



# Salem Scoop

## Ascribing Worth Together

I sit here looking out my home office window, watching the snow fall. There is a part of me that is happy for the peace and stillness the snow brings, yet it saddens my heart that I will miss another week being together in person for worship. We have embarked on a year of reading the Bible today, and part of the fun is being in conversation, sharing new insights, and hearing the Ah Ha moments many have gleaned in rereading the stories.

Some of the greatest moments in my ministry are worshipping and being in community with others. I was asked in one of my classes this week to recall the most meaningful worship experience I have had. I had to really think about this question because I have had many meaningful worship experiences. When I couldn't think of just one, I began to make a list of worship experiences that have touched me. The list included my wedding with David, where we shared communion; the service of baptism for both my children, which was held at a creek near our home. The services I experienced during the Emmaus Walk and Chrysalis Pilgrimage, the contemplative service at Starrett Farm, where I walked the labyrinth in nature, and a service of worship at Passion Conference, along with twenty thousand students praising God. My list went on and on.

In reflecting on these experiences, one thing was essential: God and others. If these two things are what stood out, did they redefine my theology or belief regarding worship? Did they bring about a new awareness or meaning? Did it change anything? If we look at the word worship, it is from an Old English word, "*weorthscipe*" which literally means *weorth-* (worth)-*scipe-* (ship). This means ascribing worth to someone. As Christians, to worship means gathering to praise and give thanks to God for who God is. But worship is not just something we do individually with God; worship is a communal act known as Liturgy. Liturgy is another Old English word that comes from the Greek *leitourgia*, which translates to "Work" and "people". This means worship is the work of the whole people of God, not just the clergy or a layperson. It reminds us of the body of Christ that the Apostle Paul speaks about and being part of the Priesthood of all believers. It tells us that worship is about relationship. Ruth Duck writes, "Worship as Relationship brings together God's revelation with our human response, both by witnessing to and embodying God's love and by drawing us to respond in love toward God, one another, and all of creation."

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

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As I sit in the stillness reflecting on the above questions, I recognize my thoughts regarding worship remain the same but are now enhanced through the relationships I have formed with each of you. I recognize that at the center of each meaningful worship experience, it was a relationship with God and shared worship with others that made it so significantly special. It was not the music, although good music speaks to our souls, the number of people, the specific space, having the latest technology, or even the highest budget. It was the embodiment of God's love experienced in ascribing worth together that moved my heart to praise God with a thankful heart and prompt me to love my neighbor with a deep *agape, love*. ***I wonder how you might respond to the question: What is the most meaningful worship experience you have had?***

Peace of Christ,

***Pastor Monica***



**Pastor Monica Childers**

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**Salem United Methodist Church**

**1206 Salem Road**

**Morganton, NC 28655**

**828-433-6600**

**[www.sumcm.org](http://www.sumcm.org)**

Office Hours:

*Tuesday & Thursday*

*12:30 – 6:00 pm*

*Administrative Assistant: Zachary Cagle*

*Music: Virginia Robinson & Sue Bunch*

*Audio & Visual: Bob Harbour & Kevin Fite*



This year, huddle up with your team for a food and fund drive to support food insecurities in Burke County.

In support of Souper Bowl of Caring and Burke United Christian Ministries, please bring your canned goods or food items to church Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>!

# SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 2026 Church Leadership

### Church Council Chairperson – Charles Autrey

<b>Lay Delegate</b>	Lara Autrey	<b>UMM</b>	Kevin Reinke
<b>Reserve Delegate</b>	Margaret Shell	<b>Youth Representative</b>	Brady Keller
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Kevin Reinke	<b>Outreach</b>	Jodi Brown
<b>Treasurer</b>	Charles Autrey	<b>Witness</b>	_____
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Bruce Pollard	<b>Nurture</b>	Joyce Gibson
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Barbara Harbour	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margaret Shell
<b>UWF Representative</b>	Virginia Robinson Kay Pollard	<b>Historian</b>	Edith Dale

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### Trustees – Jerry Carroll (2026 Chairperson)

Jerry Carroll (2026)	Hamilton Brown (2027)	Lara Autrey (2028)
Beulah Duckworth (2026)	Tim Keller (2027)	Jerry Ramsey (2028)
Bruce Pollard (Church Treasurer)		
Kevin Reinke (Lay Leader)		

### Finance – Vicki Reinke (2026 Chairperson)

Vicki Reinke (2026)	Kathie Waldrop (2027)	Wes Bunch (2028)
Edith Dale (2026)	Brenda Duckworth (2027)	Alan Byrd (2028)
Charles Autrey (Admin Council & Treasurer)		
Bob Harbour (SPRC)		
Jerry Carrol (Trustees)		
Kevin Reinke (Lay Leader)		

### Staff-Parish Relations – Bob Harbour (2026 Chairperson)

Doris Ingram (2026)	Nancy Krall (2027)	Ray Duckworth (2028)
Christina Benfield (2026)	Margaret Shell (2027)	Rama Ramsey (2028)
Kevin Reinke (Lay Leader)		

### Committee on Nominations – Pastor Monica (2026 Chairperson)

Clarice Shuping (2026)	Alan Byrd (2027)	Kay Pollard (2028)
Virginia Robinson (2026)	Margaret Shell (2027)	Jeff Miller (2028)



## February

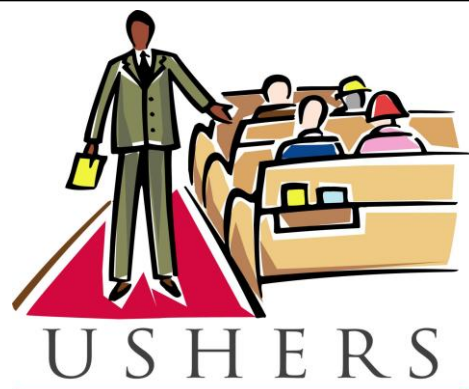
1<sup>st</sup> - Daniel Reinke

8<sup>th</sup> - UMW Sunday

15<sup>th</sup> - Finley Fite

22<sup>nd</sup> - TBD

Please contact Kay Duckworth to  
volunteer or obtain additional info.



## February

1<sup>st</sup> - Sue Cronk and Kim Clardy

8<sup>th</sup> - Tim and Brady Keller

15<sup>th</sup> - Charles Autrey and Jeff Miller

22<sup>nd</sup> - Wes Bunch & Bruce Pollard



**Monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall.**

**Saturday, February 7th**

**12:00 Noon**

***All women are welcome and invited!***



All Methodist Men and guests are encouraged to attend our 2026 kickoff meeting! This will be a time of devotion, fellowship and breakfast! We will also discuss expectations of what our Men's group can and will look like this year!

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 8:00 am  
Fellowship Hall



**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
**WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM**





**SALEM UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
DEMOGRAPHICS  
3 – Mile Radius**

**Average Age = 42**

**Average Household Income = \$79,000.**

**Number of Students = 1,739**

*Elementary School = 622*

*Middle School = 663*

*High School = 454*

**Regarding Personal Growth –**

*Looking for opportunities to develop relationships.*

**Regarding Family Support –**

*Looking for family-oriented activities.*

**Regarding Community Involvement/Programs –**

*Want to be involved in relevant social causes.*

**Regarding Community Activities –**

*Looking for cultural programs and activities for Seniors/Retiree's.*

**Regarding Religious & Spiritual Programs –**

- 1) *Warm & Friendly Encounters*
- 2) *Contemporary Worship Experience*
- 3) *Quality Sermons*

**Concerns Regarding Religion –**

- 1) *Religion too focused on money.*
- 2) *Religious People too Judgmental.*
- 3) *Don't trust organized religion.*
- 4) *Don't trust religious leaders.*

**Top Preferences When Looking for a Church –**

- 1) *Warm & Friendly Encounters.*
- 2) *Opportunity to develop personal relationships.*

**Top Media Preferences –**

- 1) *Blogs*
- 2) *Twitter (X)*
- 3) *Facebook*
- 4) *Cable News*

*\*All data collected  
and compiled by  
the Western North  
Carolina  
Conference of the  
United Methodist  
Church. - 2025*





## AN ACT OF LOVE:

*Planning for  
Your Future Event*

Salem United Methodist Church and local professionals will host an Act of Love event on Sunday, February 15 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At this event, you will gain information about how to prepare for end-of-life through learning about pre-plan funeral needs; how to work with a funeral director and/or minister to implement funeral arrangements; discover what legal documents and financial strategies should be in place for everyone; gain information from Palliative Care; learn from the Catawba County Clerk of Court office on what steps you need to take following the funeral; and hear about post-funeral pastoral care and grief assistance available. We invite everyone to attend, no matter your age. This is a way you can put your **LOVE INTO ACTION** and prepare for your loved ones.



## Ash Wednesday

As we approach the sacred season of Lent, we invite you to join us for a special Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 18th. The service will begin at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This solemn occasion marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, a time for reflection, prayer, and preparation. We hope you will join us in this meaningful observance, as we come together to begin this season of introspection and spiritual growth. All are welcome to participate, and we encourage you to bring family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 5TH SUNDAY LUNCH



March 29th

May 31st

August 30th

Church wide Picnic

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP (MARCH AND AUGUST)**

**PICNIC PLACE AND TIME TBD**

## Congregational Care Training Workshop

*Equipping leaders in care, based on a team approach that empowers both pastors and laity working together to support the congregation and community.*

**Thursday, March 26th**

**9:00 am -4:00 pm**

**To register or information**

**contact Pastor Monica**

**[pastor@sumcm.org](mailto:pastor@sumcm.org)**



Thinking Ahead...





# Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 Charles Autrey prior to the meeting.

**Church Council Chair** – Charles Autrey

**SPRC** – Bob Harbour

**Trustees** – Jerry Carroll

**Finance** – Vicki Reinke

**Outreach** – Jodi Brown

**Witness** –

**Nurture** – Joyce Gibson

**Parsonage** – Lara Autrey

**Secretary** – Barbara Harbour

**UWF** – Virginia Robinson, Kay Pollard

**Lay Leader** – Kevin Reinke

## Our Financial Stewardship

*Through January 28*

Offerings Received to Date: \$ 9,714.00

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$ 6,479.36

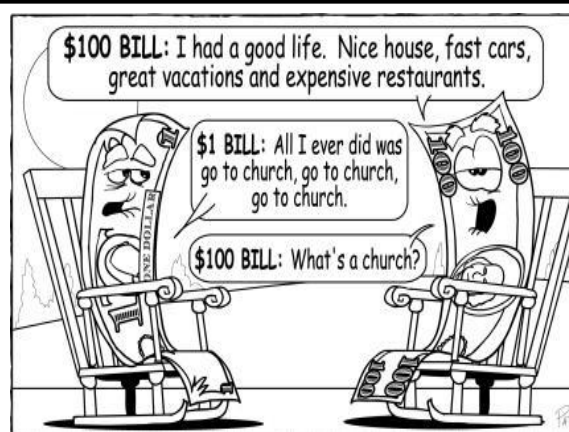
**(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)**

### Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings **\$7,119.00**

Building Fund \$ 100.00

WNCC Pastor Salary **\$2,595.00**



End of Year  
**GIVING**  
Statements

Available in  
the vestibule

***“As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness? “***



IN MEMORY	<b><u>GIFTS GIVEN</u></b>		IN HONOR
	James Brown	<i>by Edith Dale</i> <i>by Jerry &amp; Clarice Shuping</i>	
	Jean Horton, James Brown Gerald Duckworth	<i>by Bruce &amp; Kay Pollard</i>	
	Bruce & Kay Pollard, Helen McGee, Mary Carswell	<i>by Brenda Dellinger</i>	
	Craig Carroll & Gerald Duckworth	<i>by Troy &amp; Joann Patton</i>	
	Gerald Duckworth	<i>by Edith Dale</i> <i>by Kay Duckworth</i> <i>by Mary Propst, Lisa Propst, Cary Clark</i>	



**27<sup>th</sup>**  
Dennis &  
Nikki Carswell



**2** - Cheryl Garrison  
**6** - Severin Smith  
**7** - Vickie Stevens  
**11** - Johnny McLaughlin  
**17** - Beverly Johnson  
**18** - Amy Causby  
**26** - Doris M. Garrison  
Anders Cabe  
**28** - Gary Whitener



## Prayer Concerns



### This Week's Prayers

Aaron Clardy  
Jane Stroup  
Mike Dolan  
Chelly Franklin  
Lloyd Fite  
Jeremy and Angela Amick  
Ken Berry  
Lynda Woody  
Buddy Shields  
Randal James  
Lisa Propst  
Karen Brittain  
Patsy Bridges  
Jeanette Stamey  
Anna-Grace Rawls  
Kisha Isbell  
Elizabeth Dale Smith  
Trish Johnson  
Tanya Speagle  
Lorna Damron  
Barbara Medlin  
BJ Taylor  
Hemen Joshi  
Tracy Benfield

### Praises

Leota Garrison is home

### Deaths

Jean Ervin 1-29-26  
*(Pastor Monica's Great Aunt)*  
Hamilton Brown's Father  
1-13-26

### Ongoing Prayers

Muriel McNeilly  
Cary Clark  
Steve & Jane Stroup  
Troy & Joann Patton  
Kevin Patton  
Zach & Lucy Cagle  
Gary & Wanda Byrd  
Mary Ann Propst  
Kathryn Duckworth  
Joe Woody  
Linda Wilson  
Cindy Robinson  
Roger Hicks

### Nursing Home

Doris Garrison  
Brenda Dellinger  
Shirley Smith Clarke

### Homebound

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

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	<b>5</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12:00 – UWF 9am-5pm Healing Centered Church Summit
<b>8</b> 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12:00 – Church Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	<b>12</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm Cultivate Children's Time	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Happy Valentine's Day
<b>15</b> 9:00 – JIRDC Worship 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	<b>16</b> Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>18</b> 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 6 pm – Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm - Choir	<b>19</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00 am – UMM 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>25</b> 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	<b>26</b> Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>March 1</b> 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>



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