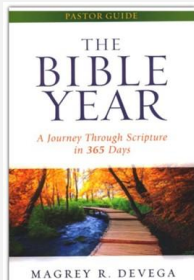


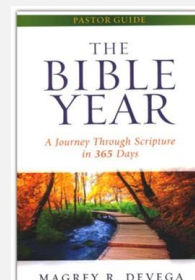


# Salem Scoop



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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



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

# 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

---

### 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

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Wes Bunch and Bruce Pollard
- 11<sup>th</sup> - David and Jerry Ramsey
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Stephen and Daniel Reinke
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 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 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am**  
**Fellowship Hall**



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



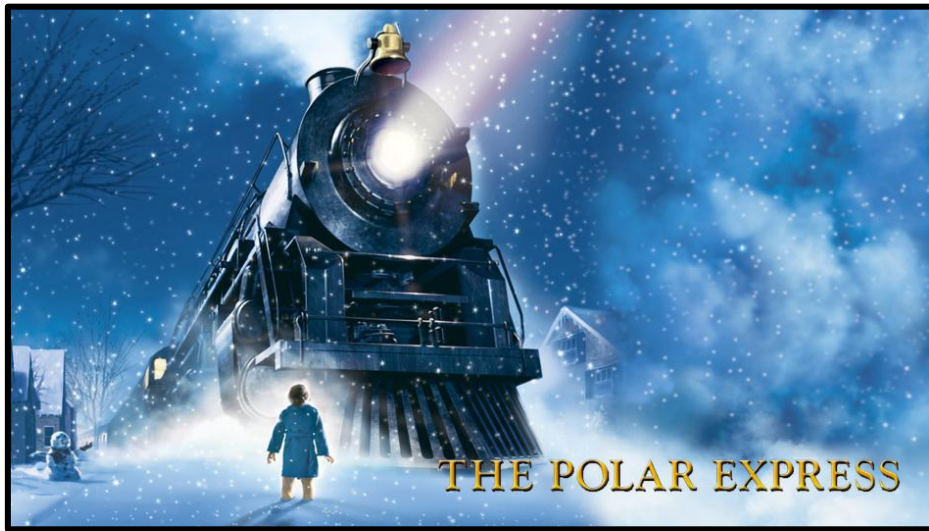


# TREE OF HOPE & HANGING OF THE GREENS



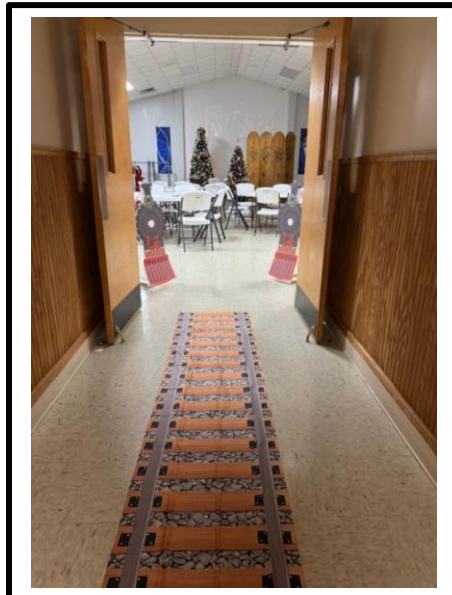
*A New Year's resolution is a personal commitment to improve oneself or change a behavior at the start of a new year, focusing on goals like health, finances, personal growth, spiritual growth, or relationships. It's a tradition rooted in self-reflection and renewal, with common aims including getting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





***All Aboard!***

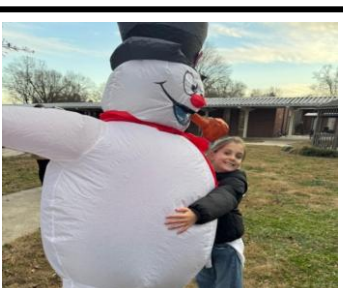
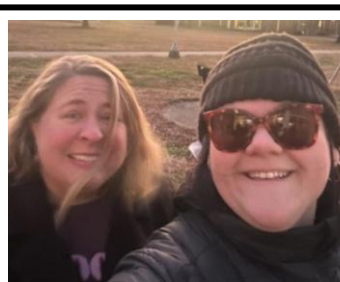
***Tickets?  
Tickets Please...  
Tickets?***







# CHRISTMAS CAROLING!





# LEADERSHIP, VISION & PLANNING



## Mark Your Calendars!

Next vision and  
planning meeting  
January 10<sup>th</sup>  
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 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601**



REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME



**Disarming  
Hatred**

**Peace  
Conference  
March 13-15 2026  
Lake Junaluska**

[wnccumc.org/peace-conference-2026](http://wnccumc.org/peace-conference-2026)

SAVE THE DATE

## The Wonder Summit:

REIMAGINING CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP & PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

NOVEMBER 4-6<sup>TH</sup> 2026

LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: \$155

REGISTRATION AND WEBSITE GO LIVE EARLY 2026



HOSTED BY



Western North Carolina Conference  
The United Methodist Church



# Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Saturday, January 10<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 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	<b>\$206,216.18</b>
Backpack Ministry	<b>\$ 2,035.00</b>
Back to School Biscuits	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
Cross Connections	<b>\$ 280.00</b>
SUMWF Yard Sale	<b>\$ 2,250.00</b>
Youth	<b>\$ 380.00</b>
Youth St. Matthews Van	<b>\$ 750.00</b>
Youth Retreat	<b>\$ 315.00</b>
Parsonage Relocate/ Restore	<b>\$ 57,916.62</b>
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	<b>\$ 19,388.36</b>
WNCC Pastor Intern	<b>\$ 12,800.00</b>
WNCC Roof Helene Relief	\$ 19,112.50
WNCC Reimbursements	<b>\$ 1,292.45</b>
WNCC Rent Check	<b>\$ 5,200.00</b>
WNCC Restor/Relocation	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
Pass Through	<b>\$ 149.94</b>
Pass Thru To Help a Family	<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>
Pass Thru Halloween Candy	<b>\$ 150.00</b>
Pass Thru Helene Fund	<b>\$ 245.00</b>
Pass Thru Thanksgiving	<b>\$ 400.00</b>

***“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	<u><b>GIFTS GIVEN</b></u>		IN HONOR
	Kay Duckworth	<i>by Hoyle Roper Class, Wes &amp; Sue Bunch</i>	
	Doris Ingram	<i>by Kristen Ingram</i>	
	Bruce & Kay Pollard, Jerry & Clarice Shuping	<i>by Edith Dale</i>	
	Craig Carroll & Charlie Holland	<i>by Margaret Carswell</i>	
	Gerald Duckworth	<i>by Jerry &amp; Clarice Shuping, by Doris H. Garrison, by Margaret Carswell</i>	
	Jackie & Scott Pruett	<i>by Richard &amp; Ce Ce Pruett</i>	
	Jimmy & Marie Causby	<i>by Martin &amp; Beth Whitaker</i>	



**29<sup>th</sup>**  
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

### **Praises**

### **Deaths**

Gerald Duckworth 12-15

### **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



# 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 <div>Combined Youth Lock-in</div>	10 9- 12 Ad Council Vision
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*