

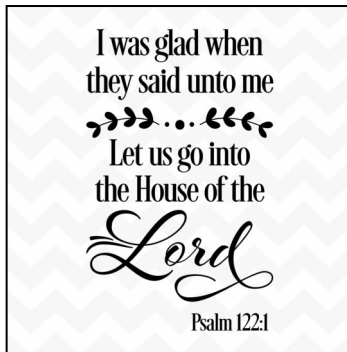
PASTOR NEILL'S THOUGHTS

Leonard Sweet in his book, Jesus' Prescription for a Healthy Life, argues that the problem for many people is not the reality of God in the world but rather the reality of God in the church. Citing C.S. Lewis, who claimed that it was more difficult to convert the bored than the wicked, Sweet asks how many people leave home for Sunday worship with their hearts singing, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1). C.S. Lewis once wrote: "It is a Christian duty, as you know, for everyone to be as happy as he can."

Many people reject the Christian faith not because they have problems with Jesus but because they have problems with His followers who do not seem to reflect the joy, confidence, and enthusiasm they profess to have. People all around us will be watching to see if our faith works. Is our faith real? Are we as Christians living out our faith or just going through the motions? People want to know if there has been a change in our lives in response to our relationship with Christ. Are we excited about coming to church? Does our joy show? Are we happy, in spite of our circumstances? None of us are perfect, yet we serve a perfect God. In Christ, we have a precious gift. Does it show? Now is the time for all of us to live our faith.

The Journey Continues,

Neill



SALEM KIDS (KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADE)

Salem Kids meets on Sundays from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at the Hut for Bible lessons, games, and snacks. If you have children who would like to participate or if you are interested in volunteering or supplying snacks, please contact Selwyn Shaw.

SALEM STUDENTS (YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS)

Salem Students meet on Sundays from 6:00 – 7:30 pm to study the Bible and discuss life questions. If you would like to support this ministry by providing snacks, hosting a meeting, or sharing your faith story, please let Selwyn know.

MOTHER'S DAY SCHEDULE

Please note that neither Salem Kids nor Salem Students will meet on Mother's Day. We hope you enjoy the time with the special women in your lives.

2026 HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES—May 17

Salem will honor our graduates during the worship services on Sunday, May 17. A luncheon after the worship services for graduates and their immediate family is being planned. Because catering is involved, **a headcount is needed by May 1**. Please contact the church office with the graduate's name and future plans. We are excited to celebrate this important milestone in our young people's lives.



GILBERT AND LECTIE HARDWOOD SCHOLARSHIP—May 29

Applications are now being accepted for the Gilbert and Lectie Harwood Scholarship for the 2026-2027 school year. This scholarship will be awarded to someone pursuing post-secondary education with preference given to active

members of Salem who demonstrate good academic standing and financial need. All application materials will be due to the Church Office by May 29, 2026, with the scholarship award to be given in August. For an application, please contact the Church Office or Anne Nance (anne_nance@yahoo.com)

ALL-GENERATIONS PROM: "UNDER THE STARS"-June 6

The prom has been postponed to Saturday, June 6, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. All members of the church, including children, are invited to join us for a wonderful night of dancing like King David and Christian fellowship.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2026: June 21–27

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising dinner. We cleared \$900. We are excited to serve as Christ's hands, feet, and heart in the community of Washington County, NC this year. If you would like to support the mission trip further, we are seeking:



1. Prayer Partners: To pray daily for a participant and provide at least one note and a treat.
2. Food Donations: We need enough of the following items to feed 40 people: elbow noodles, green beans, trail mix, protein/granola bars, individual snack packs, cereal, instant rice, refried beans, and grits.
3. Baked Goods: Homemade cookies and cakes are greatly appreciated for a hard week of work and play.

ART CAMP is JULY 12-15 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Many hearts and hands are needed to make this event a successful way to reach the children in our community. We still need assistants for a few art classes and "guides" to lead children to their classes, as well as many people to pray for the week! Let the church office or Selwyn Shaw know if you'd like to participate.



READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR-WEEKLY

Week 18 (May 3)

Father & Son

◇ John 14:6-17, 23-24

◇ Psalm 2:6-7

◇ Matthew 11:25-27

◇ John 17:1-5

◇ Colossians 1:15-20

Week 19 (May 10)

Holy Spirit

◇ Acts 2:1-21

◇ Joel 2:28-32

◇ Romans 8:26-27

◇ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

◇ Galatians 5:16, 22-25

Week 20 (May 17)

Worries

◇ Matthew 6:25-34

◇ Psalm 94:19

◇ Matthew 11:28-30

◇ Philippians 4:6-7

◇ 1 Peter 5:6-7

Week 21 (May 24)

Prayer

◇ Daniel 9

◇ 2 Chronicles 7:14

◇ Jeremiah 33:2-3

◇ Matthew 6:5-13

◇ James 5:13-16

Week 22 (May 31)

Friendship

◇ Ruth 1:1-18

◇ 1 Samuel 18:1-5

◇ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

◇ Proverbs 18:24

◇ John 15:12-15



| | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Daniel Hatley | 21 | Jo Anne Hainline |
| 4 | Gene Tucker | 22 | Caleb Eudy |
| 5 | Pam Furr | 23 | Marlette Godwin |
| 6 | Jodi Lyons | | Crystal L. Helms |
| 8 | Tonya Herlocker | 25 | Angie Bennett |
| 13 | America Magana | 28 | Karen Almond |
| | Erika Slone | 30 | Jay Creswell |
| | Steve Whitley | | Tommy Blankenship |
| 14 | Rodrigo Luevano, Jr. | | Kitty Swaringen |
| 15 | Pam Martin | 31 | David Hearne |
| 18 | Alec Lowder | | |
| | Colby Hicks | | |



Salem's Mission Statement:

*To Know Christ's Love,
To Grow in Christ's Love,
To Share Christ's Love*

GMC INFORMATION

Learn about the Global Methodist Church and how they are making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness by visiting these websites:

ncglobalmethodist.org

globalmethodist.org



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Linda Almond | Jimmy Heglar |
| Susan Anderson | Doug Lathom |
| Danny Blalock Family | Roger Lowder |
| Pat Blankenship | Wrenn Lowder |
| Aurelia Brummett | Annie Laura McCroskey |
| Paula Case Family | Jacob McDaniel |
| Ron Dry | Candis Newton |
| Sam Eudy | Beth Plowman |
| Genny Fast | Jeanette Raybon |
| Jim & Pam Furr | Ruby & Robert Rummage |
| Jean Gossier | Rommie Sells |
| Jerry Hager | Shelby Shoe |
| JoAnne Hainline | Gary Slone |
| Ann Hatley | Jeremy Smith |
| Jo Hatley | Michael Smith |
| Kenneth Hatley | Wesson Smith |
| Valrie Hefty | George Winecoff |



TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

| | |
|------|---------|
| 3/29 | \$4,119 |
| 4/5 | \$7,365 |
| 4/12 | \$7,090 |
| 4/19 | \$3,746 |



Stanly Community Christian Ministries' needs for May are canned soup and crackers.



MEMORIALS

Good Neighbor Food Pantry

In loving memory of Evelyn Drye by the following:

Clayton Homes

Randy & Lisa Almond

Lonnie & Diane Ussery

Prospect Baptist Church BASIC Sunday School Class

in memory of a precious member of our Sunday School class by the Ladies Fellowship Class

THANK YOU

To my church family,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, food, visits and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I really appreciate all the acts of kindness.

Linda Almond

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and kindness shown to me and Junior during the last several months. Please continue to pray for us.

Love, Shelby Shoe

Sharon L. Lowder wishes to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, thoughts and prayers. Your thoughtfulness means so much to her.

Our Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. There were about 100 children and adults who attended, with many of them from the community as well as our church. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to those who helped furnish items for the treat bags and snacks.

NEEDED: MOTHER'S DAY / FATHER'S DAY PHOTOS

As we prepare for Mother's Day and Father's Day, we invite you to submit candid photos of your mother with you and your siblings and photos of your father with you and your siblings. We would also like a photo of you (mothers or fathers) with your children.



Digital photos may be emailed to Pastor Neill or have your photos scanned at the church office and given back to you.

MILLINGPORT MEN'S CLUB—May 3

The May meeting will be Sunday, May 3, at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Building. All men are invited to come out and enjoy breakfast and fellowship time together.



GMC AFRICA PARTNERSHIP— May 5

The North Carolina GMC is in missional partnerships with the Uganda GMC and West Congo GMC. They assist with clergy training, church planting, children/youth ministry and economic empowerment. You are invited to see their work and the opportunities open to Salem on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:50 pm in the Fellowship Building.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT—May 12

Salem's annual Ladies' Night Out hosted by the Ladies' Circle will be on Tuesday evening, May 12, for all single ladies of the church and community in the Fellowship Building.



Social time is at 5:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP to a circle member or the church office as soon as possible. Let the church office know of any other ladies from the community who might also enjoy attending.

DEMENTIA CAREGIVING SUPPORT GROUP—May 19

Our next meeting is May 19, at 6:00 pm in the Hut. Please invite anyone you know needing support as they care for their loved one at home or in a facility. Contact Lisa Clayton.

MAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL—May 20

The May Fellowship Meal will be on Wednesday, May 20, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Building. The menu will include spiral sliced ham and the trimmings. Our special

entertainment, Lee Ward and The Southern Express Band, will provide bluegrass gospel music. All proceeds will go toward the Cemetery Paving Fund. Checks may be written to Salem for contribution purposes. Please come out and help support our cemetery project.

GRADUATION PARTY FOR ERIKA SLONE—May 23

Eric and Jennifer Slone invite you to a drop-in graduation party honoring Erika.

When: Saturday, May 23 from 2-5:00 pm

Where: Salem's Fellowship Building

OFFICE CLOSED—May 25

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.



JOYFUL HEARTS—May 30

The Joyful Hearts will visit the Billy Graham Library and eat lunch on Saturday, May 30. We need to know how many are going so transportation can be arranged. Please contact Penny Hatley or Lisa Clayton.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING EVENT

Salem will host a clothing giveaway event in July to provide our community children with clothing for school. To do this, we need donations of clean used clothing for students aged preschool through high school. When your children or grands outgrow their clothes, please bring them to the church office or Mission Room for sorting and storage. Hangers and clothes racks are also welcome. For more information call/text Marlys Lipe.



WAKE-UP CALL

Sign up for The Wake-up Call, a great daily devotion that comes to your email from our GMC. Sign up at Seedbed.com.



May, 2026



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 26 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut | 27 10am - The Village | 28 | 29 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 30 | 1 | 2 Reserved-FB |
| 3 7:30am - Men's Club-FB 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut | 4 10am - The Village | 5 Cinco de Mayo 6:50pm - Africa GMC - FB | 6 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 7 | 8 | 9 Confirmation Retreat 10am - Reserved-FB 10am - Reserved-Hut |
| 10 Mother's Day 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB | 11 10am - The Village | 12 5:30pm - Ladies Nite Out-FB | 13 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 12:30pm - Graduate Lunch 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut | 18 10am - The Village | 19 6pm - Dementia Support-Hut | 20 5pm - Fellowship Meal-FB 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 21 | 22 | 23 1:30pm - Reserved-FB |
| 24 9am - Confirmation Sunday 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut | 25 Memorial Day | 26 | 27 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 28 | 29 1pm - Scholarship Due | 30 Joyful Hearts Trip |
| 31 9am - Worship Service 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship Service-FB 4:30pm - Salem Kids-Hut 6pm - Salem Students-Hut | 1 10am - The Village | 2 | 3 6pm - Youth Bible Study 6:30pm - Choir Practice | 4 | 5 | 6 6pm - Prom-FB |



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MAY

GREETERS

Lisa Clayton & JoAnn Miller

Ushers & Greeters

HEAD USHER

Wesley Almond



COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill Hinson, Steve & Gwen Whitley

WORSHIP LEADERS

- 5/3 Cindy Newsom
- 5/10 Robert Lipe
- 5/17 Andrew Hager
- 5/24 Warren Hatley
- 5/31 Michael Lanier



FLOWERS

- 5/3 Marilyn Tucker
- 5/10
- 5/17 Lauri Jo Sides
- 5/24
- 5/31 Shelia Creswell



Sanctuary Flowers