

Dreaming Together

Over the next year, Salem will embark on a journey to discern God's vision for us for the next five years. This is Salem's vision, so your participation is needed! To help us along, we will offer opportunities to study and discuss *Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church* next year.

The best ideas rise from the combined prayerful discernment of groups of people. Council will discern Salem's priorities based on ideas and "Godly wishful thinking" from the congregation. Salem has been blessed with visionary people who have started ministries such as the Thanksgiving and Christmas Day Dinners, Neighborhood Fun Night, Dinner Theatre, sudSpirit, and our long-standing Easter Egg Making.

This period of learning will end with a church-wide forum to collect additional ideas June 3.

Why now? The world and our community is always changing, and like the church before us, we must examine the world we live in and decide how best to minister to it. The message of the Gospel never changes, but the way we deliver it will evolve. We have to discern how best to communicate the message to every generation. A time of reflection is needed so that Salem doesn't blindly meander with our ministries rather than focus our resources in a way that will most effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ now and into the future.

The time we live in is like no other. Now more than ever people need Jesus. "People need the Lord, people need the Lord; at the end of broken dreams, he's the open door, people need the Lord. People need the Lord" (TFWS 2244). Let's work together to help the world find Jesus.



We Hope
to
See You



Advent Sermon Series:
Come Home to Christmas

- ◇ December 3—Healing
- ◇ December 10—Belonging
- ◇ December 17—Grace
- ◇ December 24—Faith

The logo for 'small groups' is written in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word 'small' is positioned above 'groups'. The background is a soft, yellowish-gold gradient.

Small Group Highlight- Back to the Bible

A long-standing Salem Small Group, Back to the Bible, takes being a follower of Christ seriously! The group meets each Sunday (9:30 a.m., room 210) studying a variety of authors and Right Now Media studies, dedicatedly lead by Kathy Alford. As a part of the group's service, they help support Kyle Klinedinst, a missionary for Camp Outreach; send support to World Vision, recently sending money for a sewing machine, a new mother package, and shoes & clothes for US children. Inspired by the Under the Overpass book, the group plans to

serve a meal at Harrisburg's Women's Shelter in December. If you are looking for a way to study and serve at Salem, Back to the Bible may be a way for you to plug in.

Blue Christmas Service of Hope

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one and are in need of comfort and strength this holiday season, please join us to commemorate your loved ones.

Guest Speakers

Michael Gingerich, M. Div

Thomas Kaden, M. Div

Co-founder & President of Someone to Tell It To

Event Details

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 pm at

Community United Methodist Church

1601 Bridge Street, New Cumberland

Sponsored by

Community UM Church, Fishing Creek

Salem UM Church, Trinity UM Church, and

Parthemore Funeral Home & Cremation

Services



Gift Cards for Sale!

Grocery Gift Cards are Still Available. The Church earns \$5 for every \$100 card that is sold. What an easy way to contribute! When you purchase a \$25, \$50 or \$100 card from the church for these Grocery stores: Karns, Giant, Darrennkamps and Weis, the church automatically gets 5%. With the holidays fast approaching, it is a great time to stock up on cards for your favorite stores!



Cards can be purchased in the church office on Sundays from 9:15-9:30 am and 10:30-10:40 am. You may also stop in during any normal business hours.

SALEM'S 5th ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday, December 25th

ALL are welcome!

Join us on this blessed day to dine together & celebrate the birth of our Savior!



The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, December 14th, at 6:30pm in room 115 for our annual Christmas Party. Please bring soup or a dessert and a sandwich that can be cut into 4 pieces.

We will be purchasing GIFT CARDS for the Mechanicsburg children's Home this year instead of bringing gifts. See the list of Gift Cards on the UMW bulletin board. We will also be helping a family from the Neighborhood Center Angel Tree.

Come and enjoy good food and fellowship.

All ladies of the Church and Community are welcome.



HOMELESS for the HOLIDAYS

How will *you* make a difference this holiday season?



Some kids don't want iPads, Xboxes or Frozen dolls for Christmas: They just want a place to call home. Salem may not be able to provide a house or apartment, but **we CAN provide a safe, welcoming, loving, and homey environment for the holiday for up to three families.** Plan now to make serving with Family Promise a part of your holiday season. Salem will be

hosting December 24- December 31. Assist with set-up and tear-down, make a dinner, provide food for breakfasts and lunches, transport (driving the Family Promise 15-passenger van) the families to and from Salem and the Day Center, serve as an evening or overnight host, or assist with the laundry.

A few **small gifts and stockings filled with goodies** will be provided to each person.
Suggested donations will be provided when we learn the family profiles.

Sign up is available at: www.volunteersignup.org/MB3DQ
For more information, contact Laurie Murry at lmurry@fcsalem.org.

Please

have gifts that were purchased for the **Giving Tree**, wrapped, with tag taped to the outside of the gift, and under the Salem Christmas tree by Sunday, December 10th. This allows time to sort and deliver the gifts to the families several days before Christmas.



Thank you!



HELP US DECK OUR HALLS

Salem will continue our tradition of decorating the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall with poinsettias. The flowers are available in 6.5" pots with 5+ blooms of red, white or marbled. The flowers will be placed in the church for the Christmas Eve and may be taken home after the last service in each location. The cost is \$8 for each plant.



Please make checks payable to FCSUMC with "Poinsettias" in the memo. Place payment with the order form in Jeannie Pelen's mailbox by Dec. 3rd. Order forms are available in the Information Rack across from Pastor John's office.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
in
December

- * Ellie Carlisle
- * Michael Carlisle
- * Kyleigh Connor
- * Levi Culp
- * Sophia Foland
- * Rowan Gaskill
- * Jackson Hedden
- * Anna Hetherington
- * Davis Holland
- * Abigail Johns
- * Levi Marakovits
- * Megan Sechrist
- * Zakary Snyder
- * Caleb Wert
- * Reese Williams

BACK TO THE BIBLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

By Kathy Alford

Our class was so impacted by our study of the homeless with *Under the Overpass* that we decided to act in service. On December 2 we will provide dinner for the Women's Shelter on N. 20th Street. This shelter provides rehabilitation for women recovering from alcoholism and/or drug use. We are looking forward to spending time and eating with these women, listening to their stories, and praying for them. We will also give each woman and any children that are present a gift bag to show how much we care. How can your small group be the hands and feet of Jesus?

This month we will continue our Advent study of Adam Hamilton's *Not a Silent Night*. In his book, Adam Hamilton looks at Jesus' life through the eyes of his mother. Imagine what Bethlehem must have looked like from Mary's point of view. Focus your own gaze on the Savior she knew as her beautiful child! Beginning with the crucifixion and resurrection, then backtracking through Jesus' life and ministry, Hamilton paints a fresh and moving portrait of the Messiah's life in this 5-week Advent study.

We will not be meeting as a class on December 24 or December 31. I will be recovering from knee replacement surgery. We will resume meeting on January 7 with *Not a Silent Night*.

Are you looking for a small group? We always welcome visitors. Materials are provided. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in room 210 upstairs.

The following is our lesson schedule for December:

***Not a Silent Night* by Adam Hamilton**

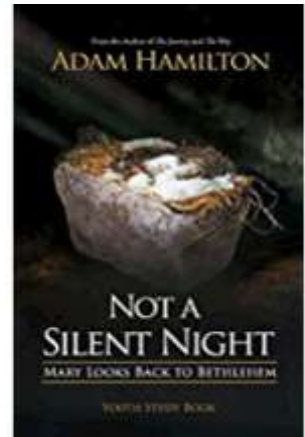
December 3 Chapter 1 "Beginning with the End"

December 10 Chapter 2 "The Piercing of Mary's Soul"

December 17 Chapter 3 "Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished"

December 24 no class

December 31 no class



Year-End Giving

Fishing Creek Salem always appreciates the financial gifts that are given to support and grow our ministries of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity again this year. Please note that the Internal Revenue Service has rules on when taxable year donations can be counted. The IRS says that charitable donations to the church must be **received and/or postmarked** by 12/31/2017 to count as a donation in 2017. Following these IRS regulations, donations received and/or postmarked after 12/31/17 must be counted as donations in 2018 (no matter what date may be associated with the gift).

Missions Corner



Item of the Month: Mission Central helps other organizations with their charity work as well as their own. They provide space for the Bethesda Mission to collect and package food for those in need. This month we are asking for metal nail files for the hygiene kits. Please put the nail files in the bin marked "Mission Central" in Mission Corner.



LIBRARY NEWS

By Kathy Alford

This article will probably find you in the throes of Christmas preparation. Each year seems more and more overwhelming. Don't forget to also get your heart ready for Jesus' birth! Visit our church library to help you do so. The library is full of Christmas devotions, stories, music, and DVDs for all ages.

The Fishing Creek Salem Christian Library has undergone many changes in the past month. A television has been added for small group studies. All old technology has been removed. Records, cassette tapes, films, outdated computer software, and VHS tapes were all made available to our congregation. The remainder has been donated to a worthy cause. More room now exists for expanding our CD and DVD collections.

Have you checked out the website rightnowmedia.org yet? Our church has the right to use all of their material. Right Now Media can be easily accessed from any of the televisions in our church. You can also have a free account at home. Please contact our small group director, Susan Ryder (sryder@fcsalem.org), for access.

What a wonderful resource this is for teaching videos for individuals, families, and small groups. The children's video selection covers favorites such as VeggieTales, Bibleman, the Sugar Creek Gang, Animated Stories from the Bible, and much, much more. You will find as you peruse the contents of Right Now Media Bible studies for teenagers, women, and men. Topics range from devotions to marriage to parenthood and everything in between!

There are many Christmas offerings on Right Now Media. Instead of waiting for those childhood classics to show on television, have your child watch the Christmas story unfold at a time that is convenient for you absolutely free! Kyle Idleman is a popular author who is featured on the website in several different studies. Last Christmas the Back to the Bible Sunday School Class watched and discussed his study called The Christmas Experience from Right Now Media right in our classroom. *The Christmas Experience* is a 6-week small group study that examines the Christmas story in detail, helping groups (and families) prepare for the Christmas season. Each episode focuses on how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific purpose. Those participating in The Christmas Experience study will be able to find themselves in the Christmas story, as they learn that what happened then changes everything now. We enjoyed his study so much that we studied and watched Kyle's *The Easter Experience* the following Lent.



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. Important change: The closings for the church will only be broadcast on **the stations' apps and on their 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.

Dear Members of FC Salem UMC,

Thank you so much for your recent, very generous monetary donation. We appreciate your kindness and support of our mission. In October, we served 142 families that added up to 405 people. Thanks for helping us help our neighbors in need. Nina Myers and Deb Trimmer, Co-Directors of the Red Land Food Ministry

Thank You



Please keep in your prayers these people who have had prayer concerns in the last month:

Robyn Adams parents, John and Janet; Anna; Anna Marie; Miriam Altland's daughter Missy; Joshua Armes; Robert Armes; Amanda Aymin; Beverly; Scott Binns; Ken Bohr; Brooks; Jake Brown's family; Kari Brown; Brunner Family; Francis Burd; John E. Burd; California fire victims and families; cancer patients; June Case; Jean Condon; Judy and Don Conley; Sue Coulter; Farrah Davenport; Desiree; John and Judy Donley; Dorothy Douden; Marissa Duff; Linda Edmondson; Eleanor; family with marital problems; families with mental illness; Helen Fitzgerald; Madison Fomerette; Gail; Hailie Garinger; the Garling family; Nicole Granger; Dennis Graybill; Lori Grim; Grover; Mary Gustin; Herk and Kristy; Dana Hartman; Andrea Hartzell; Connie and Dan; the Hall family (loss of mother Montie); Louise Heckman; Gene Heflin; Ron Hepburn; Holey family; Rose Horn's father; Colton Howard; Don and Shirley Howard; Scott Howell; hurricane victims and their families; Alex Jones; Marcy Kehler's nephew; Kim; Dave Kline; the Law family (death of father); Sue Lucas; Murphy Lucy; Megan; Frank Mailey; Harold Markley; Matt and Kristy Martin; Maxwell; Lisa Mowery; Louise Nash; Neupane Family (Salem's refugee family); Deb Oakley; Alice Orlandi; Pastor John Overman; Art Palese; Pat (on passing of her father); Jeanette Payne; Karen Pepperman; Ryan Pepperman; Politics family; Ronald Provard; Sharon Rafter; Ron and Alice; Rick; Kyle Ricketts; Donna Rife; Lou Rudy; Shawn Rupp and children (Jordan, Kayla and Sophia); Jessie Sanders; Brandon Schroll; Lisa Scignoli; Brad Sechrist; Dave Shafer; John Shank; Mark Shank; Mary Ellen Shank; John Shoff; Sosik Family; Dan Soulier; Stacy; Lydia Stasi; Betty Sweitzer; Missy Tumolo; Patti Turner; President Trump; Zachary Tusing; Tom and Dee W.; Wagner family; Lynn Welsh; Julie Wentzel's daughter Emmie; Carole Welpton's family; Rose Williams; Kyle Young.



**Do you have a prayer concern?
Please contact the Prayer Chain Coordinator,
Marsha Young, at mdyoung805@gmail.com or contact Salem's Church Office
at 717-938-1928 or office@fcsalem.org.**



Women of Light: If you signed up for the trip to Allenberry Playhouse for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever the Musical", please be in the church parking lot at 12:30 PM on Sunday, December 3rd. We will carpool to the show which starts at 2PM. Please note that this trip is for the show only. If you have any questions, give Jeannie a call at 717-579-5164. And get ready for a fun afternoon!

Christmas Eve Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Morning

Please note: **There are only 2 services in the morning!**

- ◆ 8:15am—Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
- ◆ 10:00am—Combined Service in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

- ◆ 5:00pm—Sanctuary Service with Children and Youth Choirs
- ◆ 5:00pm—Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 7:00pm—Sanctuary, Celtic Christmas Eve (Traditional music with an Irish flair)
- ◆ 9:00pm—Fellowship Hall, Informal Service
- ◆ 11:00pm—Traditional Service in the Sanctuary (Worship Music featuring the choir, an organ and a brass band)

The Chapel Will Be Open for Prayer and Meditation from 4:30pm until Midnight

*Childcare is available at 5:00pm & 7:00pm
Communion will be served at the 11pm service
All services will include candle lighting*

Salem's Christmas Eve

Offering will be split between Salem's ministries and Red Land Community Action Program. Your "Birthday Gift to Jesus" will be used to help many in the Community. We give out of the recognition that we can "Come Home to Christmas," literally come home to Christ and receive what we all need: Hope, Contentment, Healing, Belonging, Grace and Faith.



The Christmas Story Comes ALIVE! Mark you calendars for the LIVE NATIVITY DEC 10th! Salem will be having a Church Family Advent Dinner followed by a Live Nativity on December 10th. Dinner will be at 5pm & the Nativity with Christmas Caroling will be at 6pm with a second showing at 6:45pm.

Easter Eggs!

The Easter Egg Project is ready to kick off a new year of Egg Making! Come and join a dedicated group of folks who enjoy working, having some good fellowship, and making Easter eggs. Surely as the New Year arrives, our egg-makers will be mixing, rolling, dipping, and wrapping Easter Eggs in January!! We hope you will join us. No experience is necessary, and there really is a job for everyone. Please consider joining us in this service project that benefits many activities in and around our church!

We will do preparation work on January 4th from 9 am to 12 noon. Egg-making production will begin on Monday January 8th and will continue every Monday and Wednesday thereafter through March 14th, so mark your calendars. Come and join us from approximately 7 am until 1 pm each day, or anytime during that timeframe that fits your schedule. Lunch will be provided each day.

Questions: Call Gary Cassell at 717-938-6484, Jeff Strohecker at 717-884-1941, or Jo-Ann Howard at 717-938-3216.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the Easter Egg Project a success for over 20 years! We look forward to seeing you!





402 Valley Road
Etters, PA 17319

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 110
Harrisburg, PA 17107

Staff

Rev. Dr. Deborah Heisley-Cato, Lead Pastor	dheisley-cato@fcsalem.org
Rev. John Overman, Executive Pastor	joverman@fcsalem.org
Sandy Herman, Administrative Assistant	office@fcsalem.org

Gina Curtis, Director of Salem Community Nursery School
Crystal Duff, Child Care Coordinator
Kevin Fickel, Interim Director of Youth Ministries
Vicki Inscho, Kitchen Coordinator
Tracey Michelsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Cliff & Sandy Motter, Church Sextons
Laurie Murry, Director of Serving Ministries
Kelsey Robertson, Keyboardist, Director of The Gathering Worship
Susan Ryder, Director of Communications, Small Groups Coordinator
Derek Sandstrom, Director of Worship Ministries

Church Phone: (717) 938-1928
Church Website: www.fcsalem.org

Sunday Worship at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 AM; Adult Class at 11:00 AM

