

The  Newsletter of
Salem Community Church — Wolfsville

Mountain Shepherd

Volume 44 January 2026 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 Fayetteville, Switzerland or Sabaltrailville zip code



My New Year Resolutions.
1. Study my Bible
2. Do what it says

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Don't miss our Winter Soup & Sandwich Sale



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 \$8.00 per quart, country ham sandwiches for \$4.25 each, and turkey salad sandwiches at \$3.25 each.

ORDERS DUE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

These items must be ordered by **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. Order forms are also available in the church hallway, or you may order by contacting Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer at ses1313@comcast.net or 301-471-2603.

Items may be picked up on Saturday, February 7, from 4-6 p.m. or on Sunday, February 8, 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 January 4, 2026

Please contact Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer at ses1313@comcast.net or at 301-471-2603.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

SOUPS		How many?	Amount \$
Vegetable	\$8.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Noodle	\$8.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Corn	\$8.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
Bean with rivels	\$8.00/quart	_____	\$ _____
SANDWICHES			
Country Ham	\$4.25 each	_____	\$ _____
Turkey Salad	\$3.25 each	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL amount due at pick up			\$ _____

PICK UP (check one) Sat Feb 7 (4-6 p.m.) Sun Feb 8 (9-11 a.m.)



Published monthly by
Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

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Chair, Cemetery Committee: George Stottlemeyer
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:
Produced using macOS Pages 14.4 and macOS 15.7.3 on an Apple M1 MacBook Air computer, HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer, and Ricoh MP-3054 digital copier.

Purpose of Newsletter:
The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communicating with our members, their families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville community and surrounding areas. We pray that this newsletter will inspire you 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: 210
USPS First Class Mail: 18
Paper Copies at Church: 65
Paper Copies at LDS Store: 65
Paper Copies at Wolfsville Stop: 15
Facebook Followers: 609
Instagram Followers: 122

Nov 2025 — Average Worship Attendance

100	Sanctuary
45	Zoom Online
145	TOTAL

Go 2025 MISSION PROJECTS

"Missions is the Mission of the Church"

	Amount Paid Out to Projects Jan-Nov 2025
1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission	\$2,255.00
2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes)	\$0
3. Salem Mission & Outreach (includes funeral luncheons)	\$12,168.96
4. Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber)	\$800.00
5. Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem)	\$8,835.23
6. Travis & Mary D. (AIM - Canada)	\$2,475.00
7. Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care) (Martinsburg Campus) ..	\$1,175.00
8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew)	\$275.00
9. Kelsey McHugh (WIM - Honduras) NEW	\$1,100.00
10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic)	\$2,500.00
11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick	\$2,800.00
12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania)	\$473.00
13. Heroes' Club (After School Ministry)	\$204.88
14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia)	\$385.00
TOTAL PAID OUT to these projects in 2025	\$35,447.07

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 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. 10

The Least of These Ministries — Dominican Republic

Dear Salem Church Family:

When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem, to present him in the temple, they were met by a devout man of faith, named Simeon.



Simeon had received a prophecy about the coming Messiah, and the Holy Spirit had prompted him to wait at the temple that day.



Mission Teams help deliver food to the Bateys.

As our staff visits each community to distribute food, the word of God is preached, and the love of Jesus is demonstrated. Our hope is always that members of those communities will see what Simeon saw, and believe in the gospel of Jesus or be encouraged in their faith.

Thank you so much for the blessing of your support during this season and throughout the year! We are grateful to God for how He uses his people to make possible the work being done in the Dominican Republic. Through your support, people are being fed, families are being strengthened, and lives are being changed.

We are thankful for the faithful support from the Salem Church family! God bless each of you! Please pray for our upcoming mission team: January 10–17.

[Salem has provided \$2,500 to this mission project so far this year.]

Who's Doing What, When?

January 2026

Lay Reader

- 4 David Brandenburg
- 11 Lora McGraw
- 18 Tim Eccard
- 25 Marlene Young

Acolyte

- 4 Shelby Leatherman
- 11 Saralynn Irons
- 18 Landon Lafferty
- 25 Lawson Rouzee

Organist/Pianist

- 4 Sara Weitzel
- 11 Sara Weitzel
- 18 Sara Weitzel
- 25 Sara Weitzel

Presenter PC

- 4 Wanda Barkdoll
- 11 Cathie Elsbach
- 18 Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
- 25 Michael Burrier

Zoom PC

- 4 Robin Haupt
- 11 Robin Haupt
- 18 Brandon Leatherman
- 25 Wanda Barkdoll

Greeters

- 4 Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer
- 11 David & Sherry Scoggins
- 18 Matthew Stottlemeyer
- 25 Kathy Hill

Inclement Weather Policy

Status of Church Services

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

How to Receive our Announcements

If you are not currently on Salem's distribution list for prayer requests and church announcements, please provide your email address to Pastor Neil (717-753-2112) pastorneil05@gmail.com or Michael Burrier (301-401-7575) bankermike73@gmail.com.



New "Seniors Ministry" Forming Age 60 and Older

All seniors ages 60 years and older are invited to participate in a new monthly seniors ministry at Salem, to be led by Ken & Thelma Walls.

Ken Walls writes, "It is our privilege to announce a new ministry to those of us who have reached 60 or have now passed the 60 mark and are still singing, still sharing, and still seeking.

"We invite you to join us on the 2nd Tuesday in January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the activities room on the 2nd floor of the educational building. (An elevator is available for those who wish to use it.)

"It promises to be a time of fun and fellowship. A former Bishop once encouraged us with two great lines— "Live the story" and "Tell the Story." So we will share songs. We will share some special prayers and we encourage you to share your story. We will also share a time in the Word.

"We'll also be sharing Salem's two great "C's" — cookies and coffee!"



Save the Date . . .

Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, March 8, 2026, 10:15 a.m.

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 - Elizabeth Beall
- 20 - Bradley Flook Jr.
- 21 - Joann Leatherman
- 22 - Lora McGraw
- 22 - Clayton Marker
- 27 - Easton Bidle
- 27 - Carley Weagley
- 29 - Blake Wagaman
- 31 - Chase Woods

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 2026, or stop using envelopes, please contact Lora McGraw at kre8ive4u@yahoo.com or call 301-824-3322 & leave a message.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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.)



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 for given 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	1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

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.

Selected from *Menonite 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.

[Ed. Note] As I am typing the above poem from Tom Kolb, I am remembering with fondness a faithful Salem member Olive Kline. Olive loved poetry and would submit poems for publication in this newsletter. She submitted this one in 2004.

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

Fellow Travelers

By Dorothy Niederberger

Today I take your hand,
Tomorrow you may need mine;
We share in one great love,
The love of the Divine.

Today I soothe your brow,
Tomorrow you'll comfort me,
We have a common bond,
It's called humanity.



Message from the Pastor

and

Worship in January

By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

New Year • New Beginning

When I was growing up, I always looked forward to the first day of school. The brand-new notebooks, the clean tablets, and the brand-new pencils and pens signaled a fresh start and a clean slate.

No matter how the previous year or semester ended, a new school year meant I was no longer tied to mistakes I had made before; and regrets were given the opportunity to simply vanish into the newness.

That same liberty is offered to us at the start of every new year!

No "New Years' Resolutions" — Set Goals Instead

I am not a proponent of "New Years' Resolutions" because they are rarely achieved, resulting in feelings of ineptitude or inadequacy.

However, I AM a proponent of setting goals and striving to achieve them for God's glory.

Your goals should be challenging. They should stretch you physically, financially, emotionally, or spiritually.

Good goals should also be specific. "I am going to be a better person" is not really a goal.

Specific goals are measurable goals. A better, more specific goal would be, "I will smile and greet people I do not know at least twice per day."

Goals should also be measurable. Write them down so you can be accountable. "A goal that is not written down is merely a wish," a former coach told me.

Press On Toward the Goal

In our midweek Bible study, here at church, we are currently studying the book of Philippians. (If you are not currently participating in a Bible study weekly, maybe you can make it a goal



to join us!)

In the third chapter, Paul wrote, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14)

These verses hold the keys to setting goals. Paul knew he had yet to "take hold" of that for which Christ took hold of him.

That was the goal of knowing Jesus and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering.

The ONE THING Paul did was to "press on" toward that goal. But HOW did he do that?

He made a conscious effort to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead.

Forgetting what is behind means letting go of our past (both victories AND defeats).

Jesus said if we put our hands to the plow and yet look back, we are not fit for the kingdom. We need to make a giant effort to forget the past.

Paul also mentioned that he would press on by "straining toward what is ahead." Straining evokes images of effort, perspiration, dedication, and

commitment. In short, it is work!

Pressing on means we are to be driven. Lethargy is the enemy of setting goals and being driven.

It is okay if you want to make a New Years' Resolution. But I invite you to set challenging new goals for yourself in this new year.

You have a new beginning. You have a clean slate. What do you think God would have you to do?

In Christ. —Pastor Neil

.....

Worship in January "Joshua and the Conquest"

The first five books of the Old Testament are known as the Pentateuch.

Genesis gives the history of God's creation and the calling of the Patriarchs, namely Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Exodus deals with the deliverance of God's people out of Egypt and through the wilderness.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy detail the Mosaic law and God's righteous requirements.

Following the Pentateuch, the books of History begin with Joshua. It is in the Book of Joshua that we learn the campaign known as "the Conquest" where God helped Israel conquer the Promised Land.

Sunday, January 4, 2026 Deuteronomy 34:1-8 "The Plan of God"

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. He prophesied that Abraham's nation would be in bondage for 430 years, but that God planned to restore them to the land He promised them.

The "Plan of God" involved getting them from the wilderness to the Promised Land. Before we can start the series on Joshua and the Conquest, we need to look at how God works things out for His people.

Sunday, January 11, 2026 Joshua 1:1-18 "We Give You Our Word"

In the first chapter of Joshua, Joshua had taken over for Moses. He challenged the Israelites to "be strong and courageous." He also admonished them to "keep the Word of God in their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Grades 4-6

BE A "SPARKS YOUTH" EVERY SUNDAY

In January, the new "Sparks" Preteen Sunday School class (grades 4-6) will learn how "People Can Trust God" by focusing on women in the Bible who trusted and obeyed God amid trying times.

The story of Ruth and Naomi will help our "Sparks" preteens understand that choosing to help others is a way to show love for God. Hannah's story will help students understand God wants to communicate with people daily. The widow who helped Elijah recognized God's authority in her life and trusted God to provide for her family. In closing out the unit, preteens will learn about Esther and how God used her in a situation that could have led to her death.

Mike Burrier teaches the "Sparks" Preteen Class each Sunday from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m., meeting at the top of the stairs in the social room. Come grow with us!

**WORSHIP IN JANUARY**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

By Pastor Neil Suders

hearts." Their commitment was to confirm their dedication and commitment to serving God.

"Whatever you command us, we will do. Wherever you send us, we will go." They were "all in"! This message will reinforce the effects of that type of commitment, and the faith required to maintain it.

**Sunday, January 18, 2026****Joshua 2:1-24****"Is It Ever Okay to Lie?"**

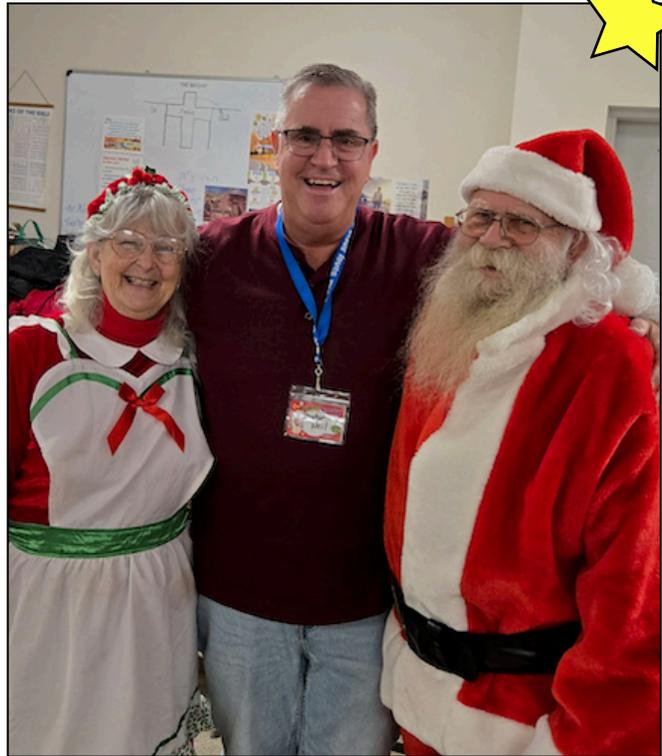
The narrative of Rahab is very well known. Joshua sent two spies to investigate Jericho, and they met Rahab. She hid them on the roof and lied to the soldiers who were looking for them.

We will examine this story and learn some lessons about how God works. We will also discover ethical standards that God can bless.

Sunday, January 25, 2026**Joshua 3:1-17****"Out With the Old; In With the New"**

Before the Israelites could enter the Promised Land, they needed to cross the Jordan River. Joshua told the people to consecrate themselves, because God was about to do "amazing things" among them.

This new covenant with God was going to require a great deal of trust. They were going to need to forsake their allegiance to Moses, who died on Mt. Nebo, and forge an alliance with Joshua. They were also going to transform from being vagabonds and nomads to inhabitants of Canaan.

HEROES' CLUB ... AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY**Look who came to Heroes' Club!**

God is using the ministry of Heroes' Club to bless families in the Myersville/Wolfsville area. We have thirty-one names of students who are registered and average twenty-four students each Monday.

Last year we looked at "Heroes" of the Bible; people whose faith enabled God to use them for great things.

The students defined a hero as a person who "prayed to God, believed God, and obeyed God". We made sure to teach them that THEY could be heroes even at their age!

This year, we are taking a more chronological approach to our curriculum. We began with creation and are heading through the patriarchs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; following them up with Moses and the Exodus.

The students have different backgrounds in Bible teaching, but they are all learning the basics of the Bible!

On December 15th, our Bible story was on the birth of Jesus, the crafts were mini nativity scenes, and we had a pair of special guests visiting with the children (see above photo).

While Richard and Kathy Queen were unable to make it, they provided toy bags for Santa and Mrs. Claus to give to the boys and girls. We appreciate their generosity very much!

*—Pastor Neil***FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

As of this writing (Dec 18)
the food pantry has served 21 families (53 people)
in the month of December 2025

Food Pantry Leaders: Justinn & Holly Irons

Salem Mission Project No. 1**FRANK & NANCY STOTTLEMYER**

Dear Folks at Salem Community Church:

DECEMBER 5, 2025 — We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we hope you will have a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior and Lord!

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts, and your friendship. We appreciate you all very much.

We are doing pretty well as far as our health. Frank is sort of borderline as far as blood pressure and is trying to keep that at the level the doctor suggests without having to begin medication. Nancy is having some extra testing done on her eyes to be sure that the Macular Degeneration is not increasing.

We are still doing mostly the same things we've been doing for some time. Nancy continues to visit a widow in a nursing home. She takes another lady to a ladies' Bible study each week, and other things. Frank serves on the board of our home church. He is the bookkeeper/treasurer, sometimes he teaches Sunday School or Wednesday evening Bible study, prepares a weekly bulletin insert of prayer requests and announcements, and he helps with things at the Hagerstown Rescue Mission one day each week. We have been taking a lady, who can't drive, to see her husband who is in a rehab center, and taking her to doctor appointments, etc.

Our daughter, Wanda, and son-in-law, Lynn, have jobs and are involved in ministries. Our son and daughter-in-law, Eric & Wendy, are in Senegal where Eric is the Bible teacher to the Badyaranké people. Wendy helps with the Bible translation into the Badyaranké language. Our daughter, Rebecca, is preparing for literacy classes for the Badyaranké people. She oversees a man who is also teaching literacy and meets with ladies for them to read Scripture in their language. She is a literacy consultant for West Africa for the mission, so she is helping several people get literacy programs started. Our son & daughter-in-law, Gary & Lisa, serve at a missionary retirement center in Florida. Gary is part of the grounds crew, and he works on other projects at the center; Lisa heads up cooking for the retired missionary residents who are unable to do that themselves.

Our granddaughter, Tara & her husband, Asheton, completed the missionary training of Ethnos360. Asheton is almost finished with additional linguistic training. They are expecting their fourth child very soon. Our granddaughter, Elli & husband Devin, are now taking a two-year Bible College course.

Thank you sincerely for your faithfulness.

Joyfully in Christ, —Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer



Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer

The Tradition Continues . . .

On Sunday, December 21st, everyone attending Sunday School received a bag of candy and two oranges. This Christmas tradition goes back farther than anyone can remember. Bobby Fogle, Sunday School Superintendent, coordinated the effort this year.

**NEWS & NOTES****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. We encourage children to remain with their parents in worship and participate in Pastor Neil's children's message.

New "Youth Sunday School Classes" Forming

We are growing! Beginning December 21, we have realigned our older youth Sunday School classes into a new Preteen Class (grades 4-6) taught by Mike Burrier that meets upstairs, and a Teen Class (grades 7-12) taught by Jessie Leatherman and Linda Marenic that meets downstairs in the former Young Adult classroom. The Young Adult class is moving upstairs.

Nominating Committee to meet January 13

Salem's Nominating Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7 p.m. to begin preparing a slate of church officers and ministry leaders for 2026.

Please be praying for this team as they work to match the spiritual gifts of the congregation with open ministry positions, and also be praying for those who will be asked to serve.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Pastor Neil Suders (Chair), Joy Barkdoll, Janice Harshman, Lora McGraw, Sandy Miller, Gary Barkdoll, Theresa Haupt, and Dennis Leatherman.

Please contact Pastor Neil (717-753-2112) if you have questions or would like to learn more about a ministry area at Salem.

Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

The study will be on break during the holidays and will return on January 7, 2026, from 7:00-8:00 pm to study Philipians 4.

Spaghetti Dinner set for January 23

Salem's "Bee-lievers" Women's Group is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, January 23, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cost for the dinner will be donations only.

Sunday, December 7, 2025

CHILDREN at SALEM



Photo by Jim Laky

Pastor Neil's Children's Message at 9 a.m. worship

The Lord has blessed Salem Community Church in Wolfsville. In just a little more than two years, attendance at worship has doubled, 41 new members, 27 believer's baptisms, and we are so pleased to have families with young children.

We encourage children to remain with their parents in worship and participate in Pastor Neil's children's message. Children will also learn from Pastor Neil's sermon which is a "teaching sermon" directly from the Word of God.

Activity bags are available at the entrance to the sanctuary for children who wish to do activities related to Pastor Neil's message of the day.

SALEM REACHING CHILDREN AT LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Christmas Ornaments

Salem's "Bee-lievers" Women's Group made ornaments as gifts for children to purchase for their parents at the Wolfsville Elementary School. The ornaments were delivered on November 10, 2025. (See photos below.)

Christmas Stockings

In addition, the "Bee-lievers" took upon themselves to provide some cheerful time for those children who may not receive gifts during Christmas. We distributed 30 Christmas stockings between two Elementary schools (Wolfsville & Myersville) in which members of the church graciously supported by taking the stockings and filling them. Thank you for the support of this cause. —Wanda Barkdoll



SALEM COMMUNITY CHOIR NOTES

Marlene and I would like to sincerely thank each person who shared their time and talent offering beautiful Christmas music during this season to glorify our Lord. It was a blessing and encouragement to all who heard it.

The Choir will be taking a short break for January but will resume rehearsals by mid-February to begin preparing for the Lenten season. Watch for the start-up date in the next newsletter.

Wishing everyone peace, health and happiness in the New Year! —Sandy Lewis

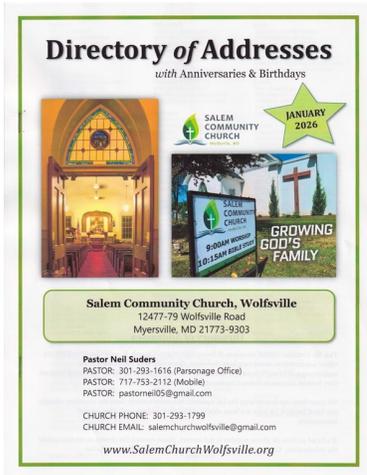
SALEM ADDRESS DIRECTORY HAS BEEN UPDATED

Salem's Directory of Addresses has been recently updated and printed.

Prior to printing, a draft was circulated in worship for folks to make changes or add new families not included in the previous edition.

The Directory also includes anniversaries and birthdays.

Any changes or corrections should be given to Robin & Theresa Haupt who coordinate this directory. Paper copies are available at church. The directory is NOT posted on the Internet.



"THANK YOU" FROM TIM LEBER



Hi Everyone at Salem—

Sending a huge "Thank You" for your continued support of the Christ Cream Van! Greatly appreciated! It's such a joy visiting Salem and watching the Lord at work in all of you. Wishing you all of God's blessings during this wonderful time of the year. With appreciation and much love.

—Tim Leber (Christ Cream Van Ministry)

Saturday, December 13

COUNTRY CHURCHES CHRISTMAS TOUR



Pastor Neil and other Salem volunteers were ready and excited to “meet and greet” visitors on the Country Churches Christmas Tour, held December 13th. Pastor Neil said, this year, Salem had 57 visitors, down a bit from his previous two years at Salem, when more than 100 visited. Our thanks to Salem folks who donated cookies enabling a beautiful welcoming spread of snacks and drinks. This year most of our visitors were from out of the area unlike previous years when more local families came as well as those from out of the area. But it was all good.



Successfully Move from One Year to the Next

I never really understood the allure of staying up late on December 31 to welcome in the new year.

As a teenager, however, I embraced the idea of staying up until midnight as confirmation I was growing up. It didn't make much sense, however, as I struggled to be alert enough to enjoy it and dragged through the next day. As a young adult, I'd stay up until midnight because I could, all the while wondering why I did.

Now older and wiser, I go to bed on New Year's Eve at my normal time, and I arise the next morning at my normal time.

Let's view this from a spiritual perspective. When we ring in the new year, it should be in anticipation of what is to come. To put behind us the events of the past.

This annual transition from past to future reminds me of what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church. He said to them—and to us—that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In another letter, Paul writes that he forgets the past and looks forward to what lies ahead. (Philippians 3:13).

As far as Jesus is concerned, our past mistakes don't matter. They're forgotten. What does matter is what we do moving forward. Let us embrace what lies ahead and not dwell on what we cannot change.

With these things in mind, let's look forward to the New Year.

[Adapted from a writing by Peter DeHaan. Peter is a grandson of Martin DeHaan, the founder of "Our Daily Bread Ministries."]

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

A Story about “Honesty & Integrity”

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in a large city.

Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, “You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.”

Then he thought, “Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a ‘gift from God’ and keep quiet.”

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, “Here, you gave me too much change.”

The driver, with a smile, replied, “Aren't you the new preacher in town?” “Yes,” he replied.

“Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.”

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, “Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.”

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test!

Always be on guard — and remember — you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself Christian.

Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Have you seen our new Outdoor Bulletin Board?

The new electronic outdoor bulletin board in Salem's front yard is up and working. The church has received many favorable comments about how nice it looks. The content is updated at least every week, sometimes more often, and can be programmed remotely from any location.

New Cleaning Service

The church recently contracted with Busy Bees Maid Service to clean the church on a weekly basis.

Our thanks to Salem member Amy McCormick who has served in this capacity for the past 13 years.

Scenes from . . .

Salem's Christmas Party . . . December 6, 2025



Photos by Amber Stine



Kathy Hill gives instructions as everyone enjoys the "Package Game."



More Scenes from . . .

Salem's Christmas Party . . . December 6, 2025



Photos by Amber Stine





1. In Person

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.



A COSTLY MISTAKE

A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance of his who had just thrown away an old Bible that had been in his family for generations.

He happened to mention that "Guten something" had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the book collector.

"Yes, that was the name."

"Oh no! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold for \$700,000 at an auction."

"Mine wouldn't have been worth a dime," replied the man. "Someone by the name of Martin Luther had scribbled all over it."



Some thoughts to ponder . . .

People are like tea bags – you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.



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

**Happy
New Year**

from your
*Salem Church
Family*

January 2026

COME GROW WITH US

