

The Salem

Stimulus

A Publication of Fishing Creek Salem UMC

December 2018

Vol 46/Issue 12



Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3:00pm
Closed 12-1pm for Lunch

ENDING THE YEAR STRONG

I invite you to join me in ending the year strong in giving so that Salem Church can end the year strong in ministry. If you have missed the opportunity to share your regular offerings because of absence from worship, you may want to “catch up” with your giving. If God has blessed you in a particular way during this year, you may want to give an extra “thank offering” as a sign of your gratitude for all God has given you.



Since Christmas is Jesus’ Birthday, you might consider giving a Birthday Gift for Jesus during the Christmas Season or on Christmas Eve. This has been a tradition of our family for many years. This year, half of our Christmas Eve Offerings will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help victims of the recent severe flooding in the Southern United States, and half will support Salem’s ministries in the community.

Let’s end the year strong in giving so that Salem Church can end the year strong in ministry!

In This Issue:

- ◆ Christmas Eve Services
- ◆ Christmas Activities
- ◆ Year-End Giving
- ◆ Christmas Eve Offering
- ◆ Easter Egg Update
- ◆ Activity Updates
- And More!



December Birthdays



Ellie Carlisle
Michael Carlisle
Kyleigh Connor
Levi Culp
Sophia Foland

Rowan Gaskill
Jackson Hedden
Anna Hetherington
Davis Holland
Abigail Johns

Levi Marakovits
Margaret Miller
Megan Sechrist
Zakary Snyder
Caleb Wert



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Contact Information:

Rev. Dr. Deborah Heisley-Cato, Lead Pastor (dheisley-cato@fcsalem.org)
Rev. Jennifer Thomas, Interim Associate Pastor (jthomas@fcsalem.org)
Sandy Herman, Administrative Assistant (office@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 Ministries
Vicki Inscho, Kitchen Coordinator
Tracey Michelsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Tracey Michelsen and Michelle Rich, Church Sextons
Interim Coverage, Director of Serving Ministries
Jeannette Payne, Child Care Coordinator
Kelsey Robertson, Dir of The Gathering Worship, Keyboardist, Youth Choir Dir
Susan Ryder, Director of Communications, Small Groups Coordinator
Derek Sandstrom, Director of Worship Ministries

Service Schedule:

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

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



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 12/31/2018 to count as a donation in 2018. Following these IRS regulations, donations received and/or postmarked after 12/31/18 must be counted as donations in 2019 (no matter what date may be associated with the gift).

TAX-FREE TRANSFERS TO CHARITY

Did you know that older IRA owners have a different way to give to charity? An IRA owner age 70 ½ or over, can directly transfer, tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charity. This option can be used for distributions from IRAs, regardless of whether the owners itemize their deductions.

To qualify, the funds must be transferred directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Distributed amounts may be excluded from the IRA owner's income—resulting in lower taxable income for the IRA owner. However, if the IRA owner excludes the distribution from income, no deduction, such as charitable contribution deduction may be taken for the distributed amount.

Amounts transferred to a charity from an IRA are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD). Consult your tax accountant to see if this option could be advantageous to you.

Join the Conference in **Oberammergau for the Passion Play** and European Capitals Tour in June 2020. Prices start at \$4,398. Contact the church office for details if you are interested (717-938-1928). Save \$75 if you register by December 31, 2018



"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

For the month of December, please include the following in your prayer time:

- California fire victims, firefighters and emergency personnel.
- Those who are separated from family during the holiday season—either in distance or broken relationships.
- Our church and community during the Advent season as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus.

Library News By Kathy Alford

How are your Christmas preparations going? We usually get overwrought with shopping, baking, decorating, sending cards, wrapping, and going to social events. Are you taking time to prepare your heart and soul for Jesus' birth, too?

The Fishing Creek Salem Christian Library is a great place to start! Christmas books, from fiction to nonfiction, devotional to historical, are displayed for all ages. Christmas CDs can make your commute very festive. Christmas DVDs for the whole family are free quality time! There is a crèche scene

and Christmas puppets for your children to play with while you browse.

The library is open whenever the church is open. Please take time to visit this special room upstairs in room 213!



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.

Speakers

Pastor Manuel (Manny) Valentin, Community UMC

Event Details

Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 3:00 pm at
Community United Methodist Church
1601 Bridge Street, New Cumberland



Sponsored by

Community UM Church, Fishing Creek
Salem UM Church, Grace UM Church and
Parthemore Funeral Home & Cremation Services



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.



Item of the Month: Mission Central sends health kits to people in need of basic items they are unable to provide for them-

selves. Band aids 3/4" x 3" are needed for these kits. Please put the band aids in the bin marked Mission Central in Mission Corner.



Ladies, are you ready for the NEW in 2019?

Join us as we engage in

New Beginnings:

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

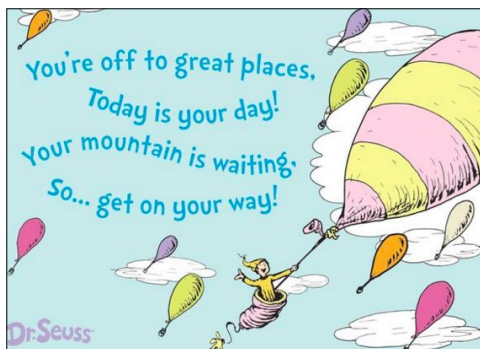
Saturday, January 19th, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 pm.

January is the time of year that we consider the New. It is often seen as an opportunity to start over, eliminate, or improve areas of our lives.

Based on Dr. Seuss' timeless children's book, this event is intended to inspire women to look ahead to 2019 in order to help us discern what God has in store for our lives. What is new? What is unexpected?

**What will God do?
It's hard to say.
But whatever will happen
He will show us the way!**

Together we will be invited to consider what goals we might set in this new year for ourselves, our marriages, families, ministry,



finances, places of employment, and any other area of life in which we feel challenged to "go higher."

All ladies ages 13 to 99 are invited for munchies, hilarity, and gabbing. Kidcare will be provided for infants through age 2, so drop off your tiny sprouts in our nursery.

Join your guides, Laura Buzzard (717-634-6604) and Wendy Kautz (717-938-3071) as we dive into the New.



The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 pm 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 Childrens's Home this year. See the list of GIFT CARDS on the UMW Bulletin Board.



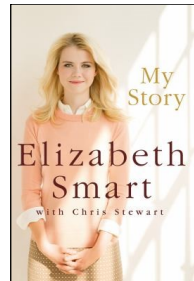
All Ladies of the Church are welcome

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION

The women's book discussion meets at Salem on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm . It is open to any woman who likes to read—or who wants to join in the discussion topic. Come and bring your ideas. If you have questions please call Marsha Uber (717-938-3108 or uber2495@ptd.net).

Dec 4th: Dinner at Theo's

Jan 17th:
My Story by Elizabeth Smart



Women of Light Global Dining Adventure

Join the Women of Light as we continue to experience cuisine from around the world. On Sunday, January 6 at 12:30 pm, we will dine at Yak N Yeti (213 3rd Street New Cumberland). This restaurant serves Himalayan cuisine. We plan on meeting there, but if you need a ride, give Ginger (649-6419), Linda (774-0901) or Jeannie (579-5164) a call to make arrangements. Women of Light is open to women who are single, divorced or widowed. Join us for fun and fellowship! Sign-up on the sheet in the hallway on the Women of light bulletin board.





Salem's Christmas Eve Offering will be split between Salem and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to aid in recovery from the floods in Florida and North Carolina. Your "Birthday Gift to Jesus" will be used to help many in our country who are still struggling.

Join us for our Advent Study each Sunday



Salem's 6th Annual Community Christmas Dinner

December 25th at 1:00pm

ALL are welcome!

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

*Join us this Christmas as we get
CLOSER to Christ!*

Our Christmas Eve Services:

- **3:30 pm**—Young Children's Worship—A shorter service especially for young ones with glow sticks for candles
- **5:00 pm***—Family service—An informal service with families in mind (glow sticks for the kids) - (Sanctuary)
- **5:00 pm***—An intimate, Informal Service - (Fellowship Hall)
- **7:00 pm***—Our Gathering Service—Stringed instruments and the youth choir will sing. Hot Chocolate and Snacks to follow (Sanctuary)
- **11:00 pm**—Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion - (Sanctuary)

*Childcare Available

Happening This Christmas!



Christmas Closet is Saturday, December 8th from 9-11:30 and we need a lot of volunteers! We will be offering a full shopping experience and a hot breakfast. Contact Deb Oakley at 717-798-6412 or Amy Raugh at 717-623-2472 with questions.

Scout / Senior Citizen Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 4th from 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Entertainment, Gift Boxes, Refreshments. Come and share the Christmas Spirit with Us!

Salem's Giving Tree is in the Welcome Center. Select a tag(s) from the tree, purchase the item (\$25 or less), wrap it, secure the tag on the outside of the gift (taped), and place the gift under the tree. Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 16th so they can be sorted and delivered to the families several days before Christmas.



Come to Dinner! On December 2, we will gather at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall to share dinner together as a church. After the meal we will move to the sanctuary for a time of carol singing and exploring the meaning of some of our most popular Christmas decorations and traditions. Then we will return to the Fellowship Hall for desert and drinks. Meat, place settings, and drinks will be provided. We ask those attending to bring a side dish or a dessert to share. No RSVP required. Hope to see you!



Night of Worship on Friday, December 14th at 7:00 PM. Join us in the Welcome Center as we prepare our hearts for Christmas and put our focus on Jesus. Contact the church office with questions: 717-938-1928 or office@fcsalem.org

Greeter Needed for Christmas Eve

We are looking for Greeters to serve on Christmas Eve at all services. Needed are Greeters in the parking lot (traffic directors), opening doors at both entrances and Greeters inside as well. Nothing says welcome more than a warm handshake and smile! If you are interested, contact Karen Derrick at 717-870-9784 or Karon Haring 717-512-3603.



Time to Think about Making 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. 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!

Did you know that the profits from the 2018 Egg Making Project were used to provide new Sound Equipment for the Fellowship Hall, and a new Projector System for the Sanctuary? Everyone has benefitted from those improvements to our church. Think what can be done in 2019!

We will do preparation work on January 24th from 9 am to 12 noon. Egg-making production will begin on Monday January 28th and will continue every Monday and Wednesday thereafter through April 10th, 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! We look forward to seeing our familiar volunteers, and getting to know our new ones this year! It truly is a blessing for all!

2018 marks 30 years of Stephen Ministry at Salem

The Name: The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

History: Stephen Ministry began in 1975. In 1978, Stephen Ministries held the first Leader's Training Course and trained the first Stephen Leaders—representatives of various congregations who then returned home to train and supervise their own Stephen Ministers.

Fishing Creek Salem: In August of 1988, Conrad and Martha Page attended a Leader's Training Course in Baltimore and returned home to train 12 lay persons and Pastor Mike Minnix.

Terminology: People trained to provide one-to-one care to those in need are called *Stephen Ministers*. Those who receive the care of Stephen Ministers are referred to as *care receivers*. A care receiver is a person in need of one-to-one Christian care.

Fishing Creek Salem: Over these 30 years, at least 70 individuals have been trained as Stephen Ministers. **Today, our team includes:**

Jerri Mulholland, Stephen Leader
Angelique Wilt-Luisi, Stephen Leader
Ginger Haines
Lou Lingenfelter
Lisa Sgrignoli
Marsha Uber
Georgene Bingman
Linda Wrightstone
Hal Baker (sabbatical)



Important to Note:

Stephen Ministers are not counselors. They are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not counsel or advise.

Stephen Ministry is a supervised ministry.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry.

Stephen Ministers do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

**We appreciate the giving of time and
care from our Stephen Ministers!!!**



402 Valley Road Etters, PA 17319

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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