

## **PASTOR NEILL'S THOUGHTS**

I heard a story about a pilot who always looked down longingly on a certain valley in the Appalachians when his plane passed overhead. One day his co-pilot asked, "What's so interesting about that spot?" The pilot replied, "See that stream? Well, when I was a kid, I used to sit down there on a log and fish. Every time an airplane flew over, I would look up and wish I were flying... Now I look down and wish I were fishing."



It is a nice story; however, it does reveal the temptations that human beings face. We tend to not be satisfied. It is always tempting to think that others have it better than we do and that if we just had "a little more," everything would be fine. Seems the grass appears greener somewhere else or with something else. But contentment cannot be achieved by increasing possessions. For some, nothing will ever be enough.

Feeling "not happy with what we have" is a common human experience rooted in various factors, including constantly comparing ourselves with others, wanting what others have taken a lifetime to earn, but wanting it for ourselves now, or a lack of gratitude for what we have.

The cure for this problem is to count our blessings and be grateful. When we see all the ways that God has blessed us in our life, we begin to see life in a different way. Philippians 4:8 tells us, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is

admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." So start counting your blessings and celebrate how good God is!

The Journey continues...

*Neill*



### **UNITY FEST—October 11**

Saturday, October 11 is Unity Fest, a Christian music festival in Seagrove. Our group will meet at 10:00 a.m at the church. The Festival on Saturday is 12 noon until 10:00 p.m. Please speak with Selwyn if you are attending.

### **TRUNK-OR-TREAT—October 26**

Trunk-or-Treat is Sunday, October 26, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please consider decorating a trunk and joining in the fun as we invite our community children and their families to experience the joy of being with the Salem family! Sign-up sheets are in Sunday school classes, the Narthex, and the Fellowship Building. If you would like to participate that day but not decorate a car, you may ask the youth group to decorate your car, donate candy, or offer to help make cotton candy, face paint, etc.



### **SALEM KIDS**

Salem Kids meet each Sunday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Hut. All children Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited

to come play, talk about God, create, and snack together. During October we are studying a series called, "I Believe," and the theme verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. During this "I Believe" series, we will video parts of our Christmas Movie. Parents, please pick up and fill out a 2025/2026 medical/permission form for us to keep on file at our first October meeting.



### **SALEM YOUTH**

Salem Youth meets 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Sundays in the Hut for middle and high school students. During October, we will prepare for Trunk-or-Treat. 2025/2026 medical/permission forms will be available beginning October 5, so please ask your parents to fill out and return to Selwyn.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Youth and Young Adult Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays in the Hut at 6:00 p.m.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MOVIE**

The Children's Christmas Movie, "The Birth of Jesus," will be presented on Sunday, December 7. Our children at Salem Kids will begin shooting during October. We will talk with parents of preschool children as to good times to video them soon! If you have a child 5th grade and younger who would like to participate, please speak with Selwyn.



### **FILL A SHOEBOX**

Empty shoeboxes will be available to pick up by the church office for anyone who would like to fill one. Please mark the label inside and tape on top of the shoebox. There will also be a list of gift suggestions inside the box if you need any ideas.



## READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR-WEEKLY

### Week 39 (September 28)

#### Humility

◇ Philippians 2:3-11

◇ Proverbs 11:2

◇ Matthew 20:26-28

◇ John 13:1-9

◇ James 4:10

### Week 40 (October 5)

#### Strength

◇ Ephesians 6:10-20

◇ Isaiah 40:28-31

◇ Joshua 1:9

◇ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

◇ Philippians 4:13

### Week 41 (October 12)

#### Grace

◇ Psalm 103:1-12

◇ Romans 6:14

◇ John 1:16-17

◇ 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

◇ Ephesians 2:8-9

### Week 42 (October 19)

#### Saints

◇ Revelation 7:9-17

◇ Psalm 37:28-29

◇ Daniel 7:27

◇ 1 Corinthians 1:2-3

◇ Hebrews 12:1-3

### Week 43 (October 26)

#### Redemption

◇ Romans 5

◇ Job 19:25-27

◇ Isaiah 44:21-22

◇ Galatians 3:13-14

◇ 1 Peter 1:18-21



## OCTOBER *birthdays*

1 Brandon King

2 Ginger Lowder

3 Travis Gordon

10 Maddox Almond

Ron Janey

13 Dulce Magana

15 Barrett Hurlocker

17 Jolee King

18 Jodi Nance

Scott Lowder

19 Nicole Magana

21 Alice Rothe

Celeste Magana

Kate Magana

Lori Burris

22 Piper Burris

23 Jerry Hager

24 Nadine Bowers

25 Karen Ash

Betsy Godwin

26 Milo Gordon

Nicole Tegels

27 Christa Hager

29 Errol Godwin

Chip Bigger

30 Jason Huneycutt

McKenzie Hinson

Darrell Story

31 Lana Bunting



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During October, we are collecting dolls, cars, craft kits, building block sets, girls and boys toys for the shoeboxes. These may be left at the church office, in the boxes in the Sanctuary or the Fellowship Building.

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please mark the envelope or check as "OCC" or "shoeboxes."



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Keith Anderson

Karen Ash

Pat Blankenship

Vennie Cerasulo

Daryl Christy

Doug Clayton

Rev. Clinton Efird

Patsy Eudy

Jim & Pam Furr

Marty Furr

Cynthia Goodman

Ann Hatley

Valrie Hefty

Jimmy Heglar

Roger Hudson Family

Ron & Rita Janey

James Leonard

Brad Love

John Lowder

Roger Lowder

Sharon C. Lowder

Annie Laura McCroskey

Linda Morgan

Nathan Nance

Joe Parker

Lee Preslar

Robin Ray

Alice Rothe

Richard Rothe

Shelby Shoe

Michael Smith

Sherrill Smith

Chris Speight

Cole Stevens

Darrell Story

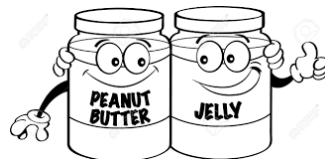
Kate Tesch



### *Salem's Mission Statement:*

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

Stanly Community Christian  
Ministries' needs for October are  
peanut butter and jelly.



### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### General Fund

8/31 \$3,979

9/7 \$7,344

9/14 \$4,537

9/21 \$3,114



**Church  
Finances**

CONGRATULATIONS

Micah Jaire-Scott Carrothers was born on August 19. He is the son of Josh and Bailey Blankenship Carrothers, grandson of Kellie Martin-Evans and Steve Carrothers, great-grandson of Pat Blankenship and Elizabeth Carrothers. Micah weights 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above.” -James 1:17

HOLY BAPTISM

We give thanks to God for the Baptism of June Everlee Luevano on September 28. June is the daughter of Rodrigo and Amber Luevano, granddaughter of Elida Sierra, Rodrigo Luevano, Sr., Mike and Barbara Britt; great-granddaughter of Larry Britt, Marion Britt, Bryte West, Sandra Monroe, Eulalia Sierra y Santiago Matias, and Arcenia Gutierrez y Leonel Luevano.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Good Neighbor Food Pantry

In loving memory of Ann McIntyre by Audrey Rigsbee

Operation Christmas Child

In loving memory of Bryon Hatley’s 66th birthday on September 27 by Ann Hatley

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness and hospitalization. I am so blessed to be part of a loving and compassionate church family. I love you all! May God bless you. Audrey Rigsbee

GOLD STAR MOTHERS

The last Sunday in September is Gold Star Mothers Sunday, and we want to recognize two members of our church. A Gold Star Mother refers to any mother who has lost a child in



the service of our country.

Jo Hatley lost her step-son, Pvt. Joel Hatley, who was first listed as Missing in Action on March 7, 1972, in the Republic of Vietnam. His remains were later identified and buried in Arlington National Cemetery in 1990. Joel was serving with the 101st Airborne, 158th Aviation Battalion.

Aurelia Brummett is also a Gold Star Mother. She lost her son, SSG. Bruce Rushforth, Jr., on February 22, 2002, in the Philippines. He was serving with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Republic of Korea. He is buried in Massachusetts.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL—October 8

The October Fellowship Meal will be prepared by the Millingport Men’s Club. Join us on Wednesday, October 8, from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Building. The menu is baked ham, potato salad, green beans, roll and dessert. If you would donate a dessert, please contact Boyd Furr. Freewill donations will be accepted to be used by the Men’s Club for their projects. Come out and enjoy some delicious food and wonderful Christian fellowship.



CRYSTAL’S BOOKS OF BLESSINGS— October 10

We are taking donations for the 17th annual book drive in loving memory of Crystal Barbee’s birthday through October 10. Books may be placed in the basket at the office or monetary donations may be marked as “Crystal’s Books” and placed in the offering plate. Last year the family delivered 532 books to Bridge to Recovery, Atrium Stanly Hospital, Butterfly House, Pregnancy Resource Center, and several elementary schools.

CHURCH COUNCIL-October 12 @ 2 pm in Fellowship Building

LADIES CIRCLE-October 12 @ 3:30 pm in Fellowship Building

ADULT MISSION TRIP—October 22-25

Salem is going on a mission trip October 22-25 to Plymouth, NC. We will stay at Plymouth UMC and work through Carolina Rebuilding Ministries. Please let Tim Bennett or Pastor Neill know as soon as possible if you would like to participate or for more information.



TRUNK-OR-TREAT—October 26 @ 4:00 pm

See Family Life Ministry on Pastor’s Page Needed: Trunks, candy and volunteers

CHARGE CONFERENCE—November 2 @ 3:00 pm

VETERANS’ DAY

We are again collecting photos of our church family and loved ones who have served in the military. We still have the photos used last Veterans’ Day. If you have additions to add to the slide show, please email a photo when they were serving in uniform to Pastor Neill (shawstephen1963@gmail.com) or have it scanned at the church office and given right back to you.



SAVE THESE NOVEMBER DATES

2	7:30 am	Millingport Men’s Club-FB
2	3:00 pm	Charge Conference
5	5:00 pm	Fellowship Meal-soups-FB
9	3:00 pm	Ladies’ Circle Meeting-FB
9	4:30 pm	Shoebox packing party-hut
23	3:00 pm	Decorate for Advent

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](http://ncglobalmethodist.org) [globalmethodist.org](http://globalmethodist.org)



# October, 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Worship Service</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Salem Too</div> <div>4:30pm - Salem Kids</div> <div>6pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Youth Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Renew Youth Event</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Renew Youth Event</div>
<div>5</div> <div>9am - Worship Service</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Salem Too</div> <div>4:30pm - Salem Kids</div> <div>6pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>5pm - Fellowship Meal</div> <div>6pm - Youth Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am - Unityfest Youth</div>
<div>12</div> <div>9am - Worship Service</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Salem Too</div> <div>2pm - Church Council</div> <div>3:30pm - Ladies Circle</div> <div>4:30pm - Salem Kids</div> <div>6pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Columbus Day</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6pm - Youth Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6pm - Dementia Support</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div> <div>9am - Worship Service</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Salem Too</div> <div>4:30pm - Salem Kids</div> <div>6pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Adult Mission Trip1</div> <div>6pm - Youth Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Adult Mission Trip1</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Adult Mission Trip1</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Adult Mission Trip1</div>
<div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship Service</div> <div>10am - Sunday School</div> <div>11am - Salem Too</div> <div>4pm - Trunk-or-Treat</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6pm - Youth Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Choir Practice</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Halloween</div>	<div>1</div>



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR OCTOBER

### GREETERS

Reggie & Vickie Hatley

Ushers & Greeters

### HEAD USHER

Jeff Bunting



### COMMUNION SERVERS

Jim Phillips, Jeff & Cathy Nance

### WORSHIP LEADERS

10/5 Eric Slone  
10/12 Valrie Hefty ??  
10/19 Andrew Hager  
10/26 Warren Hatley



### FLOWERS

10/5 Robin & Ren Barbee  
10/12 Lisa Almond  
10/19 Kasey Hinson  
10/26 Marilyn Tucker

