

The  Newsletter of the Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

# Mountain Shepherd

Volume 39 February 2021 Number 2



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

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

**Sunday Worship**  
9:30 a.m.  
in Salem's sanctuary  
or at home using Zoom.

★ **HOLY COMMUNION**  
**SUN FEB 7 - 9:30 a.m.**

If worshipping in the sanctuary, wear a mask and observe 6' social distancing. The service is broadcast "live" from the sanctuary for those worshipping at home.

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*Not in Ocean City*

## This year's ROCK Youth Retreat is Virtual

**February 5 and 6, 2021**

It's time to ROCK!

ROCK, the Baltimore-Washington Conference retreat which brings thousands of United Methodist youth and their leaders to Ocean City each year, has been revised to allow for social distancing and address safety concerns brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

ROCK(ish) 2021 will be a free interactive online event for youth Feb 5-6.

Friday night features an interactive time with Bishop Easterling, as well as music by Urban Street Level and the ROCK Mass Choir.

Saturday will offer a range of virtual interactive breakout sessions.

Topics will include addressing racism, human rights, mental health, life after high school, and regional breakouts. At 9 a.m. there will be a youth leader training.

**Friday, February 5, 2021**

The agenda includes:

8 p.m. - **Dish with the Bish** - a Q&A with Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

Workshops:

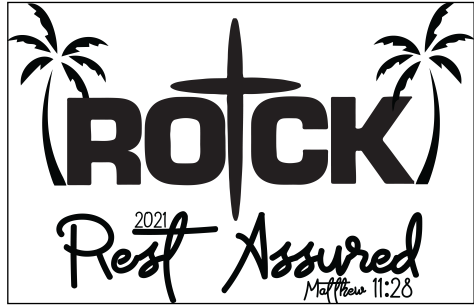
9 a.m. - **Youth Leader Training:** Growing Resilience for you, your youth and your families.

10 a.m. - **Addressing Racism** - How to recognize and address racism in your family and community. Led by K Scarry.

11 a.m. -- **Human Rights** - Recognizing and addressing inequalities, discerning rights vs. privileges. Led by Stacey Cole Wilson and Kyle Durbin.

12 p.m. **Regional/District Meet-Up and Real Talk**

- Southern Region (includes Annapolis District and Washington East District)
- Western Region (includes Cumberland-Hagerstown District and Frederick District)
- Baltimore Region (includes Baltimore



*Salem has been attending the ROCK Youth Retreat at the Ocean City Convention Center for more than 12 years. In recent years, at the retreat, Salem's youth have been greeters and also helped serve communion to more than 5,000 attendees.*

Metropolitan District and Baltimore Suburban District)

- Washington Region (includes Central Maryland District and Greater Washington District)

1 p.m. **Mental Health & Depression** - Identifying depression, finding and using resources, how to talk to your parents/kids about mental health. Led by Xanthia Johnson.

2 p.m. **Faith in the Time of COVID** - How do you keep your faith when life sucks? Praise and resilience in challenging times. Led by Twanda Prioleau and Nick Bufano.

3 p.m. **Life after High School** - How to keep your faith alive after leaving home/friends/church.

**Free Event**

This year, the event is free. However, for \$3, you will be able to purchase an iron-on decal with this year's theme and logo. For \$10, you will get the decal as well as a box of ROCK swag. Arrangements are already underway for ROCK 2022 to be back in Ocean City.



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Lay Leader: Dennis Leatherman  
Chair, Church Council: Vernon Stottlemeyer  
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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,  
Dennis Draper & Tara Birriel

**Salem Membership Statistics:**  
Current Membership: 242  
2021 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 10.3.9 and  
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**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**  **2021 MISSION PROJECTS** **2021 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
<b>TOTAL GOAL for 2021 .....</b>	<b>\$15,191</b>

**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. 10*

**The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)**

Dear Friends:

January 15, 2021 — I am in the Dominican Republic this month as we are hosting a small mission team. The last year has been a trying one for most residents of this world. It has been filled with uncertainty, apprehension, fear, discouragement, and a departure from things with which we are familiar. For many, it has also included sickness and grief. As believers, we have the hope of eternity in Jesus Christ. And we are called to draw on that hope to encourage and lift one another up.



It is my hope that our mission team will be a great source of encouragement to our Dominican staff this month, following a challenging year of serving in the bateys. It is a joy to watch them as they care so well for those families in need! Please pray for the mission team and for our staff of five, as they serve throughout the year.

We are so grateful to God and you for your partnership in this work.

—Marty Hogan, Executive Director, The Least of These Ministries

**OFFICE HOURS for PASTOR BOB SNYDER**

**Sunday** \_\_\_\_\_  
7am - Noon Prep and worship  
(at church)

**Monday (day off)** \_\_\_\_\_  
6-7 am Devotions (at home)  
9-11 am Planning Time (at home)

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**  
6-7 am Devotions (at home)  
9 am - Noon Parsonage Office  
Noon - 1 pm Lunch  
1-5 pm Parsonage Office

**Saturday** \_\_\_\_\_  
7-9 am Final touches on Sunday's sermon (at home)

# Who's Doing What, When?

February 2021

## 9:30 A.M. SANCTUARY & ONLINE ZOOM WORSHIP

### Lay Reader

- 7 - Dennis Leatherman
- 14 - Joyce Weaver
- 21 - Lavena Jenkins
- 28 - Marlene Young

### Acolyte

- 7 - Loralli Snyder
- 14 - Valentina Barkdoll
- 21 - Loralli Snyder
- 28 - Valentina Barkdoll

### Organist

- 7 - Sara Weitzel
- 14 - Sara Weitzel
- 21 - Sara Weitzel
- 28 - Sara Weitzel

### Computer


- 7 - Michele Kline
- 14 - Wanda Barkdoll
- 21 - Lori Williamson
- 28 - Robin Haupt

### Camera

- 7 - Lori Williamson
- 14 - Michele Kline
- 21 - Patrick Boyton
- 28 - Dennis Draper

**Holy Communion**

**Feb 7, 2021**  
**9:30 a.m.**



## Air Purification System Installed in Sanctuary & Social Hall

■ By Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer, Chair, Board of Trustees

With Covid-19 surrounding us and impacting many, the trustees started exploring options that would aid in improving the safety of our congregation and visitors who worship in the sanctuary.

Trustees Mike and Justinn Irons had completed extensive research into products they were considering for installation at the Ole Mink Farm Campground. They too were looking for added safety to the visitors at the campground. After their research, the REME HALO® In-Duct Air Purifier was recommended.

The REME HALO® in-duct air purifier produces Hydro-Peroxide plasma that is distributed through the air handler, through the duct system and into the sanctuary and social hall, actively purifying 99+% of pollutants in the air and on surfaces, such as viruses and bacteria.

This technology has been available for 20 years and is installed in many public buildings including hospitals.

The Salem Trustees felt a need to ensure the congregation's safety and peace of mind as they worship in the building. A proposal was presented to the Salem Church Council and was approved for installation.

On January 12, 2021, Hagerstown Heating and Cooling LLC completed the installation of the air purifier.

### Inclement Weather Plan

If inclement weather forces the church building to be closed for Sunday service, Pastor Bob will send out an email and voice message by 7 a.m. An abbreviated worship service will still be held at 9:30 a.m. using Zoom, with everyone worshipping at home.

## Three ways to give tithes and offerings

■ By Bill Burrier, Church Treasurer

### Offering Plate in Sanctuary

For those at sanctuary worship, an offering plate will be available for those not already giving online or by mail.

Those not yet feeling comfortable to attend sanctuary worship may continue to worship at home, and may use the following two offering methods:

### By Mail

You may mail your tithes and offerings to:

- Church Treasurer
- Salem United Methodist Church
- P. O. Box 144
- Myersville, MD 21773

Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church.

[Note address change from PO Box 94 to PO Box 144.] (Effective 12/17/20)

### Electronically Online (Safe & Secure)

You may give electronically by viewing our website ([SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://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.

## Year-End Financial Statements

Our thanks to Lora McGraw, Salem's Financial Secretary, and Mary Fogle, Sunday School Treasurer, for preparing the year-end 2020 Financial Statements of Contributions.

The statements were mailed the third week of January.

Given the postal service delays in recent months, if you have not received your statement, please advise Lora McGraw at [kre8ive4u@yahoo.com](mailto:kre8ive4u@yahoo.com) or 301-824-3322.

## It's Your Day!

### February Anniversaries

- 22 - Roy & Holly Rippeon
- 28 - Curtis & Dawn Nelson

### February Birthdays

- |                       |                      |                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Maria Barkdoll    | 10 - Linda Hessong   | 23 - Rev. H. Ronald Ellis |
| 3 - Michael Burrier   | 10 - Trista Wright   | 24 - Scott Wisner         |
| 3 - Ruth Draper       | 13 - Emma Waite      | 24 - Grace Adams          |
| 6 - David Woods Jr.   | 16 - Polly Miller    | 24 - Gary Barkdoll        |
| 9 - Robin Haupt       | 19 - Samuel Sowers   | 24 - Michael Mellott      |
| 9 - Robert Keller Jr. | 21 - Dianna Poling   | 26 - Wesley Beall         |
| 9 - Patrick Waite     | 21 - Landon Lafferty |                           |



## Message from the Pastor and Worship in February

■ By **PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER**

**H**ow is the New Year going for you, now that we are a month or more into it? How are those New Year resolutions going?

If you are off to a bumpy start, I encourage you not to waste time looking back. Learn from your mistakes, readjust, and look forward!

Experts say, it takes about a month, give or take, to form a new, healthy habit. Keep striving, link up with a friend who will cheer you on, and each day let God into your life to help you.

This month we'll begin the forty-day Season of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

A Sermon Series titled "Social Holiness" will begin on Sunday, February 7th and continue through all of Lent.

God desires that we keep growing in social holiness as we live within our communities: our family, our church family, the community in which we live, and the larger world around us.

This year's Lenten sermon series gives us the opportunity to search ourselves and renew our efforts to strive to love one another as we live together in community. Grace and peace.

—Pastor Bob

**February 7**  
**Holy Communion**  
**Social Holiness Sermon Series**  
**"Seeking the Heart of God"**  
**John 3:1-21**

John 3:16a – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ..." How can we know the way God loves us and all things?

How do we understand God's heart, which is pure love? How can we take our understanding, limited as it is, and help make the world around us a better place?

In our new Sermon Series, Social

Holiness, we'll seek to answer these questions and better equip ourselves to be God's people in the communities in which we live.

God desires that we become more holy: to be more like Christ and to live more like Christ lived.

Our personal holiness keeps us connected to God and God's love and care. Our social holiness shares God's love and care with others. Both reflect the heart of God. Both are included in the holiness God desires for us.

**February 14**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**Valentine's Day**  
**Social Holiness Sermon Series**  
**"The Natural World"**  
**Genesis 1:27-31**

Genesis 1:31a – "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Would God still say, "What I created, in its current state, is still very good?"

"Water, air, soils, minerals, energy resources, plants animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings."<sup>1</sup>

In Genesis 1: 28, God commanded us to, "Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." The words "rule over" mean "be good stewards of."

How can we be better stewards of God's creation in order to love and honor God and pass on to our children and grandchildren a created world that we've made better than we found it.

**February 17**  
**Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m., in the church building and via ZOOM.**

If you would like to worship in the

building, please contact Pastor Bob to reserve seating.

**February 21**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Social Holiness Sermon Series**  
**"The Nurturing Community"**

**John 4:1-30, 39-42**

John 4:9 – "The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?'" God loves all human beings equally. God's greatest and most essential commandment instructs that we are to do the same: "Love God and love your neighbor" (Matthew 22:37-40).

"Primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important – because they are created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance."<sup>2</sup>

God desires that we help each other reach our full potential - doing no harm, doing all the good we can, and staying in love with God.

**February 28**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Social Holiness Sermon Series**  
**"The Social Community"**  
**Luke 10:25-37**

Luke 10:36 – "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" One day an "expert" in the law tested Jesus.

"And who is my neighbor?" he demanded of Jesus. This man was convinced that his neighbors were only those like himself. But Jesus taught all who listened that our neighbor is every human being and that we're all made the same: in the image of God.

"We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work towards societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened."<sup>3</sup>

After teaching the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus turned to the "expert" in the law and asked, "Who in my story was the neighbor?" The man replied, "The one who had mercy." God desires that we too treat all people with love and mercy.

<sup>1</sup>Social Principals of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020 (Washington, DC: United Methodist Publishing House, 2017), page 22.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, page 26.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid, page 35.



### Winter

By Stella Craft Tremble

A coat of falling ermine snow  
 Envelops all the earth below  
 While, overcast, a sky of gray,  
 Proclaims a stormy winter day.  
 If in the night there comes a storm,  
 We have our blankets snug and warm.

Out in the woods beneath the sod  
 Sweet bergamots and trilliums nod.  
 Unmindful of the winter chill,  
 They softly sleep upon the hill.  
 But soon will come the voice of spring  
 To call and awaken everything.

Till then, tucked gently in the ground  
 They softly sleep, all safe and sound.  
 God tempers storms and guards us all;  
 He knoweth when the sparrows fall.  
 Can we not trust his constant care,  
 Since God is present everywhere.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

### Make Me a Channel, Lord!

By Alice Joyce Davidson

Let me be a channel, Lord,  
 Through which Your love can flow.  
 Where I find darkness, let me bring  
 A warm and hopeful glow.  
 Help me, Lord, bring faith and trust  
 Where I find disbelief,  
 And let me wipe the tears that come  
 with sorrow, hurt, and grief.  
 Help me find the way, Lord,  
 To find new channels, too,  
 Through which Your love can flow until  
 The world is one with You!

### Some Small Way

By Helen Ruth Ashton

If I can bring a ray of sunshine  
 Into someone's life today;  
 If I can, in some small way,  
 Help chase all their blues away;  
 If I can say a simple prayer  
 That will encourage an aching heart,  
 Then I will feel in some small way  
 That I have done my part.



## RECIPE



### Sour Cream Streusel Coffee Cake

#### INGREDIENTS:

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter, softened       | 2 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1 cup sugar                    | 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| 2 large eggs, room temperature | 1 teaspoon baking soda   |
| 1 cup sour cream               | 1/4 teaspoon salt        |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla extract     |                          |

#### TOPPING:

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/4 cup sugar              | 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon |
| 1/3 cup packed brown sugar | 1/2 cup chopped pecans      |

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in the eggs, sour cream and vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to the creamed mixture and beat until combined. Spread half the batter into a greased 13x9-in. baking pan or dish.
2. In a small bowl, combine the topping ingredients; sprinkle half the topping over batter. Dollop with remaining batter and sprinkle with topping. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 12 servings.

Selected from Taste of Home 13x9 Your Pan with the Plan! Winter 2020.



### In Sympathy

#### Gene O. Warrenfeltz

Sept 16, 1941 - Jan 2, 2021

Gene Ora Warrenfeltz, 79, lifelong resident of Wolfsville, passed away on January 2, 2021.

He was the husband of Salem member, Joanne Warrenfeltz and the son-in-law of the late Salem member Olive Kline.

The Salem congregation extends sincere sympathy to the Warrenfeltz family.

### 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.

August 2020

### Valentine's Day By Adeline Roseberg

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Valentine's Day<br>Is a day for caring,<br>A day of love,<br>A day of sharing.      | Kids making valentines<br>For moms and dads,<br>Parents planning treats<br>For lasses and lads. | Remembering shut-ins<br>In a thoughtful way,<br>Cookies or candies<br>To sparkle up the day— |
| Sweethearts showing,<br>Each to the other,<br>How much they mean<br>To one another. | Exchanging of greetings,<br>Friend to friend,<br>Phoning or writing,<br>Best wishes to extend.  | In valentine season<br>We each have a part<br>Spreading special joy<br>From a loving heart.  |



## A Tribute to Tom Marenic — November 11, 1951 - January 13, 2021

Funeral services for Tom Marenic, 69, were held at Salem on January 23, 2021. Final resting place ceremonies will be held at a later date, with military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery.

■ By Bill Burrier

Salem member, Colonel George Thomas "Tom" Marenic, 69, was called home on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown.

Tom and Linda, his wife of 49 years, split their time at Ole Mink Farm, Thurmont, and their second home in New Hartford, New York.

Tom and Linda became members at Salem in June 2018, and faithfully attended Salem's contemporary worship on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

Tom enjoyed contemporary music and could be heard singing every word of Salem's praise band songs.

Tom was an active member at Salem, especially passionate about outreach.

In recent years, Tom served as Salem's Chair of Mission and Outreach, monitoring the work of Salem's 14 mission projects.

Personally involved in two of them, he volunteered with the "Hero's Club After School Ministry" and participated in the work of "The Least of These Ministries" in the Dominican Republic.

Memorial contributions may be made payable to Salem United Methodist Church for Salem's Mission Project No. 10, The Least of These Ministries in the Dominican Republic.

### Military Career

Tom was born in Russellville, Arkansas, and graduated from Fayetteville High School where he met Linda.

He went on to Charleston Southern University on an ROTC scholarship and later earned a Masters degree at the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, CA.

After college, Tom was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He became an Air Force pilot and began flying B-52's.

After learning to speak Chinese, he was selected as a Chinese Diplomatic Escort pilot.

He finished his flying career, flying the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

He was the Commander Squadron One NATO AWACS in Geilenkirchen, Germany, where he was directly involved



in operations Deny Flight and Deliberate Force.

Tom served as the Air Force Attaché at the United State's Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, and he served as an Intelligence Officer post 9/11 at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

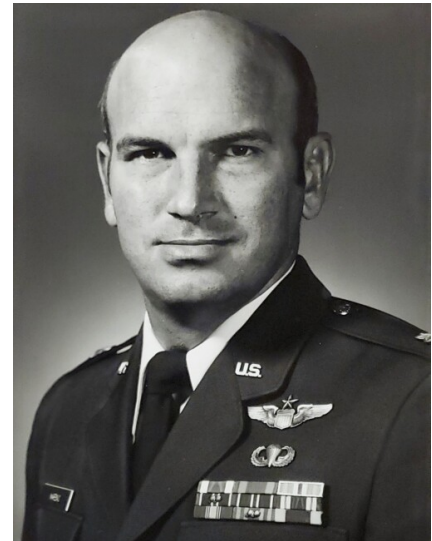
"Later in his career, Tom was assigned as the Air Attaché to the American Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. During that assignment, he received a special request on behalf of President George H. W. Bush. President Bush had been shot down in the Pacific during WWII. He survived the crash and was rescued but the rest of his crew had perished. President Bush requested that he be taken to the spot where the plane went down so he could honor the crew and say a proper goodbye. Air Attaché Tom Marenic was President Bush's escort that day, taking him to the spot where the aircraft crashed and his crew perished. I can't think of a man better equipped to be with President Bush on that day.

"The equipping was rooted in Tom's faith: going to church as a boy, being in youth group, attending a religious college.

"On assignment in Okinawa, Japan, Tom and Linda and the boys joined with other military families to worship together. There wasn't a pastor available so they'd rotate among the worshippers who would give the sermon each week. Tom and Linda kept their family rooted in their faith in God.

In 2004, Tom retired from the Air Force at the rank of Colonel.

After retirement he continued working with the Federal Government, helping to establish the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under Governor Ridge.



Tom Marenic

He continued to work with DHS and US Customs and Border Protection until his retirement in 2018.

### Funeral at Salem

Tom's funeral was held Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Salem with immediate family in the sanctuary and 100+ family and friends online from as many as 20 states, plus Canada and Australia.

Final resting place ceremonies will be held at a later date, with military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery.

At the funeral, Pastor Bob Snyder remarked, "Tom was comfortable with and freely shared his faith with others. At our Sunday evening "Salem Iron Men" gatherings, Tom was always quick to share his own faith story: past struggles, how he's grown and was still growing, the difference having a relationship with the Lord meant in his life – all freely shared and very helpful to the rest of us in the group.

"On his recent trip to the hospital Tom was in the ER before being assigned a room. In the ER he met a woman and they

continued on page 7



## A Tribute to Tom Marenic — November 11, 1951 - January 13, 2021

continued from page 6

got to talking and she shared a concern, and Tom said to her, "I'm going to refer you to our Women's Bible Study Group at church if that's ok?"

"And Tom never stopped growing in his faith and service to others. He loved his own Via de Christo spiritual retreat weekend, loved serving on and supporting other men and women who attended the Seven Mile Walk with Jesus weekends, and loved attending the Men's Retreats at Ole Mink Farm each year. He saw them all as opportunities to learn and grow and serve.

"Tom was courageous and decisive and full of energy and life, and also at the same time he was very humble and gentle. Linda says he was a gentle giant."

### Tom had a Heart for Missions

At Salem, Tom was always looking for ways in which Salem's ministry could reach out into the community.

### Hero's Club Volunteer

Tom was a volunteer at Salem's Hero's Club After School Ministry.

At Tom's funeral, Pastor Bob noted, "One of my most heartwarming moments with Tom was a Monday afternoon at Hero's Club. All but one or two of the children had already been picked up by their parents. There was a child that remained who was being a bit high strung. No problem for Tom. He showed the boy a new way to make a paper airplane and they flew it back and forth over the room and each of them seemed as delighted as the other to be doing it. Tom's compassion and attentiveness calmed the boy down until his parents came to pick him up."

Hero's Club has not been held since the pandemic began, but the Hero's Club Director, Holly Irons, has kept in touch with the children on a monthly basis, providing religious crafts and activities for them to do at home.

Most recently, the Hero's Club children were invited to come to Salem's manger scene in the parsonage front yard to receive Christmas gifts from Salem.

To everyone's delight, Santa showed up to give the gifts to the children. Yes, it was Tom Marenic in the Santa suit with a bag full of gifts and waving to traffic passing by— some of them honking their horns.



Tom Marenic



Tom Marenic dressed as Santa with a bag of gifts for the Hero's Club children. (December 2020)

A photo of this event appeared on the front page of the January 2021 issue of this newsletter, pictured above.

### The Least of These Ministries

Tom was also passionate about Salem's mission project, "The Least of These Ministries" in the Dominican Republic.

Tom was a board member of the organization, headquartered in Westminster, MD, and participated in mission trips to the Dominican Republic.

Upon hearing of Tom's passing, Marty Hogan, Executive Director, The Least of These Ministries, said, in a January 21 Facebook post, "Last week, we received the sad news that Tom Marenic, one of our Board members, had passed away after being hospitalized with Covid-19.

"Tom joined our leadership team several years ago, after he and his wife, Linda, participated in a mission trip with us. On that trip, he discovered a passion for the work being done in the Dominican Republic, and began taking an active role in helping to plan, direct, and support that work.

"We will miss his soft spoken, Godly leadership, ingenuity, and the passion he showed for those we serve. His input and influence will continue to guide our actions.

"Please join us in praying for Linda and their entire family as they grieve this tremendous loss."



The above photos show Tom on his 2019 mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

## The Season of Lent

### Ash Wednesday — February 17, 2021

Lent begins in the grip of winter, when spring seems far away. Gardens are bare, and it's hard to imagine flowers poking green buds through that icy crust of dirt. The sun at the beginning of Lent is weak and not very warm. Night comes early and lasts a long time. The delight of Jesus' birth at Christmas has passed, and the joy of his Easter Resurrection is far away.

At the beginning of Lent our hearts, like the sun, may be tired and weak. We wonder if spring will ever come. Christmas is a memory. Easter's exciting alleluias are distant.

Yet as Lent progresses, we see signs of Resurrection. There are warm, sunny days among the gloomy ones. The sun, growing warmer, starts rising earlier and setting later. Tiny purple and yellow flowers burst from the ground. Gardeners plant early vegetable seeds. It's as if the world outside is preparing for the new life of Easter.

What about the world inside? Inside our homes, our families, our hearts? Are we preparing for Jesus to touch us through the victories and suffering of Holy Week and the glorious Resurrection of Easter? Are we making room for Jesus?

—Marci Alborghetti

## Heavenly Humor

- SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
- SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS
- SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES
- JUST SAY IT!



### Some thoughts to ponder . . .

Always smile. Life isn't always full of reasons to smile, but your smile, itself, is reason for others to smile, too.

If there is anything better than to be loved, it is loving.

One is loved because one is loved. No reason is needed for loving.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

### The Mountain Shepherd

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