

Connections

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December 2018

WWW.SalemUMCHavana.org 

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you."
-Psalms 51:12 (NLT)

Dear Salem Church Family,

What does it mean to have Christmas joy? I saw an ad recently that said, "you deserve Christmas joy, buy (our product)." We all may think that's silly, but do we act like it's true? At this time of the year do we put our joy, our hope of what will happen in what we buy, expect to get or expect to happen? Do we put our hope in all the great sales we find this time of the year, or in all the new-fun things we end up with? Do we put our joy in the expectation of how beautiful our house is going to look or is it wrapped up in how great it'll be when the whole family is together?

The problem is, after the sales are over and the fun of our new stuff wears off, do we feel as if there's nothing more to look forward to? When we get so busy trying to make Christmas perfect for everyone else that it feels like we live in auto pilot and miss it ourselves, do we ever feel like we truly find Christmas joy?

I think, what we can lose sometimes at this time of the year, is that there's a difference between the emotion of happiness and joy. Joy should be a defining characteristic of Christians and we need to ask ourselves what the source of our joy is. Christ is the true source of our joy. I think sometimes we need to shed the over-scheduled, non-stop-busy, high expectations of the season and come back to what gives us true joy: our savior being born into this world. We find that joy by thinking about where we would be if he hadn't done so and wasn't in our lives. We find it by meditating on how he's changed us personally, and we find hope when we thank God for the new existence we have in Christ. So, what if this year we choose to make Christmas simpler, scale back on the things that don't matter and focus on the things that do?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Curtiss Cain

"Finding Joy in the Everyday." Desiring God. November 28, 2018. Accessed November 29, 2018. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/finding-joy-in-the-everyday>.

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Community Christmas Service

Please join us as many local churches across the community and many other community members gather for worship at this year's Christmas Community Service. It will be held at the First Baptist Church (116 6th Ave E, Havana, FL 32333) on December 2nd at 6:00pm. People are encouraged to bring a finger food snack for a time of fellowship following the service.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service



We invite you, your friends, family and neighbors to join us Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th at 6:00pm for a candle light worship service, as

we prepare our hearts to once again celebrate our saviors' birth.

Christmas Poinsettia

We are now accepting orders for this year's Christmas poinsettias. Please see the Sunday bulletin (or table centers in Coffee House Service) for ordering.



For this year only, we are able to offer them for the slightly reduced price of \$8.00 each. All funds designated for purchase are not tax deductible.

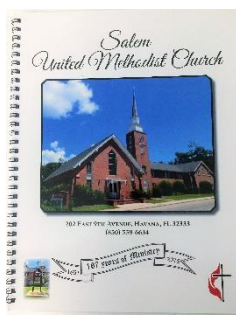
You can visit us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SalemUMChavana



Operation Christmas Child, 243 Boxes! Huge Success!

For this year's Ron Crawford Memorial Christmas Shoe Box Drive we once again took on Ron's goal of 150 boxes of toys to go out to children around the world. When we blew that out of the water in just a week or so Bev Crawford challenged us once again to collect one more box than last year, 230. The final count from what just **Salem UMC made and brought was 243 shoe boxes!** As this was our first year as a community shoe box drop off sight, this doesn't include all the other boxes collected from the community.

The whole Tallahassee areas alone collected 12,162 shoe boxes this year. Priscilla told the Missions and Outreach Committee "Wow! Think of all those children and thank God!"



More Church Directories on Their Way!

Due to a number of requests, we have placed a second order for our church directories! Directories may be purchased for \$4.00 per copy. We'll let you know as soon as they are in.

If you had your photo taken for the directory or submitted a photo and

have not picked up your directory yet, there is a copy reserved for you with your name on it in the Fellowship Hall.

Mercy the Church Mouse



Mercy Me.....has this year flown by. I can't believe it's almost Christmas time again. It's always fun to listen to folks singing Christmas Carols

and listen to children's shouts of joy as they open presents.

I hid behind the pianos in the Fellowship Hall recently and saw green and red boxes being filled with all sorts of kid's stuff, over 240! WOW!

All from YOU!!!

During this season Mom always reminds us how blessed we are.

I want to share what she says when we share our lives with others. "You may be one person in the world but, to one person you may be the world."

Please don't forget to give of yourself to others this Christmas season and then don't forget the greatest gift of all, Jesus our Savior!

Merry Christmas!

Love, Mercy

A Farewell, and Some Exciting News from our Children's and Youth Ministry

Misty Floyd is no longer our Children's and Youth Coordinator. We wish her the best and thank her for her work with SUMC.

Lindy Pennington is now our Education Chairperson who oversees a group of volunteers working with our Children and Youth.

Amy Cain is responsible for our Children's and Youth curriculum, used in Sunday School and our Sunday night youth group.

Amy Barrow and Russell Suber are our Youth Ministry Counselors.

Thanks to Peggy Suber for coordinating meals for our youth. If you would like to volunteer to provide a meal, please call Peggy.

Your continued support of our children and youth is greatly appreciated.

The children and youth are very important to the future of SUMC.

Lectionary Reading

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

December Birthdays

Dec 1: Barbara Bailey
Dec 6: Will Barber
Dec 7: Mary Wood
Dec 9: Mary Bert
Dec 9: Crystal Jaede Mitchell
Dec 12: Herb Haughton
Dec 13: Amy Barrow
Dec 14: Alara Cain
Dec 15: Sam Cunningham
Dec 16: Karen Stansberry
Dec 22: Terri Norman
Dec 23: Steve Pennington
Dec 25: Wade Barber
Dec 25: Kimsey Helms
Dec 26: Lynn Lovallo
Dec 28: Tom Scott
Dec 30: Kathy Hanbury

Readings for December 2018

December 1: 1Corinthians 9-11
December 2: 1Corinthians 12-14
December 3: 1Corinthians 15-16
December 4: 2Corinthians 1-4
December 5: 2Corinthians 5-9
December 6: 2Corinthians 10-13
December 7: Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
December 8: Romans 4-7
December 9: Romans 8-10
December 10: Romans 11-13
December 11: Romans 14-16
December 12: Acts 20:4-23:35
December 13: Acts 24-26
December 14: Acts 27-28
December 15: Colossians; Philemon
December 16: Ephesians
December 17: Philippians 1-4
December 18: 1 Timothy
December 19: Titus
December 20: 1 Peter
December 21: Hebrews 1-6
December 22: Hebrews 7-10
December 23: Hebrews 11-13
December 24: 2 Timothy
December 25: 2 Peter; Jude
December 26: 1 John
December 27: 2/3 John
December 28: Revelation 1-5
December 29: Revelation 6-11
December 30: Revelation 12-18
December 31: Revelation 19-22

Our Faithful Giving

Expenses Sept.: \$16,073
Contributions Sept.: \$20,087

YTD Expenses Jan- Nov: \$201,600
YTD Contributions Jan- Nov: \$190,616

See the back of your weekly bulletin for the most up-to-date information.

SUNDAYS

8:45am-Coffee House Service
(Holy Communion Each Week)
9:50am-Sunday School
11:00am-Traditional Service
5:00pm-Youth Group
(meal provided)

Salem UMC

December 2018

WEDNESDAYS

7:45am-Men's Morning Group
11:00am-Prayer Circle
11:50pm-Subs & Scriptures
(Subway in Havana)
7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 11a -Holy Communion in Traditional Service 12p Lunch Bunch 6p <i>Community Christmas Service @ 1st Baptist Havana</i>	3	4 9a -Moses Baskets 7p -Missions / Outreach Committee	5 1:30p -Fresh Expressions Monthly Missions Project @ Community Cares	6 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	7	1 <hr/> 8 <i>Salem's Children's Activity at Havana Winterfest</i>
9 11a Salem Cantata	10 5:45p -United Methodist Women	11	12	13 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	14	15
16	17	18 9a -Moses Baskets	19 1:30p -Worship Committee	20 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	21	22 1p-5p: Greensboro Thrift Store
23 8:45a & 11a: Community Cares offering & Moses Baskets Dedication	24 <i>Christmas eve office closed</i> 6p -Candlelight Service	25 <i>Christmas day office closed</i>	26	27 3p -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop	28	29
30 8:45a & 11a: Children's Home offering 9:50a Brunch Bunch 6:30p Hallelujah Night Forest Hills	31	Jan. 1, 2019 New Year's Day office closed				