



Monthly Newsletter of Salem UMC, Morganton, NC

Salem Scoop

Advent is a Christian season of longing and anticipation for Christ's arrival to bring Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace in the world. Over the past year, we have seen a continuation of longing in our World. Longing for peace among the nations, where war has risen, causing families despair.



Hope in the aftermath of the natural disasters that have plagued people's lives and homes, as hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and mudslides has swept across the land. Post-pandemic, the rent and mortgage costs created an affordable housing shortage, leaving individuals and families feeling hopeless and in need of a place to live. We see a longing for love to prevail as polarization in our country, work, families, and homes continues to rise amongst people. People are at odds, families are disassociating from one another, and divisive behavior is being instilled in the next generation.

Just like in the Ancient World, we lean into Advent- a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ. We are reminded by the Prophet Isaiah that our excitement is well-founded, God will go to extraordinary lengths to dismantle and repair God's broken creation. It is good to recall the breadth and depth and the height of what we are called to await. The Messiah! Light of the World! A Savior. **Come journey with us this Advent season as we look at the Sacred Terrain and walk Isaiah's pathway to Christmas.**

Advent and Christmas at Salem

Sunday, November 30 at 10:30 am: A Pending Invitation (Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14)

Hanging of the Greens Service with Decoration of the Sanctuary and Tree of Hope lighting at 5:30!

Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 am: Somewhere between Heaven and Hell (Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7)

Preacher: Jacob Lancaster, Pastor at St. Matthews UMC

Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 am: A Desert in Bloom (Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10)

Preacher: Logan Miller, Pastor at Glen Alpine UMC

Sunday, December 21 at 10:30 am: A Tangible Hope (Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13)

Sunday, December 21 at 6pm: Blue Christmas Service at Salem UMC (1206 Salem Rd, Morganton)

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 21 at 6pm at Glen Alpine UMC (410 Linville St, Glen Alpine NC): A Feast of Light (Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20)

Preacher: Renee Lewis, Pastor and Director of REPAY, Inc.

Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 am: When God Walks the Earth (Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23)

Care Cafe'

Thursday December 4th

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Salem UMC Fellowship Hall

- Are you caring for a loved one?
- Are you tired?
- Are you looking for resources or help?

Come learn what support and help is available for you!

THE POLAR EXPRESS EXPERIENCE

Saturday, December 6 • 9:00 AM – Noon
Salem United Methodist Church
1206 Salem Road • Morganton, NC 28655

All aboard, children ages 4 – 5th grade!

Put on your coziest pajamas and hop on for a magical morning aboard *The Polar Express*

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Train-themed games
- Delicious Hot Cocoa Bar
- Story Time from *The Polar Express*
- Festive crafts and Christmas fun!

FREE EVENT – Registration Required
Register now at SUMCM.ORG



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday December 21st 6:00 pm

Are you lonely?
Grieving? Weary?

Join us for a special service in the Fellowship Hall to offer hope for the holidays!



Christmas Eve Service

Join us Wednesday December 24th at 6:00 pm as Glen Alpine UMC, Salem UMC and St. Matthew UMC come together to celebrate the eve of our Savior's birth!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Join us on
December 10, 3:30 PM
at **J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center.**

All kids invited to join!



COMBINED YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



Sunday, December 14
5 PM

J. Iverson Riddle
Developmental Center
(Meet at the church at
4:30 PM to ride the church
van.)

Meal at Salem UMC to
follow!

Bring your Christmas spirit!





Students...

...from Salem, First UMC, Morganton, First UMC, Marion, and Oak Hill UMC gathered in November to make a difference in the community by cooking and preparing meals for foster families. These twenty-plus students and adults assembled 25 baked ziti casseroles so that foster families would not have to worry about meals as they care for God's children. What a blessing to see these youth and adults come together in a shared mission to the community.



Combined Youth Lock-In!

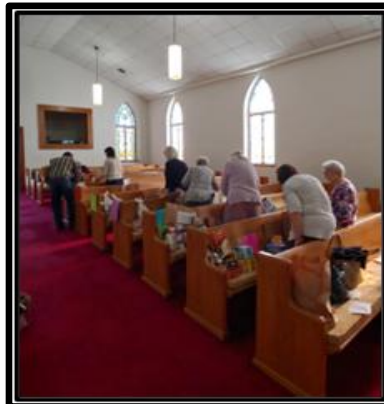
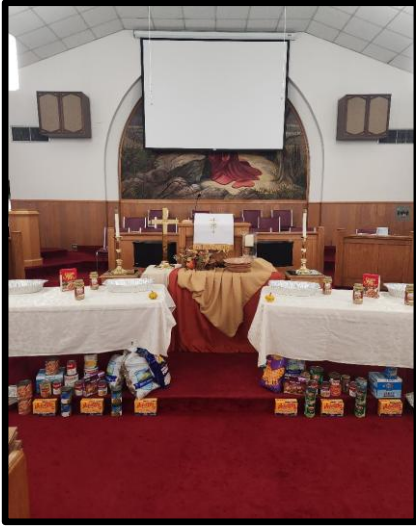
January 9-10, 2026
7 PM Friday- 2 PM Saturday
First UMC Marion
Mission project included!

Meet at the church at 6:30 PM to ride over together! Bring your sleeping bag and pillow. Bathe before you come!

Questions? Email Abbi at abbifumc@gmail.com.



A special Thank You to all who participated in our Thanksgiving food drive! Ten families totaling 91 children and adults from Salem Elementary school and Liberty Middle school were provided complete Thanksgiving dinners including turkeys and hams. In addition to the 91 children and adults, extra food items collected were able to be utilized for our blessing box for our local community!





Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, December 14th**, at **12:00 Noon**. *(Lunch will be provided)*

If you or a member of your team will be unable to attend, please ensure you provide a status report to Brady Keller prior to the meeting.

Church Council Chair – *Brady Keller*

SPRC – *Bob Harbour*

Trustees – *Jerry Carroll*

Finance – *Vicki Reinke*

Outreach – *Jodi Brown*

Witness –

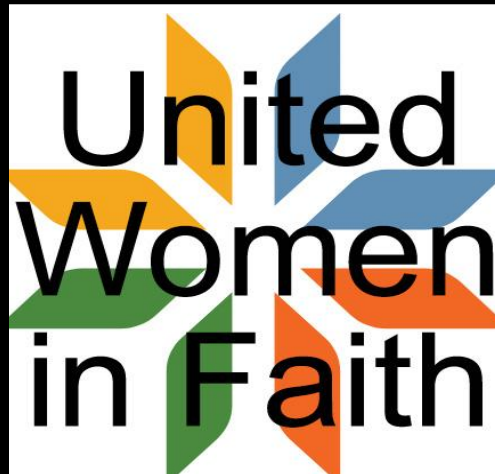
Nurture – *Joyce Gibson*

Parsonage – *Lara Autrey*

Secretary – *Ray Duckworth*

UWF – *Virginia Robinson, Kay Pollard*

Lay Leader – *Kevin Reinke*



**Christmas Gathering
in the Parlor.**

Saturday December 6th

12:00 Noon



Pastor Monica Childers

828-493-3179

pastor@sumcm.org



USHERS

DECEMBER

7th- Trey Crowe and Colt Crowe

14th- Sue Cronk and Kim Clardy

21st- Tim and Brady Keller

28th-Charles Autrey and Jeff Miller

January

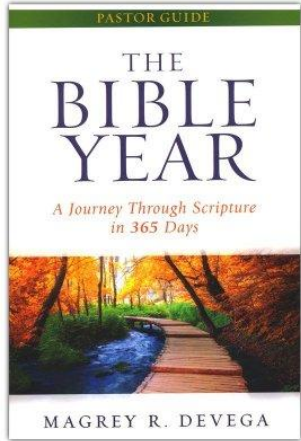
February

March

April

May

June



July

August

September

October

November

December

A new year is coming, and in 2026, Salem will embark on a year of walking through the Bible together using Rev. Magrey Devega's The Bible Year resource. The congregation will have the opportunity to journey through the Old and New Testaments each week through the sermon, personal devotions, small groups, podcast, and video resources. To prepare for the new year, we invite you to sign up for The Bible Year devotional by December 21st to prepare for our journey together. Sign up at the Opportunity Corner or by contacting the church office.

Our Financial Stewardship

Through November 24th

Offerings Received to Date: \$ 352,900.67

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$ 308,524.85

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$191,170.47
Backpack Ministry	\$ 1,950.00
Back to School Biscuits	\$ 25.00
Cross Connections	\$ 280.00
SUMWF Yard Sale	\$ 2,250.00
Youth	\$ 380.00
Youth St. Matthews Van	\$ 750.00
Youth Retreat	\$ 315.00
Parsonage Relocate/ Restore	\$ 57,916.62
Building Fund Cemetery	\$ 475.00
BF Cemetery Grave Purchase	\$ 5,000.00
Building Fund Steeple	\$ 1,541.00
Building Fund Roof	\$ 1,742.50
BF Restoration/Parsonage	\$ 800.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,598.00
WNCC Pastor Salary	\$ 19,388.36
WNCC Pastor Intern	\$ 12,800.00
WNCC Roof Helene Relief	\$ 19,112.50
WNCC Reimbursements	\$ 1,292.45
WNCC Rent Check	\$ 5,200.00
WNCC Restor/Relocation	\$ 1,500.00
Pass Through	\$ 149.94
Pass Thru To Help a Family	\$ 2,000.00
Pass Thru Halloween Candy	\$ 150.00
Pass Thru Helene Fund	\$ 245.00
Pass Thru Thanksgiving	\$ 400.00

IN MEMORY

GIFTS GIVEN

Craig Carroll

by Kay Duckworth

Mark McGhinnis & Margaret Carswell

by Mary Propst, Lisa Propst, Cary Clark

James & Margaret Romano

by Sal & Lori Siino

Craig Carroll & Charlie Holland

by Bruce & Kay Pollard

IN HONOR



20 – Joe & Lynda Woody
23 – Troy & Joann Patton



1 – Danielle Wilson
5 – Garland Ross
6 – Christina Benfield, Wes Bunch
7 – Carrigan Causby
7 – Catherine Causby
9 – Brady Keller
10 – Fred Horton
13 – Nicole Mull, Bob Harbour
14 – Lora Whitener
18 – Stanley Coffey
26 – Sue Bunch
27 – Edith L. Dale
29 – Robert A. Pruett
30 – Lewis P. Dale



Prayer Concerns



This Week's Prayers

Troy Patton
 Lisa Propst
 Edith Dale
 Barbara Harbour
 Johnathan Greer's Father
 Karen Brittian
 Patsy Bridges
 Jeanette Stamey
 Anna-Grace Rawls Shuping
 Kisha Isbell
 Melissa Blankenship's Mother
 Tabitha Taylor
 Jonathon Dale
 Elizabeth Dale Smith
 Trish Johnson
 Tanya Speagle
 Lorna Damron
 Barbara Medlin
 BJ Taylor
 Hemen Joshi
 Tracy Benfield
 Aaron Clardy

Praises

Bob & Barbara Harbour's
 Great Grandson,
 Bennett Pop Lyon, born 10-29

Pastor Monica and David Childers'
 granddaughter,
 Addison Anne Maslack, born 11-2

Deaths

Craig Carroll 10-23

Ongoing Prayers

Muriel McNeilly
 Cary Clark
 Gerald Duckworth
 Steve & Jane Stroup
 Joann Patton
 Kevin Patton
 Zach & Lucy Cagle
 Gary & Wanda Byrd
 Mary Ann Propst
 Kathryn Duckworth
 Joe & Lynda Woody
 Linda Wilson
 Cindy Robinson
 Roger Hicks
 Wynn Whitener
 Bernice Peabody
 Arnold Tucker
 Robert Pruett

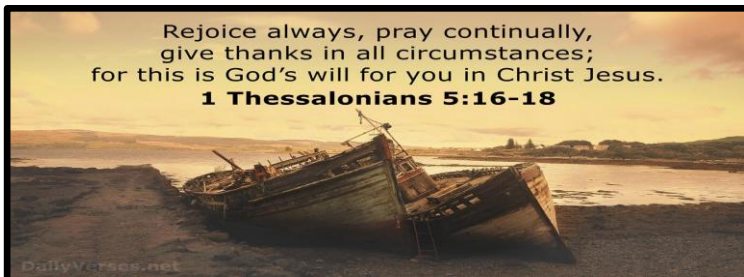
Nursing Home

Doris Garrison
 Brenda Dellinger
 Shirley Smith Clarke

Homebound

Leota Garrison
 Brenda Autrey
 Larry & Janet Koon
 Billie & Garland Ross

Rejoice always, pray continually,
 give thanks in all circumstances;
 for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov. 30 5:30 - 7 pm Hanging of Greens / Tree of Hope Lighting	1	2 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	3 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	4 11 – 1 pm Care Café Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	5	6 9 – Noon Polar Express Experience 12:00 – UWF Christmas get together Parlor
7 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship Noon - Choir	8	9 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	10 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	11 12:30 – 6:00 pm Church Office Open Cultivate Children's Time	12	13 Girl Scouts Reserved Kitchen
14 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship Noon - Choir Noon – Church Council Mtg. 5 – 7pm Collaborative Youth @ Oak Hill J Iverson Riddle Gifts Due	15	16 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	17 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	18 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	19	20
21 9:00 – JIRDC Worship Volunteers 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship Noon – Choir 6 pm Blue Christmas Service	22	23 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	24 6 pm - Christmas Eve Service @ Glen Alpine UMC	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26	27
28 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship Noon – Choir	29	30 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	31 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	January 1 Church Office Closed	2	3



Explore Faith...Embody Christ...Embrace Others