunswick, from John Wesley United Methodist Church in Hagerstown.

April 20, 2020— **Rev. Douglas Hoffman** has been appointed to John Wesley United Methodist Church in

Hagerstown, from First United Methodist Church in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

Annual Conference Postponed

The Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore has cancelled all groups meeting at its venue through May.

As a result, the 236th session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, scheduled for May 27-29, has been postponed.

Current plans call for a one-day session, to be held September 12, 2020, at a site to be determined.

At that session, the 2021 proposed budget, nominations, and candidates for ordination and commissioning will be addressed.

United Methodist General Conference scheduled to meet in May has been postponed until next year, 2021. The



In honor of MEMORIAL DAY, Salem Church recognizes our nation's veterans who are buried at Salem's Cemetery. The church will place flags at these grave sites.

Lloyd Bear	Alvey G. Kline
Robert Bear	Ary M. Kline
Howard Brandenburg	Carroll M. Kline
Aaron Craver	Floyd Ray Kline
Rodger Lee Eccard	Gaither W. Kline
Joseph R. Farsht	Lawrence S. Kline
Elmer R. Finneyfrock	Raymond W. Kline
James Richard Frey	Merhle K. Martin
Harold G. Harne	Ronald L. McLucas
Francis C. Harshman	Joseph M. Nusbaum
Robert Woodrow Heefner	William H. Shuff
William H. Horn	Gaither E. Stotemyer
Agnes Kemerer	Daniel Bruce Warrenfeltz
Verne F. Kemerer	Paul Weiss
Allen John Kline	

Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father:

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day. We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in the service of our nation since 1776.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. Bless all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest with You.

We remember also our brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Dear God, send out Your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world. We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

It's Your Day!

May Anniversaries

- 19 - Joshua & Tracey Gormer
- 20 - Deane & Patty Weagley
- 21 - Bobby & Mary Fogle

May Birthdays

- 2 - Mandy Mellott
- 2 - Leann Eccard-Crutchley
- 6 - Mark Burrier
- 7 - Austin Main
- 8 - Anita Harshman
- 11 - Steve Leatherman
- 13 - Loralli Snyder
- 17 - Deane Weagley
- 17 - Elijah Sowers
- 18 - Cindy Draper
- 19 - Brandon Leatherman
- 20 - Abigail Weagley
- 24 - Nelson Hipkins
- 25 - Sam Zimmerman
- 26 - Sharon Hipkins
- 27 - Lillian Hill
- 30 - Bobby Fogle Jr.

NOTE: To have your anniversary or birthday added, contact Bill Burrier.

I'll Never Take for Granted

I'll never take for granted
The touch of a hand
A sweet kiss hello
The feel of the sand.

I'll never take for granted
The freedom to go
From my house to yours
Embrace young, embrace old.

I'll never take for granted
The blessing of health
A strong heart and gait
More precious than wealth.

I'll never take for granted
Simply choosing a seat
At my coffee shop
The morning complete.

I'll never take for granted
Just earning my pay
When extra was needed
Being eager to stay..

But there's one thing more
I'll never give up!
That's faith and that's hope
That we'll lift a cup.

Together again
We'll laugh and we'll cry
Lock arms and lock steps
When the storm passes by.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother.

Sticky Buns & Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers," Anita Harshman is making sticky buns and pies.

- Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns: \$12
- Apple Pie: \$10
- Cherry or Peach: \$11
- Raspberry, Blueberry or Blackberry: \$13

You may purchase these items directly from Anita. To place an order, call Anita at 240-818-0126.

Revised April 2019





Learned From You

By Joanna Fuchs

I learned about love from you,
 Watching your caring ways.
 I learned about joy from you
 In fun-filled yesterdays.

From you I learned forgiving
 Of faults both big and small.
 I learned what I know about living
 From you, as you gave life your all.

The example you set is still with me
 I'd never want any other.
 I'm thankful for all that you taught me,
 And I'm blessed to call you "Mother."

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

Believe and Pray

By James J. Metcalfe

In trial and adversity
 Let not your faith grow dim,
 But say a fervent prayer to God
 And keep your trust in Him.
 Let hope not wither on the vine
 Of sorrow and despair,
 Remember God knows everything
 And He is everywhere.
 However dark the day may seem
 Or frightening the night,
 All troubles fade and disappear
 And life turns out all right
 Provided you maintain your faith
 And do not yield to fear
 The while you pray for courage with
 A heart that is sincere
 Resign yourself most humbly now
 To do God's holy will
 And He will surely bless you and
 Your least request fulfill.

The life worthwhile is the life that serves others and takes joy in that service. Our jobs are one way of serving. When we think of them in that sense instead of as mere work for pay, then what we do becomes more helpful to our fellowmen.

There are many other ways of service . . . a smile, a friendly word, a helping hand, an understanding heart, an act of kindness, to name a few. The world is full of these and other opportunities every day.

— Esther York Burkholder



RECIPE



Mexican Chicken Bake

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 2 cups cooked brown rice | 1 cup green pepper, diced |
| 1 lb. cooked chicken breast, cubed | 1 tablespoon cumin |
| 2 14.5-oz. cans diced tomatoes, undrained | 1 tablespoon chili powder |
| 15-oz. can black beans, drained | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup corn | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
| 1 cup red bell pepper, diced | 4 garlic cloves, minced |
| | 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Spread rice on bottom of greased 3-4 quart casserole dish.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine remaining ingredients, except cheese. Pour over rice. Cover.
3. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove from oven. Top with cheese. Reduce heat to 300 degrees. Bake, uncovered, for an additional 15 minutes, or until bubbly.

Makes 8 servings.

Variation: For a vegetarian version of this dish, leave out the chicken.

Selected from "Fix-It and Enjoy-It!" cookbook



Good Morning, Lord

By Grace E. Easley

Good morning, Lord,
 the night has passed,
 Just as You said it would,
 And once again I gaze upon
 Your world and find it good.
 The darkness fades, as darkness will,
 And so my heart is light,
 For You await to share my day,
 Who watched me through the night.

I cannot see what lies ahead,
 But I am sure You know,
 So take my hand and walk with me,
 Wherever I may go.
 No joy or pain is ever sent,
 Save by Thine own accord,
 So in the shadow of Thy love,
 I say . . . Good morning, Lord.

Turn to God

By Harold F. Mohn

Within your moments of despair
 And in your sorrow too,
 Turn to God and you will find
 An inner strength anew.

In times that trouble breaks
 your heart
 And, too, in times of fear,
 Turn to God and you will find
 His helping hand is near.

Remember when you need
 a friend,
 A friend that's tried and true,
 You need but turn to God
 and find
 His friendship beckons you.

May the sun bring you new energy by day.
 May the moon softly restore you by night.
 May the rain wash away your worries.
 May the breeze blow new strength into your being.
 May you walk gently through the world
 and know its beauty all the days of your life.

— Apache Prayer





Message from the Pastor and Worship in May

■ By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

COVID-19 has made people ill, has caused deaths, and has brought economic hardship to people's lives. And, we are really missing the human contact we enjoy in more normal times. No school, no church, no activities and events, remaining six feet apart in groups of not more than ten – these have caused us to be disoriented.

We're uncertain how long this will go on, whether it will come back, and how things may be more permanently different once it's over.

In the meantime, we're trying to do our part, support those on the front lines, care for those in need, and adapt to our circumstances. We've been seeing some opportunities: we can meet online, less activities and events have perhaps freed up time to complete a project or two we've been working on, we may have more focused family time, and more.

As people of faith, our current circumstances may be allowing us more ways and more time to spend with God. Challenging times are challenging, and they're also usually times of opportunity. "God, help us to help each other get through this time, help us to see and take advantage of the opportunities, and cause us to practice staying close to you." Have a blessed May! God Bless, *Pastor Bob*

May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Character of Christ Sermon Series
Week 2 – "Grounded in God"
Mark 1:29-39

Mark 1:35 - "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." In this verse, we see Jesus making time for God. No matter what he was doing or where he went, Jesus stayed grounded in God his Heavenly Father.

A wise preacher-mentor used to ask us, "How do you spell love?" Then he would answer his own question by spelling out the word T I M E. We demonstrate our love back to God by spending time with Him. The world pulls us in all different directions and we need to stay grounded. Jesus shows us how it's done.

May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
The Character of Christ Sermon Series
Week 3 – "Reliable"
Matthew 6:26-34

Mark 6:34 - "When Jesus landed and saw the large crowd, he had compassion on them." Earlier, Jesus had sent the twelve out on their own to minister. They had just returned. And now, word had come that John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, had been executed. It was Jesus' desire to go away to a place of solitude with the disciples, hear about their journeys, and mourn the loss of John. But the crowds found out where they were going, went ahead of them, and were already there to meet them when Jesus and the disciples arrived. Jesus, tired and grieving, could have sent them away. Instead he ministered to them.

We look up to and appreciate people we can count on, and we want to be one of those people. Jesus was reliable. He shows us how it's done.

May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
The Character of Christ Sermon Series
Week 4 – "Sought to do the Right Thing"
Mark 2:13-17

Mark 2:16 - "When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the 'sinners' and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners?'" Jesus had just called Levi, the tax collector, to be a disciple. He knew he was leading a sinful life and he was in need of forgiveness.

Jesus had mercy on him and did the right thing; he forgave John and called him to a new life of service. Levi had many friends who were also in need of forgiveness. Risking the criticism of the religious leaders who were closely watching, Jesus had supper with all of Levi's friends. He knew it was the right thing to do. Sometimes it's hard and unpopular for us to do the right thing but Jesus is here to show us the way.

May 24 – Ascension Sunday
"Advancing God's Plan"
Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:11 - "'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you keep looking in the sky?'" God has a Salvation Plan for humankind and we live within that plan. In the beginning, God created a perfect world and created humans to live and prosper in it, and to care for it. When we failed God, he remained faithful to us and continued to care for us. He sent Jesus to die for our sins. He raised Jesus from the dead so we can have eternal life. For forty days, the risen Jesus appeared to hundreds of people to reassure us. He ascended into heaven and reigns right now over us and everything else. After his ascension, God formed us into the church and sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to continue his ministry.

Christ has promised to return to restore all things back to the perfect way they were first created. God has a plan and we live within it. God calls us, not to oppose it but rather, to help advance his plan.

May 31 - Pentecost
"God, the Holy Spirit"
Acts 2:1-21

Acts 2:12 - "Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'" On the 50th day after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were gathered together as a community. God was about to convert them into a church family. A powerful, mystical, God-experience happened to them. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind was upon them and they saw what seemed like tongues of fire coming to rest on each of them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Spirit enabled them to effectively minister to the people.

This same God the Holy Spirit has come to us and rests in us waiting to be called upon. The Holy Spirit is our companion, comforter, counsellor and sustainer. We are not alone; not by far. God, the Holy Spirit is in us and empowers us to live as God created us to live.

Missions is the Mission of the Church

Salem Mission Projects



Salem Mission Project No. 1

Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer, Retired Missionaries, Senegal, West Africa

Dear Folks at Salem United Methodist Church:

April 1, 2020

We want to thank you for your continuing support with financial gifts, and for praying for us. We appreciate your important part in our lives over the years.

We continue to have good health, and we're maybe even more thankful for that in these days with the virus pandemic we are all experiencing.

As with you, we are now very limited in the physical things we can do as far as ministry. We had "drive-in" services in the church parking lot of Black Rock Bible Church the past two Sundays with pastor preaching from a trailer using loudspeakers. Everyone stayed in their vehicles with windows open. But, with the lockdown, everything at the church is now on hold.

Frank hasn't been helping at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission for the last three weeks at the advice of leaders of the mission because of the virus. The mission continues to minister to the men in the

recovery program, men who spend the night there, meals for men, ladies, & children, and the food pantry. They have had to make a lot of changes to provide as much safety from the virus as possible including spacing people as much as they can, constantly wiping things down, lots of hand sanitizer for everyone, etc.

Nancy can no longer visit widows and friends who are shut-ins or in nursing homes. She is contacting some by phone and writing letters to some.

As far as our children, our son-in-law, Lynn, continues to serve at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission, but because the thrift store is closed, Wanda is out of work there for now. Because the government of Senegal has ordered there should be no meetings, Eric & Wendy can no longer have Bible teaching to the Badyaranké people in Senegal, so Eric is recording teaching on MP3 players and distributing them in the village. Rebecca cannot have literacy classes, so she is

preparing more reading materials for those who have been taught to read. They are still able to visit in the village, and because there is a lot of fear, they are having more openings to give the gospel to some who were previously not interested. So far there are no known cases of the virus in the area where they work, but there are cases in cities around the country. Gary, Lisa, & family serve at the New Tribes Mission retirement center for missionaries in Florida, but the Home is also now very restricted as far as visitors.

We who know the Lord should be very thankful knowing that He is sovereign and that our lives and those of family, friends, neighbors, and others are in His hands. Although we don't understand all that is happening, we know God is in control and is using this for His glory. As we stand together in prayer, God will bring this pandemic to an end.

Joyfully in Christ,

Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer

Salem Mission Project No. 6

"Peace in the Midst of Confinement" — Mary in Strasbourg, France

March 21, 2020

On Monday, March 16, President Macron announced that France would be on confinement. We're supposed to stay in our homes and only leave, with a signed letter stating the reason, for work (those who can't work remotely), health care, grocery shopping, and exercise (near the house). So, I've been staying alone in my apartment since then, although I had already started significant social distancing the week before as advised.

These past few days of confinement have been challenging, yet very special at the same time. My heart hurts for those affected by the virus, and I know the repercussions of this pandemic will be far-reaching. On a personal level, I miss in-person interaction (thankfully I have a friend who walks past my window on her way to work - we can chat for a minute while staying a meter or so apart. My last hug was Tuesday of last week, and I miss hugs, handshakes, and the "bise" (a "kiss"

on each cheek as the French way of greeting). Dear friends have loved ones who are sick or who have symptoms. The pandemic is affecting us all in many different aspects of life.

So, when I speak of the joy and peace I've experienced these last few days, it's not joy because of the circumstances, or a matter of closing my eyes and my heart to the suffering of others. Rather, it's an unexplainable peace and joy in Jesus - knowing that He is good, that He is working things out for ultimate good, and that He is walking with us through the suffering instead of just watching from a distance. And I know that even when I'm "confined" to my apartment and alone, I am happy and free because I've entrusted myself to the One who gave his life for me. He'll take care of me, and I know He's there for you, too.

I'm spending a lot of time these days praying, reading the Bible, and singing. Lots of singing! Exercise by video, eating

healthy, and reaching out to my local community are keeping my days full. Every evening at 8 p.m. people open their windows to applaud the healthcare workers who are putting themselves at risk to care for the sick. It's a beautiful thing to be part of, and many of us support them in prayer... and we support them by staying home!

May God encourage you and draw you close during this time. Please pray for the church in France, that we would draw near as a community despite the lack of physical gatherings, and that God would give us meaningful conversations (via technology) with believers and nonbelievers alike. Let's be praying together for hearts to be turned toward Jesus during this time. —Mary



Mary
Strasbourg, France

Sunday School Classes

Every Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.



Children, Infant to 4 years

Teacher: Caroline Buhrman

Children, Grades K to 2

Teachers: Michael & Jennifer Burrier

Children, Grades 3 to 5

Teachers: Melissa Thornton & Patrick Boyton

Youth, Grades 6 to 12

Teacher: Fonda Gormer

Adult Discussion Group - Couples & Singles

Teacher: Bill Burrier

Men's Class

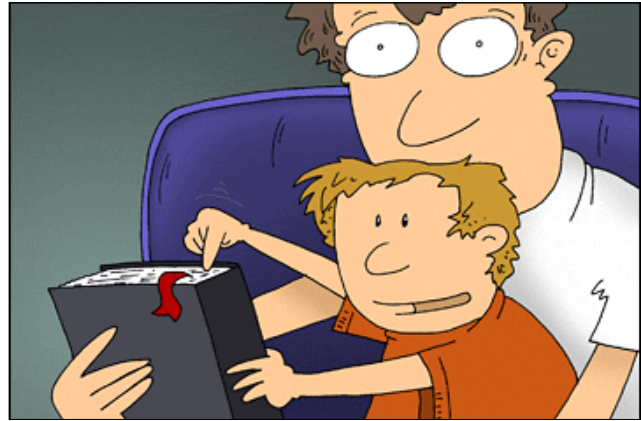
Teachers: George Harne, Bobby Fogle, Meredith Harshman

Women's Class

Teachers: Mary Cline & Darlene Burrier

Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. —Mark 16:15 New International Version (NIV)

Heavenly Humor



I really like your Bible, Dad . . .
How do you turn it on?

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone,
but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars.
—Martin Luther

Your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card.
How you leave others feeling after an experience with you
becomes your trademark.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

The Mountain Shepherd

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