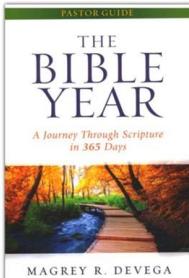


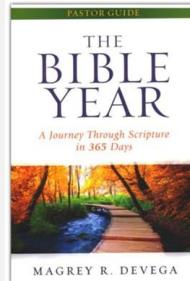


Salem Scoop



The Bible Year 2026

You're invited to
Join in the Journey!



We begin the New Year, seeking to put Christ's love into action to transform lives in the community. One way for the church to achieve the vision and mission that God is calling us to as a community is to draw upon Scripture, a means of God's grace, so that we can become deeply rooted and equipped to go beyond the church walls.

I am excited to lead Salem UMC on a journey through the Bible in 2026. And everyone is invited! We will begin with Genesis in January and continue through Revelation in December. I know this sounds like a lot to read the Bible in a year. But it can be done.

I can already guess that you might be thinking *There is no way I can read that much scripture or Salem has already done this in a small group, I don't think I will have time, or I don't think that is possible.* Or maybe you have a different perspective. *That sounds interesting. I have never done that before and would like to give it a try.*

No matter where you find yourself, The Bible Year isn't about perfection. It is about finding space in our busy lives to read, listen, and hear from God. It is about being curious and asking questions. It is about growing in faith individually and communally, and in discipleship. The good news is that there are several ways each person can participate.

How can you experience The Bible Year?

- Follow the reading schedule and incorporate scripture reading into your routine (Pick-up a paper copy at the church or visit www.sumcm.org)
- Use a daily devotional book for personal study and reflection.

(Cont'd on page 2)

(The Bible Year 2026 – cont'd)

- Join us for worship, in person or online, as kick off *The Bible Year* starting Sunday, January 4. Join us online at www.sumcm.org.
- Listen to The Bible Project weekly podcasts that correspond with the weekly readings (available through Apple Podcasts or Spotify). We will share the podcast information each week.
- Join a small group or Bible study group and learn alongside others. Sign-up at the opportunity corner or online at www.sumcm.org

(We will share more information about group opportunities soon.)

- Watch for stand-alone learning sessions or presentations throughout the year.

The Bible Year published resources reference the Common English Bible (CEB) translation. Throughout the year, we may also use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or the New International Version (NIV) in worship. You may use the translation that is most typical for you, and you may consider looking at other translations along the way as well. If you are wondering, there will be several times throughout the year when we veer from the readings and incorporate special scripture texts that relate to special seasons. I hope that you will be open to this experience. I certainly look forward to sharing *The Bible Year* with you.

If you have any questions or if you or someone you know needs a Bible, please let me know. Don't hesitate to reach out pastor@sumcm.org.

I look forward to our journey together in 2026. I cannot wait to see how God transforms our lives, His Church, and the Salem Community.

Grace and Peace- Pastor Monica



Catawba Valley District

Western North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The CV will be holding a day of training for Laity Leaders in our churches. The training will take place on Sunday January 25, 2026, from 3-5 pm. Location to be determined.

There will be training for all Leadership categories, including Trustees, Church Council, Finance and SPRC.

We hope you can plan to attend!



Pastor Monica Childers

828-493-3179

pastor@sumcm.org

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently looking for children and adult volunteers to assist with our Acolyte Ministry. Whether you can assist on a regular basis or simply as a fill in, your participation is welcome!

Please contact Kay Duckworth to volunteer or obtain additional info.



January

4th - Wes Bunch and Bruce Pollard
11th - David and Jerry Ramsey
18th - Stephen and Daniel Reinke
25th - Trey and Colt Crowe



Monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday January 3rd

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 January 25th – 8:00 am
Fellowship Hall



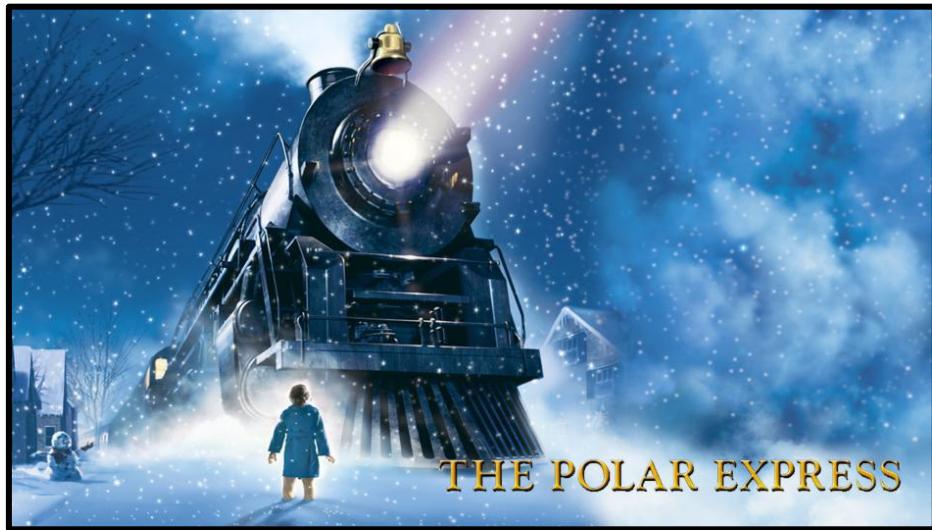
CHOIR PRACTICE
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM



TREE OF HOPE & HANGING OF THE GREENS



A New Year's resolution is a personal commitment to improve oneself or change a behavior at the start of a new year, focusing on goals like health, finances, personal growth, spiritual growth, or relationships. It's a tradition rooted in self-reflection and renewal, with common aims including getting organized, developing new habits, or giving up bad ones.

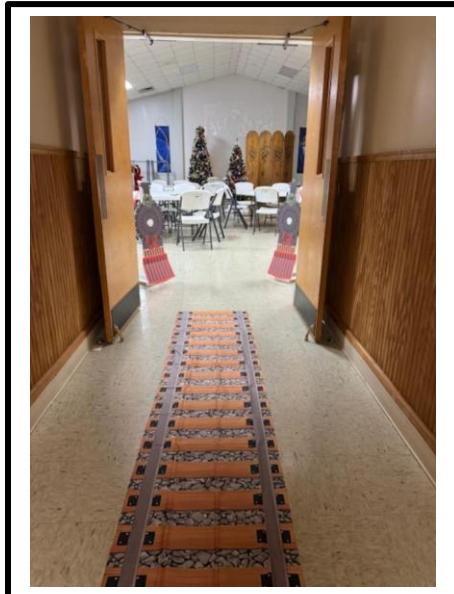


All Aboard!

Tickets?

Tickets Please...

Tickets?





**CHRISTMAS
CAROLING!**





LEADERSHIP, VISION & PLANNING



Mark Your Calendars!
Next vision and planning meeting
January 10th
9:00 – Noon!



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 the many ways Salem celebrated the Advent Season for our community and our church family!

STEEPLE TRANSFORMATION



ON THE HORIZON!

Healing Centered Church Summit

The Bishop and Cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church invite you to come hear from Crossnore's Center for Trauma Resilient Communities on building more healing-centered churches.

This year's event offers new content and welcomes both clergy and laity - those attending for the first time and those continuing the journey. All are invited to be a part of this important work.

Saturday, February 7, 2026

9am-5pm

**St. Luke's UMC (Family Life Center)
52 6th Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[SCAN ME](#)





Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Saturday, January 10th, 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 December 23

Offerings Received to Date: \$ 368,507.67

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$ 325,917.87

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$206,216.18
Backpack Ministry	\$ 2,035.00
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	\$ 1,591.00
Building Fund Roof	\$ 1,742.50
BF Restoration/Parsonage	\$ 800.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,648.00
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	\$ 2,500.00
Pass Thru Halloween Candy	\$ 150.00
Pass Thru Helene Fund	\$ 245.00
Pass Thru Thanksgiving	\$ 400.00

“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****Kay Duckworth***by Hoyle Roper Class,
Wes & Sue Bunch***Doris Ingram***by Kristen Ingram***Bruce & Kay Pollard,
Jerry & Clarice Shuping***by Edith Dale***Craig Carroll & Charlie Holland***by Margaret Carswell***Gerald Duckworth***by Jerry & Clarice Shuping,
by Doris H. Garrison,
by Margaret Carswell***Jackie & Scott Pruett***by Richard & Ce Ce Pruett***Jimmy & Marie Causby***by Martin & Beth Whitaker***IN HONOR****29th
Larry & Janet
Koon**

6 – Donna Fite
9 – Brenda Dellinger
10 – Melissa Causby
10 – Leota Garrison
11 – Steven Roper
12 – Camelia Causby
15 – Rick Pruett
17 – Dawson Carswell, Darcy Cabe
17 – Margaret Duckworth
20 – Dylan Bollinger
25 – Alan Byrd
26 – Barbara Schneider
27 – Janet Koon
29 – Nina Horton
29 – Charles Garrison Jr.
30 – Grant Causby

***Prayer Concerns*****This Week's Prayers**

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

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

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

Praises**Deaths**

Gerald Duckworth 12-15

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm		1 Church Office Closed	2	3 12:00 – UWF
4 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	5	6 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	7 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	8 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm Cultivate Children's Time	9	10 9- 12 Ad Council Vision Combined Youth Lock-in
11 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	12 Girl Scouts	13 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	14 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	15 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	16	17
18 9:00 – JIRDC Worship Volunteers 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	19	20 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	21 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	22 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	23	24
25 8:00 - UMM 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 3-5 pm Laity Leaders	26 Girl Scouts	27 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	28 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	29 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	30	31



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