

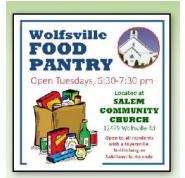
Volume 43

February 2025

Number 2



Salem Community Church Wolfsville



IN NEED OF A "Faith" Lift? page 5

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New "student ministry" at Salem begins Sunday, February 2nd

S alem Community Church, Wolfsville, is pleased to announce a transformation of its student ministry beginning Sunday, February 2, 2025.

On page 5, we invite you to read Pastor Neil's article about Sunday School describing how it became the "Teaching Arm" of the church. In that article, Pastor Neil emphasizes the importance of Sunday School, and writes "That ministry is crucial for students, as well."

We are re-aligning our student ministry structure as follows:

- The class for very young children will include ages pre-school through kindergarten.
- The primary class will include students from 1st grade to 3rd grade.
- The youth class will include 4th and 5th graders combined with middle school students.



STUDENT MINISTRY IS A WEEKLY "YOUTH ACTIVITY" THAT WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING OUR STUDENTS GROW SPIRITUALLY.

Pastor Neil explains, "This will help maintain relationships and continuity with our activities. Our restructuring will allow us to facilitate high school students, as well. Sunday School is a 'weekly youth activity' that is going to be instrumental in helping our students grow spiritually.

"If you are parents or grandparents of students, please help them get involved in the new Sunday School at Salem. These changes will begin on Sunday, February 2, 2025."



Come Grow With Us

Salem Community Church is growing. The Lord has blessed our decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church in September 2023 and become an independent, non-denominational congregation following traditional Christian values.

We are excited to share what God has been doing through the ministry of Salem Community Church, Wolfsville.

We are pleased to report the blessing of increased attendance at worship, now averaging 118 and growing.

Mountain Shepherd

Published monthly by Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

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Salem Key Contacts:

Lay Leader: Dennis Leatherman Chair, Church Council: Vernon Stottlemyer Sunday School Superintendent: Bobby Fogle Chair, Board of Trustees: Sue Ellen Stottlemyer Church Treasurer: William Burrier Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle Chair, Personnel: Robin Haupt Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemyer Food Pantry Leaders: Justinn & Holly 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.

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 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.

Newsletter Distribution:

Online Website Link: 207 USPS First Class Mail: 15 Paper Copies at Church: 60 Paper Copies at LDS Store: 70 Facebook Followers: 578 Instagram Followers: 122

Dec 2024 — Average Worship Attendance

- 93 Sanctuary
- 25 Zoom Online
- 118 TOTAL



2024 MISSION PROJECTS

"Missions is the Mission of the Church"

	Amount Paid Out to Projects Jan-Dec	
1.	Frank & Nancy Stottlemyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission	
2.	Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes)	10.00
3.	Salem Mission & Outreach (includes disaster relief)	\$11,605.43
4.	Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber) NEW in 2024	\$600.00
5.	Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem)	\$11,092.79
6.	Travis & Mary D. (AIM - Canada)	\$3,175.00
7.	Board of Child Care (Martinsburg Campus)	
8.	Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew)	\$300.00
9.	Open for 2024	0
10.	The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)	
11.	Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	
12.	Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania)	\$516.00
13.	Heroes' Club NEW in 2024	
14.	World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia)	

TOTAL PAID OUT to these projects in 2024 \$40,132.83

Here's how you can give ...

 Make checks payable to Salem Community Church, or place cash in an envelope marked "Missions."
 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 box at church, designate electronically, 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. 6

Travis & Mary's Ministry in Canada



Dear Salem Community Church, Wolfsville:

Thank you so much for your prayers, support and encouragement! Our six-week trip to the USA felt blessed and led by the Lord. (Travis, Mary & Mélodie were in Wolfsville at Salem on October 13, 2024.) We spoke at three supporting churches and were able to meet with various family members, friends and supporters. It's always encouraging meeting with fellow believers and enjoying fellowship together! Though we were sometimes quite tired from the travels and Travis experienced some significant headaches, overall, the trip went very well. Mélodie was a star on the trip in more ways than one, and she bonded well with family and friends. What a blessing!

Along with the specifics of our ministry in Calgary, we want to share how crosscultural missions has challenges and advantages. For example, we know some people who have come from countries where Christian missionaries aren't allowed or are limited in their activities, and they are learning about the Bible now that they are in Canada. We are excited to be part of their journeys as the Lord leads!

[Salem has increased its support from a minimum of \$110 to \$225 monthly.]

Who's Doing What, When?

Lay Reader

- 2 Gary Barkdoll
- 9 Bobby Fogle
- 16 David Brandenburg
- 23 Denny Leatherman

Computer

- 2 Wanda Barkdoll
- 9 Robin Haupt
- 16 Michael Burrier
- 23 Sue Ellen Stottlemyer

Acolyte

- 2 Landon Lafferty 9 Chevenne Leatherman
- 16 Brynleigh Irons
- 23 Shelby Leatherman

Camera

- 2 Brandon Leatherman
- 9 Michael Burrier
- 16 Robin Haupt
- 23 Cathie Elsbach

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).

It's time to order a shirt with the Salem Community Church Logo

Orders due Sunday, March 30

Orders are being accepted from church members who would like to order T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, aprons, etc. or any other item with the church logo.

Go to corporatecasuals.com and decide what you would like to order. Then, send a list of the items you want to Wanda Jimenez-Barkdoll at jansack@earthlink.net or contact her at 301-575-4293 for any questions. Wanda will

compile everyone's orders and submit one combined order for the church.

The deadline to order is Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Salem Community Church Choir Notes

The Salem Community Church Choir will begin spring rehearsals on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Marlene and I welcome everyone back and also encourage anyone who hasn't sung with us before but would like to sing to join us. Marlene has chosen some wonderful selections which we will be preparing for morning worship, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

We look forward to seeing and hearing everyone as we unite our voices in praise to our Lord. - Sandy Lewis

"I will sing to the Lord all my life. I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

-Psalm 104:33 NIV

Organist/Pianist

February 2025

- 16 Sara Weitzel
- 23 Sara Weitzel

- 2 Sara Weitzel
- 9 Sara Weitzel

Greeter

- 2 Donald & Susie Stottlemyer
 - 9 David & Sherry Scoggins
 - 16 Matthew Stottlemyer
 - 23 Barkdoll Family



It's Your Day!



February Anniversaries 22 - Rov & Holly Rippeon

28 - Curtis & Dawn Nelson

February Birthdays

- 1 Maria Barkdoll
- 3 Michael Burrier
- 3 Ruth Draper
- 5 Diana Leatherman
- 6 David Woods Jr.
- 9 Robin Haupt
- 9 Robert Keller Jr.
- 10 Trista Wright
- 15 Janet Goetzke
- 16 Polly Miller
- 19 Samuel Sowers 19 - Michele Kline
- 21 Dianna Poling
- 21 Landon Lafferty
- 24 Scott Wisner
- 24 Gary Barkdoll
- 24 Michael Mellott
- 26 Tonia Mueller

End-of-Year Giving Statements

Lora McGraw, Salem's Financial Secretary, records your tithes and offerings throughout the year and has prepared the annual financial giving statements for 2024.

Any questions should be directed to Lora at <u>kre8ive4u@yahoo.com</u> or call 301-824-3322 and leave a message.



Contact: Jessie Leatherman 240-676-1811 JessieLeatherman@comcast.net

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 8:30-5:00 (office) Study and Administration Thursday 9:00-5:00 Visitation 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.)





In February

By Garnett Ann Schultz

The earth is dim, the world is dark, The midst of winter doth embark, The days quite short and nights so long, The frozen ground, the wind's shrill song.

In February snow mounts high, And clouds are deep within the sky; There's ice atop the little stream While home fires burn and hearts shall dream.

But in the distance not too far Our hearts behold an April star; When flowers shall bloom and birds shall sing, The winter melts into the spring.

In February, though 'tis cold. We look ahead to springtime's gold; Our minds aglow of things to be, In February, spring we see.

Daily Valentines

By Cleo King

How sweet to get a valentine Of plain or fancy art, A rose so pink and violets, too. Or satin-covered heart.

But more than beauty or design, We prize the words that say The sender's love comes with the gift In quite the warmest way.

We like to know that someone cares, That someone wants to do The kindly deed that makes us feel Well loved and happy, too.

So why not give expression then, To love for friends so dear, Not only on one certain day But many times a year?

Our valentines may be a smile, A cheerful word or two, A helping hand, a tender glance That signals, "I love you."

And if we often take the time To give these friendly signs, The world will soon be brightened by Our daily valentines.



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.

Be Americans

Be Americans. Let there be no sectionalism, no North, South, East or West: You are all dependent one on another and should be one in union. In one word, be a nation: be Americans, and be true to yourselves. -George Washington

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

Share His Love

By Jacqui Richardson

When we carry enough faith In our hearts each day,
We'll feel God's saving power, His gentle guiding ways.
When we seek Him daily In our thoughts and prayers,
We'll share His love with others Upon life's thoroughfare.
By kindly thoughts and deeds, His will is being done,
For the Father loves us all, Each and every one.

May the Lord Bless You





Message from the Pastor

and

Worship in February

By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

The "Teaching Arm" of the Church

he year was 1780. The city was Gloucester, England. A newspaper editor by the name of Robert Raikes wanted to offer a class of basic lessons in grammar and education to train the children who worked in the factories.

Because the only day the children were not working was Sunday, he started his class on those days.

This is known as the history of the Sunday school movement.

The movement was brought to America shortly afterwards by many denominations in order to educate the children of their congregations on things of God.

Sunday school became the "teaching arm" of the church. In other words, the sermons were geared to preaching the Word of God and exhorting the congregations. But the role of Sunday school was to edify the people through the teaching of the Bible.

Whereas the sermons were intended to encourage the church, Sunday school was meant to edify the church. This is the primary benefit and purpose of Sunday school.

Another benefit of Sunday school is the benefit of "community."

Church congregations are larger in number than Sunday school classes, so it is easy for a person to feel like he or she is "unseen."

Community is formed when smaller groups of people come together for prayer, fellowship, and teaching of the word.

There is a closeness that comes when people meet in smaller groups, and people can feel "seen."

If you are part of a Sunday school class already, I want to encourage you to keep being faithful.



If you are not currently active in a Sunday school class, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider becoming a part of a class.

I promise... you will be blessed in your spiritual growth.

In Christ, *—Pastor Neil*

In Need of a "Faith Lift"

During the month of February, we will continue the sermon series "In Need of a 'Faith Lift'" by finishing the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

It is easy to look at these Old Testament saints as giants of the faith, but they were everyday people who believed whole-heartedly in the power of God and that faith enabled them to obey God in a great way.

It has been said, "The greatness of your faith in God is not as important as your faith in the greatness of God."

Sunday, February 2 "Faith to Champion God's Plan" Hebrews 11:20-22

Both Isaac and Jacob continued God's plan by blessing their sons and grandsons.

We will look at the significance and message in those blessings. We will also consider the benefit of these blessings in our day and time.

Sunday, February 9 "Faith to Forsake All You Know" Hebrews 11:23-29

It was God's plan to raise Moses as the one who would lead His people out of Egypt.

Not only did God divinely save the life of Moses as a baby, but God also exposed Moses to all the education and training in the palace of Egypt to prepare him to be Israel's greatest leader.

But Moses was still a Hebrew in his heart, and by faith he left the palace to forsake all he knew.

Sunday, February 16 "Faith to Fight Battles God's Way" Hebrews 11:30, 31

In the Book of Joshua, the battle of Jericho is highlighted. Two of the main characters of the story of Jericho are Joshua and Rahab.

Following the death of Moses, Joshua established himself as the true leader of Israel. God blessed him with supernatural victory because, by faith, he followed God's instructions.

Rahab was also blessed by God because of her faith. Both lives give us guidance for obeying God's will.

Sunday, February 23 "Faith to Maintain a Strong Testimony" Hebrews 11:32-39

The writer of Hebrews provided a list of names of other people who displayed uncommon faith throughout their lives.

While our circumstances will doubtfully mirror theirs, the principles of faith can still be learned and applied.

We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 5 that we walk by faith, not by sight. May the principles of Hebrews 11 be a comfort for our Christian growth.



Mission Project No. 3

A "Thank You" from the Salvation Army

January 9, 2025

Dear Salem Community Church:

We at The Salvation Army would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all your hard work and time that you gave filling stockings this Christmas season.



This year the Stocking Program assisted 1,000 children in Frederick County. Thank you again for helping those in need.

May you and your families have a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely, —Morrisa Travers, Social Service Program Manager

Mission Project No. 11

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick

December 31, 2024

Dear Salem Community Church:

The beginning of a new year brings an evaluation of the year passed and the hopes for the year ahead.

In 2024, we served 168 clients facing a pregnancy decision, and 94 of these clients had an ultrasound. 36 clients were considering and/or vulnerable to



abortion. Out of these 36 clients, 27 chose to continue their pregnancy after receiving our services, that is 75%!

This center (board, staff, volunteers, YOU) impacted 27 women, 27 men, and 27 babies that could have been lost to abortion. We also had 4 women accept the Lord in our center! Thank you for your part in making this happen!

In 2025, please pray for us as we hope to see more clients that are facing pregnancy decisions, more spiritual inroads with our clients, and for more lives saved (by women choosing life and clients choosing the free gift of salvation).

Blessings, -Linda King, Executive Director

[Church Treasurer Note: The Christmas Eve offering for Care Net Pregnancy Center totaled \$1,240.]

Mission Project No. 8 Potato Project - Society of St. Andrew

Dear Salem Community Church:

Happy New Year and thank you for your faithful support in 2024, and... your support for more than 30 years!

Our Delmarva/Maryland Office distributed more than 1.4 million pounds of good food in 2024. Your support makes that possible.



With gratitude, -Jean Siers, Delmarva Regional Director

Salem's support of missions is outstanding

In 2024, Salem supported 13 mission projects and many more smaller mission opportunities. More than \$40,000 was paid out in support of missions. Detailed amounts are listed on page 2.

News & Notes

Save the Date

- March 9 Annual Congregational Meeting
- March 28 Spaghetti Dinner
- May 10 Plant & Food Sale
- May 14 Ladies/Men's Night Out

Welcome to First Time Visitors

We have many new folks attending worship. If you are new to our church, please complete a "Connection Card" so we can get acquainted. First time visitors are asked not to feel obligated to give any money to the church; we pray that you will receive a blessing as our special guest.

Children's Activity Bags

Children's Activity Bags are available outside the sanctuary each Sunday. Each bag contains activities around the scripture reading for the day and other activities to engage your little ones during the service.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir practices on Sundays after Sunday School, from 11:00-11:15 a.m., to prepare for an upcoming performance during worship. Contact Jody Eccard-Duley (240-818-7134) or Sara Weitzel (240-409-1241).

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study continues Mondays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Zoom only from January through March. The group is studying the Book of Acts using the study guide "Believing Jesus" by Lisa Harper. Pray about joining them; it is a great way to fellowship and learn and grow in God's Word. To get the Zoom link, contact Debbie Irons at 301-271-7012.

Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

The Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study continues Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the upstairs social room, led by Pastor Neil.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met on January 14 to begin preparing a slate of church officers and ministry leaders for 2025, to be approved at the annual Congregational Meeting on March 9, 2025.

The terms for church officers and leaders run for 12 months from March to March.

Immersion Baptism Service

The Immersion Baptism Service was postponed one week due to inclement weather and will now be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, Meeting House Road. Details about this meaningful service will be reported in next month's "Mountain Shepherd."

Salem's Annual Congregational Meeting Set for Sunday, March 9, 10:15 a.m.

The annual Congregational Meeting of the membership of Salem Community Church will be held on Sunday, March 9 (snow date March 16), 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.



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.

Salem's Nominating Committee will be working in January and February to prepare a slate of church officers and ministry leaders that will be presented to the Church Council in February and to the church membership for a vote on March 9th. These leaders would serve until the next Congregational Meeting, expected in March 2026.

Please contact Michael Burrier, Nominating Committee Chair, or Pastor Neil Suders 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 us if you are interested in being considered for a leadership position at Salem.

The Nominating Committee's mission is to identify and invite church members to fill leadership positions within the church. They 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 crosssection of the congregation. If a church member agrees to be considered for an open position, their name will be added to the slate of church officers and ministry leaders that will be reviewed by the Church Council and voted upon at the Congregation Meeting on March 9.

The History of Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day in the United States began as a holiday to celebrate the birthday of George Washington, the first president. The holiday has since evolved for some to be a celebration of all US presidents.



- Washington's Birthday was celebrated on February 22nd as a day of remembrance after his death in 1799.
- In 1879, Congress made February 22nd a federal holiday for Washington's birthday. It was the first federal holiday to
- honor an individual's birthdate.
- In 1968, the holiday was expanded to include Abraham Lincoln's birthday, which is February 12th.
- In 1971, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved the holiday to the 3rd Monday in February.

American Presidents are extraordinary, and they are ordinary. We should value, and can learn from, them all. This President's Day, it is reasonable for Americans who follow Jesus to consider the President of the United States, the man and the office, and to commit ourselves to praying for him, for the rest of our government at every level, and for our nation.

A Prayer on Presidents' Day

By Marsha Richards

Dear Heavenly Father, we as a nation have set aside this day to honor the Presidents who have served our country; some in times of great trial, devastating wars, and strife; others in more peaceful periods of great transition



and building as a nation. We acknowledge that You are sovereign and each one was in that position to be used in a particular way to shape our nation.

We humbly come before you today to plead on behalf of America and our President. We know that a nation divided against itself cannot stand; our nation needs you more than ever to give us unity and a sense of brotherhood that our foes from within or without would want to demolish.

We pray for the spirit that was in great presidents like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge, James Madison, and Ronald Reagan, among many others, would indwell our President so that he also would see clearly that "right makes might," and that it is only when we are on God's side that our nation will be unified, prosperous, and lawful. In the name of Your Son we pray. Amen.

Wise Words from United States Presidents

"Direct my thought, words, and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit ... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ." -George Washington, 1st President of the United States

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the whole of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the commandments of God. The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded." -James Madison, 4th President of the United States

"Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." "Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

- Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

"The strength of our country is the strength of its religious convictions. The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

-Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the United States

"If we trust in Him, keep His word, and live our lives for His pleasure, He'll give us the power we need power to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith."

-Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States



1. Offering Box in Sanctuary

For those at sanctuary worship, an offering box 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 and select GIVE.



Cars

A youth group, hoping for donations to help with summer camp expenses, scheduled a day of service for members of the congregation who wanted odd jobs done around their homes. A rich elder said to a teenage boy, "I have two gallons of

orange paint. If you paint the porch out back, I'll see that the youth group gets a good donation."

Two hours later, the youth came to the door, "Well, I finished the job. But, sir, that's no Porsche. It's a Ferrari!"



Some thoughts to ponder . . .

It's not the hours you put in, but what you put in the hours that counts.

Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.

God may conceal the purpose of His ways, but His ways are not without purpose.

A good test of character: When you do wrong, do you accept the blame? Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.

Place

Stamp

Here



The Mountain Shepherd Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

P. O. Box 144 Myersville, MD 21773-0144

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

SERVICE TIMES 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School





COME GROW WITH US

