



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am—3:00 pm

Office CLOSED April 5, 2021

From Pastor Les

Carla always buys the Towsey family new Easter clothes. I am not sure how she does it, she makes us all match in some way. It takes Carla a whole day of shopping to get us all to look similar. If you didn't know the Towsey family at all, on Easter morning you would know we are a family just based on how we are dressed. Each Easter, Carla has a family picture taken in the front of the church.

Carla doesn't enjoy shopping, what a lucky man am I, so I didn't know if she would go shopping for Easter this year. We have our Easter clothes that were bought for last year and never used since our church building was closed due to Covid. Much to my surprise, Carla went shopping and got the Towsey family new matching Easter clothes. Maybe the kids grew out of last year's clothes, or maybe Carla just enjoys buying clothes that make the Towsey family match.



Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26-27, "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." We are to be clothed in Christ. What does this mean? It means we are all one family. Being clothed in Christ doesn't mean we match colors and styles on the outside, it means our belief in Jesus matches on the inside. We believe in one who died and rose again, offering us forgiveness of sin and hope of eternal life. Being clothed in Christ means we match through our faith and love for him.

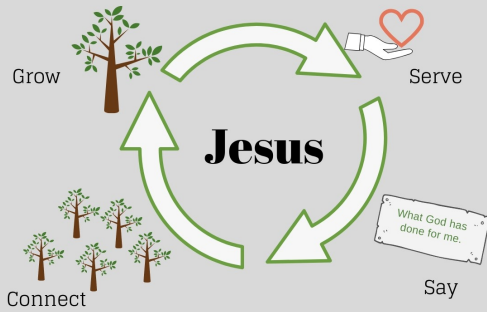
(Continued on Page 8)

In This Issue:

- ◆ Easter—in person!
- ◆ UM Army Coming
- ◆ Finance Committee
- ◆ Loss of a Spouse
- ◆ Activity Updates
And More!

April

Discipleship Path



Disciples: Get Closer to Jesus & Become Like Jesus



The Salem Stimulus
April 2021
Vol 49 No 4

Contact Information:

Les Towsey, Lead Pastor (ltowsey@fcsalem.org)
Jenny Thomas, Community Pastor (jthomas@fcsalem.org)
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Stacey Wilkinson, Office Assistant (assistant@fcsalem.org)
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

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

8:15am in the Sanctuary
9:30am in Fellowship Hall (also live-streamed)
11:00am in Fellowship Hall



“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:12 (NIV)

Please lift-up the following in your prayer time during the month of April.

- Those that do not have a close, personal relationship with Christ and that the events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter bring them closer.
- Those who struggle with an addiction—drugs, alcohol, food, gambling or something else—that they may find the will and strength to move forward and find/accept the help needed to overcome the problem.
- As spring brings the new growth of trees, flowers, vegetables that it also may bring new growth in you and your spiritual journey.

Online and Text Giving at Salem—Salem has updated its online giving and has added text giving! How do you do it?

To give online: Go to www.fcsalem.org and click the give tab. A link is available there to get you going, it's simple and fast. Salem accepts debit & credit cards, as well as, bill pay.

To text give: Text fcsumc to 73256 and you will be prompted from there.

If you have any questions or concerns contact the office at office@fcsalem.org 717-938-1928

Giving at Salem
Text FCSUMC to 73256
By Mail
Drop off at the Church
Online
Bill pay 
www.fcsalem.org

April Birthdays



Madelyn Altland
Kellan Cox
Sean Cox

Savannah Duff
Olivia Etter

Hannah Fisher
Leo Oliva
Piper Shelley

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



COVID 19 Appointment Ministry—Over 65 and struggling to get a COVID 19 appointment? Perhaps our COVID 19 Appointment Ministry can help. We'll do our best to search the internet and find you an appointment. If you need transportation, we can help with that also. (COVID 19 safety protocols will be used when transporting.) Call Kerri or Dave Kline at 717-774-4995 to give



us your Medicare card number and other pertinent information or if you'd like to volunteer to help with this ministry.

Pick One Thing

It can be hard to stay informed of all the great stuff happening at Salem! Here's a piece of advice—Pick one thing. Dedicate yourself to regularly reading one thing to see what's going on at Salem. You can choose: The weekly email blast, monthly newsletter, the Sunday announcements or slides.



COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS—FINANCE COMMITTEE

Church Council has three sub-committees, one of which is the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is charged, along with the Lead Pastor's oversight, to create the yearly budget for the Church. This budget deals with all operating finances, including building operations as well as Church staffing. Before the budget is put into place, it is presented to the full Council for discussion and approval. Throughout the year, the Finance Committee meets to review the working budget to make necessary changes and adjustments. Current members of the Finance Committee are: Robyn Adams, Mike Lehr and Jeff Strohecker (committee chair). Please see Page 5 for an introduction to the committee members

COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS (cont.)

Jeff Strohecker (Chair)—Jeff, along with his wife Peg, have been members of Salem since 1995. Over those 25 years, Jeff has served on the previous Executive Committee as Chairman as well as serving on Council as both Vice-Chair and Chair. Jeff has also helped Peg teach Sunday School classes and helped with service trips to Philadelphia, Keyser, West Virginia and Stubbornville, Ohio. Jeff is also involved in the Easter Egg Making Project. Jeff and Peg have two adult children, Kate and Patrick, who grew up in Salem but now live outside of the area. Jeff can be reached by email: hockeygod265@aol.com or (717)884-1941.



Robyn Adams—Robyn joined Salem in 2008 and has served as a Stephen Leader, UMW officer, and piano accompanist as needed. Robyn is a teacher in the West Shore School District. One of her life changing moments was completing the Financial Peace University course offered by Salem church in 2014. After losing her savings due to battling cancer, she is now blessed with a healthy mindset in managing God's money. She may be reached at rb2ada@aol.com or 717-856-3423.

Michael Lehr—Michael and his family joined Salem in 2009 and can be found Sunday mornings at the 9:30 service. Just look for the guy in the Penn State shirt. Michael and his wife, Susan, have two adult children, Jessica and Benjamin. They recently broke the boredom of the pandemic by welcoming a puppy (Barkley) to the family. Michael previously served as the Financial Secretary at Salem. Michael works in the Risk Management Department at the Rite Aid Corporate office. He can be reached at 717-774-5933



Holy Week



April 1—Holy Thursday

A Night Different than All Other Nights

3pm Recorded Meditation available on YouTube

4pm Community Take-away Meal
(RSVP at 938-1928 or office@fcsalem.org)

4pm Food Distribution
(First come first served)

6-7 pm Outdoor Communion

April 2, Good Friday

7 pm In-person Worship Service—Startled Hearts
Are you startled when you see a cross? Probably not, they have become so common place in our culture. We will learn how to be startled by the cross again by knowing the cross didn't kill Jesus, instead Jesus choose to die upon the cross.

Easter Services



6:30 a.m. Outdoor

8:15, 9:30 & 11 a.m., In person

9:30 a.m. Livestream

www.fcsalem.org



Easter Sunday, April 4—Believing Hearts

Doubting Thomas would not believe that Jesus was resurrected until he placed his hands in the death wounds of Jesus. Then he believed! Today, we can't place our hands upon the scars of Jesus, yet we are still challenged to believe in Jesus' resurrection.

April 11—Full Hearts

On the walk to Emmaus, the disciples didn't know they were walking and talking with Jesus. Only after breaking bread with Jesus did their eyes open and they recognized Jesus. Friends, open your eyes and see the fullness of Jesus. You will feel your hearts bursting inside you.

After Easter—A teacher of the law once asked Jesus what was the "greatest commandment."

Jesus said in Mark 12:30-31, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Jesus is serious about us following this command. So, how are you loving God in these ways? For three weeks we will be examining this passage and exercising our hearts, souls, minds, and our strength so that they grow in love for God.

April 18—Exercising our Love for God

Exercise is important. Exercising your love for God is paramount. We will learn that we are called to be loyal to God and love him with our all.

April 25—Exercising our Heart Soul

Exercise is important—exercising your love for God in your heart and soul is paramount. Our heart represents the center of our physical and spiritual life. It includes our passions and desires. We want to fix our hearts on Jesus so he becomes the center of our lives. Our soul means our "breath" or the deepest parts of who we are. You soul is where your meaning & purpose for living originates. We want to focus our souls on Jesus so he becomes the reason we live.

May 2—Exercising our Mind and Strength

Exercise is important. Exercising your love for God in your mind is paramount. Our minds are a truly powerful creation of God. We want to learn to offer our reason, knowledge, memory, and imagination to Jesus so he becomes the center or all our thoughts. When we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, our bodies then love God accordingly with all our strength. Our faith is to be practiced outwardly though our hands and feet.

Budget Inn Community Center—Despite the ongoing pandemic, the BICC ministry has been participating in weekly and monthly events and continues to serve more and more families residing at the local Budget Inn. Over the past few months, we've been able to provide hot meals monthly, distribute donated food, enjoy crafts and activities with the children, meet clothing needs, and serve residents' spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. The residents continue to respond with words of gratitude, and nothing beats the laughs and smiles of the children.

Specifically, every Sunday from 3-4pm, members and volunteers gather at the BICC for Coffee, Donuts, and Talk. If you're interested in joining, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084ea9ac22a7ff2-donuts> Once a month, we also serve a hot meal as well. Food continues to be one of the residents' biggest needs, so we welcome donations for these events or to stock the pantry shelves in the BICC room. Donations of toiletry items are also needed. We hope to add more educational materials (books, puzzles, etc.) in the BICC room, given the number of young children present.



As the weather becomes milder and we look forward to spring and summer, we have a lot of events planned. We will resume weekly outdoor events (crafts, games, water play, stories, movement activities, science experiments, and more!), along with monthly picnics. We are also looking forward to continuing food distribution, similar to last year's Grab and Go meals, over the summer. If you'd like to learn more about how you can participate, please contact Marty Wagner: martyj78@ptd.net or 717-574-1682 or attend our next Zoom meeting (Mondays at 7pm, bimonthly—Marty can get you the link). Thank you again for all of your support, donations, and volunteering!

(Continued from Page 1)

I am excited to be able to worship together on Easter this year and to put on our Easter clothes. I know many will continue to worship at home this Easter, still put on your Easter clothes. As we all do, remember what really matters is that we are clothed in Christ through our belief of his death and resurrection. At home or in person, may our oneness of Christ bring joy to our hearts and praise to our lips as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

LIBRARY NEWS

by Kathy Alford

Did you know that you can donate money to our church library, and books will be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one? Bookplates will be placed inside of each book donated. You can write a check out to the church and put Fishing Creek Salem Christian Library in the memo line.

This month's article will feature Joyce Meyer books bought by a donation from the woman's book club at Salem in memory of Linda Weir.

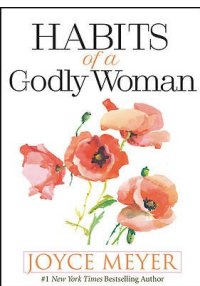
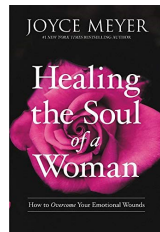
Joyce Meyer, Christian author and speaker, is world-wide famous with her radio/television shows and Joyce Meyer Ministries. She also has had many free functions at the Giant Center in Hershey. Our church library has 25 of Joyce's books in our collection. The following three books have been added to our library:

Do It Afraid: Embracing Courage in the Face of Fear

Joyce Meyer explains that fear is everywhere and affects everyone. She teaches you how to understand fear and recognize how it works in your life, to confront the fears holding you back, and to change your mentality to achieve lasting freedom from some of the most common fears people face.

Healing the Soul of a Woman: How to Overcome Your Emotional Wounds

This book delves deeper into Joyce's story and the journey of healing for all women. Each chapter guides you through whatever obstacles may be holding you back to find your true destiny as God's beloved, and a special journaling section will help you find freedom from your deepest struggles.



Habits of a Godly Woman

Joyce Meyer outlines the habits of a Godly woman. They are the following: God's word; God's presence, prayer, faith, gratitude, trusting God, joy, peace, hope, positive thoughts and words; receiving God's forgiveness, and extending forgiveness to other.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

EVERYONE HAS A PLACE

April 1, 2021—**Salem Shares Food Pop-Up and an Easter Dinner Service Opportunity!** To contribute to the dinner, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C48A4A92BAA8-holy>



Helping People Apply—The Commonwealth of PA is offering an Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The Community Progress Council of York has approached Salem as a community partner to assist individuals in being a site where folks could come and receive help in the application process. Salem will be on a list for individuals to contact the church office to schedule an appointment to meet with our volunteers. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer in this effort to help folks in need, please contact Pastor Jenny at jthomas@fcsalem.org

UMArmy is coming to Salem—UMArmy is coming Sunday, July 18 -24th to do services projects in our community! With a few pandemic protocol modifications, Salem will be hosting several youth groups and accompanying adults from local churches in a day-camp model—meet each morning for work assignments and morning devotions, depart for various worksites organized by UMArmy and return for a worship & sharing time. Work groups will have very limited access to our inside facilities, but may be seen mostly in our outdoor campus. If you would like to participate in the UMArmy experience, you must register with them: <https://www.umarmy.org/regions/northeast-north> Contact Pastor Jenny at jthomas@fcsalem.org with questions.

As You Prepare for Holy Thursday, April 1st

The Passover (seder meal) traditionally begins with the question, **“Why is this night different from all the other nights?”** The answer comes in retelling the struggle and miraculous deliverance of God’s people being freed from bondage in Egypt. As the meal is shared, the remembrance of who we are and whose we are is the focus.

Jesus prepared a place for the Passover meal (Luke 22:7-13). We come not for Passover meal, but as the gospel reveals, Jesus invited his friends to his table for what we now celebrate as his perpetual communion meal. As friends of /with Christ, we celebrate the communion that started all communion. Maundy Thursday is our Christian Thanksgiving, and everyone in the family comes home.

Please join us on April 1st at 6pm for a brief but meaningful outdoor communion in the church pavilion, or remain in your vehicle to be serve.

This year, an in-person dinner together as a church gathered as friends of Jesus is not possible. So on the night he gives this one command, let us live into the command to love one another.

Some may ask the question **“why is this night (April 1st) different than all the other nights?”** Instead of preparing a fellowship dinner for ourselves, we will be preparing a take-out style dinner in honor of Christ by sharing a meal with our neighbors.

Luke 14:1, 12-14

“When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Passover is a remembrance of a past event—deliverance from slavery.

On Holy Thursday, we do more than remember Jesus.

Communion is a remembrance **with** a living Savior

— Christ is present! This is our focus.

Come home and gather close to His Table! Come to love and serve!

On the final day of the Lenten season, finish with love!



Save the Date!! Vacation Bible School is June 13-18 IN PERSON!!

Children's Ministry Update

Tracey Michelsen, Children's Ministry Director

The children at Salem have been doing great in our hybrid Cross Training Sunday School. To bring you up to speed to where we are today ...a few weeks into the shutdown due to Covid 19; the children and I began to meet on Zoom for Cross Training each week. This gave me the opportunity to pray with them and listen to their hearts and concerns as well as present to them a Sunday School lesson. Through the past almost 12 months, it has evolved to the hybrid model that we are using today. Currently, I am doing a Children's Message on the Live Stream for our 9:30 worship service... once that message is given I invite the in-person kids to come with me to the Welcome Center where we continue with Cross Training. I have been creating weekly packets to go with each of the Sunday's lessons for the kids. The themed packets includes a cover sheet with the theme of the week, the week's bible verse/story, coloring sheets, word puzzles, and prepped craft materials. Parents who are attending church at home can pick up the packets outside the South Entrance to take home; and those who are in person can grab theirs on the way in on a Sunday morning. It has been so exciting to see the children excited to keep learning about Jesus!! On a typical Sunday we have 12-18 children in person and 6-12 children participating via Zoom. God is Good!!





Are you looking for a new volunteer opportunity in 2021?

Are you comfortable attending worship services? Consider this: Sunday morning TECH is looking to increase the size of the team. After you are trained, you can pick the service(s) and dates that work for your schedule. A trained volunteer will be with you on Sunday mornings. Contact the office at office@fcsalem.org

Salem needs some expert help. Michael Hayes is Salem’s Building Coordinator. Sometimes he needs direction and advice from someone who has experience in a trade. The church office is compiling a list of people he can call to help with decisions, quotes, or simply answer questions about painting, drywall, plumbing, or general construction. You will be compensated for your services with a “thank you” and a pat on the back. Maybe you know of someone in the community who can serve as a contact person. They don’t need to be a member of the church. Please let the church office know if you want to be on our expert list.



Operate Salem's Livestream Camera and help with our 9:30 a.m. livestream service. No camera knowledge required, someone from the Tech Team will always be there and you can help as often as you are able. To learn more, contact the church office at office@fcsalem.org. or 717-938-1928.





The United Methodist Women will meet via Zoom on Thursday, April 8th at 6:30 pm. We hope to meet in person soon. Please contact Heidi Stahl at HLstahl01@gmail.com for more information.



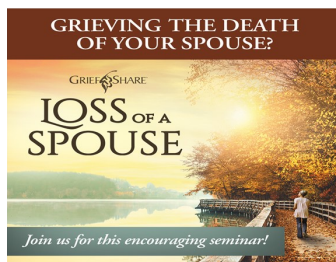
Next Sip n Share is April 25 – When we think of exercise, we may soon be out of breath. When we think of soul, we look deep within us.

Merge spiritual exercise & soul together and it brings us to spiritually breathe deep to reach our true purpose. How is it with your soul, your purpose?

Salem is offering a **'Loss Of A Spouse' seminar** on Saturday, April 10 from 9:30am - 12:00pm. The seminar includes video interviews with grieving spouses, professional counselors, and pastors.

A workbook (included with the seminar) will be used to discuss the challenges of grieving the loss of a spouse. The seminar will be led by Linda Wrightstone and Dave Kline.

Contact Dave at 717-774-4995 or kline_dave_99@hotmail.com to register. A \$5 fee, to cover the workbook cost, will be collected the morning of the seminar. A description of the seminar can be viewed at: <https://www.griefshare.org/loss>.



**Join Us for the Mount Davis Challenge in conjunction with the
“Exercise” Sermon Series after Easter!**

Mount Davis is the highest peak in Pennsylvania. Located in the 5,685-acre Forbes State Forest near the hamlet of Markleton in Elk Lick Township, Somerset County.

The Challenge: Climb 3,213 steps in three weeks-April 18th-May 8th!
(1071 per week / 153 per day)
Climb steps, keep track, and “make it to the top!”

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Total
Week 1								
Week 2								
Week 3								

Hiking opportunity: Sunday, May 23, 1 PM
EASY HIKE: Wildwood Park in Harrisburg OR
MODERATE HIKE: Center Point Knob on the Appalachian Trail

BACK TO THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NEWS
By Kathy Alford

I am pleased to announce that the Back to the Bible Sunday School Class will resume classes on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 upstairs in room 210 beginning **Sunday, April 18**. We have not met regularly for one year, and we are so happy to get together again! Would you like to give our class a try? Visitors are always welcome. You can attend the 8:15 or 11:00 church services and then be with our group either after or before your service.

I'd like to thank our class members for continuing to financially support our two missions. We support Kyle Klinedinst and his work with Campus Outreach in North Carolina. We also sponsor a 6-year-old girl from Malawi, Iness Phiri, through World Vision.

Here is our study schedule for April:

Matthew—April 18—Matthew 27 and Matthew 28
A Disciple's Path: A Guide for United Methodists
 April 25—Chapter 1 “Discipleship in the Way of Grace”



402 Valley Road Etters, PA 17319

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED