



Monthly Newsletter of Salem UMC, Morganton, NC

Salem Scoop

We are a couple of months into the New Year and have set our focus on diving deeper into Scripture, individually and communally. But that is not all. Salem's leaders have been walking through a vision planning process to explore where God is leading Salem to go in this next season of ministry. The Leadership team began this process in October and November by revisiting Salem's primary vision, Salem United Methodist Church is to be Love in Action by Exploring Faith, Embodying Christ, and Embracing Others, implemented in 2017. They reevaluated this statement, confirming it was still applicable to who Christ is calling Salem to be in this next season of ministry. The next steps were exploring what we want to see happen over the next two to three years. When asked this question, the leadership team named six ways we could live out our vision going forward: updating and occupying facilities, improve financial health, creating a sustainability ministry plan, impactful outreach, inclusive and engaging worship, diverse and growing discipleship, and an accepting and loving culture within all areas of the church.

In naming these key areas, the leadership team was able to evaluate and further name any roadblocks the church has or will encounter. Some of the roadblocks are: the lack of any strategic plans that lead us to toward accomplishing our vision. With this revelation, the group began putting their heads together and came up with five focus areas that will move us toward accomplishing our vision. They named these five focus areas:

1. Clear and concise communication
2. Leadership that recruits, trains, and empowers people
3. Worship that is inviting, relevant, and sustaining Spiritual Growth Experience
4. Discipleship that leads to Intentional spiritual growth
5. Deeply rooted Stewardship

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To gain a greater sense of these five focus areas, I shared the Ministry Insight Demographic reports based on the Census on individuals and families within a 3-mile radius of the church.

- The median age is 42 years old
- There are 1739 school-age students
- Average household income 79K
- People are seeking opportunities to develop relationships
- Families seek support through family-oriented activities
- Community wants to be involved in relevant social causes
- Those seeking religious or spiritual programs desire warm, friendly encounters
- Those looking for a church desire contemporary worship and quality sermons
- Top Concerns of the community: Religion is too focused on money, religious people are judgmental, and lack of trust.

The demographics of the community, give the leadership team a greater sense of who we are trying to reach and insight to name three of the five focus areas as our target vision focus for the next two to three years. This doesn't mean we do not do work on some of the other areas; however, it does mean that these top three areas will be what we, as a church, will be laser focused on accomplishing together.

The first week of February the Leadership team named: Communication, Worship and Stewardship as the top three areas of focus for the 2026. With measurable goals of growing to 75 people consistently in worship, 100 worshipping online, 60 people in service, 21 active students, and 111 giving units (giving unit is calculated on a family unity not individual). Sub-teams are designated and have started to meet to start working on these goals. I ask the church to pray as God works in and through our leaders and congregation to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Monica

Salem United Methodist Church

1206 Salem Road

MARCH 21st 9 – 12

Bake Sale

Sponsored by: Salem United Women in Faith

Proceeds for: Missions

Variety of baked goods – pies, cakes, cookies, snacks

Canned Vegetable Soup

Rada kitchen utensils

... and MORE!!!



Cheese Balls

Happy Home Flavoring



Yard Sale sponsored by Girl Scout Troop # 2241



*Our sympathy is extended to the Edith Dale family.
Edith's sister Patsy Lovelace passed away February 1st.*

*Our sympathy is extended to the Fred Horton family.
Fred's mother "Lib" Horton passed away February 4th.*

*Our sympathy is extended to the Jane Stroup family.
Jane passed away on February 15th.*

*Our sympathy is extended to the Cary Clark family.
Cary passed away on February 26th.*



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

Salem UMC Worship from home!



You can find our worship service broadcasts:
<http://www.youtube.com/@SalemUMCMorganton>
If you have a smart TV, you can even watch the service there. Just search @SalemUMCMorganton in the YouTube app.

5TH SUNDAY LUNCH



March 29th

May 31st

August 30th

Church wide Picnic

FOLLOWING WORSHIP (MARCH AND AUGUST)

PICNIC PLACE AND TIME TBD



Dear Salem Church Family,

Thank You for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. It meant a lot to Jane and I. We love our church family.

Steve Stroup



Acolyte

Ministry

March

- 1st - Hadley Fite
- 8th - Girl Scout Sunday
- 15th - Lucy Fisher
- 22nd - Finley Fite
- 29th - Daniel Reinke

Please contact Kay Duckworth to volunteer or obtain additional info.



March

- 1st - David Childers & Jerry Ramsey
- 8th - Girl Scout Sunday
- 15th - Trey & Colt Crowe
- 22nd - Sue Cronk and Kim Clardy
- 29th - Tim and Brady Keller



Monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, March 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! Contact Kevin with RSVP.

Sunday, March 22ND - 8:30 am
Fellowship Hall



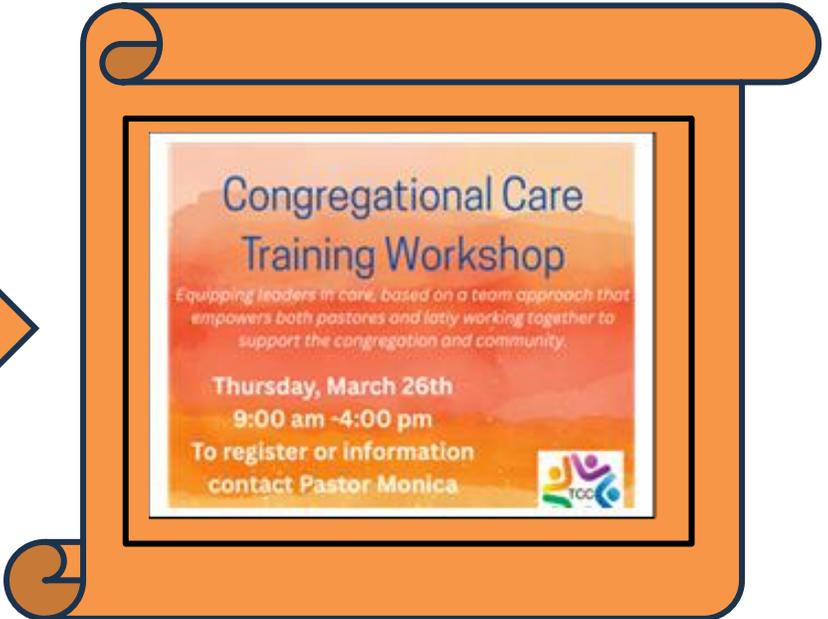
CHOIR PRACTICE
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM





MARCH 13th - 15th

MARCH 26th



NOVEMBER 4th - 6th



Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, March 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.

Our Financial Stewardship

Through February 25

Offerings Received to Date: \$30,533.28

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$24,523.05

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

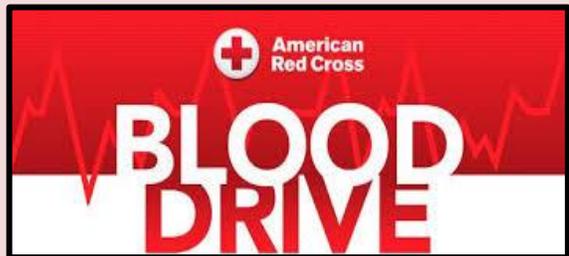
Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$25,961.79
Backpack	\$ 1,025.00
Building Fund	\$ 235.00
Cemetery	\$ 1,300.00
Souper Bowl	\$ 181.49
Missions Memorial	\$ 270.00
To HELP A FAMILY	\$ 500.00
WNCC Pastor Salary	\$ 2,595.00



girl scouts
Girl Scouts
Celebrate
Faith!

**GIRL SCOUT
SUNDAY
MARCH 8TH 10:30**



**SALEM UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
THURSDAY MARCH 26TH**

2:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Schedule your
donation today!!!**

<https://www.redcrossblood.org>



**MARCH 7TH
DON'T FORGET!**

Gifts Given in Honor and/or Memory of...

James Brown
Gerald Duckworth
Lib Horton
Jane Stroup

by Doris Ingram

Jane Stroup

by Jerry & Clarice Shuping
by Alan Byrd
by Susan & Arnold Tucker
by Edith Dale

Jane Stroup
Lib Horton

by Lynda & Joe Woody
by Margaret Shell
by Margaret Carswell

by Bruce & Kay Pollard



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



- 1 - Debbie Johnston
- 3 - Dennis Carswell, Ellie Shuping
- 4 - Elizabeth Marie Hampton
- 5 - Bruce Pollard
- 8 - Madison Mosteller
- 9 - Caroline Causby
- 12 - Natalie Johnston, Heather Woody,
Hadley Fite
- 15 - Jack Russ
- 16 - Pietro Magri
- 18 - Ronin Smith
- 20 - Holly Keller
- 20 - Jerry Shuping
- 23 - Ronny Causby
- 26 - Barbara Harbour
- 29 - Daniel Reinke
- 30 - Emily Shuping

DEATHS

Tara Lynn Marie Webb 1/31 (*Sue Cronk's Daughter*)
Patsy Lovelace 2/1 (*Edith Dale's Sister*)
Mary Elizabeth "Lib" Horton 2/4 (*Fred Horton's Mother*)
Jane Stroup 2/15
Cary Clark 2/26

PRAISES

Act of Love Event
New Worship Friends
Ash Wednesday Service

NURSING HOME

Doris Garrison, Aaron Clardy
Brenda Dellinger,
Shirley Smith Clarke

PRAYERS: Mikey & Kathy Fite, Sue Cronk, Marley Byrd, Donna Hightower, Jon Lowdermilk, Mike Dolan, Chelly Franklin, Lloyd Fite, Jeremy & Angela Amick, Ken Berry, Lynda Woody, Buddy Shields, Randall James, Lisa Propst, Karen Brittain, Patsy Bridges, Jeanette Stamey, Anna-Grace Rawls, Kisha Isbell, Elizabeth Dale Smith, Trish Johnson, Tanya Speagle, Lorna Damron, BJ Taylor, Hemen Joshi, Tracy Benfield
ONGOING: Muriel McNeilly, Steve Stroup, Troy & Joann Patton, Kevin Patton, Zach & Lucy Cagle, Roger Hicks, Cindy Robinson, Linda Wilson, Joe Woody, Kathryn Duckworth, Mary Ann Propst, Gary & Wanda Byrd
HOMEBOUND: Brenda Autrey, Larry & Janet Koon, Billie & Garland Ross, Leota Garrison



March



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 Daylight Savings 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12:00 – Church Council	9 Girl Scouts	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	13	14
15 9:00 – JIRDC Worship 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	16	17 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm 4:30 pm Worship Vision Team Meeting	18 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 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 Girl Scouts 5:30 – Children’s Program Mtg.	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 2:30 – 7 pm Blood Drive	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship Noon – 5 th Sunday Lunch	30	31 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	April 1 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	2 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday	4 12:00 – UWF
5 Easter Sunday 7:00 – Sunrise Service 8:00 – Continental Breakfast 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	6	7 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	8 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	9 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	10	11 FH Reserved
<i>Pastor on Vacation April 6 – April 12</i>						



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