

The Salem

Stimulus

A Publication of Fishing Creek Salem UMC

January 2021

Vol 49/Issue 1



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am—3:00 pm

Closed 12/25/20—1/3/21

From Pastor Les

As we enter into a new year, here is something to remember: When all is said and done; there is typically more said than done. In 2021, we want to be doers. James 1:22 says, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” We want to be doers of God’s word in the New Year.

I want to suggest three awesome things to do for God in 2021; offer God your treasure, talent, and time. First, give God your treasure. I ask you to commit yourself to give faithfully and generously to the Lord in this coming year. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21 NKJV). Whenever we put our money into something, we develop a vested interest in it. If we love collecting baseball cards, going to the movies, or having the latest phone model, we spend our treasure on those things. Know as well, where you put your treasure your heart will follow. Do you want your heart to follow the things of God? Then put your treasures in the things of God!

The second thing we can do for God is give God our talent. God has gifted each believer in different ways. Everyone has a talent to be used for God. Romans 12 says, “Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body” (NLT). We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. Use your talent for God’s glory in the New Year.

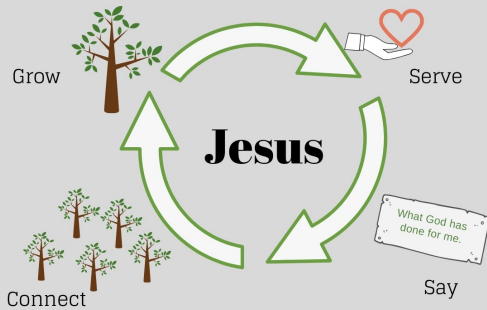
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 - ◆ Small Group List
 - ◆ Activity Updates
- And More!**



Discipleship Path



Disciples: Get Closer to Jesus & Become Like Jesus



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717-938-1928—www.fcsalem.org

Staff:

Gina Curtis, Director of Salem Community Nursery School
Michael Hayes, Building Coordinator
Jess Husman, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Tracey Michelsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Tracey Michelsen, Michelle Rich, Bonnie Gruver, Church Sextons
Kelsey Robertson, Director of The Gathering Worship, Keyboardist
Susan Ryder, Director of Communications, Small Groups Coordinator
Derek Sandstrom, Director of Worship Ministries

Service Schedule (subject to change—please watch announcements):

Sunday Worship at 8:15am in Sanctuary, 9:30am (Live Stream) in Fellowship Hall,
11:00am service in Fellowship Hall



Prayer for Hope After a Difficult Year

Dear God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year.

Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without You, we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' Name, Amen. (by Debbie McDaniel)

January Birthdays



Ian Crocenzi
Amelia Duncan
Jessica Duncan

Leo Gross
Blake Hockenberry
Logan Hockenberry

Emily Klinger
Anna Strohl
Paxton Wolf

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The **Rev. Dr. Paul Stanley Wilcox Memorial Scholarship** is awarded to a deserving youth or young adult from Fishing Creek Salem UMC who has been accepted to their first year of post-secondary Education. This scholarship is established in honor of Pastor Paul's love for youth and education and to support and encourage the ministry and calling of all people. Contributions to the scholarship are accepted on a continuing basis. Please make checks payable to "FCSUMC" with "Wilcox Memorial Scholarship" in the memo line.

Scholarship

Opportunity

Salem Community Nursery School is registering students for the 2021/22 school year in January. We have morning & afternoon pre-k classes. We also have a kindergarten group (AM or PM). We have a morning three-year-old class. Information is available on our website www.salemnurserieschool.com or by contacting Gina Curtis at gcurtis@fcsalem.org

Attention Ministry Leaders at Salem. If you have any **church records that need to be shredded**, please submit to Sandy in the church office. Contact Sandy at office@fcsalem.org or 717-938-9527 with questions.

Salem and Friends Serves 300+ dinners! "THANK YOU to the church for their very kind gift to the community of this wonderful dinner you prepared for many of us on Sat., Dec. 19th. The meal was delicious!" This was one comment shared with us as Salem served Christmas Dinners take-out style on Saturday, December 19th to our neighbors. So many people donated, prepped, bagged meals with a spirit of true hospitality. Both givers and receivers were blessed in doing God's work!

Attention Church Treasurers: Please turn in financial information for audit to the church office by February 1st. Make sure the end-of-year bank statement is included. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Herman at office@fcsalem.org

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

The following people were elected at our Annual Church Conference to serve on the Church Council of Salem Church beginning 2021. The names in **bold** are new members on the Council.

Class of 2021

Robyn Adams
Douglas Dyer
Nancy Hulsizer
Jeff Smith

Class of 2022

Kathleen Alford
Brad Boyer
Karen Derrick
Michael Lehr

Class of 2023

Danielle Gross
Karon Haring
David Kline
Jeff Strohecker

Thank you to **Ellen Smith** who served in the class of 2020. Please know that you and your work on behalf of Salem are so appreciated!



Winter weather is upon us! In the event of winter weather, the church office will follow the West Shore School District's (WSSD) delay & cancellation schedule. Sunday service cancellations will be broadcast on

WHTM 27 & WGAL 8. **The closings for the church will only be broadcast on the stations' apps and websites.** Church closures will no longer be broadcast on the tv stations. If the WSSD cancels all evening activities, the church will cancel all evening activities as well. If the School district does not cancel evening activities, all group cancellations will be at the discretion of each group leader and he/she will be responsible for contacting the members of the group.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES EVERYONE HAS A PLACE



Food Pop-Up—Salem will distribute the Reverse Advent boxes of non-perishable food (that our Salem family so generously provided) on Thursday, January 7th at 4pm. Please contact Pastor Jenny if you would like to help at jthomas@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928.

This is just a small sampling of the boxes that were collected. Thank you Pastor Jenny for leading us in this giving opportunity and thank you Salem family for your overwhelming response!

2020 Crop Walk

In 2020, the local portion of the donations made to the Red Land Area CROP Hunger Walk went to New Hope Ministries for their mobile food bank system which serves the Red Land area. The following is the letter of gratitude they've sent to all who donated or participated in this year's Walk. The highlights are theirs.



On behalf of the guests we serve at New Hope Ministries, **thank you** for your support of our ministry through the Red Land CROP Walk! The gift of \$1,442.25 that we received from Church World Service as a result of your Walk will help us meet the needs of those in our communities who are turning to New Hope for help, especially in the time of this current health crisis - **thank you! Your dedication to helping your neighbors in need means the world to those we serve.** Many people right here in our community are one car repair, one medical bill, or one job lay-off away from depleting any savings they may have. Thank you for being that beacon of HOPE to those who walk through our doors. **Through your kind gift, you are sharing Christ's love and light to a community in need- THANK YOU!**

LIBRARY NEWS

by Kathy Alford

Once we get through this pandemic winter, 2021 just has to be better! Many of us are making New Year's Resolutions. Others are just trying to get by right now. How about taking on a devotional time each day? Our library holds a full



bookcase of devotional material to help you. Come upstairs to the library and check it out!

Remember to check out the nursery school cart of library materials that is either in the front entrance or coat room. The cart contains lots of fun books, DVDs, and CDs for both preschoolers and parents.

The library table by the office has books of several different topics for January which coordinate with the month's sermons. You can find books on loving/serving God, blessings, finance, and spiritual growth.

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Finally, something great to do for God is give him your time. Pastor Greg Laurie used this illustration, "Let's say that one day your phone rang and it was the president of your bank. He told you that an anonymous donor who loved you very much had decided to deposit 86,400 pennies into your bank account every morning. At first, maybe that didn't seem like a lot. Then you figured out that it was \$864 a day. At seven days a week and 52 weeks a year, those pennies add up to almost \$315,000 each year! However, the bank president added one thing: 'The anonymous giver said you must spend all of the money on the day you receive it! No balance could be carried over to the next day. Each evening the bank must cancel whatever sum you failed to use! Remember, what you don't spend is lost.'"

This sounds great, having all this money to spend. Yet, even greater than money is time. Each day you get 86,400 seconds, which represent 1,440 minutes, which of course equals 24 hours each and every day. God gives you this much time to use each day. Time is ticking away right now; use your time for God's mission and ministry.

Overall, be a doer for God in 2021. Offer God your treasure, your talent, and your time.



SERMONS

Jan 3—Follow Closely

Star Charts are used to help star gazers find certain stars and clusters in the sky. Star charts help make the many stars make sense. When the wise men followed the star, they followed it closely and it led them to Jesus. In the upcoming year, let us closely follow the star to Jesus; follow close!

Jan 10 —My Father’s House

When Jesus was just a boy, his parents left Jerusalem and forgot Jesus. They went frantically back looking for him. They found him in his “Father’s house” the temple. In our lives, we can feel that we have lost Jesus as well. He is still in his Father’s house. Come find him, again.

Jan 17—God Bless You

When someone sneezes, we say, “God bless you.” Why? Where does this tradition come from and what does it mean to offer a blessing to someone? In the middle of the cold and flu season we will focus on what it means to offer a true blessing to someone.

Jan 24—What Kind of Giver are You?

People are like three types of givers—the flint, the sponge and the honeycomb. We will look to what kind of giver we are and how we can be more faithful in our stewardship.

Jan 31—State of the Union

The church council met many months ago and set out a vision for 2021. We will express this vision and implore the congregation to catch the vision. We are better together as we move forward in uncertain times.

Upcoming Zoom Study

January 13, 20, 27

Articles of Religion Study

Lead by Pastor Les

7:00 p.m. Zoom



You can find the articles at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/articles-of-religion>

In a season where we seem to be focusing more on our differences, Salem church will offer a study based on the things we believe in common. They are called the Articles of Religion and have been the foundation of Methodist belief for hundreds of years. The Articles of Religion were edited and adapted by John Wesley and the first Methodists from the Articles of Religion of the Church of England, of which Wesley was a priest and many of the first Methodists were members. These 25 Articles of Religion include statements about the Holy Ghost, free will, and swearing an oath. We will examine each Article and discuss its meaning for our lives today.

Meeting ID:

928 4312 4823

Invitation link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92843124823>



The United Methodist Women will meet on January 14th, 2021 at 6:30pm. Our program for the evening will be the installation of officers for 2021, making

some tentative plans for 2021, and receiving items for the pop up food drive. As always ladies of the Church and Community are invited to attend.

Salem Small Groups are Still Meeting!

Join a small group this winter! The currently listing of Small Groups is on the opposite page. We are all feeling disconnected and on edge, so gather virtually with a group. We also have one group that is meeting in the church. Pray and talk about God's word and receive encouragement. Contact a group leader or the Small Group Coordinator, Susan Ryder sryder@fcsalem.org or 717-938-1928.



Winter Prayer Groups Forming

Pray through the winter with a few folks from Salem! Prayer groups will consist of two or three people. The groups will meet

via Zoom or telephone once a week for about one hour of catching up, devotion, and prayer. Small Group Coordinator Susan Ryder, will offer groups prompts for prayer, but groups can choose to take their prayer in any direction they wish. Groups will begin forming mid-January, and will last



through March 20, the beginning of spring.

If you are interested in participating or have questions, contact Susan Ryder sryder@fcsalem.org or 717-574-1960. She will gather names and create the groups. If you are interested in being paired with a particular person, just let her know.

Group Name	Day	Time	Where	Contact
<i>LampLighters</i>	Sun.	7 p.m.	Kline Home Indoors, masked	Dave Kline kline_dave_99@hotmail.com
<i>Seekers in Christ</i>	Sun.	11 a.m.	To Be Decided	Jerri Mulholland jer-rilm2008@gmail.com
Traveling Together Toward God	Mon.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Harry Derrick hksj4@aol.com
<i>Women's Book Group</i>	3 rd Thurs.	7 p.m.	Church	Marsha Uber uber2495@ptd.net
<i>United Methodist Women</i>	2 nd Thurs	Varies	To Be Decided	Heidi Stahl hlstahl@aol.com
Al-Anon	Wed.	6:30pm	Zoom	Amy Kerstetter aker21@ptd.net
Believers in Faith	Thurs.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Robyn Adams rb2ada@aol.com
Unbinding The Gospel	Tues.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Ellen Smith, Karen Derrick el-len.smith6@verizon.net kdqwiltz@aol.com
God in the Ordinary	Daily	Varies	Facebook Group	Christy Musselman cmusselman@hotmail.com
Spirit Growers	Mon.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Randy and Stacey Wilkinson sjwraw@comcast.net



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED