

The  Newsletter of  
Salem Community Church — Wolfsville

# Mountain Shepherd

Volume 42 January 2024 Number 1



Salem Community Church  
Wolfsville

**Wolfsville FOOD PANTRY**  
Open Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Located at SALEM COMMUNITY CHURCH  
12479 Wolfsville Rd  
Open to all residents with a Myersville, Smithsburg or Sabillasville zip code

**SALEM ADDS NEW MISSION PROJECT FOR 2024**

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Orders due February 4, 2024

## Soup & Sandwich Sale coming in February



The Salem "Bee-lievers" Women's Group will soon be making more of that good food served at the annual Lord's Acre Festival (held in September).

The women's group is offering a "Soup and Sandwich Sale" which will include four kinds of soup: vegetable, turkey noodle, turkey corn, and bean with rivels at \$7 per quart, country ham sandwiches for \$4.00 each, and turkey salad sandwiches at \$3.00 each.

These items must be ordered by **Sunday, February 4, 2024**. Order forms are also available in the church hallway, or you may contact Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer at [ses1313@comcast.net](mailto:ses1313@comcast.net) or 301-471-2603.

Items may be picked up on Saturday, March 2, from 4-6 p.m. or on Sunday, March 3, from 9-11 a.m., after morning services. Please indicate your preferred pick-up time on your order form.

The "Bee-lievers" thank you for supporting this event. Proceeds are used to assist with church projects.

❖ **FOOD SALE ORDER FORM** ❖

Orders Due February 4, 2024

Please contact Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer at [ses1313@comcast.net](mailto:ses1313@comcast.net) or at 301-471-2603.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SOUPS	How many?	Amount \$
Vegetable \$7.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Noodle \$7.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Corn \$7.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Bean with rivels \$7.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
<b>SANDWICHES</b>		
Country Ham \$4.00 each	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Salad \$3.00 each	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL amount due at pick up .....		\$ _____

PICK UP (check one)    Sat Mar 2 (4-6 p.m.)    Sun Mar 3 (9-11 a.m.)



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Chair, Personnel: Robin Haupt  
Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemeyer  
Food Pantry: Justinn & Holly Irons, Patrick Boyton  
Tara Birriel, Linda Marenic, and  
Brynleigh Irons

**Salem Vision Statement:**  
Building Connections.  
Growing God's Family.

**Salem Mission Statement:**  
Bringing hope by sharing the peace of Christ  
through teaching His word, extending His grace,  
and serving others in His love.

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

**Colophon:**  
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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.

**Go**  **2024 MISSION PROJECTS**  
"Missions is the Mission of the Church"

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission ..... \$205/Monthly
  2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes) ..... Offering Varies
  3. Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs)..... As Needs Arise
  4. Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber) **NEW in 2024** ..... \$50/Monthly Min
  5. Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem) ..... Community Support
  6. Travis & Mary D. (AIM - France & Canada) ..... \$110/Monthly Min
  7. Board of Child Care (Martinsburg Campus) ..... Offering Varies
  8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew) ..... \$25/Monthly Min
  9. Open for 2024 ..... 0
  10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic) ..... \$65/Monthly Min
  11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick ..... \$50/Monthly Min
  12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania) ..... \$43/Monthly
  13. Open for 2024 ..... 0
  14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia) ..... \$35/Monthly
- TOTAL GOAL for 2024 ..... \$10,146

**Here's how you can give . . .**

1. Make checks payable to Salem Community 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**

**3. Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs)**  
On December 13, an accidental fire damaged the home of Carroll and Teresa Six on Loy Wolfe Road displacing 7 adults and 1 child. At Salem's worship services on December 17 & 24, an offering plate was available for a free-will offering to help this family. The total offering received was \$2,062.35.



**4. Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber)**  
NEW FOR 2024 — Salem's Church Council has added a new mission project for 2024, Tim Leber's Christ Cream Ministry. Mr. Leber, a retired Middletown High School teacher, gives out free ice cream from his ice cream truck, with a prayer. He goes wherever invited, church events, youth activities, family reunions, etc. Salem will provide \$50 monthly to this ministry. See the full story on page 7.

**6. Travis & Mary (AIM)**  
Travis & Mary have been ministering for the last year and a half in Strasbourg, France, where they are a part of AIM's Borderless teams reaching out to immigrants and refugees. Their location will be changing in February 2024, to Calgary, Canada, with the same focus on immigrants, just a new location. They are hoping to spend April and May in the States, connecting with their supporting churches. This may be an opportunity for us to see Mary again and meet Travis and Mélodie. [In 2023, Salem gave \$1,380 to this ministry.]



Mary, Travis & Mélodie

**11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick**  
The entire offering from this year's Christmas Eve evening service was designated for the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick. Over the years we have supported children with this offering, this time in support of the unborn. This year's Christmas Eve offering totaled \$532.00.

# Who's Doing What, When?

January 2024

## 9:00 A.M. SANCTUARY & ONLINE ZOOM WORSHIP

### Lay Reader

- 7 Dennis Leatherman
- 14 Lora McGraw
- 21 Marlene Young
- 28 Jim Laky

### Acolyte

- 7 Valentina Barkdoll
- 14 Cheyenne Leatherman
- 21 Brynleigh Irons
- 28 Shelby Leatherman

### Organist/Pianist

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

### Computer

- 7 Robin Haupt
- 14 Wanda Barkdoll
- 21 Camilo Barkdoll
- 28 Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

### Camera

- 7 Camilo Barkdoll
- 14 Robin Haupt
- 21 Wanda Barkdoll
- 28 Cathie Elsbach

### Greeter

- 7 Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer
- 14 Ken & Dianna Poling
- 21 Matthew Stottlemeyer
- 28 Barkdoll Family

## News and Notes

### Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather forces the church building to be closed for Sunday service, Pastor Neil will send out an email and voice message by 7 a.m. An abbreviated worship service will still be held at 9:00 a.m. using Zoom, giving folks an opportunity to worship at home.

If you are not currently on Salem's distribution list for prayer requests and church announcements by phone and/or email, please provide your phone number and/or email address to Pastor Neil (717-753-2112) or Michael Burrier (301-401-7575).



### “Salem Slam” Ping-Pong Tournament Saturday, January 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Get your paddles ready! It's the return of the “Salem Slam” Ping-Pong Tournament at Salem in the social room. All ages are invited from youth to adults. We will start tournament play close to 6:30 p.m. once the team brackets are established via a random draw on the computer.

Please bring a dessert or snack to share. Invite your friends and family to join us for the evening where we can enjoy each other's company and have a little fun while doing so. Hope to see you there! — Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer



### Spaghetti Dinner

#### Friday, January 26 @ 5:30 p.m.

The Salem “Bee-lievers” Women's Group is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Friday, January 26, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Salem in the social room.

There will be no set price for the meal, just your donation. The dinner will include:

- Spaghetti with or without meat sauce
- Garlic Bread
- Salad
- Apple Sauce • Dessert
- Tea, Coffee & Sodas



Wanda Barkdoll, Women's Group Leader, invites everyone to “come and enjoy the fellowship at Salem Community Church. We hope to see you there.”

## It's Your Day!



### January Anniversaries

- 1 - Donald & Susan Stottlemeyer
- 2 - Kyle & Leann Crutchley
- 7 - Bryan & Hannah Rouzee
- 16 - Charles & Christi Beall
- 21 - Charles & Dawn Brown

### January Birthdays

- 6 - Patty Weagley
- 7 - Dwayne Ledford
- 8 - Nora Haupt
- 12 - Brynleigh Irons
- 16 - Kendra Haupt
- 19 - Bill Buhrman
- 19 - Elizabeth Beall
- 20 - Bradley Flook Jr.
- 21 - Joann Leatherman
- 22 - Lora McGraw
- 27 - Carley Weagley
- 29 - Blake Wagaman
- 31 - Chase Woods

### Holy Communion

January 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Communion will be observed every other month



### Salem Offering Envelopes

MY REGULAR CHURCH OFFERING	
For Church Expenses.....	\$ _____
For Missions .....	\$ _____
For Building Fund .....	\$ _____
Name _____	

Offering envelopes are available for those who do not use electronic offering. If you would like to begin using envelopes in 2024, or stop using envelopes, please contact Lora at [kre8ive4u@yahoo.com](mailto:kre8ive4u@yahoo.com) or call 301-824-3322 and leave a message.

### Pastor Neil's OFFICE HOURS

**Monday** 10:00-5:00 (office)

Study and Sermon Prep

**Tuesday** 8:30-5:00 (office)

Study and Sermon Prep

**Wednesday** 9:00-5:00 Visitation

**Thursday** 8:30-5:00 (office)

Study and Administration

**Friday** 8:30-5:00 (office)

Study and Sermon Prep

**Saturday** (day off)

(I am available to meet with you and family members at the hospital prior to surgery.)





## INSPIRATIONAL Reading

### A New Year! A New Day! A New Life!

By Helen Steiner Rice

Not only on New Year's Day  
but all the year through  
God gives us a chance to begin life anew,  
For each day at dawning  
we have but to pray  
That all the mistakes that we made yesterday  
Will be blotted out  
and forgiven by grace,  
For God in His love will completely efface  
All that is past  
and He'll grant a new start  
To all who are truly repentant at heart —  
And well may man pause  
in awesome-like wonder  
That our Father in heaven  
who dwells far asunder  
Could still remain willing to freely forgive  
The shabby, small lives  
we so selfishly live  
And still would be mindful of sin-ridden man  
Who constantly goes on  
defying God's plan —  
But this is the gift  
of God's limitless love,  
A gift that we all are so unworthy of,  
But God gave it to us  
and all we need do  
Is to ask God's forgiveness and begin life anew.

### Pray Your Day

By Joan Clayton

I met God in the morning,  
It was near the break of day.  
I put my life into His hands,  
And humbly knelt to pray.  
I met God at the noontime  
And thanked Him for my meal.  
I prayed for my co-workers,  
That all their needs He'd fill.  
I met God at my bedtime  
And prayed my soul to keep.  
God kept me safely all night long,  
And gave me pleasant sleep.  
Now pray your day tomorrow.  
Give God your every care.  
It's such a wondrous blessing  
To start your day with prayer.



## RECIPE



### Beef and Cabbage Soup

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. ground beef	1/2 teaspoon dried basil
1/2 cup chopped onion	1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram
2 15-oz. cans kidney beans (reserve 1/4 cup bean broth)	1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1 16-oz. can beef broth	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 15-oz. cans crushed or stewed tomatoes	1/2 teaspoon A-1 steak sauce
3 cups chopped cabbage	1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
1/4 cup brown sugar	1/8 teaspoon pepper
	1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. In heavy saucepan, cook beef and onion until browned. Drain.
2. Mash together 1/4 cup beans and 1/4 cup bean broth.
3. Add all items to meat and onions. Cover and simmer for 45-60 minutes.

A great cold-weather soup. Delicious when served with warm cornbread.

From *Mennonite Recipes from the Shenandoah Valley Cookbook*



### The Struggle

By O. Thomas Kolb, Frederick, MD

Life can be a struggle  
Full of strain and stress,  
But God is always faithful  
To lead you from each mess.  
Life is such a burden  
If carried all alone,  
And will make things heavy laden  
And always out of tone.  
Life can be so painful  
Never being whole,  
With darkness always present  
In body, mind, and soul.  
Yet life can be so lovely  
If we have eyes to see,  
God's wonders of creation  
Blessing you and me.

### The Coming Year

God will never fail us,  
He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant  
He will never break,  
Resting on His promise,  
what have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient  
for the coming year.

### Sticky Buns & Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's "Bee-lievers" women's group, 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

### Just for Today

By Esther Baldwin York

Life is a series of todays which we quickly turn into yesterdays when some of us spend our time looking regretfully backward. Still others, through worry or procrastination, are always waiting for tomorrow.

In either case, there's the real danger of overlooking a very important day . . . today. For this is the place and the time for living. Let us live each day abundantly and beautifully while it is here.





## Message from the Pastor and Worship in January

■ By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

### “New Wine” and Communion

I am certain that title got your attention! I want to clarify some items and communicate others, as well. I referenced the “new wine” in the title because it refers to a principle Jesus taught.

In Mark’s gospel (2:22) Jesus said that they did not put “new wine into old wineskins or else the wineskins would burst.”

What that means is that the new wine was still in the fermentation stage and the process of fermentation would burst the older wineskins which had become hard and rigid.

His solution was to put new wine in new wineskins so they would both be preserved.

Why does that matter? It gives us a great lesson on how we will be doing some aspects of ministry going forward.

A particular example is communion. I am in favor of communion.

Communion is not a sacrament (in that it does not save us). However, it IS an ordinance, which means it should be done regularly and consistently as a reminder of Christ’s death on the cross to pay for our sins and offer salvation.

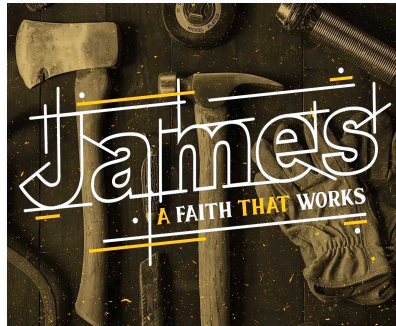
However, the Bible gives no standards on how or when to observe communion.

I would like to see us observe communion on a regular basis (at most once per month and at least once per quarter), and I am trying to begin the first Sunday of January to start off the new calendar year.

Communion services are to be personal and reflective.

My style of communion service is quiet and somber because we focus on the horrible death of Christ on the cross and the love that sent Him to that cross.

Being served the elements in the pews,



where the people are, helps to make the service feel more personal; like each of us is personally at the foot of His cross pouring out our hearts in a broken and contrite spirit.

This approach proves to be very inspirational for our daily Christian walk.

For those of you who wish to continue going to the front to partake in communion, I would propose that we begin the year by offering both.

Those who wish to come to the front to be served can do so, and anybody who prefers to remain in the pews can be served there, as well.

I am not saying the way communion used to be done here is wrong.

It is just that I want us to be open to doing things differently because, fundamentally, Salem Community Church IS different from Salem United Methodist Church.

I want to encourage you as your pastor, to be open to the “new wine” of an independent, community church and not be focused on the old wineskins.

I believe we will ALL enjoy the worship experience, together.

Happy New Year!

-Pastor Neil

### Worship in January

I trust you have enjoyed your Christmas season and I pray the Advent sermon series was a blessing to you. (Quite frankly, you were probably getting tired of Isaiah 9:6!)

We will begin 2024 with a series of sermons from the Book of James. Expository preaching is where you address full passages of Scripture from a verse-by-verse format (‘exposing’ the Scriptures; hence, the term “expository”).

Eighty-five percent of my sermons are expository compared to fifteen percent that are topical. Here is a glimpse of the sermons for January:

**January 7, 2024**

**James 1:1-8**

**“Consider it Pure Joy”**

Trials in life are inevitable. We will consider the purpose of trials and our perspective through trials. We will discover what God does for us when we are facing those trials and, hopefully, we will gain a more peaceful attitude when trials arise.

**January 14, 2024**

**James 1:9-18**

**“The Difference Between Trials and Temptations”**

“Blessed is the man that perseveres under trials.” We will see the difference between trials and temptations, and we will see how the cycle of sin draws us to turn our backs on God. On the bright side, God showers us with blessings that brighten our days.

**January 21, 2024**

**James 1:19-27**

**“Pure Religion”**

You have heard it before: “we have two ears and one tongue so we would listen more than we speak.” We are also reminded that we need to “live” the message of our faith, not just listen to the message. This passage of Scripture is to remind us of what the bottom line for the Christian life should be. It is called religion that is pure and faultless.

**January 28, 2024**

**James 2:1-13**

**“Pride and Prejudice”**

With all due respect to Jane Austen, this title is more geared towards the sin of favoritism. Unfortunately, we can obey almost all of the law and yet stumble in one area and James said we are guilty of violating the whole law! We are reminded of the principle that, “Mercy triumphs over judgment.”



■ By **MICHAEL BURRIER**

We are pleased to announce that the first Congregational Meeting of the membership of Salem Community Church will be held on Sunday, March 10, from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour that morning).

As an independent church, the Congregational Meeting is the top decision-making body for the congregation.

#### Salem's New Constitution

Our Constitution states that a Congregational Meeting is to be held at least once per year to elect church leaders, review the church budget, share ministry reports with the congregation, and conduct other business as needed.

All formal members of Salem Community Church will have a vote at the meeting.

Regular participants in the life of the congregation who are not formal members are welcome to attend congregational meetings but may not vote.

#### Meeting Dates

Normally, the annual meeting will be held in early November, but due to our recent disaffiliation timeline and the hiring of a new pastor, it was not possible to hold a meeting in November of 2023.

Therefore, there will be two

**First  
Congregational  
Meeting  
Salem  
Community Church  
Sunday, March 10, 2024  
10:15 - 11:00 a.m.**

Congregational Meetings during 2024, in March and November.

#### Transition of Church Leaders

Our existing church leaders and officers have graciously remained in place during our transition from Salem United Methodist Church to Salem Community Church, but it is now time to elect our first slate of leaders and officers as an independent church.

#### Nominating Committee

Salem's Nominating Committee, chaired by Michael Burrier, will be working in January and February to prepare a slate of church leaders and



officers that will be presented to the Church Council in February and to the church membership for a vote on March 10th.

These leaders would serve from March until the next Congregational Meeting in November 2024.

Please contact Michael Burrier if you are currently serving in a leadership position at Salem and would like to continue in that role, or if you would like to step down.

Also, please contact Michael if you are interested in being considered for a leadership position at Salem.

#### Leadership Positions

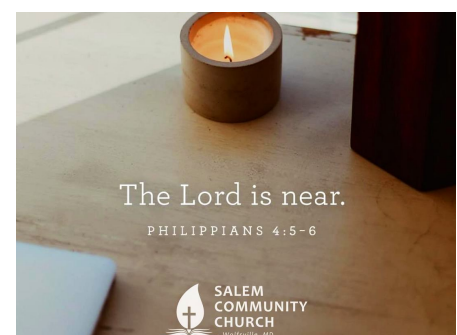
The Nominating Committee's mission is to identify and invite church members to fill leadership positions within the church.

The committee will do this by prayerfully seeking to match an individual's spiritual gifts with an open leadership position and to ensure that church leaders represent a cross-section of the congregation.

If a church member agrees to be considered for an open position, their name will be added to the slate of officers that will be voted upon at the Congregation Meeting on March 10.

We look forward to gathering together at our first Congregational Meeting in March.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Burrier, Nominating Committee Chair or Vernon Stottlemeyer, Church Council Chair.





## Salem Mission & Outreach

### Salem Mission Project No. 4



### Salem adds new mission project for 2024 Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber)

■ By Bill Burrier

Tim Leber was a coach, teacher, and leader of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Middletown High School. Now retired from teaching, Tim has a ministry called Christ Cream where he gives out ice cream from his ice cream truck, with a prayer. While teaching, Tim often said when he retired he didn't want to just retire from something but rather retire to something.

The Christ Cream ministry began very simply. Tim was on vacation in the Outer Banks 10 or 15 years ago, and while standing on the front porch he watched an ice cream truck drive by and he noted, "all these kids flocked to it and they were all happy and smiling and excited." At that moment, he said, "It was like 'bam', that's what I'm going to do when I retire. And this is what God put on my heart— you're going to call it Christ Cream— I was like, okay and He said you're going to give the ice cream away for free, I said okay, and you're going to pray with all those people and I said okay and I love it. It's simple, it's just ice cream and prayers."

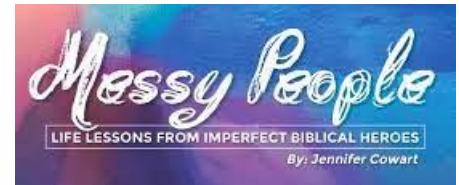
Tim explains how the Christ Cream Ministry was formed. "It's been an awesome ministry to be a part of. I thank God for it. I retired as a teacher. I looked for a vehicle. I purchased a van. I got the van wrapped. I bought a freezer. I had to do all the insurance and then started going out to churches, vacation Bible schools, outdoor picnics, Middletown High School events, family reunions, wherever I was invited. The biggest event I have attended was the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Power Camp and there were about 350 kids there and I have a freezer that fits about 360 ice creams, so it was perfect. Some people would come up with cash. I'm like, no, there's no money, and then some people asked me if I take Venmo, which I had to laugh because I don't even know what Venmo is, but I'm like, no, this is free ice cream and then I would say prayers with them."

Tim's van is a work of art. The impact of the Christ Cream truck is a product of collaboration including graphic input from Middletown High School teacher John Mattingly who teaches Computer Graphics and designed the wrap. Tim said, "Look my man, this is not a wrap, this is a piece of art, so he actually signed the back bumper. Every place I go I try to bring the attitude and the energy that God wants me to bring. God is an awesome God and he can change hearts and he can change lives and he changed my heart and he changed my life and I thank Him for that."

*Portions extracted from a video titled "Tim Leber's Christ Cream Journey", December 2023, produced by Ginger Pieklo, student, Middletown High School*

Salem Mission Support: \$50 monthly minimum

### MORE NEWS & NOTES



#### Ladies Bible Study at Salem

Ladies Bible Study starts a new study on Monday January 8th, 6:30 pm.

The new study is "Messy People" Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes by Jennifer Cowart.

We invite you to join us for fellowship, support and growing in your walk with God. The study is in person and also on zoom. Please contact Debbie Irons for any questions at 301-271-7012.

#### God can turn your messy life into a masterpiece.

Every life gets messy at times. Sometimes these messes are literal, like a house that would be easier to condemn than to clean. But sometimes they are intangible messes such as illness, conflict, depression, abuse, bankruptcy, divorce, and job loss. And these messes can be painful, hurting our hearts and our homes. But as we see in the Bible, God loves to use messy people!

In this study, we will dig into the lives of Biblical heroes who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. Together we will examine the stories of five wonderful but messy people and one messy parable character: Rahab, the Prodigal Son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel. From their stories, we will learn how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, give us power to handle our critics, and help us deal with the hard moments of life.

Along the way we'll discover that we don't have to just endure messy lives but can actually learn to thrive with God's guidance and help. In the hands of God, our messes can become His masterpieces!

#### Children's Activity Bags

Activity bags are available outside the sanctuary each Sunday. Each bag contains activities around the scripture for the day and other activities to keep the little ones busy during the service.



## Salem Mission & Outreach

*Salem Mission Project No. 10*

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

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.*

—Ephesians 5:8 (CSB)

December 12, 2023 — We would like to share the testimony of Milta, a church leader in one of the communities in which we serve [in the Dominican Republic].

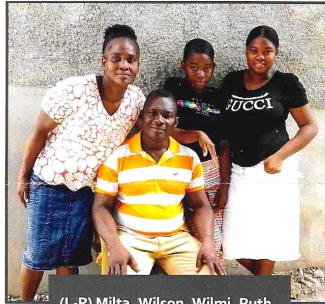
Milta tells of how her 7-year-old son led her to a relationship with Jesus. She said, "One day, my son—he was about 7 years old at the time—went to the church's Bible School and came home very sad. I asked him, 'what's wrong?' He told me, 'Today I received God in my heart and they taught us that the only way to go to heaven is Jesus, so that means that you will not be in heaven with me, because you have not received Jesus in your heart.' In that moment, I collapsed in tears. I felt that God spoke to me through my son. I knelt down, sent for Pastor Estela and told her God spoke strongly to my heart, and I want to receive Jesus in my life. From that day in 2006, until now I serve the Lord."

She had been living in the darkness of the world around her, refusing to except God's offer of salvation. That was 17 years ago. Since then, she has been serving Jesus, walking as a child of light. In all we do, our priority is in sharing the hope of Jesus, with the desire to see many people begin to "walk as children of light."

Thank you so much for your gifts. The support of friends like you allows us to bring hope to families living in poverty through our food distribution program, pastor training and support, and family ministries. As we celebrate the arrival of Jesus as a baby, may you be reminded in a powerful way of the hope that He alone brings to the world.

In Christ alone, *Marty Hogan, Executive Director*

[In 2023, Salem gave \$3,175 to this ministry.]



(L-R) Milta, Wilson, Wilmi, Ruth

*Salem Mission Project No. 11*

### Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick

It's amazing to think about all the people who were involved in celebrating the birth of Christ. An innkeeper with a stable, a virgin and her betrothed, heavenly hosts, lowly shepherds, and wisemen from afar all played a part in welcoming the Savior of the world.

This Christmas, we want to thank you for your part in helping us welcome babies into this world. Your invaluable support enabled us to provide resources and help to newborns and their families.

In fiscal year 2022:

- 36 clients were considering abortion
- 20 out of the 36 clients chose life
- 121 clients heard the gospel
- 102 clients received prayer
- 694 clients were served

The Board, Staff, and Volunteers of *Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick*

[In 2023, Salem gave \$3,282 to this ministry.]



## MORE NEWS & NOTES

### Salem Choir Notes

Marlene and I want to sincerely express our thanks to everyone who participated in choir this fall-winter season.

Giving of your time and talents so generously to offer praise and glory to God in song is a gift that blesses everyone.

We will be taking a short break from practicing during the month of January 2024. We will start practices again in early February.

We hope to see all of our singers return and always welcome any new folks who would like to join us.

Easter arrives earlier than usual this year on March 31, and we will be preparing offerings for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, as well as morning worship. —*Sandy Lewis*



*Salem Mission Project No. 8*

### Potato Project Society of St. Andrew

Gleaning America's Fields —  
Feeding America's Hungry

Thank you, Salem Community Church, for making the Society of St. Andrew your partner in ending hunger, with your monthly financial gifts.

Through these gifts, you are sharing fresh, nutritious produce with people who simply don't have enough to eat.

Much of the food the Society of St. Andrew salvages by the tractor-trailer load or gleans from fields would end up in landfills without our intervention.

Instead of letting it go to waste, you are making sure it goes to feed hungry Americans. Through the Society of St. Andrew, every 3 cents you give puts one serving of healthy food on the tables of people in greatest need. Every 9 cents puts one pound of food on their tables.

[In 2023, Salem gave \$475 to this ministry.]

December 16, 2023

## Country Churches Christmas Tour . . . from Myersville to Wolfsville to Foxville

The photo at right of Salem’s sanctuary was taken by Robert Buckheit during the “Country Churches Christmas Tour” sponsored by the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society.

Mr. Buckheit posted the photo on Facebook with the following description:

“Thirteen different churches from Myersville to Foxville were open to visit to see their holiday splendor and learn some history of the churches and their congregations.

“I have not had time to go through the hundreds of photographs I shot yesterday but wanted to post one for this Sunday morning [December 17, 2023].

“This image is from my very first stop on the tour which was at Salem Community Church in Wolfsville.

“This church sits right along Wolfsville Road as you enter town from Ellerton and Myersville.

“The church was founded in 1819 as Salem United Brethren in Christ Church and has some original natural stone portions of the building which was constructed in 1847 covered with stucco.

“One of the features of this church is the painting “Christ Praying in Gethsemane” by C. Guy Stambach above the alter, and original 1937 lights in the sanctuary. The building style reflects the



Used with permission

Salem sanctuary — Christmas 2023

simplicity of its early Brethren roots.

“In this image I captured the painting which sits above the alter along with the many Christmas decorations in the pulpit area. Members of the church actually lit the alter candles and Advent candles in the front of the church which made for a great addition to this photograph since all the lights gave off a

starburst pattern of light if you look closely. The red and white poinsettias and the greens wrapped around the railing gave the perfect Christmas look and feel to the church.”

Denny Leatherman, Vernon Stottlemeyer, Michael Burrier, and Pastor Neil were on hand to greet the 101 visitors.

## Salem Iron Men: January events at Salem

■ By Bill Weaver, Leader, Salem Iron Men



**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

**Salem Fellowship Hall**

**6:30 p.m.**

1st Sunday of the month Iron Men Gathering

Each month we will begin with a potluck dinner followed by our study. We will be picking up our study from “The Heart of a Warrior” by Michael Thompson, with a review of the Introduction and Chapter 1.

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**Salem Fellowship Hall**

**6:30 p.m.**

3rd Sunday Elder Sage Posse Gathering

For men 60+ interested in guiding younger men into becoming who they truly are, beloved sons of the Father. On the 21st, we will be providing a brief overview of the Zoweh Elder Sage Initiative. Later we will launch our study from “King Me,” by Michael Thompson.



**Friday, January 19, 2024**

**Movies for Men**

**Salem Fellowship Hall**

**6:30 p.m.**

During the winter months, we will be hosting a movie night for men of all ages. For the month of January, we are featuring the film, “Courageous” by the Kendrick Brothers. Following the movie will be a brief discussion of personal application.



Scenes from the . . .

Photos by Wanda Barkdoll, Jim Laky & Michael Burrier



Salem's Christmas Party was a blast! Great food, fun games and a wonderful spirit of joy among our church family. God is good!





Scenes from Christmas Eve Morning & Evening

Photo by Michael Burrier



Photo by Jim Laky





**1. Offering Plate in Sanctuary**

For those at sanctuary worship, an offering plate is available at the rear of the sanctuary.

**2. By Mail**

You may mail your tithes and offerings to:

**Salem Community Church**  
Church Treasurer  
P. O. Box 144  
Myersville, MD 21773-0144

Make checks payable to: **Salem Community Church**

**3. Electronically Online**

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



**A MORAL LESSON**

A mother wanted to teach her daughter a moral lesson. She gave the little girl a quarter and a dollar for church. "Put whichever one you want in the collection plate and keep the other for yourself," she told the girl.

When they were coming out of church, the mother asked her daughter which amount she had given.

"Well," said the little girl, "I was going to give the dollar, but just before the collection the man in the pulpit said that we should all be cheerful givers. I knew I'd be a lot more cheerful if I gave the quarter, so I did."



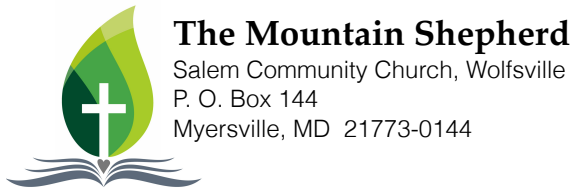
*Some thoughts to ponder . . .*

Rearing children is like drafting a blueprint; you have to know where to draw the line.

God rewards not according to the amount of work done, but according to faithfulness on doing it.

A smile is a gentle curved line which sets a lot of things straight.

God does not love you because you are important, you are important because God loves you.



**The Mountain Shepherd**  
Salem Community Church, Wolfsville  
P. O. Box 144  
Myersville, MD 21773-0144

[www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org)

Address Services Requested

**SERVICE TIMES**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship**

**10:15 a.m. Sunday School**

