

Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873



Today's Theme:

Though Peter's story does not end with the conclusion of the gospels, we finish our series with Peter's encounter with the risen Christ. In this final week, we come full circle with Peter. He has dropped his nets, walked on water, professed his faith, been rebuked, received foot washing, denied Jesus, and run to the tomb. And now, Jesus once again meets him at the shoreline where Peter is casting his nets. Jesus offers abundant nourishment and also a new command: "Feed my sheep." Then he turns to Peter and asks three times, "Do you love me?" It's as if Jesus says, "Here's my heart," which washes over Peter's three denials like a healing balm. No matter how far we wander, may we entrust our hearts to God. No matter if our faith is strong or weak, what we can give is our love.

April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday of Easter

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The color white is used today as a joyous and festive representation of Easter.

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

Here's My Heart

*(Inspired by "The Lanyard" by Billy Collins, and
written by: rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org)*

As a child I made a nativity set for my mother— pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings, hair made with the help of a garlic press, Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God and it was an earthworm. There was nothing beautiful about it, nothing whispering of talent, but I made it for my mother! So, I wrapped that questionable piece of art in a box and gave it to her like I was handing her a Picasso. Here, mother, you carried me in your womb. You bandaged my knees when I fell. You made soup when I was sick. You rocked me to sleep as an infant and sewed my costumes by hand. In return, I made you this haphazard nativity! And in my childlike mind, I thought that the small white lamb, molded from a lumpy piece of clay, could somehow make us even, could somehow balance the scales, could somehow pay her back. And bless my mother, because in her grace, she smiled and she displayed that hodge-podge nativity set on the mantel as if it were her pride and joy. (I believed that it was.) Maybe that's the way it is with God. I say, here's my heart, and God smiles. And God takes it. And despite the ragtag nature of my human-hearted faith, whatever I can give always ends up on God's mantel. Whatever I can give always produces pride and joy.

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Jesus said, "Follow me."

Jesus said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Jesus said, "Forgive seventy times seven."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

In response, we say: "Here's my heart."

Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."

Let us worship God.

We worship now with all our hearts.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

*HYMN 453

More Love to Thee, O Christ

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.

A TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY 95

ANTHEM *Easter People* Judah Rendelman, Will Byrd, Sarah High

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

John 21:1-19

*HYMN 398

Jesus Calls Us

PROCLAMATION:

Wandering Heart Series: *Here's My Heart*

HOLY COMMUNION

In our Methodist tradition, all who acknowledge their nature of sin and seek reconciliation through Christ are invited to share in Christ's Table.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II, PG. 12

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray:

Holy God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *written by: rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org*

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God's people—a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh—a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*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 383

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (verse 5)

In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

*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 31, 2024

Needed each week to fund unified budget \$14,724.81

Unified budget received \$16,838.00

Needed to meet budget year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$191,422.53

Unified budget received year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$185,163.87

Attendance

Worship 267 Sunday School 77
Sunrise Service 121

On Line Viewing

174

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, Larry Salters, Claudia Smith, Terry Waites

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Ushers:	Lead – Randy Hilliard Scott Butler Ron Joye Mike Thacker
Trustee:	Ryan Cole
Sound Booth:	Dustin Tanner
Acolyte:	EV Horton
Nursery:	Kenzie Griner, Martina Thomas

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God by Francis Haltiwanger in memory of Mr. Wayne.

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.

OASIS

Join us for our next Oasis event on **Tuesday, April 16th** at 11:30. Jennifer Weaver, Earth and Horticulture agent from Clemson Extension will be our guest speaker and the topic will be "Proper plant selection." *We will also have a plant swap for anyone who wishes to bring a plant from their garden to trade.* Our lunch will be catered by Moe's. The cost will be \$10 per person. Call the church office to **RSVP by Thursday, April 11th** so we may properly prepare. We look forward to sharing in this fun event together!

Outdoor Bazaar

Faith Circle is having an Outdoor Bazaar on **April 27th from 9 - 2**. There will be a food truck there too. If you know of anyone interested in setting up a 10 x 10 area please contact Millie Fore 803-920-5261 for more information. Also, please mark your calendars so you can come shop and eat! The money received from vendors goes to either local charities or needs in our church family. Thank you!

Spring 2024 Epworth Project

The Missions Committee of Salem UMC has set another Epworth work project for this spring. Last year was a large project working on their Recreational facilities. This year we will have a weekend project set for **April 19-21**. We will be deep cleaning and updating the Epworth Movie Theater and Craft Rooms. We also will be adding mulch to the beds outside of several cottages. We will work from 8am - 3pm on Friday, April 19; 8am - 4pm on Saturday April 20 and if work is still needed, we will work on Sunday, April 21 beginning at 1pm. Lunch will be provided for workers on Friday and Saturday. We ask everyone interested in working with this project to please sign up in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Jim at jimmagann@gmail.com or Tommy at mclendta@aol.com.

Memorials

In Loving Memory of Sandra Durst

Mission fund – Lou Holmes

In Loving Memory of Virginia Priester

Building fund – Phillip & Millie Fore

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.

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Salem United Methodist Church would like to recognize all graduates on **Sunday, May 19, 2024**. We will recognize our High School graduates that day by calling them up front but will also recognize anyone else who is graduating from college or any other academic program. Please send the following information to smethodist@aol.com by **Sunday, May 5**. Let us know their names as you would like them printed in the bulletin, where they are graduating from, as well as what their next steps will be. Thank you very much and we look forward to celebrating this day as a congregation with each of you.

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, April 7

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

Monday, April 8

6:00 P.M. Girl Scouts
7:00 P.M. Missions Meeting

Tuesday, April 9

7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

6:00 P.M. Poetry Class
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Saturday, April 13

7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Sunday, April 14

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

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, Fruit Juices, 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.

Spring Yard Sale – April 20th 8:00-12:00

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>