



Jeff's Journal

What's Behind All the Pumpkin Spice Craze?

Well, maybe more than we think. As we transition from the heat of summer to the crisp embrace of autumn, a familiar and beloved aroma fills the air – the unmistakable scent of pumpkin spice. You've probably noticed it in your local coffee shops, bakeries, and grocery stores. It's a craze that sweeps through our culture every fall, but maybe there are some logical associations that lie beneath the surface of this delicious trend.

Pumpkin spice is more than just a flavor; it's a cultural phenomenon that may hold some valuable lessons about faith, community, and the beauty of simplicity. Let's explore together some of the potential and deeper meanings behind the pumpkin spice craze and how it can relate to our spiritual lives. Here are a few thoughts:

1. A Season of Change: Just as the seasons change from summer to fall, our lives are constantly in a state of transformation. While the rapid pace of change may create some anxiety within us at times, experiencing the pumpkin spice craze this time of year reminds us that change can be beautiful. Just as we see the wonder and beauty in the colorful changing of seasons, we can also embrace new flavors and experiences in life that can lead to personal growth and a deeper appreciation for the world around us.

2. Nourishing Our Souls: I've often heard folks express their enjoyment of pumpkin spice coffee as being "comforting". Perhaps on a psychological level this can serve as a reminder to us of the importance of nourishing our bodies and souls. Just as we savor the warmth of a pumpkin spice latte, we can also savor the moments of reflection and prayer that feed our spirits.

3. Community and Connection: The pumpkin spice craze brings people together. Friends and family gather to enjoy seasonal treats and share in the joy of the changing seasons. Similarly, our church community provides a space for us to come together, support one another, and grow in our faith.

4. The Beauty of Simplicity: Interestingly enough, there is no pumpkin in pumpkin spice. Generally, there are 5 simple ingredients that make up pumpkin spice: cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, and allspice. In a world filled with complexity, the simplicity of pumpkin spice is a reminder that sometimes the most meaningful experiences are the simplest ones. Our faith, too, can be deeply nourished by the simple acts of prayer, kindness, peace, patience and love.

5. Gratitude for Abundance: Pumpkins are a symbol of harvest and abundance. They remind us to be thankful for the blessings in our lives, both big and small. Let us remember to express our gratitude to God for the abundant blessings God provides.

6. Seasonal Reflection: Just as we embrace the changing seasons, we should also take time to reflect on the seasons of our lives. Are we growing in our faith? Are we living in alignment with our values? The pumpkin spice craze can serve as a seasonal reminder to examine our spiritual journey.

So, the next time you enjoy a pumpkin spice treat, take a moment to reflect on these meaningful associations behind this seasonal sensation. Let it be a catalyst for gratitude, community, and spiritual growth in your life.

Blessings for the journey!

Pastor Jeff



Children's News

The Children have had a fun September, and we had a great Kick-off Event at the end of August! This past month we have been exploring the Book of Genesis and the children made Dioramas of their favorite animal habitats to celebrate the wonder of God's creation. We have had a great start to Kid's Worship and hope to see all children at Kids' Worship and Quest! Enjoy some pictures from our kick-off event and end-of-summer activities!

Upcoming Events:

October 15th – Children's Sabbath (Children will lead Worship Service)

****Our 3rd Graders will be presented with their Bibles.****

October 29th – Trunk or Treat (5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.)

*****NO QUEST*****



Every Sunday:

Salem Kid's Worship: (10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.) QUEST – A Journey through the Bible: (4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.)



Youth News

October Mission Project



All youth are invited to join in the October Mission Project working with Aldersgate Special Needs Home. We will have a time of fellowship with the residents of one of the houses through painting and dinner and then finishing with an ice cream bar. We will meet from 5:00 - 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is open to all Jr and Sr High Youth.

Sunday, October 29 the youth will be participating in the Trunk or Treat. We will have a dunk booth again this year and are looking for any youth to be in the dunk booth (parents also). There will be many other areas to serve as well.

All parents are encouraged to donate a cake, cupcakes, etc. for the Cake Walk and also decorate a car to give out candy. If you would like to participate in this, please let me know at jimmagann@gmail.com.

More fun coming in November with joint meetings with Union UMC youth.

In October the Jr. High will continue their study on the book of James and the Sr. High will be doing a study on "Finding God in Music". We will find God in bands like U2, Harry Styles, Imagine Dragons and more. Join us each week. Jr. High at 4:30 and Sr. High at 5:30p.m.

TRUNK or TREAT

**SALEM UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
5:00 – 6:30 P.M.**

Games Treats Hot Dogs
Cake Walk Kona Ice

TRUNKS NEEDED!

We need YOU to help make Salem's Trunk or Treat 2023 a night to remember! If you are able to decorate your vehicle on **Sunday, October 29th from 5-6:30 p.m.**, please contact

Jennifer
Hodges at
865-437-
7950.



Trunk or Treat Needs!!!

The Salem UMC Trunk or Treat is coming up soon. We have several activities we are bringing in this year and we need several people to help us make it happen. Please see what you may be willing and able to provide or participate in.

We will be having a cake walk this year and we need TONS of donations for the Cake Walk. We need cakes, cupcakes, cookies, pies, you name it. If you would like to provide something, please contact Jim at jimmagann@gmail.com and bring the cake to the church kitchen on Sunday, Oct 29.

We also will have a Pumpkin Decorating Contest this year. If you would like to enter a decorated Pumpkin into this contest, please let Jim know and bring it to the Trunk or Treat by 4:30pm on Oct 29. All who attend will vote on the winner.

We look forward to all who can help us make this Trunk or Treat really exciting.

FAITH CIRCLE CHILDREN'S DAY BULLETIN

The women of Faith Circle are again planning a very special bulletin to honor or remember all those children who are special to us...our own children and grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and children of friends, etc.

To list the names of special children you would like to remember in our Children's Day bulletin on Children's Sabbath, October 15, 2023, please fill out the form found on the back of this page, and put it, along with payment of **at least \$1.00 per name**, in an envelope marked **"Children's Day."** Checks should be made payable to **"Faith Circle."** Please be sure to fill out all the information on the form and **print clearly!** Honor those living on the "in honor" of lines, and remember those who are deceased on the "in memory" of lines. We regret that due to space we are unable to print special messages -- **only the names** of those we wish to honor in this special way. We are sure you will want to include all those children (of any age!) who are special to you. Please drop in the offering plate or give to any member of Faith Circle.

Money raised through this bulletin will be used for mission projects of the United Women in Faith as well as mission projects such as the Homeless Outreach Ministry and congregational and community needs.

Deadline is Sunday, October 1, 2023.

In honor of _____

By _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

Please make checks payable to "Faith Circle."

Deadline is Sunday, October 1, 2023.

ALS 5K Walk

One of our Salem disciples, Sharon Greene, was diagnosed with ALS last November, and would like for us to know that there is an ALS 5K Walk planned for **Saturday, October 7th** at the Canal & Riverfront Park. Here is the link for more details if you would like to participate or donate to Sharon's team.

<http://web.alsa.org/goto/TeamSharon23>



The team (or most of them) behind homecoming.

OASIS

Join us for our next Oasis event on **Tuesday, October 17th at 11:30**. The musical group known as "Father's Call" will be performing and we will enjoy a barbecue meal together. Barbecue and rolls will be provided, but guests are asked to bring a side to go along with our menu. **Please call the church office at 803-781-1626 by October 11th** to say you'll come and indicate the side you'd like to contribute. We look forward to your presence with us!

Ladies' Lunch Bunch



Ladies' if you'd like to get together for fellowship time over lunch, meet us on Tuesday, October 24th, Brookland Baptist Church 1066 Sunset Blvd. W. Columbia. More details will come but we will meet in church parking lot to carpool around 11a.m.

Al-Anon

Al-Anon, a 12-step group for families and friends, meets on Tuesdays at noon at Chapin CCC (formerly Chapin UMC). Call 803-465-1609 if you have questions.

AA

AA meets at 7:00 pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening. They also meet every Wednesday morning at 7:00 am, here at Salem UMC.

Salem's annual Charge Conference is scheduled for Monday, October 16, at 6:00 PM.

Salem United Women in Faith Executive Committee will meet in the Administration Building's conference room immediately following the church worship service on **October 1, 2023**.



Sharing God's Love

Fall Yard Sale

Saturday, October 7th.

We will be accepting large item donations at Sharing God's Love until Friday, October 6.
Other donations may be collected at the church.

Salem Morning Circle

will meet in the Seekers Classroom on October 4, 2023, at 10:30 A.M.



Memorials & Honorarium

Building Fund

In Loving Memory of Mary Catherine
Bickley Erskine by
Don & Miriam Lovett

In Loving Memory of Joyce Farmer by
Athena Leventis

In Loving Memory of Tommy Helms by
Phillip & Millie Fore
Carey & Michelle Page

Pathfinders Sunday School Class

David & Martina Thomas

Cemetery Fund

In Loving Memory of Mary Catherine
Bickley Erskine by
Ron & Deborah Joye

Epworth Fund

In Loving Memory of Barbara Thomas by
Sandra Durst

General Fund

In Loving Memory of Mary Catherine
Bickley Erskine by
Larry & June Salters

In Loving Memory of Joyce Farmer by
Sandra Durst

In Loving Memory of Tommy Helms by
Larry & June Salters

In Loving Memory of Bill Oswald by
Sandra Durst

Thank You Notes

To our Salem family-

Thank you so much for your cards, calls and texts of sympathy during my Daddy's illness and his passing. Your prayers for our family strengthened and encouraged us during this difficult time. We are so grateful for the love and support of our Salem family.

Donna and Keith Corley

Special thanks to Autumnne Smith and the Salem Sesquicentennial Celebration committee for all of their hard work throughout the year in making our 150th year special. Salem's heritage is rich and we are excited about the dreams for the future as we embark on the next phase of our legacy. Thank you to each one who volunteered their time planning the various events. May we continue to seek wisdom for life as we move forward!

We are deeply grateful for the love, prayers and kindness you have shared during this time... it is certainly felt and will remain in our hearts forever.

Gaye, Pam and Clark

Sept. 9, 2023

Thank you, my Salem family, for your prayers, thoughts, cards, phone calls, food, visits and concern for Marion after my broken leg.

My two months' stay at the rehab center was much easier because of all of you!

I am still recovering... but with all your support, I am making progress. Again, thank you for your support.

Lovingly,
Marion Smith



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 World Communion UWF Executive Committee Meeting 11:30	2 Missions 7:00	3	4 Salem Morning Circle 10:30	5 LMA 6:30	6	7
8 Confirmation Class 5:30	9 Columbus Day Office Closed Girl Scouts 6:00	10 Church Council 7:00	11	12	13	14
15 Children's Sabbath	16 Charge Conference 6:00	17 OASIS 11:30	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 Nurses Honor Guard 10:00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Trunk or Treat 5:00	30	31				

Notes:

Sundays

Weekdays

9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
4:00 Quest
4:30 Jr. High Group
5:30 Sr. High Group

9:00 AM Tuesday
7:00 PM Wednesday
7:00 AM Wednesday
7:00 PM Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
6:00 PM Thursday

Bible Study
Choir
AA
AA
Bible Studies





salem
United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, SC 29063

Worship Hours

Sunday School: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:30 am



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



OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Jeff Childress — Pastor
William Byrd — Pianist

P. J. Garrett — Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah E. High — Director of Music Ministries

Angie Lain — Director of Accounting

Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist

Jim Magann — Coordinator of Children/Youth
and Missions Ministries

Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries

Dustin Tanner — Coordinator of A/V Tech and Communications

Marie Wicker — Administrative Coordinator

Assisting with Communion

Communion is a sacred sacrament of the United Methodist Church and the distribution of the elements is one of several discipleship opportunities Salem would like to extend to its members. Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in assisting Pastor Jeff with the sacrament of holy communion, we encourage your participation and ask you to place your name on the **sign-up sheet located in the Welcome Center**. Pastor Jeff will contact you prior to your participation to ensure you are adequately prepared.

Ushers Needed

This is an important ministry in our church and volunteers are needed. Ushers play a vital role in the life of Salem United Methodist Church by welcoming members and newcomers, as well as performing their important part in the worship service. You will enjoy this gratifying ministry experience, usually one to two months each year. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center if you are interested in serving as an usher, or contact the church office at 803-781-1626.

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>

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 **November** newsletter should do so by **October 18th**.