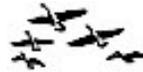


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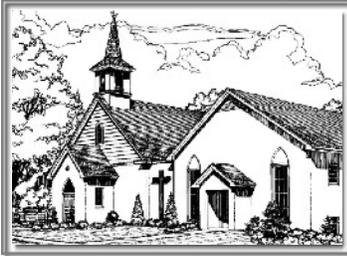
Newsletter of
Salem Community Church — Wolfsville

Mountain Shepherd

Volume 44

March 2026

Number 3



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,
South Carolina
Substance Use code

OUR VISION

Building Connections
Growing God's Family

We are meeting
new families
almost every Sunday

Come Grow With Us

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Pastor Neil teaches children *in* worship at Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

Photo by Jim Laky



February 8, 2026 — In the above photo, Pastor Neil teaches the children during worship. As the nearly 20 children came to the front for the “Children’s Parable” on this day, Pastor Neil greeted each one by name, giving them a sense of belonging and comfort. The lesson from God’s Word, on this Sunday, was about Joshua and the wall around the city of Jericho (Joshua Chapter 6). The children are captivated as Pastor Neil tells this interesting story, and makes it relatable to their young lives. Our Sunday School program has recently been enhanced with new children and youth classes. See more on page 8.

Children are encouraged to stay with their parents during worship

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.

Pastor Neil will send you a card. Please let him know if you have a need. He will meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

Children’s Activity Bags

Children’s Activity Bags are available outside the sanctuary each Sunday.

Each bag contains activities around the scripture 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.

Children who worship with their parents learn early that they are part of the larger church family.

Need to Step Out During the Service?

If you need to step out during the service, you may watch the service on the big screen in the upstairs social room. Feel free to use this space whenever needed.



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Salem Community Church, Wolfsville

Physical address: 12477-79 Wolfsville Road,
Myersville, MD 21773

Mailing address: PO Box 144
Myersville, MD 21773-0144

Newsletter Editor: William G. Burrier
BillBurrier@icloud.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. D. Neil Suders
PastorNeil05@gmail.com
301-293-1616 (Pastor's Office)
717-753-2112 (Mobile)

Salem Email Address:
SalemChurchWolfsville@gmail.com

Salem Website:
www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Salem Key Contacts:
Lay Leader: Dennis Leatherman
Chair, Church Council: Vernon Stottlemeyer
Sunday School Superintendent: Bobby Fogle
Chair, Board of Trustees: Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
Church Treasurer: William Burrier
Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle
Chair, Personnel: Robin Haupt
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 15.1.1 and macOS 26.3 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
Facebook Followers: 616
Instagram Followers: 145

Jan 2026 — Average Worship Attendance
98 Sanctuary
45 Zoom Online
143 TOTAL

Go  **2026 MISSION PROJECTS**
"Missions is the Mission of the Church"

Amount Paid Out to Projects Jan 2026

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission \$205.00
 2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes) \$0.00
 3. Salem Mission & Outreach (includes funeral luncheons) \$53.96
 4. Christ Cream Ministry (Tim Leber) \$50.00
 5. Wolfsville Food Pantry (at Salem) \$989.89
 6. Travis & Mary D. (AIM - Canada) \$225.00
 7. Everstand (formerly Board of Child Care) (Martinsburg Campus) \$75.00
 8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew) \$25.00
 9. Kelsey McHugh (WIM - Honduras) \$100.00
 10. The Least of These Ministries (Dominican Republic) \$150.00
 11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick \$200.00
 12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania) \$43.00
 13. Heroes' Club (After School Ministry) \$0.00
 14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia) \$35.00
- TOTAL PAID OUT to these projects in 2026 \$2,151.85

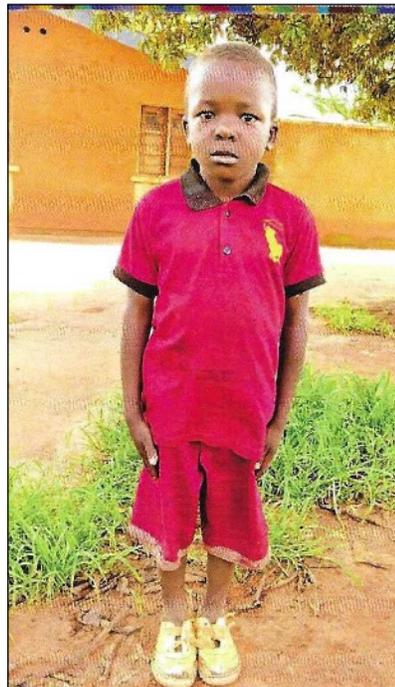
Here's how you can give . . .

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 Projects No. 12 & 14

Sponsored Children in Tanzania & Colombia



Luckman
Tanzania
Compassion
\$43 monthly



Lizeth
Colombia
World Vision
\$35 monthly

Who's Doing What, When?

March 2026

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

Lay Reader

- 1 Denny Leatherman
- 8 Michael Burrier
- 15 Mary Ellen Eccard
- 22 Marlene Young
- 29 Heidi Agostini

Acolyte

- 1 Landon Lafferty
- 8 Lawson Rouzee
- 15 Cheyenne Leatherman
- 22 Brynleigh Irons
- 29 Shelby Leatherman

Organist/Pianist

- 1 Sara Weitzel
- 8 Sara Weitzel
- 15 Sara Weitzel
- 22 Sara Weitzel
- 29 Susie Stottlemeyer

Presenter PC

- 1 Wanda Barkdoll
- 8 Cathie Elsbach
- 15 Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer
- 22 Michael Burrier
- 29 Brandon Leatherman

Zoom PC

- 1 Robin Haupt
- 8 Brandon Leatherman
- 15 Wanda Barkdoll
- 22 Brandon Leatherman
- 29 Michael Burrier

Greeters

- 1 Donald & Susie Stottlemeyer
- 8 David & Sherry Scoggins
- 15 Matthew Stottlemeyer
- 22 Kathy Hill
- 29 Joy Barkdoll

Pastor Neil Shares News of Upcoming Home Purchase

February 15, 2026 — Salem Community Church members will soon notice a change at the parsonage, as Pastor Neil Suders and his wife, Misty, prepare for a new chapter in their life.

Pastor Neil recently shared that God has provided an opportunity for them to purchase a home in Smithsburg, with plans to move at the end of March.

“We have greatly appreciated and enjoyed living in the parsonage for over two years,” Pastor Neil said, “but we feel it is time to build equity and own our own home.”

He emphasized that this transition is a positive step forward and one that reflects long-term commitment rather than departure.

Pastor Neil will continue to use his office at the parsonage during the week and remain fully engaged in ministry. He also shared that he hopes to work from home on Fridays when possible, noting that this change will help strengthen his home and work balance.

Pastor Neil informed the Salem congregation of his upcoming home purchase during worship on Sunday, February 15th.

Importantly, he wanted the congregation to hear the news directly. “The reason I wanted to tell the congregation is because if a U-Haul truck is seen outside the parsonage, the community will be talking,” he said with a smile.

Continued Commitment to Salem Community Church

Above all, Pastor Neil expressed confidence that the congregation will view this move as a good and healthy step. “I feel strongly called to Salem Community Church,” he shared. “We are planting into the community for good. We are invested here.”

He added that he believes this transition will bring renewed focus and energy to the ministry, describing it as “a revised and refreshed energy—zeal and gusto.”

Pastor Neil expressed gratitude for the continued support and prayers of the church family as they step into this new season together.

Save the Dates . . .

SENIOR LUNCHEON - Sunday, April 19, 2026, 12:30 p.m., at Salem Social Room [Contact: Wanda Barkdoll]

LADIES NIGHT OUT - Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant, Thurmont. [Contact: Wanda Barkdoll]

At the same time, the **MEN** have also reserved a table in the restaurant for a get-together of their own. [Contact: Gary Barkdoll]

It's Your Day!



March Anniversaries

- 18 - Sam & Jane Zimmerman

March Birthdays

- 5 - Sarah Haddock
- 5 - Richard Harshman
- 6 - Jane Zimmerman
- 7 - Joshua Koons
- 8 - Madison Elsbach
- 9 - Janice Harshman
- 9 - Mary Ellen Eccard
- 11 - Dawn Nelson
- 12 - Tyler Stine
- 12 - Jennifer Harne
- 15 - Vicki Robinson
- 16 - Ken Poling
- 17 - Audrey Tolland
- 19 - Bobby Doyle
- 19 - Ralph Wright
- 19 - Ken Walls
- 23 - Chris Leatherman
- 23 - Kathy Hill
- 24 - Allison Adams
- 24 - Sharon Harshman
- 25 - Jody Eccard-Duley
- 28 - Shelby Leatherman
- 31 - Iris Malkowicz

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is practicing the songs they will sing at Easter. Practices are on Sundays, after Sunday School, from 11:00 to 11:15. If you have children who would like to join the group, just come to the Sunday practices. Contact: Jody Eccard-Duley, 240-818-7134.

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

Could We Forget?

By Edna Jaques



Why is it every springtime seems so new?
We know the crocuses will bloom again
And buttercups beside the pasture fence
Will call to golden tulips in the lane,
And yet when spring comes creeping down the trees,
We are surprised and wonder still at these.

Do we forget, when winter days are long,
The marshy places where the lilies lie
Under the ground and quiet banks of snow,
Waiting for spring to call across the sky?
Do we forget, because the nights are long,
The thrilling wonder of a robin's song?

Oh, yes, as long as spring comes back to earth
We will rejoice at miracles like these,
That brown wet earth can yield a lily cup,
That birds will build their houses in the trees,
And every twig and bush and living thing
Will answer to the throbbing call of spring.

March Winds

By Mildred L. Jarrell

The many winds of March will sing
A welcome song to early spring,
From mighty gusts that bend the trees,
To softly-sighing, gentle breeze.

Like great, white ships the clouds on high
Go racing o'er the wind-swept sky,
While down below, the hills and plains
Are whisked by nature's broom again.

The winds of March, you can be sure,
Will be a lamb or a lion's roar;
And I care not, for my heart sings,
Because it is the start of spring.

Go to God in Prayer

By Dolores Karides

It's easy to complain and fret and feel that life's unfair,
To suffer pangs of misery and wallow in despair . . .
But if you pause to contemplate
And go to God in prayer,
Then He will soothe and calm your fears
And bless you with His care.



RECIPE



Soda-Bread Biscuits

DIRECTIONS:

Mix 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons sugar and 3/4 teaspoon each baking soda and kosher salt in a bowl. Work in 2 tablespoons diced cold butter by hand. Add 1/2 cup raisins and 1 tablespoon caraway seeds. Mix in 3/4 cup buttermilk (a little more if needed). Pat out the dough until 1 inch thick; cut into four to six 2 1/2-inch rounds. Bake at 375 degrees, 15 to 20 minutes.

These biscuits are sometimes called little mini Irish soda bread.



Palm Sunday

By Raymond Orner

They cut the branches from the trees
And strew them in the way,
Because they knew their Lord and King
Would come along that day.

They sang Hosanna to the King,
And praised His holy name;
Now even in this modern day,
We, too, should do the same.

The Christ who came
that palm-strewn way
To enter in the gate,
Will enter in your heart today,
So do not make Him wait.



That palm-strewn path of long ago
Is still a victory sign,
That Christ still comes along the way
Into your heart and mine.

Kindness

By Nora M. Boseman

Be kind to all, let your spirit lift
Those whose lives may be adrift;
Be pleasant and always wear a smile,
Let that be your "kindness style."
Be kind to all, don't be sad and blue,
If you smile your sun can shine through;
Let His heavenly love divine
Around your happy heart entwine.
Be kind to all for life is frail,
Sometimes on stormy seas you'll sail,
But God is there, you won't be alone —
Because of the "kindness seeds"
you've sown.

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

Sweet Relief

By Linda C. Grazulis

Place your hand in our Father's
When surrounded by the dark
of night;
Let His spirit lead boldly onward
Into the glorious light!
There's strength to move
a mountain,
Faith to believe God can,
Persistence to conquer the obstacles,
Love for our fellow man;
Peace to calm a troubled sea,
Comfort amid the grief,
Joy when sorrows linger,
Patience, hope, sweet relief!

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your
face, the rains fall soft upon your
fields. And until we meet again, May
God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Message from the Pastor

and

Worship in March

■ By PASTOR NEIL SUDERS

The Passion Week of Jesus Christ

Passion Week stands at the center of the Christian faith as the decisive moment in which Jesus Christ accomplished the redemption of humanity.

It is called the Passion Week because the Latin word *passio* means suffering and endurance.

From our theological perspective, the events of this week are historical, divinely orchestrated acts in which the Son of God fulfilled prophecy, confronted sin, and established the unshakeable foundation of the gospel.

Palm Sunday

The triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, for example, was not merely a cultural moment of enthusiasm but a deliberate declaration of kingship.

Christ entered Jerusalem as the promised Messiah, the rightful heir to David's throne, and the one who came not to be molded by public expectation but to fulfill the Father's will.

The Week Unfolds

As the week unfolded, Jesus' actions revealed a Savior who refused to compromise truth for the sake of political convenience or cultural approval.

His cleansing of the temple was a forceful reminder that worship is not a human invention but a sacred trust.

Passion Week exposed the uncomfortable reality that sin is not a minor flaw but a rebellion requiring judgment—and that Christ alone can bear that judgment on our behalf.

The Last Supper

The Last Supper and the events of Gethsemane highlighted the depth of Christ's obedience. He did not



negotiate with the Father's plan; nor did He seek an easier path. Instead, He submitted perfectly, demonstrating that true freedom is found not in self-expression but in surrender to God's authority.

It was on the evening of the Last Supper that Judas Iscariot sought to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

This moment was the ultimate example of righteous submission—an act that stands in stark contrast to modern impulses toward autonomy and self-rule.

The Crucifixion

Finally, the crucifixion was not a tragic accident or political martyrdom. It was the intentional, substitutionary sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

Jesus bore the wrath that sinners deserve, satisfying divine justice while extending divine mercy.

Passion Week culminated in the cross because the cross was the only means by which humanity could be reconciled to God.

And though the resurrection lies just beyond the week's horizon, the events of Passion Week themselves testify that God's plan is sovereign, Christ's authority is absolute, and salvation is a gift secured not by human effort but by the finished work of Jesus.

Worship in March

This is the time of year where we are observing Lent and renewing our vigor in our Christian life.

Whether you have chosen to give up something for Lent or add a spiritual discipline to your daily routine, it is my prayer that this month is a time of spiritual growth.

This month ends with Palm Sunday and that day is the start of the Passion Week.

Here are the sermon passages and topics for this special month.

Sunday, March 1

Joshua 9:1-27

"Fool Me Once, Shame On You..."

The Gibeonites pulled the wool over Joshua. After hearing what the Israelites did to Jericho and Ai, they found a way to deceive Joshua.

This deception spared their lives. Joshua was gullible because he did not seek wisdom from the Lord.

We can relate, can't we? Often, we are in a rush, or we are just casual with decisions to make, and we tend to "trust our gut."

Today we will look at what our obligations and duties are, to be good stewards of God's resources.

Sunday, March 8

Joshua 10:1-15

"The Longest Day EVER!"

Have you ever had a day that seemed to last forever? When those days are pleasant, we do not mind that they seem to last. But when they are unpleasant days, we dread that they seem to last forever.

There was a day when Israel was fighting on behalf of the Gibeonites. They were fighting a consolidated army of five enemy kings. This passage tells us that God had the sun stand still for a full day.

Today, we will understand what happened, and we will see how God wants to fight our battles for us.

Sunday, March 15

Joshua 23:1-16

"The State of the Nation"

Towards the end of the Book of Joshua, Joshua had reminded the Israelites what God had done for them.

With His help, they had entered the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

continued from page 5

WORSHIP IN MARCH

By Pastor Neil Suders

land, conquered the land, and divided the land. Joshua then encouraged their faithfulness considering God's faithfulness.

The message for us today will be how we should live our lives as faithful stewards of God's blessings.



Sunday, March 22

Joshua 24:14-33

"As For Me and My Household..."

On his final challenge to the Israelites, Joshua gave them the choice of which deity would be the object of their worship.

We have that same choice today. We can offer our allegiance, loyalty, and worship to any "god" we choose.

Joshua exhorted them to remember all that Jehovah had done for them. He told them to choose this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Mark 14:1-11

"Jesus Was Anointed at Bethany"

Palm Sunday was the day that Jesus entered into Jerusalem prior to his trials and crucifixion.

While the chief priests and scribes were seeking to kill him, he was anointed with an expensive perfume from an alabaster jar.

This was the final act of affection Jesus received before he was nailed to a cross for our sins.

From the "Hosannas" along the way to the cross of Calvary, this week was one for the books. And among all those major events, Jesus was worshiped by a woman who dearly loved Him.

As we celebrate this Palm Sunday, we will focus on the unfettered love and worship of our Savior.

Salem Community Choir Notes

Spring Season

By Sandy Lewis

Salem Choir is preparing musical offerings for the Lenten season, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, which remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us and celebrate his glorious resurrection.

Marlene has provided audio links to help us in learning the songs.

Practices will continue on Tuesday's at 7:30 p.m. through April. We welcome all who would like to join us in praising God in song.

Thanks to everyone for their dedication and participation.



Grades 3-5

BE A "SPARKS YOUTH" EVERY SUNDAY

In March, the "Sparks" (Grades 3-5) Upper Elementary Sunday School class will see "Jesus Taught How to Live" -- by seeking God!

Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first.

Above all the daily distractions, temptations, and all the world falsely says about how to live, Jesus tells us the truth: seek God. This is no easy task, but Matthew 6:33 also gives us a promise as we do it — all these things will be provided to you.

In this month's lessons, our "Sparks" students will study that Jesus grew and learned about God; Jesus taught that believers should forgive others as God forgave them; Jesus taught not to worry; Jesus taught about giving; and that Jesus is the Messiah.

Jesus not only taught his disciples, he set the example for us to follow by obeying and loving God.

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



Seniors Ministry

Age 60 and Older

By Ken Walls

"A Layman's Look Into The Passover" will be the theme of our next Seniors Ministry get-together.

It's a wonderful observance from the days of Moses!

Our next Seniors Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10th at 10 a.m. in the Salem social room.

We'll take a closer look into the Passover. We'll look to the Scriptures, to the 'Traditions of the Fathers' and to some legends that have been passed down across the centuries.

Looking forward to a great time of fellowship— 10 a.m. 'til noon. —Ken & Thelma



New Cemetery Adornment Policy

By George Stottlemeyer, Chair, Cemetery Committee

Beginning in 2026, a seasonal policy has been instituted regarding the placement and removal of flowers, ornaments, and other adornments at grave sites in our cemetery.

The cycle for placement of those items will be consistent with seasonal changes. Therefore, beginning in March through September, we ask that spring and summer seasonal items be displayed; and October through February fall and winter seasonal items be displayed.

At the end of each season, we ask that items out of season be removed. Any items remaining will be removed by custodians of the cemetery. We ask that all items displayed be placed either on the headstone or as close to the stone as possible to accommodate mowing.

Minimum of 15 to make the trip

SALEM TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Walking Where Jesus Walked

By Pastor Neil Suders
pastorneil05@gmail.com

We are scheduling a trip to the Holy Land in October, 2026.

We will be flying from either JFK in New York, or Dulles out of DC on the evening of October 21, 2026.

We will need a **minimum of 15 guests** to make the trip a reality. Obviously, first priority will go to the Salem Community Church family. However, if you know of friends or family who are interested in going, please let me know.

We have until **June 14, 2026**, to give a **tentative list**.

Places to Visit in Israel

Jerusalem Eternal Tours (JET), Inc. will be our guides. We will experience western Israel and the region of Galilee. We will visit the Dead Sea, have an opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River, and visit Jerusalem, the city of David.

A boat ride on the sea of Galilee and a Bible study in the garden of Gethsemane will be among the highlights of the trip.

More details will be available later, but the trip will conclude with a banquet on the 29th, followed by our midnight flight to return home on the 30th.

Estimated Cost

The estimated cost of the trip is about \$2,200 per person, plus airfare and tips. There are discounted rates for more than twenty guests.

Rates will be priced with a double occupancy (but a single room rate would be available with an added surcharge).

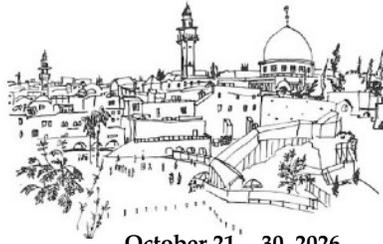
A **deposit of \$200** with room assignments will be needed **by July 14th, 2026**.

Interested in the Trip?

Please send me an email (pastorneil05@gmail.com) or hand me a note so I have a list in writing. I will keep the congregation apprised of the status.

As I mentioned in the email, even if you expressed interest last time, please tell me again.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on this trip of a lifetime. Incidentally, IF the region becomes a battle zone again, JET, Inc. will cancel the trip.



October 21 – 30, 2026

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.

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.



Heroes' Club

Salem's after school ministry on Mondays, Heroes' Club, will be held only when Frederick County schools are open.

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.

Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Salem's midweek Bible study, led by Pastor Neil, meets on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the church social room. Join us in person or Zoom in from home. Contact Pastor Neil for the Zoom link.

Salem Iron Men

The Salem Iron Men have moved their regular monthly gatherings to the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Bill Weaver, 301-730-7247

Salem Logo Apparel

Orders due March 22

Visit www.corporatecasuals.com /embroidered to view available items.

Submit orders by March 22 to Wanda Barkdoll at jansack@earthlink.net.

Please include item description, size, and color.

Wanda will place the order. When items are received, you pay Wanda.



Daylight
Saving
Time
begins
Sunday
March 8

*Scenes from . . .***SOUP & SANDWICH SALE***Photos by Wanda Barkdoll*

Busy assembling 376 country ham and turkey salad sandwiches. Also sold were 240 quarts of four kinds of soup. Details about the results of the Winter Soup and Sandwich Sale are on page 9.

Salem Community Church "Photo Directory"

There is good news, and there is not-so-good news. The good news is that our church is growing! The not-so-good news is that some of us don't know the names of all the new people.

That dilemma can be solved with our new Photo Directory.

We will be scheduling appointments for pictures to be taken at the church on Monday, April 6th and Tuesday, April 7th between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be a minimum of 40 appointments per day. The appointments can be scheduled on our church website or at the church before worship and after Sunday school. Volunteers will be scheduling appointments during those times, beginning Sunday, March 1st and running through Easter Sunday, April 5th.

There will be no pressure to purchase pictures, and every family who has a picture taken will receive a free directory, and a free 8x10 portrait, as well. However, extra pictures MAY be purchased in printed and/or digital form, but that is up to the families.

We will need a minimum of 40 families to schedule pictures, and if more than 80 are scheduled, a third day of pictures may be scheduled. Obviously, the appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

In Christ, —*Pastor Neil*

**Sunday School****EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING**

Exciting things are happening in our Sunday School program at Salem Community Church, Wolfsville!

Beginning February 1, we re-aligned some of our age groups to better balance class sizes and create the best learning environment for everyone.

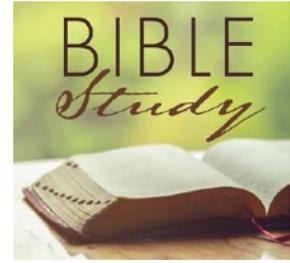
Join us as we explore God's Word together in age-appropriate and welcoming classes:

Classes Available:

- Beginnings (PreK-K) – downstairs classroom
- Early Elementary (Grades 1-2) – downstairs classroom
- Upper Elementary "Sparks" (Grades 3-5) – upstairs social room
- Teen Class (Grades 6-12) – downstairs "Youth Room"
- Young Adults "Crossroads" (after high school to thirty-somethings) – upstairs social room
- Special Needs Class "Inclusion in the Word" (high school & adults) – church sanctuary
- Adult Class (Men & Women) – downstairs classroom
- Adult Discussion Group (Singles & Couples) – upstairs social room

Come grow with us every Sunday from 10:15-11:00 a.m., following Sunday Worship.

We'd love for your family to join us for Sunday School at Salem Community Church, Wolfsville!

**Ten things automatically happen when you attend church on Sunday.**

Pastor Neil recently posted this on his Facebook page:

1. You publicly demonstrate where your priorities truly are.
2. You see people you would likely never encounter apart from church.
3. Your pastor is encouraged simply by seeing you faithful in your place. (Yes—attendance still matters.)
4. Your opportunities to serve increase because availability always precedes usefulness.
5. You hear the Word preached and your soul is fed by Scripture.
6. You become aware of needs and are given opportunities to give.
7. You hear the pages of God's Word turning throughout the service, one of the best sounds on earth.
8. You hear a baby cry, and instead of being annoyed, you smile, because that is the sound of a growing church.
9. You sing with God's people and worship Jesus together.
10. You are given repeated chances to put others before yourself, especially in a full sanctuary and a crowded parking lot.

Determine to be in a Bible preaching church this Sunday and worship Jesus.

Sunday, March 8, 10:15 a.m.

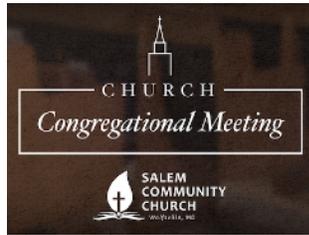
SALEM’S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual Congregational Meeting of the membership of Salem Community Church will be held on Sunday, March 8, 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 worked in January and February to prepare a slate of church officers and ministry leaders that was presented to the Church Council in February; and will be presented to the church membership for a vote on March 8th. These leaders would serve until the next Congregational Meeting, expected in March 2027.



Agenda for Congregational Meeting

- I. Gathering / Member Count 10:00-10:15 am Theresa Haupt
- II. Call to Order, Welcome & Prayer 10:15 am Vernon Stottlemyer
- III. Election of Officers * 10:20 am Pastor Neil Suders
- IV. Treasurer’s Report 10:30 am Bill Burrier
- V. Trustees’ Report 10:35 am Sue Ellen Stottlemyer
- VI. Food Pantry Report 10:40 am Justinn & Holly Irons
- VII. Pastor’s Report 10:45 am Pastor Neil Suders
- VIII. Open Discussion / Questions 10:50 am Vernon Stottlemyer
*A time for members to ask questions or make comments.
No motions from the floor.*
- IX. Closing Prayer of Consecration 11:00 am Pastor Neil Suders
- X. Adjournment Vernon Stottlemyer

* Elected officers and ministry leaders will be published in next month’s “Mountain Shepherd.” Terms will begin immediately and continue until the next Congregational Meeting in March 2027, or through the year indicated if a multi-year term. Thank you to each person who said “yes” to serve at Salem Community Church during 2026.

In honor of St. Patrick’s Day

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
 May the wind be always at your back,
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 And the rains, fall soft upon your fields,
 And, until we meet again,
 May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.



NEWS & NOTES

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-Raiser Successful

The “Bee-lievers” Women’s Group held a spaghetti dinner on Friday, January 23, 2026, and raised \$640 with approximately 45-50 people attending. Cost for the dinner was by donation only.



The menu consisted of spaghetti with regular or meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, choice of drinks and large selection of desserts.

Thank you so much for your support and the people who donated desserts for the event.

—Wanda Barkdoll

Candles in the Windows

If you are driving by or in the church parking lot at nighttime, you will notice that there are candles in the windows adjacent to the parking lot.

I wanted them for the Advent season because I love candles. We used to have electric candles, but the cords were cumbersome and dangerous. So, someone donated some “battery-operated” dusk-to-dawn candles to the church.

I want to leave them up all year.

Here is why: In Exodus 27:20-21, we read “Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.”

So, we have beautiful decorations with spiritual implications. If anyone would like to donate some AA batteries, we will accept them. —Pastor Neil

Soup & Sandwich Sale Successful

The Winter Soup & Sandwich Sale conducted by the Salem “Bee-lievers” Women’s Group was a big success.

- The group sold 240 quarts of soup:
 - 92 Vegetable 44 Turkey Noodle
 - 27 Turkey Corn 77 Bean with Rivals
 - The group also sold 376 sandwiches:
 - 232 Turkey Salad 144 Country Ham
 - Also sold was 12 pounds of turkey salad
- After expenses, the net profit totaled \$2,944.84.

Again, thank you for your support and all the people who assisted in making this possible.

—Wanda Barkdoll

[Ed. Note: This same food will be made again for Salem’s annual Lord’s Acre Festival, the 2nd Saturday in September.]

Grandma Tells the Easter Story

Easter time, like Christmas time, is a glorious season of the year, and it fills the hearts of the younger ones with happiness and joy.

To those of us who get that old nostalgic feeling, it seems to bring back memories of other Easters, of cheerful old scenes and of childhood friends we knew.

For some of us, at Easter time, our thoughts of the past turn to dear old grandma and the stories she once told us a long time ago. Here's one of those stories we like to remember.

It was one day before Easter. Mama wanted to go shopping alone, like she did before Christmas. So she left us at grandma's house. Grandma was peeling apples for Easter pies in the kitchen.

The Easter rabbit became the topic of wild discussion. He always left a nest for each of us at grandma's house. We saw baskets on a top shelf, but grandpa quickly closed the pantry door and said to us, "Go see grandma! She'll tell you a story!"

Grandma smiled. She loved to tell us Bible stories in her own, plain, but impressive way, especially stories of the Son of God. Grandma loved our Lord, Jesus Christ, and worshiped him!

Somehow, grandma's know just how to tell a story that leaves an everlasting impression when told during one's childhood. Our grandma knew how, too! It wasn't like other times when grandma told us beautiful Bible stories, this time her smile went away as she began...

At the time, an annual religious feast was about to begin in Jerusalem. Jesus was in great danger and he knew it, but just the same, he went there with his disciples. It was the custom to eat a certain kind of supper during the festival. So, they ate together. For Jesus, it was his last supper.

Being the son of God, Jesus knew he was to be sacrificed on the next day, and he also knew that one of his disciples was to betray him. He had told the disciples that he was to die, and that he would rise from death on the third day!

After the supper, they went to the garden of Gethsemane, near Jerusalem. While his disciples slept nearby, Jesus prayed.

And there in that dark, lonesome spot in the garden, Jesus prayed in agony, and he begged for strength, before he was to make the supreme sacrifice for us!

All of his disciples were sound asleep— all but one, Judas. He wasn't there, but Jesus knew where he was. He was bringing soldiers to the garden to arrest our Lord! Jesus was to die at the hands of the very people whom he had come to save. Even for the Son of God, it was not a nice thought, to know that death was near... that on the next day he would die...



We were startled! . . .

It was the way grandma said it! For a moment, it was just like



lightning struck the kitchen. It seemed like the cuckoo clock on the wall stopped ticking. Even one of the apples fell, and rolled on the floor as grandma gesture with her hand and raised her voice.

Then she continued her story...

Those who hated Jesus were jealous, and afraid of him, especially the cruel king, Herod. The enemies of Jesus were afraid that he would actually be crowned King. So they decided to sacrifice him...

Innocent or guilty, they wanted to convince the people that he was not the Son of God.

Judas, the weakest of the disciples and very greedy, betrayed his master with a kiss for 30 pieces of silver. In that way, he pointed out Jesus to the soldiers and they arrested him.

Back-and-forth, they took Jesus first to the high priest, and as our Lord told the court that he was the Son of God, they demanded the death penalty, but they wanted Pilate, the Roman Governor to pronounce the sentence...

And, it got to be ridiculous! None wanted to be blamed. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod for judgment, but Christ refused to answer his questions. He remained silent... And... Jesus was sent back to Pilate who had our Lord scourged.

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Grandma Tells the Easter Story

continued from page 8

Then to be more cruel, the soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it upon the head of Jesus, and laughing... they called him, King! Pilate thought the people would be satisfied, and when he showed Jesus to them, they screamed "Crucify him." And then the angry mob dragged him away. Jesus had to carry the cross through the streets. As he trudged along the road to Calvary, the cross became heavier and he fell.

Pilate was a weak man. Just to please the people, he condemned Jesus to death. He washed his hands and said, I am innocent of the blood of this, just man.

The soldiers were afraid that Christ might die from exhaustion before they reached Calvary Hill... so they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross. Then they reached Calvary and the terrible hours began...

Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross! And his mother was there to see it. Sometimes I close my eyes and try to see the picture... It seems to scream with pain and horror.

We listened intently...

Right at that part of the story, Grandma stopped talking. We saw she was crying. Grandpa, too, saw her cry, and he comforted her.

In a few minutes, she continued her story...

On each side of Jesus were crosses, too. Thieves were tied on them. For three long, long, long hours he suffered in terrible agony on the cross... And... He was thirsty. One of the soldiers dipped a sponge in a mixture of vinegar and water. And he put it on his spear and pressed it to Christ lips. So mean they were!

At the end of the third hour, Jesus died! By his suffering and death upon the cross, he sacrificed himself for our salvation. Man's redemption was completed!

Right after he died, the Earth opened, the rocks split, the temple was torn apart and many of the dead arose. The sky became dark, almost black, and lightning flashed angrily.

Jesus' mother stayed until the bitter end. Then they took him down from the cross and carried him to a tomb offered by Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus had no tomb of his own.

The enemies of our Lord remembered Christ's prophecy to rise again. They didn't believe it, but they were afraid that his friends might take his body away and pretend that he did rise.



So they sealed the very heavy stoned entrance and had soldiers guard the tomb day and night.

Very early in the morning on the third day after the awful crucifixion, Jesus rose gloriously from the tomb! The soldiers were terrified...

And... that is how Easter came to be. After being with his friends for a little while Jesus ascended up to heaven.

It is a story we must not forget...

And that is why our thoughts always turn to dear old Grandma at Easter time, for it was on one day before Easter that she told it to us a long time ago.

Adapted from a story written by Erwin L. Hess, published in "Easter Memory Lane" an ideals publication, 1962.

"You Are Welcome"

Upon turning the corner to enter our sanctuary, you cannot miss seeing the new welcome sign. That sign was crafted by Paul Harne, who lives on Black Rock Road. Paul made two signs for the Wolfsville Stop. Sadly, the Wolfsville Stop has closed, but the store wanted to donate the signs. One sign was given to Wolfsville Elementary School. The store wanted our church to receive the other one. It is nice to be recognized by the community with a sign that reflects our desire to make everyone feel welcome. Perhaps we can see the sign as both an **invitation** and a **challenge**. It can be an **invitation** to make everyone feel welcome, and it can also be a **challenge** for us to welcome others!

In Christ, —Pastor Neil





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 Dog Tale



Margaret and Fred wanted a “truly Christian” dog. So they went to a kennel that specialized in that particular breed. There they found a dog they liked. When they asked him to fetch a Bible, he did it in a flash. “Oh, we’ll take this pup, he’s wonderful,” said Margaret and Fred. That night they invited friends from their church over to meet the remarkable dog. The guests were impressed with Fido’s ability to do Christian tricks, “Can he do regular dog tricks, too?” they asked. They’d never thought of that. “Well,” they said, “let’s try this out.” So they clearly pronounced the command, “Heel!” Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, put his paw on Fred’s forehead, closed his eyes in concentration, and bowed his head.

Some thoughts to ponder . . .

The world says, “Seeing is believing.” Faith says, “Believing is seeing.”

Those who joyfully leave everything in God’s hand will eventually see God’s hand in everything.

Where we come from is not half so important as where we are going.

The difficulties of life are intended to make us better, not bitter.



The Mountain Shepherd

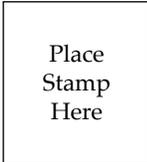
Salem Community Church, Wolfsville
P. O. Box 144
Myersville, MD 21773-0144

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

Address Services Requested

SERVICE TIMES

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



March 2026

COME GROW WITH US