

*The Salem*

# *Stimulus*

A Publication of Fishing Creek Salem UMC

May 2021  
Vol 49/Issue 5



**Church Office Hours through May 27th:**  
Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3:00pm  
**Summer Hours (Memorial Day—Labor Day):**  
Mon-Thursday 8am-12 noon  
**Closed May 31st** for Memorial Day

## *From Pastor Les*

Henry David Thoreau, in his classic book, *Walden*, told of a powerful custom of the Mucclasse Indians. Once each year, they had a village clean up called a "busk." First, they would make new clothes, furniture, and cooking utensils. They would keep all of these new things in a building outside of the village. When everything was ready, they would begin their annual spring cleaning.

Every corner of every house was scrubbed. Every stick of furniture was thrown out. Every child's toy went to the garbage heap. The dirt paths were swept, and the weeds were plucked up. Even the food left over from winter was thrown out. All of the refuse in the village was gathered together into a pile in the center of the village. Then the chief set it on fire. As they watched it burn, they took off their clothes and tossed them into the fire. They tended the fire carefully and made sure that everything was gone.

Then they washed, bathed, and dressed in their new clothes. They gathered again at the heart of the village. The chief started a new fire and from the flames, each family took burning sticks home to start their own fires. The old was gone, life was beginning again!

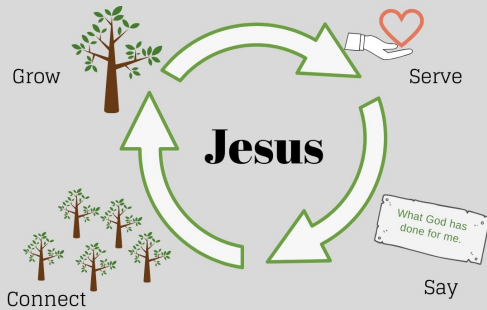
(Continued on Page 10)

### **In This Issue:**

- ◆ Capri Son Grand Prix
- ◆ Let's Take a Hike!
- ◆ Spring Cleaning
- ◆ Small Groups
- ◆ Activity Updates  
And More!

*may*

## Discipleship Path



***Disciples: Get Closer to Jesus & Become Like Jesus***



The Salem Stimulus  
May 2021  
Vol 49 No 5

### **Contact Information:**

Les Towsey, Lead Pastor ([ltowsey@fcsalem.org](mailto:ltowsey@fcsalem.org))  
Jenny Thomas, Community Pastor ([jthomas@fcsalem.org](mailto:jthomas@fcsalem.org))  
Sandy Herman, Office Manager ([office@fcsalem.org](mailto:office@fcsalem.org))  
Tracey Michelsen, Office Assistant ([assistant@fcsalem.org](mailto:assistant@fcsalem.org))  
717-938-1928—[www.fcsalem.org](http://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



*"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." Psalm 5:3 (NIV)*

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

- National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 6th - that all believers, no matter their religion, can unite in prayer and bring renewed respect for God to all people.
- Mother's Day, May 9th – for those who are have a close relationship with their mom, for those who are missing their mothers who have passed, for those who may not know their mom or have a good relationship with her.
- Memorial Day, May 31st – a day to remember and honor persons who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

---

Bible Study on Acts 1-12 with Pastor Les: Thursdays May 13, 20, 27 at 7pm via Zoom. We will study 4 chapters each night. Please read ahead in preparation for our study. Contact the office for the Zoom link.



---

Dear Salem Family,

A heartfelt thank you to all who prayed, called, and sent cards or food during our recent loss of Harry's mother. It was such a blessing to know that we were surrounded by so much support.



Thank you, Harry and Karen Derrick

---

Corrine Armes  
Max Beam  
Gabriel Bryson  
Joseph Christine  
Bobby Earl



Daniella Higgins  
Colton Howard  
Zachary Martin  
Chase Michelsen

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



## Time for Spring Cleaning!

Since Salem was less used during COVID, we could spread out a bit and place things in places they didn't usually reside. Now we are beginning to use more of the church for small groups, Scouts etc. and we need to tidy up our spaces. That includes any closet spaces that your ministry may use. Look around, tidy, gather and clean out so we can be ready for when we open Salem even more!

---

## Capri Son Grand Prix

Sunday, May 30th (after Sunday worship) 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Parking lot road course complete with straw bales in the turns, parents preferred seating infield, a photo (finish) booth, Pj's pit stop



(handle bars wiped clean, lap sticker adjustments, pinwheels) and so much more!



Race will officially begin at 1pm following the invocation.

All non-motorized kids' wheels are welcome!

Enjoy lunch from food trucks, or bring your own picnic lunch!

---

**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 persons. Applications & guidelines are located in the Information Rack by the South Entrance. Deadline to apply is June 15th.



## Let's take a HIKE together!

Whether you are a novice or experienced hiker there is a hike for you on Sunday, May 23rd. Both hikes will meet in the Church parking lot at 1 pm to caravan to the destination.

### **EASY HIKE:**

Stacey Wilkinson will lead an easy 3.1 mile hike around Wildwood Lake in Harrisburg.



### **MODERATE HIKE:**

Pastor Jenny Thomas will lead a moderate 6 mile hike on a portion of the Appalachian Trail near Boiling Springs to Center Knob and back to Boiling Springs.

Be sure to dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes or sneakers and bring along water and a snack for on the hike.

For more information on either hike contact:

Pastor Jenny at [jthomas@fcsalem.org](mailto:jthomas@fcsalem.org)

Stacey at [sjwilkinson94@gmail.com](mailto:sjwilkinson94@gmail.com)

---

## **Council Update**

Salem's Council has been busy. We started the year with an in-depth review of our structure, roles, and guidelines. Pastor Les led us in a book study of Kay Kotan's *Mission Possible*, a resource which outlines best practices for the simplified structure within the United Methodist Church. We found, in many instances, that Salem's Council structure is right on the mark. However, there was one area we determined needs some work. We've decided to add a Nominations and Leader Development Committee in order to be in complete agreement with best practices and the *UMC Book of Discipline*. The Council will be working on this more throughout the year and plan to have the new committee in effect in 2022. More details will be shared as they are available.

In other efforts, the Pastor Parish Relations team has developed a new evaluation form for Lead Pastor reviews; the Trustees have been working with those who care for our cemetery on pricing of plots, and the Finance team has been reviewing special account definitions and restrictions as well as overseeing the budget. In our April meeting, we approved updated policies.

## Wishing Stacey Wilkinson Well in Her New Position!

Stacey Wilkinson, who has served for over two years in the position of Office Assistant, has taken another position in a different field. She has been an invaluable asset with managing COVID restrictions, helping Pastor Les get acclimated and, of course, managing her “regular” job.

We are excited for her as she moves into a new adventure, but she will be very missed by all of us! You will still have the pleasure of her family worshipping at Salem.

Her duties will be divided between Tracey Michelsen and Sandy Herman. Tracey will now be the designer and contact for the Sunday Announcements and the monthly newsletter. Sandy will be producing the bulletins each week. Please continue to send all announcements and Stimulus articles to both [office@fcsalem.org](mailto:office@fcsalem.org) and [assistant@fcsalem.org](mailto:assistant@fcsalem.org).

Stacey, we thank you for ALL you have done during your employment here. We wish you the very best in your new role!



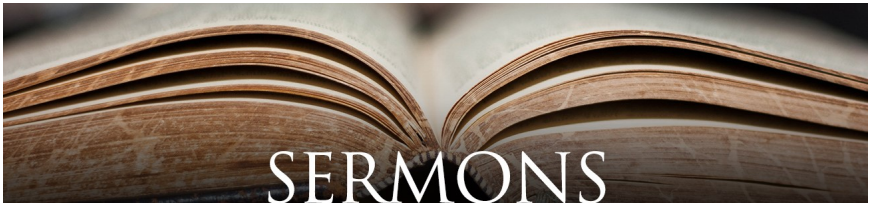
---

## Salem’s Reopening Plan—from Pastor Les

Salem church has never reopened after a pandemic before, so we are in uncharted waters. I know some would like us to toss aside our masks and get back to “normal.” Others would like us to double mask and keep strong limits on all we do. There is no pleasing everyone, and there is no playbook to follow. We will do the best we can.

We are opening up a little more in May. To give you some examples: you will see coffee (no snacks) on Sunday mornings, the children’s program is expanding, and Boy Scouts are using the building in a limited way. I want to encourage groups and ministry teams to consider meeting again, yet in Covid-safe ways. We will keep following our Bishop and Governor’s advice when it comes to masks, gatherings, and food. Until the “all clear” is announced, we will do our best to reopen in safe and responsible ways. Thank you for your understanding and prayers.





## 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 of 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 through our hands and feet.

---

## May 9—My Mean Terrible Mother

Pastor Les will be sharing stories how his mother was so mean and terrible, or at least that is what Pastor Les thought when he was younger. Looking back, his mother shaped him to become who he is today. We will celebrate how our mother's shape us with their love.

## May 16—Loving our neighbors

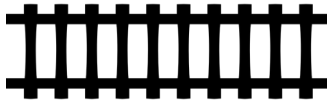
Jesus' second greatest command is for us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. What does this mean? We will explore who our neighbors are and how Jesus desires us to love them.

---

**The Holy Spirit: A Sermon Series** Begins May 23 through June 6. We will explore the mystery surrounding the Spirit & the meaning of Pentecost. And learn more about the power of the Spirit in our lives and the Spirit's guidance and direction in our lives.



# SALEM



# STATION



## WHO IS READY TO LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL?

This year we are excited to bring back VBS more fun than ever!! Preparations have already begun!! It is now full steam ahead to bring loads of children to Jesus by creating a fun, safe atmosphere for having mountains of fun with live action skits, music & dancing, games & snacks to learn about HIM!.

### ITEMS NEEDED FOR DONATION

These are items you will need to be dropped off in the Mission Corner as soon as possible. These items will NOT be returned and may be painted.

- Water based paint; black, white, yellow, red, blues, greens
- Large Appliance Boxes
- Glass Marbles
- Large crosses (wooden or metal 8 inches or larger)
- Mexican Blankets
- Pool Noodles
- Black Sharpies (need 24 Fine Point)
- Cases of drinking Water
- Paint Brushes to paint sets
- Gift Cards for Ace Hardware, Walmart or Amazon
- Black painters tape (removable black tape for carpet)
- Black foam core board (12 large)
- Black duct tape

## JUNE 13-18



### Volunteers needed the Week of VBS

Volunteer Meal Prep/Cooking/  
Serving/Clean Up  
Craft Prep for preschool projects  
Set painting AT THE CHURCH  
Set painting at YOUR HOME  
Light Carpentry projects  
Organizing in Ministry Workshop with Tracey  
Small at the church projects 1-2 hours each  
An afternoon or evening of decorating; it will be preplanned just needs executed (a few of these sessions are available)





**WANT TO HELP IN SPIRIT THIS YEAR.....**

WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US IN **PRAYER!!**

**PRAY** FOR THE LITTLE HEARTS WHO WILL BE MEETING  
JESUS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!!

**PRAY** FOR THE YOUTH AND ADULTS  
WHO WILL BE LEADING  
CHILDREN THROUGHOUT  
THE WEEK.

### **TEMS TO BORROW....**

Please put your name on these items so that we can return the item(s) to you after VBS is over: Please contact Tracey about where to put the item

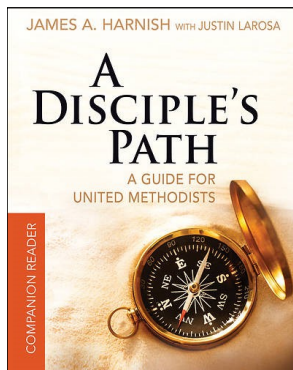
- Train Signs
- Luggage
- Garment bags for Luggage Car
- All things Trains!!

If you have any questions feel free to contact the VBS Director Tracey Zeigler Michelsen; Director of Children's Ministry  
tmichelsen@fcsalem.org  
OR 717-938-1928

# BACK TO THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS NEWS

By Kathy Alford

During May our Sunday School class will continue studying from James Harnish's book *A Disciple's Path: A Guide For United Methodists*. The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practice of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will develop spiritual practices, discover our unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in our own lives, the lives of others, and the world. Visitors are always welcome. Materials are provided. We meet every Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 in room 210 upstairs.



May 2	Chapter 2 "The Path of Biblical Prayer"
May 9	Chapter 3 "The Priority of Presence"
May 16	Chapter 4 "Money Matters"
May 23	Chapter 5 "The Way of Service"
May 30	Chapter 6 "The Way of Witness"

---

(Continued from Page 1)

In Christ, we constantly let go of the old and embrace the new. I don't know about you, but in some ways as Covid passes, it has me excited about the newness of life. New possibilities, new adventures, new learnings, and many other new things. I am ready to be done with the old, and excited about a new day. Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." God's mercy and care for us is fresh and new each morning. So, let us embrace the newness of life and newness of each day.

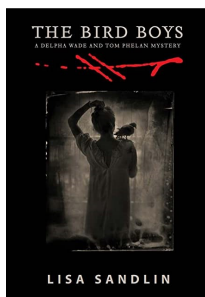
## LIBRARY NEWS

by Kathy Alford

This month's article features books recommended by the United Methodist Women for their 2021 reading program. Everyone is encouraged to read them, however! All of these books were purchased in memory of Linda Weir by the Salem Bookworms.

### ***Gun Moon*** by Jeffrey L. Staley

In 1898, 3-year-old Chinese-American girl Mei Chun Lai is sold to a cruel brothel keeper, where a sympathetic prostitute befriends her. Two years later, at the height of a plague quarantine, a young Methodist woman rescues Chun and places her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. The home is destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. Chun and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a cross-country singing tour to raise funds to rebuild. When their home matron suffers a breakdown, 13-year-old Chun must lead the band of children home. Based on a true story.



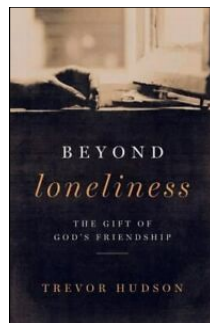
### ***The Bird Boys: A Delpha Wade and Tom Phelan Mystery*** by Lisa Sandlin

After a serial killer almost murdered Delpha Wade, the county hospital released her into the handcuffs of the city police for questioning—she killed the man and is an ex-con, after all. It's the 1970s in Beaumont, and mindsets don't change along the Texas Gulf Coast. Soon she and her boss, private detective Tom Phelan, are once again on a case. It seems easy—one

Bird brother looking for the long-lost other—but it turns out that one brother is a murderer.

### ***Beyond Loneliness: The Gift of God's Friendship*** by Trevor Hudson

Loneliness touches everyone, and it can be one of the most painful experiences of life. People long for relationship with others but what may surprise them is that God longs to be friends with them. This book provides guidance for building a close friendship with God and easing the ache of loneliness.



# SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

## EVERYONE HAS A PLACE

### Communion Visitors Needed

It won't be long before we will be able to take communion to our shut-ins again. If you would like to join the team, we offer training and we will pair you with a seasoned visitor until you are comfortable. Serving communion to someone who cannot come to church is a loving way to keep us in touch with each other. Everyone involved is blessed. Contact Jackie Shaffer for more information: [jkieshaffr@aol.com](mailto:jkieshaffr@aol.com) or 717-557-8789.

---



**Salem Shares Food Pop-up** will distribute food boxes on Thursday, May 6th at 4pm. Gina's Mission will also be joining us to distribute food for families with pets in need of food too. Welcome Gina!

---

### Saying Farewell to Christmas Closet

After careful consideration of time resources and how Salem is reaching out to the community through other ministries, the Christmas Closet Volunteers have decided to discontinue this ministry. Christmas Closet was an important part of Salem's community outreach. We have expanded our community outreach, since its beginnings, with Budget Inn Community Center, an expansion of Soul Food Ministry, and monthly food distribution. We will no longer collect items for CC in the Ministry Workshop. Many organizations such as Community Aid and Salvation Army can use the items that we typically collected. Thank you for your support of Christmas Closet and all serving ministries here!

## Serve @ Salem – Counting on you

At any hour or any day, a casual believer searches the internet for a new church. What makes a church more attractive than all the rest? Studies have shown that opportunities to do **hands-on service to others** peaks their interest. Congregations involved in their local community glimmers off an internet home page like a precious jewel for those seeking a faith community in which to belong.

Salem is a shining gem in this community ... and what we DO is something folks would like to know more fully. Pastor Jenny has a measurable ministry goal. She is literally “counting on you.” She is starting “the year 2021 count” of the number of persons from Salem who are involved with hands-on ministry in our community – one serving op or event, your name counted. No one will be counted twice who has served. The goal is to get as many Salemites as possible doing hands-on ministry. By the end of 2021, we will have a total number of the people who have served in hands-on ministry at Salem. Hands-on ministry qualifies as working directly, face to face, with people we do not know. Here are a few examples:

- Distributing food boxes or community take-out meals
- Student Summer “Grab n Go” lunches at the Budget Inn
- Coffee, Donuts and Talk, Sunday afternoons at BICC
- Vacation Bible School (exceeding 100+ children)
- National Night Out (pending)
- Soul Food Pantry

By January 2022, and Pastor Jenny’s careful account of volunteers, Salem will be able to share (on our website) “the hands-on serving percentage” by the number of people doing hands on ministry at Salem based on one year of serving. You think we can reach 40 % of Salem serving in hands-on ministry based on our average attendance of 275? So, prayerfully consider a way you can serve at least **once** before January.

We honor Jesus by this goal, and also say in a specific measurable way that we Serve @ Salem in the example of Christ, who came to serve not to be served.



United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, May 13th at 6:30pm at the pavilion. Please choose a flower that you like and plan on sharing a minute or so of information about it with everyone.

Please contact Heidi Stahl at Hlstahl01@gmail.com for more information.

---



**Next Sip n Share is  
May 16th**

"Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself". As Dr Phil says, "how's that workin' for ya?" What

does Jesus mean by the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment?

---

### **Women of Light—Nationality Potluck**

Sunday, May 2 - 12:30 p.m.

Jeannie Pelen's Home

336 Braddock Drive, Etters, 717-579-5164

Inside or outside depending on the weather.

Bring a dish from your nationality to share with others.

All single, divorced and widowed women are invited.



There is a sign-up sheet on the Women of Light bulletin board at church or you can reply to the email sent out, or email Jeannie at jpelen@ptd.net with your name, nationality and what dish you will bring. Plates, utensils, beverages will be provided. Please continue to bring your mask.

# Spring 2021 Small Groups

Welcome to Salem's Small Groups! Interested in a group? Contact the leader, or Susan Ryder, Small Group Coordinantor at sryder@fcsalem.org, 717-938-1928. We're happy to answer any questions you may have!

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>LampLighters</b>	Sun.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Dave Kline kline_dave_99@hotmail.com
<b>Seekers in Christ</b>	Sun.	11 a.m.	Rm 115	Jerri Mulholland jer- rilm2008@gmail.com
<b>Traveling Together Toward God</b>	Mon.	7 p.m.	Zoom	Harry Derrick hksj4@aol.com
<b>United Methodist Women</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	Varies	Church	Heidi Stahl hlstahl@aol.com
<b>Al-Anon- Recovery Group</b>	Wed.	6:30pm	Zoom	Maureen Sparvieri
<b>God in the Ordinary Online Group</b>	Daily	Varies	Facebook Group	Christy Musselman cmusselman@hotmail.com
<b>Women of Light-Group for Single Women</b>	Varies	Varies	Varies	Linda Wrightstone lindy1115@verizon.net
<b>Back to the Bible</b>	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Rm 210	Kathy Alford Kathleenal- ford@msn.com
<b>Study with Pastor Les Acts 1-12</b>	Thurs., May 13, 20 & 27	7 p.m.	Zoom	PastorLes Towsey ltowsey@fcsalem.org





402 Valley Road Etters, PA 17319

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**