



# Salem Scoop

## Winter Vision/Brainstorming Notes

*In Jan & Feb, we held congregation-wide brainstorming and visioning sessions.*

Nancy Krall opened us with scripture reflection from John 15 and led us in prayer.

We began by recalling our stated mission & the threefold way we say we carry it out @ SUMC

**Mission: Salem UMC exists because God calls us to love in action.**

**How:** *Explore faith in radical life transforming ways,  
Embody Christ through risk-taking witness of generosity and grace,  
Embrace others through passionate mission and service.*

Norm led us in a devotion to help us consider our role in helping to take the next faithful step.

To take the next faithful step, we have to 1<sup>st</sup> answer 3 questions: Brainstormed

### **Why do people need Christ?**

- eternity – to have full communion with God-bring peace in life
- as an anchor
- get thru life
- know what love is.... And show it to others -not quick to judge
- to have promise of what is to come
- need hope
- stability – the world/life changes – Christ is the same
- know someone loves you & u are never alone
- thru Christ we know God

Our full Answer: *Salvation comes through Christ, where people find hope for new/eternal life, an anchor in good times and bad, and come to know what love and acceptance is.*

### **Why do people need the Church?**

- to know Christ
- to have a community
- learn how to play nice with others
- there's joy in togetherness
- to know that there is hope
- a safe haven
- a place to have funerals/weddings/baptisms
- helps you to grow in faith
- have somewhere to belong
- for support through life... especially rough times
- to know about the Spirit of God
- to learn truth and right
- reminder of how to live
- place to do God's will and serve others
- it's lifegiving

Our full Answer: *Through our togetherness people come to know Christ, find joy, nurture their faith, & are empowered to do God's will and serve others.*

### **Why do people need this particular church – SUMC?**

- It's worked in the past... worship
- acceptance
- outreach support for the whole community
- love friendship, care... u feel the love
- acceptance/differences welcome/inclusion
- don't just wait for them to come... go
- We are a lighthouse, safe-haven, refuge
- outreach to the school... helping families & kids
- always respond to needs
- if it starts here, it can go further...change the world
- We see people
- willing to change... follow the Spirit

Our full Answer: *We are a safe-haven where people are seen & accepted, where we provide friendship, love, care, & outreach for the whole community. If it starts here, it can go further.*

### **-To whom does this church belong? - TO GOD!**

*After dinner break and conversation around tables, we reconvened to brainstorm about What we do well, What our community looks like/ needs, and What our dreams are? Participants moved around the room writing responses on posters around the wall. After reviewing responses to each question, participants used color coded stickers to vote for the most important priorities. We narrowed the list to the top 2 votes in each area/question.*

### **What do we do well / beautifully?**

- We love people
- Worship
- Praying for all
- Praying for church people
- Sunday School... I love it
- Encouraging
- Eating good food
- Validate self-worth
- Trunk or Treat & Journey 2 the Manger
- Support school & community service
- Welcome newcomers

*(Continued on p.3)*



## You're Invited! BLOCK PARTY & Easter Egg Hunt

Hot Dogs!  
Magic!  
Face Painting!  
Inflatables!  
Prizes & Games!

Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
11am – 1pm



w/Special Guest "Harvey"

@ Salem UMC ~ 1206 Salem Rd.

*Open Hearts Place invites you to come learn more about the housing shortage in Burke County and how OHP is trying to make an impact. Learn about the history, mission, and next steps. Share your feedback and ideas. Please consider attending one of these sessions at St. Matthews UMC:*

**Mar 7th-** 9am or 1pm,  
**Mar 12 -** 7pm



Open Hearts Place

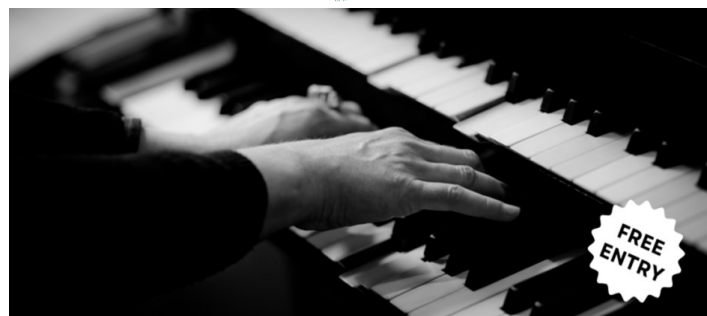
APRIL 23 - MAY 3, 2024

**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

[www.wnccumc.org/general-conference-resources-for-local-congregations](http://www.wnccumc.org/general-conference-resources-for-local-congregations)

**...and KNOW that I am GOD**

The United Methodist Church General Conference  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



FREE  
ENTRY

## ORGAN CONCERT

**DR. JOSEPH CAUSBY**  
**MARCH 8 - 7:00 PM**

Salem United Methodist Church  
1206 Salem Rd  
Morganton, NC 28655



### Salem UMC Blood Drive

**Thursday March 7, 2:30-7 pm**

Consider giving the gift of life.  
Sign up online at  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)



American  
Red Cross  
*Together, we can save a life*

We are reaching out for your help providing welcome & radical hospitality for delegates coming to Charlotte for General Conference 2024. We have a particular need right now to staff all of our **Hotel Hospitality** shifts as delegates arrive. By serving there you will be one of the first contacts of hospitality with our visitors as they get familiar with the area and prepare to do their important work.

**We especially need to fill the Hotel Hospitality shifts for April 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 22<sup>nd</sup>.** We would be grateful for your help...even for one shift! The easiest way to access the Uptown hotels is to use the Light Rail system where you can park for free.

More information about serving at General Conference is available at [www.welcometogc.org](http://www.welcometogc.org). You can go directly to our **VolunteerHub** site to create your initial account to volunteer at [www.umcgc.volunteerhub.com](http://www.umcgc.volunteerhub.com). Click the link to "Create New Account" to get started. As you create your account, be sure to check that you are interested in **Hotel Hospitality**!

After your time of service at a local hotel, please join us to volunteer at the Convention Center, as we continue to offer gracious hospitality while experiencing all of the happenings at General Conference 2024 for our UMC.

With much appreciation,  
Your WNC General Conference Local Host Team



(Vision/Brainstorming notes cont...)

**What our community looks like/ needs?**

- response to poverty, homelessness, & hunger
- Fellowship
- Providing more support to the community
- searching for something to fill a need
- addiction
- many children who are needy... need families
- Growing more personally
- low-income...rural...drugs...poverty
- seeing more of the community come to SUMC
- more visiting & interacting with neighbors
- loneliness & elderly

**What are our dreams?**

- more involving youth and see them excited
- to see SUMC full every Sunday
- to have more choir members
- to grow with younger people adding to current growth
- to have more children & families
- to grow with outreach
- \*to be able to take the love in our congregation to the community
- to have funds to fully meet our dreams
- see more members
- encourage tithing
- to attract more families
- revival
- help shut-ins

**Top Votes Among all 3 areas (Well/Community/Dreams)**

- respond to poverty homelessness, and hunger\*
- see SUMC full every Sunday\*
- Attract more families
- tithing
- more youth involvement...excitement
- Sunday School
- see more community come to SUMC\*

(We voted for top 3 among these to become our top 3 areas of focus for 2024 and combined some of these overlapping areas)

Our next step in Feb was develop these priorities a little more with a light brainstorm & then identify/develop at least 2 target statements for each priority. Targets create measurable goals to work toward and help ensure advancement.

**FOCUS – Top 3 Priorities**

Responding to poverty, homelessness, and hunger  
See community come to SUMC & see SUMC full  
Reaching/Engaging more young people and families

**1. Responding to poverty, homelessness, and hunger**

- consistent/routine community meal
- shower trailer
- housing on cold nights
- how to address poverty / education
- prep backpack food for other schools
- food truck to go to communities
- check food box regularly
- collect blankets (forms/resource connections)
- make an assessment/ investigate needs
- hygiene kits
- gas/food vouchers
- lunch/sandwich meals
- collection bin for food

**2. See community come to SUMC & see SUMC full**

- block party
- Morganton Fest/Parade
- contacting folks haven't in a while
- concert/ special program
- offer transport/ reach ones who can't drive
- Promote/Advertise
- VBS
- visitation
- Bring friend/ Invite neighbor
- community dinner
- partner w/ other churches

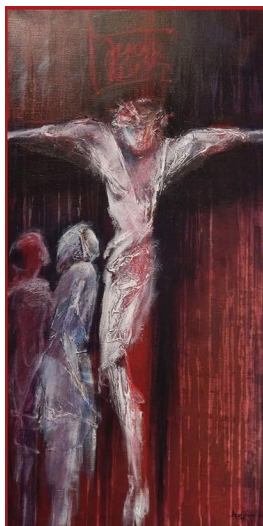
**3. Reaching/Engaging more young people and families**

- VBS
- tutoring
- get back into schools
- outdoor cookouts/ party
- reach other constituencies Hispanic/deaf
- adopt family / kids, big bro/ big sisters
- parents night out (cookout, messy church, movie, vbs, ball game, hiking trip, bike ride, tweetsie, tubing)
- Sports teams/ softball
- community garden
- game night/ movies
- scholarships

## A Cross in the Heart of God

### Lent Worship Series Feb 18-Mar 24

At the foot of the cross we see the very heart of God and the very worst in ourselves. God's life opening to us was always going to cost God everything. Jesus' words at this most terrifying moment are, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" At the central moment in history, Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, has to choose between being with the Father or being with us. And He chooses us. At the same time the Father has to choose between letting the Son be with us or keeping the Son to himself. And he chooses to let the Son be with us. That's the epicentre of the Christian faith. That's our very definition of love. Based on the work of Rev. Dr. Sam Wells, this Lent we will look deeper into the heart of God by reflecting on the death of Jesus.



We invite anyone interested to gather with us Mar 10, 3:30pm to follow-up on our work in each area.

Messy Church night returns  
Monday **March 4 @ 5:30pm**

**What is it:**  
Messy Church is a form of church for every age that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality.







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

## Youth News!

Invite a friend & Join us for youth gatherings twice a month on Sunday nights 5:30pm in the Yth Rm

### Calendar Dates:

Mar 3 - Yth Lunch outing, after worship  
 Mar 10 - Yth Mtg, **5:40pm**  
 Mar 17 - JIRDC worship buddy, 9:15am  
 Mar 23 - Block Party 11am-1pm  
 Mar 24 - Yth Lunch & Devo, after worship  
 Mar 31 - EASTER Sunday  
 Apr 7 - Yth Mtg, 5:30pm  
 Apr 14 - Yth Lunch after worship  
 Apr 21 - Combined Yth Mtg @ SUMC, 5pm



### Easter & Holy Week @ SUMC

Mar 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday  
 Mar 26 - Holy Tuesday, Gospel of Mark  
 6:30pm (Sanct)  
 Mar 28- Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm  
 (From the Latin "mandatum novum" - "a new command" I give you).  
 Mar 31 - **EASTER SUNDAY**  
 7am Sunrise service @ SUMC Cemetery  
 (with St Matt. UMC)  
 7:30am Lite  
 Breakfast (FH)  
 9:30am Sunday  
 classes  
 10:35am - Easter  
 worship (Sanctuary)  
 (Remember to Bring flowers to assemble on our  
 Resurrection Cross)



Call or email Pastor Norm ASAP to register!

rev.norm@alumni.duke.edu 828-980-4139

(Cost is \$250 but we plan to offset with fundraisers)

Youth & Adults are needed. \$100 deposit due by Apr 1.

From each church we prefer to have the following:

- 1) 2 Family Group Leaders (FGL) who are age 23+
- 2) 2 Kitchen Crew members
- 3) 1 Site Supervisor
- 4) A church van or approved vehicle with approved driver

### GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Have a treat and help our troop at SUMC raise funds for their camps and programs this year. To place an order email or call the church office. (OR order directly from Hadley & Finley Fite or Isabel & Sophia Jones). Each box is \$5 and money is due upon delivery.

\*FYI - Girl Scout Sunday is March 17

  
**KEEP  
 CALM  
 I HAVE  
 GIRL  
 SCOUT  
 COOKIES**

Thank you Sue  
 for 26 amazing  
 years behind  
 the piano!





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Prayer Requests & Concerns: Gerald & Mozelle Duckworth, Steve & Jane Stroup, Kevin Patton, Shirley Causby, Laqueta Carroll, Zach & Lucy Cagle, Billie & Garland Ross, Gary & Wanda Byrd, Kelly Basting, Doris Garrison, Brenda Dellinger, Lynda Woody, Arnold Tucker, Bob Compton, Mary Ann Propst, Cary Clark, Linda Wilson, Greg Byrd, Ray Sweeny,  
Home Bound: Millie Avery, Leota Garrison, Brenda Autrey, Janet Koon  
Nursing Home Residents: - Hope Ridge Family Care – Doris Garrison



## Monthly Greeter list

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday-	Jack Bridges	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday-	Charles Autrey
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday-	Holly Keller	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday-	Kevin Reinke
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday-	Jodi Brown	Alternate-	Bruce Pollard

- ♦ Interested in learning guitar? Our guitarist offers lessons at church. For more info see Ryan Collins
- ♦ *An email has been created for anyone who would like to share or report concerns about our campus upkeep needs to our trustees: [trustee@sumcm.org](mailto:trustee@sumcm.org)*



3	Dennis Carswell, Ellie Shuping
5	Bruce Pollard, Marilyn Davis
12	Heather Woody
13	Henry Call
14	Steve Davis
15	Jack Russ
18	Ronin Smith
20	Holly Keller
21	Jerry Shuping
23	Ronny Causby
24	Sophia Jones
26	Barbara Harbour
27	Isabel Jones
29	Daniel Reinke
30	Emily Shuping

### ANNIVERSARIES

9	Jerry & Clarice Shuping
22	Fred & Nina Horton
27	Charles Jr. & Cheryl Garrison



### CHURCH STAFF

**Norm Jones, Jr.- Pastor** ([rev.norm@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:rev.norm@alumni.duke.edu))  
**Johnathan Greer, Dir. of Music** ([music@sumcm.org](mailto:music@sumcm.org))  
**Zachary Cagle, Office Admin.** ([salemumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:salemumchurch@gmail.com))

**Trustees** ([trustee@sumcm.org](mailto:trustee@sumcm.org))

## Our Financial Stewardship:

### Thru February 27, 2024

Weekly budget need: \$4,178.79  
 Yearly Budget needed: \$217,297.08  
 Budgeted need to date: \$33,430.32  
 Total Received for Budget: \$26,848.00  
 Ministry Expenses to Date: \$37,372.61

**We are \$6,582.32 behind budget for the year!**  
**We are \$10,524.61 behind expenses for the year.**

### Other Ministry Gifts Received to Date for 2024:

Backpack Ministry: \$225.00  
 Building Fund: \$60.00

### Gifts given in Memory or in Honor (February)

Tom Jarrell	Lynda & Joe Woody
Ruby Hutchins	Edith Dale
Sonya Carpenter	Gerald & Kay Duckworth
Jackie Pruett	Alan Byrd
	Betty Whitaker
	Mary Frances Young (Kitty)
	John Greene Sr.
	Lynda & Joe Woody
	Edith Dale
	Edith Dale
	Bruce & Kay Pollard
Sue Bunch	Mary Ann Propst, Lisa Propst, Cary Clark

**Now on 1st Saturdays....Our**  
 UWF invite all for their next  
 meeting Saturday, March 2 @  
12pm in FH.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## THANK YOU

On behalf of the residents at JIRDC, thank you for the Valentine Day Cards! They were overjoyed with the amount of cards they received.

Our Back pack ministry is serving 10 families, 25 children this year and in need of canned soups and pasta, macaroni and cheese, boxed pasta, and hamburger helper. Please no oversized items or glass jars. Drop off your donations on the cart outside the church office. 10 families/ 25 children equals 50 breakfast and snack items, 50 lunch items, and 50 supper items weekly. Thank You





# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 12pm UWF Mtg (FH)
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship Yth Lunch trip (after worship) 12pm Praise team (Sanct)	4 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm <b>Messy Church</b> (FH)	5	6 7pm Choir (Sanct)	7 9am OHP @St Mat 1pm OHP @St Mat  2:30-7pm Blood Drive (FH)	8 7pm Organ Concert (Sanct)	9
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 12pm Praise team <b>3:30pm Vision/Church Council (FH)</b> 5:40pm Youth Mtg	11 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm G. Scout (FH)	12 7pm OHP @ St. Matt	13 7pm Choir (Sanct)	14	15	16
17 9:15 JIRDC buddies 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship 12pm Praise team (Sanct)	18 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg)	19	20 7pm Choir (Sanct)	21	22	23 <b>11a-1p Easter Block Party</b>
24 <b>8:30am Mens Break-fast (FH)</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship Yth Lunch (after worship) 12pm Praise team	25 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm G. Scout (FH)	26 6:30pm Holy Tues. Gospel of Mark (Sanct)	27 7pm Choir (Sanct)	28 7pm Holy Thurs (Sanct)	29	30
31 <b>EASTER!</b> 7am Joint Sunrise @ SUMC 7:30 Breakfast (FH) 9:30 Sunday School 10:35am Worship						

## A New Spiritual Practice for LENT:

(Each night before bed,  
simply ask yourself these 6 questions)

- Did I offer peace today?
- Did I bring a smile to someone's face?
- Did I say words of healing?
- Did I let go of my anger and resentment?
- Did I forgive?
- Did I love?





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



## What is General Conference?

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.

Delegates are United Methodists from around the world elected by their annual, missionary, or provisional conference. The total number of delegates at General Conference ranges between 600 and 1,000 people.

The body of General Conference consists of an equal number of lay and clergy delegates. Lay members of annual conferences elect the lay delegates, and clergy members elect clergy delegates.



## Help North Carolina Welcome The World

United Methodists from all over the world are traveling to attend General Conference in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God." In all we do, God guides our every decision. The gathering is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people.

**You are invited to serve as part of our Welcome Team during General Conference and offer gracious hospitality to our guests.**

We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and create a holy space where spirits can be nurtured. This will foster a welcoming environment and support delegates as they come together in worship, discernment, and holy conferencing on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

Serving at General Conference, you will have the opportunity to participate in the connectional nature of the church, to meet new people, and to live into your commitment to support The UMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

What a wonderful way to extend the love of Christ to all! Come extend God's hospitality to those from around the world gathering for the General Conference. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.



**Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.**  
Western NC Conference (Charlotte Area)



**Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton**  
NC Conference (Raleigh Area)





## Welcome Team Opportunities



### AIRPORT

Welcome guests,  
Direct them to baggage claim  
and transportation



### HOTELS

Welcome guests,  
Greet and answer questions



### CONVENTION CENTER

Welcome guests,  
Greet and answer questions



### REGISTRATION

Greet and check-in attendees,  
Requires attention to detail and  
comfort with technology

APPLY ONLINE TODAY

[WelcomeToGC.org](http://WelcomeToGC.org)

## Serving at General Conference

As part of the Welcome Team at General Conference, you will have a tremendous opportunity to see the United Methodist connection up close and provide hospitality to friends in Christ from around the world!

- Apply online to serve:  
**WelcomeToGC.org.**
- Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to serve.
- After your application is processed, you will receive an invitation email with a link to select your available serving dates and times.
- Opportunities will be set up in 4-hour shifts.
- Help needed starting April 18.



- Welcome Team members will wear red aprons to help be easily-identifiable while serving.
- You are responsible for hotel and meal costs associated with your stay.

## About Charlotte

"The Commission selected Charlotte as the site that best met our varied needs. We believe that delegates and attendees will be pleased with all the city has to offer," said Kim Simpson, Chair of the Commission on the General Conference.

The Commission also considered Charlotte's suitability and capacity of available meeting facilities, the proximity of hotel rooms, accessibility, amenities, and the convenience of travel.



Located 7 miles from the Charlotte International Airport, the Convention Center is accessible from I-85, I-77, and U.S. Highway 74. The city has a 19.3-mile light rail system known as the LYNX Blue Line connecting the southern and northern parts of Charlotte.

The 600,000-square-foot facility recently completed an expansion project to add meeting space and an exterior over-street pedestrian walkway that connects to several

stores, hotels, and the LYNX Blue Line Stonewall Station.

Within walking distance are approximately 200 restaurants and numerous art, history, and science museums, galleries, and theaters.

Charlotte also has a network of greenways, parks, and other outdoor spaces and hosts sporting events including NFL football, NBA basketball, hockey, baseball, NASCAR, soccer, and more.