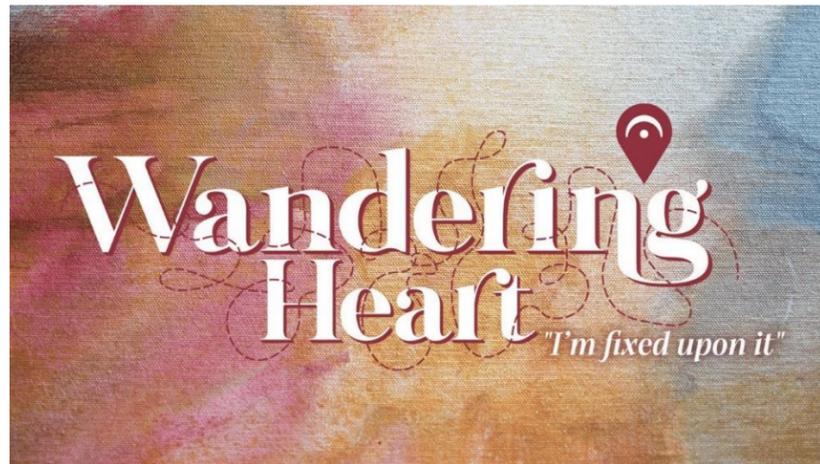


Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873



Today's Theme:

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

March 10, 2024
4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

Purple is a color of penitence and is used to reflect the preparatory season of Lent.

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

Open Hands

written by: Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

We are born with the ability to wrap our fingers around another, to hold tight to what we know. Maybe that's where the instinct comes from—this clinging, this sinking, this holding on. Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!" when Jesus must leave. From the very beginning we've known how to hold tight. So I pray: open up my hands. Uncurl my fingers one by one. Loosen the grip that I hold unyielding. Remind me that birds must fly and children must grow and leaves must fall. And even though we are born with the ability to hold tight, we can learn how to love with open hands.

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news.

Let us worship God!

Let us pray:

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold our world in our hands. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 505

When Our Confidence Is Shaken

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will be dismissed following the Children's Moment to attend Kid's Worship. Parents may pick up their children downstairs following the conclusion of the service.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS (Hymnal page 38)

Keith Bullock

Lance and Janet Hensen

A TIME OF PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY 95

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

ANTHEM

Come Thou Fount

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21-23

*HYMN 451

Be Thou My Vision

PROCLAMATION:

Wandering Heart Series: *I'm Fixed Upon It*

MEDITATIVE RESPONSE

The Way

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

written by: rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

I believe in a God of second chances,

a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.

I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 444

O Young and Fearless Prophet

*BENEDICTION

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

*CHORAL RESPONSE 400 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing(verse 3)*
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*POSTLUDE AND DEPARTING

Indicates that the congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation. **Bold titles indicate congregation participation.*

STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Week of March 3, 2024

Will be reported next week

Attendance **On Line Viewing**
Worship 144 Sunday School 74

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

Brookdale — Mary Skenes
Carroll Campbell Place — Barbara Rolin
Generations of Irmo — Carolyn Brower,
Joyce Cook, Dot Corley
Lowman Home — Gwen Parnell, Anita Weed
Tyborne UCP — Jessica Gore
Special Prayers — Amy Bundrick, Freddie Butler,
Bob Davis, Inez Hyatt, Bob & Mindy Kuenzli,
Lee McMillan, Barbara Pereira, Shannon Robertson,
Bill Rolin, Claudia Smith, Terry Waites

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Ushers: Lead – Bill Sills
 Callie Dunn
 Melinda Hydrick
 Sherri Puette
 Sandra Sills
Trustee: Eric Puette
Sound Booth: Dustin Tanner
Acolyte: Peyton Baker
Nursery: Martina Thomas, Maggie Brewton

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God by Francis Haltiwanger in memory of Marion and Virginia Weed.

Our Christian Sympathy

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Carolyn Brower on the death of her sister-in-law, Virginia Priester.

A Welcome to our Guests!

We are honored that you are worshipping with us. Please complete the "red book" registration to record your presence. Also, please introduce yourself to those around you and visit our Welcome Center. We have a welcome gift for our first-time guests in the welcome center. Please stop by the desk at the close of the worship service. We hope you will return to join us again in Worship!



Lent-Easter Sermon Series: *Wandering Heart*

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt & Lunch

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt & Church-Wide Lunch!
All are invited & all are welcome.

Please RSVP by Tuesday,
March 19th

RSVP: Church Office
(803)781-1626



OASIS

Let's take a road trip to Shealy's Barbecue for our next event! Join us on **Tuesday, March 19th** for a "dutch treat meal" and fellowship. Cost of the meal is \$12.95 + tax with 3% cash discount. Be sure to call the church office to reserve your spot by **Thursday, March 14th** so that we may plan properly. You may choose to meet us there by 11:30 that day or arrive at the church at 10:30 to car pool from the church. Please advise your method of choice when you call to RSVP so that we may know our number of car pool participants. We look forward to our time together!

Youth Tech Support Night

Last year the youth filled the Fellowship Hall and were available to all who needed or wanted help with their devices such as tablets, phones, computers, etc. There have been several requests for us to do this again so we will once again fill the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, March 17 from 4:00 - 6:00p.m.** to help anyone who would like assistance. We will help with your tablets, iPhone, androids, laptops and more. We also will help anyone sign up for and learn how to navigate social media (Facebook or Instagram) so that everyone can be able to access all the ways our church is reaching out with information. There is no need to sign up, just arrive and we will have youth ready to help.



Epworth First Night Bags

Thank you for all that has been donated so far for this project! There are some things we have enough of and there are a few needs still and if you want to help out whether one item or several is up to you. Drop them off in the church office marked Epworth. Thank you in advance!

Still needed:

Diapers any size
Baby wipes
Pajama sets - girl or boy newborn to 5T
T-shirts - girl or boy newborn to 5T
Towel & washcloth sets - children's
Hair brushes - for child
Socks - white or tan - newborn to size 7/8

Church Directory!

We are excited to announce that a committee has been formed to work on a new church directory for our Salem family! The directory will be available online to all church members as well as members will have an opportunity to request a copy to keep on hand at home. **An information sheet with additional details will be forthcoming**, but for now our critical task involves soliciting your help with signing up to have your picture made. We will have someone on site to capture pictures of your family (*no formal settings or pictures to buy*) on the following dates: **March 17, March 24, March 27 and March 31**. Please make plans to take advantage of one of these dates to have your picture made. A sign-up sheet of 5-minute interval time slots is in the Welcome Center! Please be sure to sign up for your spot as soon as possible. Feel free to call the church office for additional questions.

Rise Against Hunger RECAP

Thank you so much, once again, for all who participated in the Rise Against Hunger project. The donations and volunteer efforts were outstanding and greatly appreciated. Everyone had a great time and so far all who have participated have asked that we do this again next year.

On March 3 we packed a total of 14,256 meals to be shipped. We do not yet know where they will be shipped, but when we are told, we will pass along to everyone. There were funds left over for this that will also go towards community improvement in the area where the food goes by helping to grow new farms to create more self-sustaining lifestyles for that area.

Thank you again to all who helped and we look forward to doing this again next year.

Prayer and Self-Denial

The United Women in Faith will be holding a day of Prayer and Self-Denial on **March 23rd at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a brief program and light refreshments. Please park on the cemetery side as there will be a car show out front. Faith Circle will also be putting together overnight bags for Epworth Children's Home after the program, anyone is invited to assist.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet **Monday, March 25 at 11:30 at Carolina Wings in Ballentine.**

Memorials

In Loving Memory of Sandra Durst

Building fund - Tommy & Allison McLendon, Jim & Nancy Poston

Missions - Carey & Michelle Page

In Loving Memory of Jim Lewis, Sr.

Youth Ministries fund - Joyce Lewis

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Poetry Prayers Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/ sanctifiedart.org

We will be reading and discussing the poetry along with creating art of our own from the heart. Poetry often takes us deeper into relationship with God in a way that we did not expect. The freedom and love expressed in beauty even in lamenting is part of what we receive when we contemplate all that God is and does. Asking questions, listening, and understanding that God responds in so many ways is just part of what we will be doing as we gather in community to grow deeper in faith.

The class will take place at 6:00 PM on Thursday nights for 10 weeks. Beginning on **Thursday, April 4, 2024**. In the Friendship Class next to the nursery.

Please contact Heather Magann at 843-446-7280 or hmagann@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to participate.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, March 10

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
4:00 P.M. Kid's Quest
5:30 P.M. Youth Group
5:30 P.M. Confirmation Class

Monday, March 11

6:00 P.M. Girl Scouts

Tuesday, March 12

9:30 A.M. Precept Bible Study
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

7:00 A.M. AA Meeting
7:00 P.M. Choir Practice

Thursday, March 14

7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Saturday, March 16

10:00 A.M. Nurses Honor Guard
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Sunday, March 17

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
10:30 A.M. Morning Worship
4:00 P.M. Kid's Quest
4:00 P.M. Tech Support

Follow us on Instagram ([saleumcofirmo](https://www.instagram.com/saleumcofirmo)) weekly for Pastor Jeff's *Wednesday in the Word*. It's a great midweek encouragement to get you through the rest of your week until we meet again on Sunday.

Sharing God's Love

Current Pantry Needs: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Coffee, Spaghetti Noodles, Elbow Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Pasta Dinners, Rice Dinners, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Canned Meats, Chili, Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Snacks, Juice, Canned or Powdered Milk.

Household Items: New Underwear and Socks for Adults & Kids, Queen and King Sheets Bed Linens and Comforters, Blankets - All Sizes, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Wash Cloths, Pots, Pans, Plates, Glasses, Cookware, Bakeware, Kitchen Linens, Small Appliances.

We are collecting Easter Baskets and Fillers now thru March. Bibles and Children's Books would be especially appreciated!

Drop-off containers are located in each Sunday School Room, Church Office and in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall entrance.

189 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on March 4th.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
1321 Salem Church Road, Irmo, SC 29063
CCLI #1562077



Website: salemumcsc.com
E-mail: smethodist@aol.com



Phone 803-781-1626

*In case of an emergency,
call 864-985-2456 or 803-422-9400*

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

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>