



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.”

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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

828-493-3179

pastor@sumcm.org

Salem United Methodist Church

1206 Salem Road

Morganton, NC 28655

828-433-6600

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 8th!

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2026 Church Leadership

Church Council Chairperson – Charles Autrey

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

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)

Acolyte Ministry

February

1st - Daniel Reinke

8th - UMW Sunday

15th - Finley Fite

22nd - TBD

Please contact Kay Duckworth to volunteer or obtain additional info.



USHERS

February

1st - Sue Cronk and Kim Clardy

8th - Tim and Brady Keller

15th - Charles Autrey and Jeff Miller

22nd - 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 22nd - 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.



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

Church wide Picnic

August 30th

**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 pastores and latiy 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**







Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, February 8th, 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

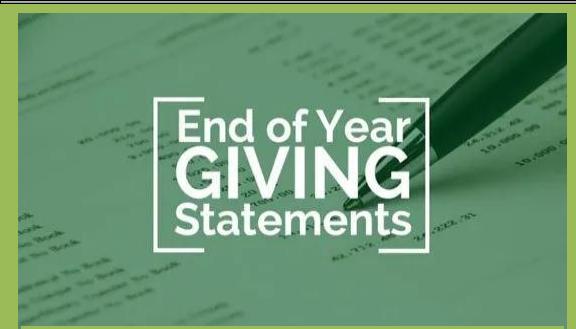
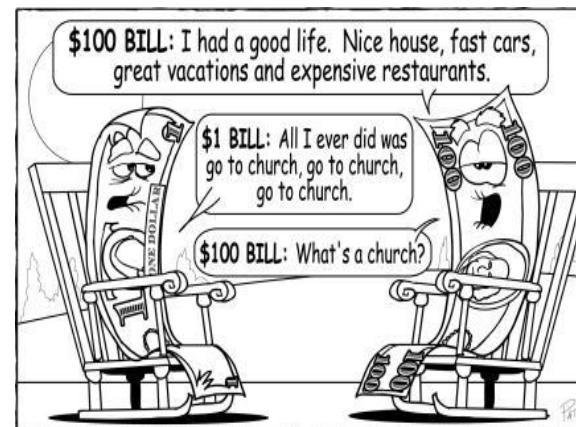
(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$7,119.00
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Building Fund	\$ 100.00
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WNCC Pastor Salary	\$2,595.00
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**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**GIFTS GIVEN****James Brown***by Edith Dale**by Jerry & Clarice Shuping***Jean Horton, James Brown
Gerald Duckworth***by Bruce & Kay Pollard***Bruce & Kay Pollard,
Helen McGee,
Mary Carswell***by Brenda Dellinger***Craig Carroll & Gerald Duckworth***by Troy & Joann Patton***Gerald Duckworth***by Edith Dale**by Kay Duckworth**by Mary Propst, Lisa Propst, Cary Clark***IN HONOR****27th
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
1 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	2	3 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	4 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	5 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	6	7 12:00 – UWF 9am-5pm Healing Centered Church Summit
8 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12:00 – Church Council	9	10 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	11 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	12 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm Cultivate Children's Time	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day
15 9:00 – JIRDC Worship 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	16 Girl Scouts	17 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	18 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 6 pm – Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm - Choir	19 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	20	21
22 8:00 am – UMM 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	23	24 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	25 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	26 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	27	28
March 1 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7



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