



# Connections

March 2019

[WWW.SalemUMCHavana.org](http://WWW.SalemUMCHavana.org) 

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may know, over this last week United Methodist delegates from around the world came together in St. Louis Missouri for a special session of what we call the General Conference. The purpose of this special session was to discuss the possible inclusion of the LGBTQ community through becoming clergy within the church as well as their marriage by the church. This was a hard and even painful conversation with many differing views and much debate. It was not a decision easily reached, and out of the roughly 800 delegates, according to our own Bishop Ken Carter, the decision was reached with only a 27-28 vote difference.

The delegates final vote was to support the Traditional Plan which affirms and strengthens the church's current point of view. According to our Book of Discipline (§4), this view states that all persons are of sacred worth, and therefore all persons are eligible to be included in the worship, the sacraments, membership and the fellowship of the church. Yet, our Social Principles (#3) defines marriage as a covenant, expressing mutual love and support, in shared fidelity between a man and a woman. Further, our Book of Discipline (§304.3) states that the practice of homosexuality is not compatible with Christian teaching and therefore, self-avowed, practicing homosexuals are not to be appointed as clergy.

Today I need to share with you that I hurt. I hurt not because of the decision that was made, but because today there are people who love Christ and they're in pain (on both sides). I ache with others because I believe, through Christ's boundless love we can hurt with those we don't always agree with. I hurt because this conversation has become so polarized that a few have used it as a weapon of destruction, and unspoken presumptions of what one side or the other thinks have served to sabotage our conversation.

To the LGBTQ community I would say that you are of sacred worth to God and us. You are loved and welcome here at Salem UMC. We do not consider you a problem, or less important, or less valued. We are blessed by your gifts, your faith in Christ and your presence in our church family.

To the evangelical community I would say that you have deeply rooted faith, one that can too often be misunderstood as hate and close-mindedness. Your faith is rooted in a desire to serve God and is there because your life has been changed by the good news of Jesus Christ, good news you share, with the purpose that others know what you have found. You are loved and welcome here at Salem UMC. We are blessed by your gifts, your faith in Christ and your presence in our church family.

If you would like to talk more about this or anything else, please reach out to me.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Curtiss Cain*

## News from the Nursery

We would like to thank all our church volunteers who have stepped up to help Lindy in the Nursery each Sunday as we hunt for new Nursery Staff workers.



We have had a wonderful response to our advertisements with a good number of applicants. But until we have new staff members, we still need your help loving on our children in



the name of Jesus Christ. If you are willing to help in the Nursery one or more Sundays, please speak with Lindy or Pastor Curtiss. It will require being at the church 8:30am-12:15pm Sunday morning and you must pass a background check which the church will provide. Thank you all for supporting this important ministry as the family of God!

## Two Nursery Staff Positions Available



### NURSERY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

This is a part-time position, 6.5 to 9 hours per-week, including both Sunday morning services and Sunday School hour. This person plans and coordinates age-appropriate (0-4) curriculum and activities. Employee must pass a background check and Child Safety Training (background check & training provided).

### NURSERY WORKER

This is a part-time position, 4 hours per-week on Sunday mornings. Employee will work in tandem with the Nursery Ministries Coordinator, and using age-appropriate curriculum, encourage the spiritual growth of young children (0-4). Employee must pass a background check and Child Safety Training (background check & training provided).

Job descriptions can be found at <http://salemumchavana.org/job-openings>  
Send resumes or questions to [SUMCHavana.Pastor@gmail.com](mailto:SUMCHavana.Pastor@gmail.com)

## Where's Mercy the Mouse?



*Every month Mercy finds a new place to visit in the church, do you know where she is this month?*

Hi Salem friends! I must admit I've gained a few pounds last month with candy and chocolate from Valentine's Day! Oh, I forgot the spaghetti

lunch the youth served, wow was that delicious! I've been hanging out in pastor's office these past few weeks. I can tell you Pastor Curtiss is a busy man, but did you know he practices his sermon a lot! Hearing it is so much fun when he's practicing, he even laughs at his own mistakes! Every committee in the church has been finalizing their policies and procedures, but no one has asked for mine! It's easy for me because my only policy is to love everyone I come in contact with, unconditionally! Friends, have fun during the month of March. Come celebrate Ash Wednesday as we learn many different ways to worship and pray. Please don't forget to wear green on March 17<sup>th</sup> or you will be pinched! Love,  
*Mercy the Church Mouse!*

## Ash Wednesday Prayer Garden



Salem UMC has planned a very special Ash Wednesday program! The entire first floor of the church will be transformed into various prayer stations. You are welcome to come anytime between 3:30pm-6:30pm to visit and stay as long as you would like. This is in leu of our typical service. Please join us for this special opportunity!

## A Note from the Trustees

The Trustees are asking that anyone with experience in certain fields such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry and/or HVAC, and are willing to be called on when there are issues at the church, to notify a Trustee or the Church Office. The Trustees are trying to do their part to cut maintenance expenses without cutting quality of work.

Also, the Trustees have added 8 new programmable thermostats installed in the church, to go along with the 4 existing ones. We are asking that the only persons to adjust these thermostats are the ones that have been trained to do so. If at any time anyone notices a temperature issue, please notify a Trustee or the Church Office. Twice a year, at the time change, the Trustees will be making a walk-through of the church to reprogram the thermostats and change necessary batteries. We are asking all committee chairpersons, when having a meeting at the church, to be responsible for turning off all lights and locking doors that you may have used.

Chair of Trustees

*Ron Tiller*

## Letter from our Sister Church in Cuba



This letter comes to us through Centenary UMC, who we join in supporting the Santa Clara church and is roughly translated into

English.

Many blessings sister and friend Kay I wish that everyone in your family is very well in Health. Like all the families of our sister churches of Centenary and Salem and like the pastoral families.

It is our prayer that God multiplies abundantly the offering of love that they sent us.

We received from the District Pact coordinator who deposited it in the hands of the District Superintendent and he sent us \$ 3,000 usd sent by our sister churches \$ 1000.00 usd sent from Centenary and \$ 2000.00 usd from Salem.

Brothers, we are very happy because with this money we must finish the work of the third floor. Thank you for your love and affection for our church thank you for this offering. God multiply them abundantly.

Kay, I hope this email will be delivered to the Centenary and Salem Pastors and to the congregations. Many blessings to all...

## Prayer in the Park

The first few weeks of our new Fresh Expression of the church has been going great! At a prayer group that has met at the church for years Cecilia Frau recently said, “why can’t we do this in the park and offer to pray for people that walk by.” Just like that, the group Prayer in the Park was born.



Not only do we pray over all prayer requests in the bulletin and those put in the offering plate Sunday, but we have already been blessed to have several conversations with people walking by and pray over some of their concerns. Feel free to join us any Wednesday. We meet at the gazebo in the park behind the library. If weather is bad, we’ll gather at the church. May God use this ministry to bring more people his grace and love through prayer.

## A Note from the Staff Parish Relations Committee

As the congregation is aware, 2018 was a financially challenging year. Salem is blessed with devoted, generous members; and the year ended on a much happier note.

One of SPR’s responsibilities is to recommend salaries for the church employees; and during this difficult time, the decision was made to withhold salary increases for 2019. It was discussed at length and reviewed with the Finance Committee and Church Council before the final decision was made. We all recognize the value of Salem’s employees-the work of the church could not be done as well as it is without their dedication. For that reason and to let them know how much the members of this church appreciate them, we are soliciting a love offering during the month of March, ending March 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are so led, please make donations to this offering of any amount you wish. Please earmark it as ‘employee love offering’ so it can be properly credited. At the end of March, SPR will meet to divide and disburse whatever is collected to each of the employees. This is a one-time collection for this (2019) year only.

Your continued generosity is appreciated. If you have any questions, please ask me or any member of SPR (Susan Stamps, Ginger Farrell, Larry Wood, Tom Scott, Bill Buckholt, Jack Hanbury or Sandy Poppell).

Thank you and blessings to you all,

*Lynn Lovallo, Chair of SPR*

## Lectionary Reading

### March 3, 2019

Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

### March 10, 2019

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### March 17, 2019

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35

### March 24, 2019

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### March 24, 2019

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## March Birthdays

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Travis Barrow   | 7  |
| Jimmy Hughes    | 9  |
| Alisa Smith     | 10 |
| Malissa Collins | 10 |
| Nell Cunningham | 12 |
| Jessie Sears    | 17 |
| Aidan Poppell   | 24 |
| Carolyn Britton | 26 |
| Jed Carroll     | 27 |
| Trey Teuton     | 28 |

## Readings for March 2019

March 1: Numbers 14-15; Psalm 90  
March 2: Numbers 16-17  
March 3: Numbers 18-20  
March 4: Numbers 21-22  
March 5: Numbers 23-25  
March 6: Numbers 26-27  
March 7: Numbers 28-30  
March 8: Numbers 31-32  
March 9: Numbers 33-34  
March 10: Numbers 35-36  
March 11: Deuteronomy 1-2  
March 12: Deuteronomy 3-4  
March 13: Deuteronomy 5-7  
March 14: Deuteronomy 8-10  
March 15: Deuteronomy 11-13  
March 16: Deuteronomy 14-16  
March 17: Deuteronomy 17-20  
March 18: Deuteronomy 21-23  
March 19: Deuteronomy 24-27  
March 20: Deuteronomy 28-29  
March 21: Deuteronomy 30-31  
March 22: Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 91  
March 23: Joshua 1-4  
March 24: Joshua 5-8  
March 25: Joshua 9-11  
March 26: Joshua 12-15  
March 27: Joshua 16-18  
March 28: Joshua 19-21  
March 29: Joshua 22-24  
March 30: Judges 1-2  
March 31: Judges 3-5

### Our Faithful Giving

YTD Expenses Feb 2019: \$35,060  
YTD Contributions Feb 2019: \$32,646

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

You can visit us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/SalemUMChavana](http://www.facebook.com/SalemUMChavana)



**SUNDAYS**

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

# Salem UMC March 2019

**WEDNESDAYS**

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

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|  |   |  |   |   | 1  | 2  |
| <b>3</b><br><b>11a</b> -Holy Communion in Traditional Service<br><b>12p</b> Lunch Bunch  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><b>9a</b> -Moses Baskets<br><br><b>7p</b> – Missions/ Outreach | <b>6</b><br><b>3:30p-6:30p</b><br>Ash Wednesday Prayer Garden                           | <b>7</b><br><b>3p</b> -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop<br><br><b>6:30p</b> - Education Meeting | <b>8</b><br><b>1p</b> -Finance Committee meeting | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>10</b><br><b>Adult New Members Class begins</b>   | <b>11</b><br><b>5:45p</b> -United Methodist Women | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br><b>1:30p</b> -Fresh Expressions Monthly Missions Project @ Community Cares | <b>14</b><br><b>3p</b> -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop  | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br><b>9a</b> -Moses Baskets<br><br><b>7p</b> -Church Council     | <b>20</b><br><b>1:30p</b> -Worship Committee  | <b>21</b><br><b>3p</b> -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br><b>1p-5p</b><br>Greensboro Thrift Store |
| <b>24</b><br><b>8:45a &amp; 11a:</b><br>Community Cares offering & Moses Baskets Dedication  | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br><b>3p</b> -Beans & Bibles @ Poppy's Coffee Shop  | <b>29</b>  | <b>29</b>  |
| <b>31</b><br><b>Children's Home offering (both services)</b><br><b>9:50a</b> -Brunch Bunch<br><b>6:30p</b> -Hallelujah Night<br>Grace/ Hosford UMC |   |  |   |   |  |  |