



Jeff's Journal

"...the hopes and fears of all the years..."

As I write this journal entry for December, I am almost in disbelief that Advent and Christmas are upon us once again. At the same time, I'm excited about it, as I love this season.

I love everything about Christmas, and I recognize that for me, so much of what I look forward to and enjoy each December is tied to tradition. These traditions serve as touchstones that connect me to feelings and emotions that go all the way back to my childhood. I must confess that every year I still find myself revisiting those animated Christmas classics I grew up with. As I get older, I'm able to hear deeper meanings behind those stories, even theological ones. That's one of the reasons I chose to offer an Advent study, *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*, created by Matt Rawle, as it explores *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* through a theological lens (and it is deeply theological). There is still much we can learn from this story, especially as adults, and I hope you'll consider joining us for the study.

I suppose the main thing I enjoy during this season is the music. Yes, I admit it; I'm one of those that starts listening to Christmas music in November. Even though one of my favorite holidays is Thanksgiving, the truth is, every year as I'm traveling the proverbial "over the river and through the woods" to join family for Thanksgiving, it's Christmas music that's playing in the car. I can't help myself.

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. It's a peaceful tune with picturesque lyrics that seem to transport me in space and time. Interestingly, this song was written for children in the Sunday School of Holy Trinity Church by Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal clergyman. This hymn was first published in December of 1871 in a Sunday School hymnal, following a trip that Brooks made to Bethlehem. While on that trip, Brooks was riding on horseback through Bethlehem after midnight across the fields, not unlike the ones where the shepherds would have been keeping watch over their flocks at Jesus' birth. He said it was as if an angel whispered these words into his ear:

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

I'm so thankful that these words made it from a children's Sunday School hymnal to a larger stage for all of us to hear. The reality of these words is timeless. At Jesus' birth there were both hopes and fears among a people long oppressed under a dominant Roman Empire. They were fearful of the dark places in their world, but waiting in hopeful expectation of a Savior to bring light to dispel that darkness. It's certainly still true today. We enter this Advent season in a world that surely has its dark places. We also know the fear and anxiety that often grip us.

While we certainly identify with those throughout the ages as we anticipate once again the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, we have the assurance of knowing that this broken world indeed has a Savior! Our hopes can overcome our fears! Light has overcome darkness! God is with us!

With this truth in mind, may you experience the true hope, peace, joy, and love of this Advent season.

Blessings for the journey!

Jeff



Salem UMC Children

Birthday Party for Jesus

All children are cordially invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus on **December 5th from 5-6pm, during the Escape hour**. Dinner will be provided. This will be our last Escape for the 2021 year. Stay tuned for details about Escape restarting in 2022!

Our Christmas Production

will be during the 10:30 worship service on **December 5th**. We are practicing during Escape on Sunday evenings from 5-6pm. "Dress" rehearsal will be Saturday, December 4th at 10:00 am. Please mark your calendars!



Don't forget to join us for **Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 downstairs!**



YOUTH NEWS

Sunday December 5 - Service Night

We will meet at the church at 4:00 P.M. and depart for the Lowcountry Orphan Relief Facility downtown Columbia. We will assist them with creating packages for children that come into their care from 4:30 - 5:30 P.M. and will return to church by 6:00 P.M. We will need a couple of parents willing to help transport on this night as well.

Sunday, December 12 - Youth Christmas Party

The Party will begin at 5:00 P.M. in the Youth Room and will go until 6:00 P.M. I will provide food and dessert for the night. All youth are to bring a \$10 value gift for the gift exchange. It can be fun and funny but please bring something you would be ok receiving should you get something like it. Also, wear the tackiest Christmas outfit/sweater/shirt you can come up with. Prize for the tackiest.

Youth Group will then take a break until Sunday January 2nd.



Confirmation Information

We will begin Confirmation Class for everyone in the church, **6th grade and up**. If you have not been a part of Confirmation before and would like to do it, please contact Jim Magann at jimmagann@gmail.com. We will have an **information meeting at 3:30 P.M. on Sunday, December 12** in the Seekers classroom for all who plan to be a part of it. Parents of youth age persons, will need to attend as well. The classes will begin Sunday, January 2 and will be each week at 3:30 P.M. in the Seekers classroom. Confirmation Sunday will be held on Sunday, June 5.



Light up the Night

Honor your loved ones by reserving your luminary bag by Sunday, December 12.

A commemorative bulletin insert will be printed for the Christmas Eve Service.

Please note: *Names received after Dec. 12 are not guaranteed to be printed in bulletin due to time needed to get everything created and printed.*

Minimum donation of \$1.00 per bag

Please Print

In Honor Of: _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Given By: _____

You may add additional names on a separate sheet. The funds will assist in offsetting costs for the next Youth Foreign Mission Trip. The youth trip will be in the Spring of 2023.

Methodist Men



The Methodist Men will meet at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 19th in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to join us. Make plans to join us the **third Sunday of each month** for breakfast.



OASIS – Christmas Celebration

Mark your calendar now for our Christmas Celebration on **Tuesday, December 14 (a week earlier than usual)** at **11:30** in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a potluck meal with pulled pork being provided. As we celebrate the reason for the season, we will fellowship with one another and participate in a Christmas music sing along led by our guest, Steve McFadden. Please call the office to **RSVP** and share what side dish you are willing to bring. *You may also bring a wrapped unisex \$10 gift if you would like to participate in our gift exchange.* We hope to hear from you!

Save the Date

Our children are working hard to bring you the **Story of Jesus as told through Luke 2**, which will be presented to our congregation **during the Sunday morning worship hour on December 5th**. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar so that we may honor their hard work in bringing us this performance! We look forward to this special Sunday.



The Bazaar

The Bazaar is scheduled for **December 11th** and we hope everyone puts this date on their calendar to come shop. The time of the event is 9 - 2. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you or someone you know is interested in setting up a table please contact Millie Fore 920-5261 or Sandra Durst 600-6206 for more information.

An Invitation to Serve During Advent

ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans





Christmas Mission Project



This holiday season at SUMC we will once again be supporting the Prisma Health Children's Hospital Child Life Team. The Child Life department assists children from birth thru the teenage years so there is a wide-range of shopping opportunities – the infection control policy requires that all donations must be NEW with original tags and/or packaging. New this year, for safety reasons they cannot accept socks. A list of suggested items can be found below. In order to support this mission, we ask that all donations be left unwrapped and placed in a designated area of the Welcome Center by Wednesday, December 15th.

Current high-priority needs:

- Adult coloring books
- Adult-sized t-shirts
- Baby onesies
- Bottles and sippy cups
- DVDs
- Canvases
- Eye masks for sleeping
- Individual crafts
- LEGO party packs
- Model Magic
- Over-the-door basketball hoops
- Paint pens
- Play-doh tools
- Phone chargers
- Pop-its/fidget toys
- Small baby musical toys
- Sound machines
- Stress balls
- Teen-sized pajama pants
- Toddler toys
- Uno cards
- Xbox One games

Helpful donations for all ages:

Infant items:

- Baby blankets
- Pacifiers
- Lullaby boxes
- Busy boxes
- Bottles
- Crib attachments
- Oballs
- Light-up/musical toys
- Sippy cups

Toddler/preschool:

- Mr. Potato Head
- Fisher Price® Farm/Little People
- Sound books/board books
- Light-up/musical toys
- Interactive toys (Vtech® & LeapFrog®)

- Baby dolls of all ethnicities (especially African-American)
- Bilingual toys & books (English/Spanish)
- Magna Doodles
- Medical play kits
- Duplos®
- Plastic dinosaurs & zoo animals
- Push cars/wagons/scoot toys
- View-Master® & slides

School age:

- Barbie® & Barbie clothes
- My Little Pony®
- Monster High®
- Littlest Pet Shop
- Matchbox®/Hot Wheels® cars
- Action figures (Spider-Man, Hulk, Ninja Turtles, Wrestling, etc.)
- G.I. Joe
- Nerf guns
- Lego® kits for boys and girls ages 10+
- Puzzles (under 100 pieces)
- "I Spy" books

Teens:

- Gift cards (iTunes, Starbucks, Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc.)
- Jewelry
- Lip gloss
- Nail polish/mani-pedi kits
- iPods®
- Remote control cars
- Balls (sports, Nerf)
- Journals
- Headphones
- Universal phone chargers (Android/Apple)
- Wireless speakers

Games:

- Board games
- UNO®/Phase 10 cards
- Playing cards
- Nintendo® DS & games (up to Teen rating)
- Wii™, PS3™ & Xbox 360 games (up to Teen rating)
- Xbox 360 (wireless controllers)

Crafts:

- Stickers
- Crayola® crayons/markers (Crayola products are latex free)
- Coloring books
- Individual water color painting sets with brush
- Dot paint
- Paint by numbers
- Word search/crossword puzzle books
- Paint with water books
- Beads
- Jewelry making kits
- Wood & ceramic objects to paint
- Picture frames to decorate

Miscellaneous:

- Fleece blankets (bright colors & patterns for all ages)
- Stuffed animals
- Current DVDs up to PG-13
- Pajama pants (all sizes)
- Underwear (all sizes)
- Tervis®-style tumblers
- Batteries (all types, especially C & D)
- Window clings
- Single-sized bed sheet sets (Bright colors & patterns and/or character-themed for all ages)



Memorials & Honorariums



Building Fund

In loving memory of Ralph Godfrey by
Les & Joan Tweed
Seekers Sunday School Class

In loving memory of Wayne Haltiwanger by
Wanda McCaa
Inez Hyatt
Hal & Kay Bickley

In loving memory of Mable Jennings by
Seekers Sunday School Class
Steve & Mary George Smith
Lee & Janice Ayers

In loving memory of Willard Nash by
Steve & Mary George Smith
Lee & Janice Ayers

In loving memory of Ruth Smith by
Bud & Mona Gunter
Darrell & Kimberly Holifield

Cemetery Fund

In loving memory of Wayne Haltiwanger by
Dan & Carla Jennings

General Fund

In loving memory of Linda Carder by
Journey Class

In loving memory of Wayne Haltiwanger by
John & Linda Gibbons
Ron & Deborah Joye

In loving memory of Willard Nash by
Ron & Deborah Joye
Journey Class

In loving memory of Jan Prosser by
Journey Class

In loving memory of Mildred Thompson by
Ron & Deborah Joye

Cemetery Fund

In honor of Warren & Johnnie Metts 55th wedding anniversary on November 19th by
Mike & Tammy Szucs



2022 Flower Calendar

The 2022 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. If you would like to donate the flowers, they will be arranged into several different vases to be delivered to shut-ins and the sick. *Please help support the church in this meaningful manner.*



Congratulations to
Sarah Bridges and Cory High
who were married on Friday, November 5th.

Blood Drive

Salem UMC

1321 Salem Church Road – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 8
12 PM – 5 PM



To make an appointment, scan QR code or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **SALEMUMC**.



December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Joy & Cavin Circle 11:30 @ Tonella's	2 LMA Mtg 7:00	3 Children's Play Setup	4 Children's Play Rehearsal 10
5 Children's Play Birthday Party for Jesus 5:00 Youth 5:00 Advent Bible Study 5	6	7	8 Blood Drive 12-5	9	10	11 Bazaar 9-2
12 Cantata Youth 5:00 Advent Bible Study 5	13 Girl Scouts 6:00	14 OASIS 11:30 Finance Meeting 6:30 Church Council Meeting 7:00	15 Staff Meeting 10:30	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18
19 UMM 8:00a.m. Advent Bible Study 5	20 Missions 7:00 UMW Executive Meeting 10:30	21	22	23 Office closed	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30	25 Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Office closed for the holidays						

Notes

Sundays

9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service

Weekdays

7:00 AM Wednesday
7:00 PM Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
7:00 PM Wednesday

AA
AA
Choir Practice



salem
United Methodist Church

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

**Non Profit Org.
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Irmo, SC 29063
Permit No. 14**

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30-12:00 1:00-3:30
803-781-1626
E-mail: smethodist@aol.com
website: salemumcsc.com
CCLI #1562077

Worship Hours

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

OUR MINISTRY TEAM



Jeff Childress — Pastor
Ashley Anderson — Children’s Ministries
Sarah E. High — 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



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 **December** newsletter should do so by **November 11th**.

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 you offering.



You can also visit the link:
<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-2365>