



Monthly Newsletter of Salem UMC, Morganton, NC

Salem Scoop



The theme of this year's annual conference was "Rebuild My Church." It was a beautiful blend of candid conversations, soul stirring messages, necessary business of the church, and recognition of so many people and groups within our conference doing God's work. If you are inclined to watch any of the services from the conference, the opening worship from Friday, June 19th was one of the most moving services I've attended. Between the beautiful music of VocalSpace and the choir from The Place Church, a Juneteenth Call to Worship, and the rousing sermon from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, I certainly felt that the spirit was moving within me and put me in the right frame of mind for the rest of the weekend.

I think one of the most thought-provoking things for me was a pre-conference workshop that I attended on Thursday by Dr. Lester Ruth from Duke Divinity School. It dealt with defining and trying to understand the growing phenomenon of Christian nationalism. He provided a host of reading resources on this topic. He gave a recommendation that I want to share with you all, especially as it pertains to processing information and judging political discourse and actions. Dr. Ruth suggested using the words of James 3:17 as a sort of lens to view the information that we take in.

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

James 3:17 NIV

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The offering that was collected during the annual conference fell in line with the overall theme of rebuilding Church. Thousands of dollars were raised for the conference covenant relationship with the Ukraine-Moldova Provisional Annual Conference, and the Equity Fund for the repair of Historically Black churches.

We are sent to serve and to rebuild, whether it's in a physical capacity, a humanitarian capacity, or spiritual capacity. That's what makes us Love in Action.

- Lara Autrey

Salem United Methodist Church

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Morganton, NC 28655

828-433-6600

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday

12:30 – 6:00 pm

PASTOR MONICA CHILDERS

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pastor@sumcm.org

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Director of Music Programs	John Savage	music@sumcm.org
Pianist	Sue Bunch	s_bunch@att.net
Audio Visual	Kevin Fite	worship@sumcm.org
	Bob Harbour	rwharbour@gmail.com

MUSICAL NOTES . . .



Hello, Everyone!!

My name is John Savage, and I am the NEW Director of Music here at SUMC!!

I am currently a full-time, free-lance musician living in Morganton! I was a Pastor in Rhode Island for 15 years, and I had 10 years of Music Ministry experience prior to becoming a Pastor. My wife and I moved to North Carolina so that she could get her Master's Degree in Music Composition at Appalachian State. In fact, we met in 1994 in the Music Department at the University of Rhode Island. We have been married for 29 years and have 2 grown children living in New England.

I am excited to make music with all of you!!

Make sure to introduce yourself to me--I am looking forward to getting to know all of you!!

- John



We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Virginia Robinson, Sue Bunch, Hadley Fite and Kevin Fite for leading our music program this past year! Our worship experience was truly enhanced by the sharing of your gifts!

Here is the breakdown of the blood drive from June 11, 2026:

- 23** scheduled donors
- 22** presenting donors
- 24** units collected on goal of 25
- 14** whole blood units
- 10** units from Power Red yay!!
 - 1** deferral
 - 2** first time donors
 - 0** African American donors
 - 1** Hispanic/Latino donors



Your blood drive will potentially save up to 72 lives! You are leaving a legacy that directly contributes to the health and well-being of individuals in need.

The next blood drive is on 10/15/26.



The Trustees Committee will meet Wednesday, July 1st at 6:00 pm. **Please notify Jerry Carroll if you will not be able to attend.**



The Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, July 22nd at 5:30 pm. **Please notify Vicki Reinke if you will not be able to attend.**

CREATION STATION

Open Studio

MONDAY'S 3:00-6:00
SALEM UMC EDUCATION BLDG

Salem United Methodist Church believes everyone is created by God. And because we were created by a wonderful creator, we too, are creative. Creation Station open art studio is a new ministry, where all ages can come together to explore and exercise their creative side. Each Monday, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, there will be a fun craft focus for the week for people to enjoy. Individuals not interested in the focus craft can be creative with other available supplies and games. Check out our Studio Calendar for more details. The studio is also open for local artists to bring their own supplies and create. We hope that Creation Station becomes a haven where people can have fun, explore their creative side, connect with others, and find solace away from the busyness of life.

There are activities for all ages. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult. To participate in Creation Station, we ask everyone to register so that we can prepare for your arrival. For questions, more information, or to register, contact Rev. Monica Childers at pastor@sumcm.org or 828-433-6600.

- REMINDER -

*The
Blessing Box*
Take what you need.
Bring what you can.

Please don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for our community blessing box on the third Sunday of each month!

Please contact Clarice (828-413-4862) with any questions or assistance with pickup.

THANK YOU for your support with this community outreach!

Acolyte Ministry

July

5th – Daniel Reinke
12th – Lucy Fisher
19th – Hadley Fite
26th – Finley Fite



July

5th – Tim & Brady Keller
12th – Charles & Jeff Autrey
19th – Wes Bunch & Bruce Pollard
26th – David Childers & Jerry Ramsey



Monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall.

UWF will NOT meet in July.
Next meeting August 1st

12:00 Noon

All women are welcome and invited!

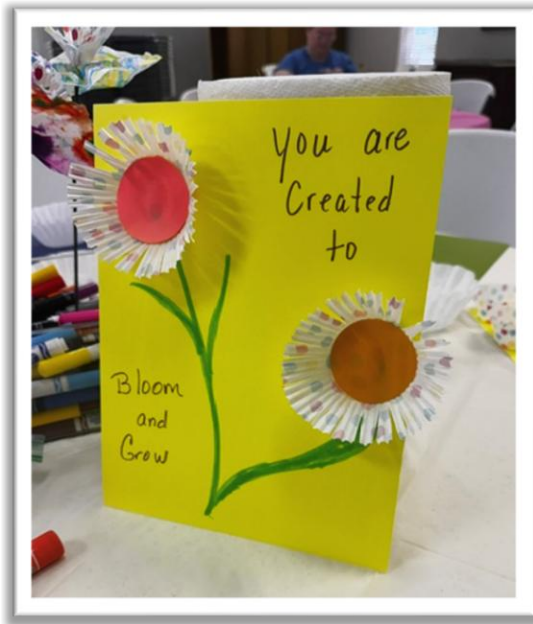
CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES AUGUST 12th!



You're Invited!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Psalms 100:1-2 (ESV)



CREATION STATION

July Calendar

July 6th
Creating with Sand

July 13th
National Teddy Bear Picnic Fun!

July 20th
Summer Game Creations

July 27th
Under the Sea Creations

Come Enjoy A place where all ages can play & create

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WWW.SUMCM.ORG
828-433-6600



Pastor Monica will be on vacation July 19th through July 28th. We look forward to Sue Cronk and Dr. Ric Vandett as they deliver our morning message!



Hi Everyone!

My name is Sue Cronk. I grew up in Upstate New York and moved to North Carolina in 2005. I have always been a strong Lay person in the church, and that is when I felt my call to be a pastor. As a Lay person, I facilitated Sunday school, children's programs, VBS, and weekly youth programs. I took the Lay Speaker courses and filled in at various times for multiple preachers. I also filled in at a 2-point charge in McDowell County for 3 months while a preacher was on Spiritual Renewal Leave. I was appointed to my own 2-point charge in 2011 and served for 6 years. During that time, I graduated from Course of Study at Duke Divinity School. I am always eager to preach whenever possible. I know God still has work for me to do, and I always look forward to His calling!

I look forward to preaching on July 19th



Hi Everyone!

My name is Dr. Ric Vandett. I retired in 2009 from public education after serving three years as Superintendent of Hickory Public Schools. During my 43-year career in education, I taught high school English and coached football and basketball. Additionally, as an administrator, I served as a middle school assistant principle, elementary school principal and Assistant Superintendent. I attended Appalachian State University and Columbia University in New York.

I am a Certified Lay Speaker for the United Methodist Church and have served as Lay Speaker for Hickory United Methodist Church.

I am a Vietnam veteran and have served as the Chair of the Foothills Veteran Stand Down Committee for seven years.

My wife Angela and I have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

I look forward to preaching on July 28th!



Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, July 12th, 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

Offerings Received to Date: **\$102,015.48**

Ministry Expenses to Date: **\$ 98,770.51**

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$94,526.49
Backpack	\$ 1,812.50
Building Fund	\$ 690.00
Cemetery	\$ 1,650.00
Souper Bowl	\$ 181.49
Missions Memorial	\$ 377.50
To HELP A FAMILY	\$ 2,000.00
Missions/ Ice Cream Social	\$ 263.00
WNCC Pastor Salary	\$ 2,595.00
Choir Director	\$ 1,100.00
Building Parsonage Rent	\$ 4,860.00
PR Paid Out	\$ 1,800.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6th – Tracy Benfield

9th – Keith Garrison, Sara Pons

15th – Kim Clardy

20th – Shirley Causby

25th – Beulah Duckworth

30th – Rachel Kelly

31st – Kristy McLaughlin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

17th – Ronny & Caroline Causby

Oh, Hear Ye ... Hear Ye! One and All!

***The Kingdom of Salem UMC is
Searching for Longevity!***



We would like to identify;

- the 2-3 most mature (*oldest*) living members of SUMC.
- the 2-3 most mature (*oldest*) **ACTIVE** members of SUMC.
- the 2-3 who have been members of SUMC the longest.

Once these folks are identified, we would like to write an article (*tribute*) for inclusion in a future newsletter.

If you feel you fit one of the above categories, or know someone who might, please contact Kevin Reinke.



In Honor and In Memory

Fred Duckworth	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Marilyn Davis	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Clarence & Velna Brendle	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Jane Stroup	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Linda Wilson	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Cary Clark	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Jean & Lewis Causby	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Ned & Rosemary Roper	<i>by Ray Duckworth</i>
Jimmy & Marie Causby	<i>by Martin & Beth Whitaker</i>
Jimmy & Marie Causby	<i>by Joe Causby & Bob Brewer</i>
Margaret Carswell	<i>by Doris Garrison</i>
Kay Pollard	<i>by Doris Garrison</i>
Joyce Gibson	<i>by Doris Garrison</i>

Prayer Concerns



Praises

Bob Harbour – great post-surgery report

This Week's Prayers

Barbara Harbour
Margaret Shell
Janice Sorrells
Tim & Robin Arney
Muriel McNeilly
Kevin Patton

Prayers for Family and Friends

Joel Thompson - Friend of the church
Marley Byrd - Alan Byrd's sister-in-law
Lloyd Fite - Kevin Fite's grandfather
Jeremy and Angela Amick-
Patsy Bridges - Doris Ingram's friend
Greg Getty's – friend of Jack Bridges
Jeanette Stamey - Sue Bunch's sister
Anna-Grace Rawls family - Lara Autrey's friend
Tanya Speagle - Brandy McCurry's friend
Hemen Joshi - Jeff Miller's friend
Mikey and Kathy Fite - Kevin Fite's parents
Tyler Schmitt - Denise Magri's family
Travis Snipes – Alan Byrd

Hospital

Joann Patton

Homebound

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

Deaths

Chelly Franklin- 6/15 Pastor Monica's aunt
Trey Crowe - Passing of his pet

Ongoing Prayers

Steve Stroup
Troy & Joann Patton
Zach & Lucy Cagle
Gary & Wanda Byrd
Lisa & Mary Ann Propst
Kathryn Duckworth
Joe Woody
Roger Hicks- Sue Bunch's brother
Ernie Stroup

Nursing Home

Doris M Garrison
Brenda Dellinger
Shirley Smith Clarke
Aaron Clardy- Kim Clardy's husband
Allen Schneider



The Church Office will be open every Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 6:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 6 pm – Trustee Mtg.	2	3	4 
5 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 3- 6 pm Creation Station (FH)	7 4:30 pm – Cultivate Team Mtg.	8 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	9	10	11 8:00 am - Leicester Mission Trip
12 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12:00 – Church Council	13 3- 6 pm Creation Station (FH)	14	15 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	16	17	18
19 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	20 3- 6 pm Creation Station (FH)	21	22 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 5:30 – Finance Mtg	23	24	25
26 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	27 3- 6 pm Creation Station (FH)	28	29 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	30		



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