



Lent

Believe it or not we are on the doorstep of the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 17 and the first Sunday of Lent follows immediately on February 21. We were in the middle of Lent when the Covid Crisis began. Remember back to those early days when we thought it would all pass over soon. Here we are, almost a year later still trying to figure out how to move on. Lent takes on a different feel this year.

Our focus in worship will be based on the Old Testament story of Jacob wrestling all night with an unknown entity. That entity turns out to be God. The wrestling results in a lifelong injury and a blessing for Jacob. The story is found in the Bible at Genesis Chapter 32 beginning at verse 22. To accompany that storyline, we will pair that with a little-known Charles Wesley poem / hymn. It is in our hymnal on page 386, titled "Come, O thou Traveler Unknown". While the hymn is printed with four verses, on Page 387 there are 14 verses of the poem printed there. At the top of the next page in small print is a notation about the use of the poem in Charles' funeral service.

Wrestling with unknown entities seems to be a theme that will resonate with many of us in this protracted season. It seems to take twice as long to get half as much done these days. The constrictions on our living and the need to learn so many new ways to get the same old things done in our everyday life are unendurable. But we will endure on, by God's grace.

Our heavily liturgical worship services for Lent may take on a different feel this year. Keep an eye out for those opportunities.

May God Bless You In This New Year

We pray that in this New Year we can work together so that everyone can find better days for health and well-being, especially for those who have fewer opportunities around the world. Today we pray and cry for the loss that so many families feel. We are united in grief, but we are also united in the hope and promises of new days.

During this week we pray that God will bless the USA with peace, especially in this important week in the life of your country. We pray that violence of any kind will not have a place. All the churches of Ecuador are joined daily in prayer from home at 3 pm, and at this time many will be naming you, your family and your church.

(this new year's blessing was sent to us by the people of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador)



Salem UMC Children

Every other Sunday evening from 5-6 pm our children are invited to "Escape". Join us for a time of fellowship, devotion, and a fun activity. We will meet outdoors on the playground side, unless weather forces us indoors. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Anderson or Heather Magann. We hope to see you there - February 7th, February 21st.

Fundraiser Dinner

**Drive thru Dinner Pick-up Tuesday, Feb 16
5:00 - 6:30P.M.**

Come pick up a nice hot meal to enjoy at home. This is usually the night of the Pancake Supper but this year we will be doing something different. Janet Haas will be preparing individual servings of Chicken Pot Pie. The Youth parents will provide desserts. **Just contact Jim Magann at jimmagann@gmail.com by Sunday, Feb 14 to let us know how many servings you will get.** The cost is donation only and will go towards Youth Foreign Missions in 2022. Just drive thru the front parking lot of the church between 5:00-6:30 on Feb 16 to pick up your meals and drop off your donation for the meals. You don't even need to get out of the car. **BUT WAIT!!!!** That's not all!!! The Mission of the Month of February is donating stuffed animals to the local Police Dept. for children dealing with stressful situations requiring Police assistance. When you come and pick up your meals, please drop off a new or VERY gently used stuffed animal that the youth will deliver on Sunday, Feb. 28.

Thank You!

We would like to thank our church family of Salem for the prayers for my recent hospitalization for COVID-19. We are on the mend, one day at a time.

Love, Barry & Judy Shilo

Youth News

Confirmation: 3:30 P.M. each Sunday

Feb 7 - Revelation - Gary Phillips
Feb 14 - Grace - Heather Magann
Feb 21 - Salvation - Jim Magann
Feb 28 - Perfection - Heather Magann

Youth Group: 5:00 P.M. each Sunday

Feb 7 - Escape Room - Devotion: Moral Boundaries
Feb 14 - Small Groups
Feb 21 - Hide & Seek in dark - Devotion: Healthy Friendships
Feb 28 - Service Night - Deliver Stuffed Animals to local Police Department

Mission of the Month

The Month of February we will be collecting New or gently used stuffed animals to donate to the Local Police Department. These will then be given to children of homes where Police have had to be involved in assisting in stressful or domestic situations. **The Youth will then deliver these to the Police Department on Sunday, Feb 28.** You may drop them by the Church office, Welcome Center on a Sunday Morning, or when you drive thru to pick up your Fundraising Meals on Feb 16.



2021 Flower Calendar

The 2021 Flower Calendar has been placed in the Welcome Center. Cost is \$95 for two arrangements and is a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize someone special. The arrangements are yours to take following the service. Please help support the church in this meaningful manner.



Memorials & Honorariums



Building Fund

In loving memory of Barry Joye by
Steve & Mary George Smith
Bill & Sandra Sills

In loving memory of Lynda Faulkenberry by
Lee & Janice Ayers

In loving memory of Peggy Smyly by
Mike & Gwen Sitsch

In loving memory of Wayne & Joyce Butler by
John & Emma Davis

General Fund

In loving memory of Barry Joye by
Dan & Carla Jennings

In loving memory of Wallace Stokes by
Dan & Carla Jennings

In loving memory of William & Althea Fogle by
Dr. & Mrs. William Fogle

Notes For Our Church Family

Live Streaming Issues

We have been live streaming the services for several months now. Many times it goes off without a hitch. However there are a few times that something happens to impede the streaming of the service. The primary issue recently has been something that pops up at the very last minute. We will hit the button to go live and only then do we get an alert. This has happened twice and the first time it took a couple of weeks to get corrected. It happened again on January 17 and we were able to fix it as soon as service was over. Now that we know how to fix it, it only takes a few minutes to do so, however if we are trying to fix at the same time the service is going on, it is very difficult to correct it and keep everything else going without interruption. We have decided that what we will do is change the time that we go live. We normally go "live" at about 10:27 so that there is not alot of dead time on the screen for everyone before the service starts. We will now begin the service going live at 10:20. This will allow us to correct any problem that may come up without interrupting the service. If there are issues

we can not get corrected, we will post on facebook under the service and if possible, we will join in as soon as we can. We thank each of you for your patience when these issues arise and know we are working to make sure everything is working the best it can and improving regularly.

8:30 Outdoor Service

For those that are considering participating in the 8:30 outdoor service the following guidelines have been put into place:

On Saturday night if the WIS weather app indicates the temperature will be above 35 degrees by 8:00 am the service will be held. If the temperature is below 35 degrees then the service will be moved into the fellowship hall. All of this of course is dependent on precipitation. In case of rain / snow the service will be brought indoors as well.

JIGSAW PUZZLE

SWAP



After months of being at home, have you exhausted all your avenues for entertainment? Have you read all the books in your home library? Have you finally finished the 3 jigsaw puzzles you have had stored in a closet for the last 15 years? Are you still ordering from Amazon daily and maxing out your credit card, purchasing new forms of entertainment (and Christmas gifts)?

After literally completing 25 jigsaw puzzles over the last 9 months and ordering more, I suddenly wondered why puzzle enthusiasts in the church could not swap puzzles instead of continuing to spend money buying new ones.

Therefore, it seemed that a Jigsaw Puzzle Swap “Meet” would be a good solution. We would set a date for those who want to swap to bring theirs to the Fellowship Hall. Every borrower would sign that he/she received a specific puzzle and bring it back on the return date which would be the day of the next swap.

The swap “meet” would last for several hours so everyone would not have to come at the same time if not comfortable around other people. We would spread out the puzzles all over the room so there would be plenty of room for social distancing. Any puzzles remaining at the end of the meet would be moved to the church library for anyone who might prefer to come later to borrow theirs.

Anyone would be welcome to participate, even those who do not have a puzzle to bring but would like to borrow and return one.

If you would like to participate in the jigsaw puzzle swap, please call or text Dolly Kent at 803-240-2831.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes have arrived for 2021! They are located in the Welcome Center and the church office.

Life Line Screening



We are pleased to host a Life Line Screening event **Wednesday, March 3**, at Salem United Methodist Church. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

We have a limited number of spaces available.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.



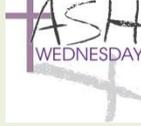
Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van

SUMC is proud to again partner with Lexington Medical Center's Mobile Mammography Van on **Tuesday, February 9th** from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to provide safe and convenient 3-D mammograms for our community. To schedule an appointment and complete registration, call **803-791-2486**, and select option #1. Screening will be filed through your insurance. Please contact Jennifer Hodges at 865-437-7950 if you have any questions.



February

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1 6:00 Outreach Meeting	2	3 6:30 Worship Committee Meeting	4	5	6
7 5:00 Escape	8	9 LMU Mobile Mammogram 6:30 Finance Mtg 7:00 Council Mtg	10	11	12	13
14 	15 Office Closed Holiday Newsletter deadline	16 Shrove Tuesday Drive thru Dinner 5-6:30	17  7:00 Service	18	19	20
21 5:00 Escape 1 st Sunday of Lent	22 6:30 Missions Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Sunday's

Notes

8:30 Outside Worship Service
 9:30 Sunday School
 10:30 Worship Service
 3:30 Confirmation
 5:00 Youth Group

*AA meets every
 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:00*
 Choir Practice 7:00 Wednesday



salem
United Methodist Church

**1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, SC 29063**

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Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30-12:00 1:00-3:30
803-781-1626
E-mail: smethodist@aol.com
website: salemumcsc.com

Worship Hours

Early Worship: 8:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Morning
Worship: 10:30 am

Newsletter Information

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, or if you have questions, comments, or articles for the newsletter, please send an e-mail or call the church.

Anyone who would like to submit an article or item for the **March** newsletter should do so by **February 15th**.



OUR MINISTRY TEAM



Gary Phillips — Pastor
Bill Childs — Pastor of Visitation
Ashley Anderson — Children's Ministries
Sarah Bridges — Director of Music
Stephanie Knott — Pianist
Angie Lain — Business/Finance Manager
Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist
Jim Magann — Youth/Outreach Ministries
Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries
Marie Wicker — Administrative Assistant

E-Giving

Please prayerfully consider giving to Salem United Methodist Church through our e-Giving program. Scan the QR code below to be taken to Salem's donation page to present your offering.



You can also visit the link:

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-2365>