

# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873

January 5, 2025  
Epiphany Sunday

*The color white is used as an expression of joy and celebration in this season of Christmas.*

## THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East, saying: Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

**For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.**

The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**God of all time, we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence. A light which guided those gift-bearing travelers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child. A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ. We pray that you will accept our worship for it arises from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

\*HYMN

*The Road Winds Ever On*

*DIVINUM MYSTERIUM ("Of the Father's Love Begotten")*

***Fears of straying from the pathway, planted deep in childhood,  
Come to haunt us when the road ends and the way ahead is obscured  
Then the Spirit wraps around us, to protect and reassure  
and the road winds ever on.***

***All our best laid plans can shatter leaving us to mourn the loss of  
the future we imagined and feel like our life is on pause at the edge  
the Spirit's waiting there to ferry us across and the road winds ever on.***

***A world constantly in motion Evades our attempts to know  
What may be around the corner or where any road will go  
So the Spirit stirs within us to be carried by the flow and the road winds ever on.***

A TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY 95

ANTHEM

*Home by Another Road*

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

\*HYMN

*Home by Another Way*

*KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.4.4.6 with refrain*

***Magi from a far away place, radiant starlight setting their pace.  
Fording, wadi, risking body seeking the King's birth place. O we  
have traveled night and day, meeting God where e're we stay.  
Paths are changing, rearranging, as we find another way.***

***Threatened by the good news they bring, Herod plots to kill the  
new King. Angels warning, in the morning: "Avoid Jerusalem." O  
we have traveled night and day, meeting God where e're we stay.  
Paths are changing, rearranging, as we find another way.***

***Plans that change and storms that delay, dreams and hopes left in  
disarray. Make us tremble, but remember, there is another way. O  
we have traveled night and day, meeting God where e're we stay.  
Paths are changing, rearranging, as we find another way.***

PROCLAMATION

Series: *Words for the Beginning*

Today's Message: *The Road Isn't Straight*

RESPONSE TO THE SPOKEN WORD

*Wonder as I Wander*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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INVITATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE LAVABO

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

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.**

## SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 2095

*Star-Child*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE 219

*What Child Is This (verse 3)*

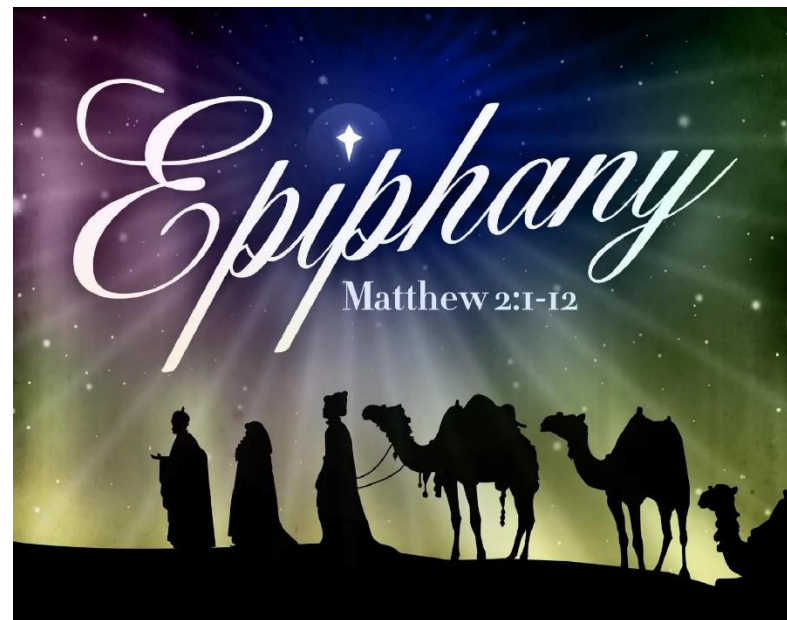
***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own  
him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone  
him. This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.***

\*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.*



Series: Words for the Beginning  
Today's Message: The Road Isn't Straight

January 5, 2025  
Epiphany Sunday

## STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holiday schedule, the December 15, 22 & December 29, 2024 Stewardship Report will appear in the January 12, 2025 bulletin.

### PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

**Brookdale** — Millie Howard, Mary Skenes

**Carroll Campbell Place** — Barbara Rolin

**Generations of Irmo** — Joyce Cook

**Lexington Community Hospice House** — Dot Corley

**Lowman Home** — Betty Hanzlick, Gwen Parnell

**Tyborne UCP** — Jessica Gore

**Special Prayers** — Debra Ailes, E.L. Ayers,

Amy Bundrick, Freddie Butler, Bob Davis,

Faye Derrick, Frank Eargle, Mitchell Faulkenberry,

Inez Hyatt, Joyce Lewis, Lee McMillan, Jonnie Mitchell,

Marilyn O'Mellan, Margie Oswald, Barbara Pereira,

Eric Puette, Sherri Becker Puette, Shannon Robertson,

Mary Simon, Marty Spearman,

Susan Spearman, Steve Smith, Terry Waites

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

**Ushers:** Lead – Ted Hornsby

Will Bowers

Marilyn Goodwin

John Hood

**Sound Booth:** Dustin Tanner

**Trustee:** Steven Smith

**Acolyte:** Peyton Baker

**Nursery:** Robin Jones, Lily Cole

## Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of their angel baby, Eleanor Elizabeth, by the Watford family.

## *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!*

## *Ladies Lunch Bunch*

Any lady that would like to eat and socialize is welcome to join us for our Ladies Lunch Bunch. We will meet **Monday, January 27, at 11:30 at Carrabba's on Columbiana Drive.**

## OASIS

Join us **January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30** in the fellowship hall for our next Oasis event. Our very own Jennifer Brewton, from the SC Department on Aging will be here to share the many opportunities and programs that are available within our county. We will additionally enjoy a hot dog luncheon complete with all the trimmings. Please call us by Thursday, January 16th to RSVP so that we can plan appropriately for our meal and program. We look forward to seeing you then!

## *2025 Flower Calendar*

The 2025 Flower Calendar has been placed in the Welcome Center. Cost is **\$96 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.*

## *Offering Envelopes*

Offering envelopes have arrived for 2025! They are in the Welcome Center.

## Poinsettia's

If you purchased a poinsettia in memory of someone or you were honored with a poinsettia, please be sure to pick it up today after our worship service. If you do not wish to take it for yourself, please feel free to share it with a loved one. Thank you for remembering and honoring those you love while helping to complete a beautiful display during our Advent season.

## Rise Against Hunger RETURNS!!

Salem United Methodist Church will be participating in Rise Against Hunger again in 2025. **The date to package food will be Sunday, March 2.** We will be having sign-ups for times to participate in packing the food. HOWEVER, we have to raise money for the food. Each week we will have a table for everyone to sign up for a shift to work and also make donations for the project. The more money we raise, the more food we can send to a country and community in need. Last year we raised enough money to package 14,256 meals. We would love to exceed that this year. Please prayerfully consider giving to this project and spread the word for others to donate as well. We had numerous outside businesses donate a good bit last year as well. We look forward to everyone participating in this project again this year.

## Memorials in Loving Memory of

*Carolyn Brower*

by Ron & Deborah Joye – General Fund

by Bill & Martha Reid – Building Fund

by Mary Skenes – Building Fund

*William & Althea Fogle*

by Dr. & Mrs. William Fogle – Building Fund

## Book Club

Anyone interested in starting a book club? We are trying to see if there is enough interest to start a book club here at Salem. This will be books of all kinds. A meeting to discuss the logistics of the club, decide on a time and how it will work will be held on **Thursday, January 23rd @ 6:00 in the Pathfinders classroom.** This is also open to others outside the church. If you are interested or plan to attend the meeting, please let Allison McLendon know by phone call or text at 803-530-7143. If there is enough interest, we will choose our book and plan to start in February.

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Sunday, January 5

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

### Monday, January 6

6:00 P.M. . . . . Faith Circle

### Tuesday, January 7

7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Wednesday, January 8

7:00 A.M. . . . . AA Meeting  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Salem Morning Circle

### Thursday, January 9

7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Saturday, January 11

7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Sunday, January 12

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

## 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, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, etc. Chili, Soup, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Meats, Fruit Juices Canned or Powdered Milk.

**Household Items:** New underwear for adults & kids, used underwear for kids & men, white socks all sizes, queen and king sheets, blankets, comforters, bed linens and comforters, blankets - all sizes, wash cloths, hand towels, bath towels, pots, pans, plates, glasses, cookware, bakeware, kitchen linens and small appliances.

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

**340 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Follow us on Instagram (salemumcofirmo) 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.

## 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](http://salemumcsc.com)  
E-mail: [smethodist@aol.com](mailto: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. Baker — Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah E. High — Director of Music Ministries

Angie Lain — Manager of Business & Finance

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>