



Salem Scoop

Go to Hell

As we wrap up our series on the Apostle's Creed this month, I thought I'd use the newsletter to share a word about a phrase from the Creed we don't actually include when we recite it from our hymnal. Historically, the 4th Century Creed included the phrase "**he descended into hell**" when describing Jesus. The heart of Christianity is focused on a three day drama, and at the center of it is an empty day. The Gospels tell us nothing about what happened to Jesus on what we refer to as Holy Saturday (between burial and resurrection). And yet, I thought it might be worth sharing some insight on the phrase from UM pastor James Howell:

We know hell is not some cavern so many meters below the earth's surface that spits fire and is patrolled by guys with pitchforks. But the doctrine of Christ's decent into hell isn't a travelogue, but a metaphor, a window into the truth of God's heart that transcends space and time. Jesus cannot bear for his beloved to be lost. William Barclay says: "This doctrine means symbolically that either in this life or in life beyond death all are offered the gospel of truth and the love of God. There are no limits in space and time through the grace of God. God has an eternity." God continues to pursue us even beyond death itself.... As Christians, whatever we believe about hell and its future citizenship, we have absolutely no option but to hope passionately for, to pray zealously for the salvation of every person, and to grieve over the idea that even one might perish.

Here is something that seems undebatable: If Jesus descended to hell, we are called to follow him there Hell is not merely on the far side of the grave. Maybe we will never get very close to Christ until we launch out on an itinerary to visit a few more hells. Go to Morocco or Haiti where thousands have been killed in earthquakes. Go to the West Bank and Gaza where children don't go out of the house, except it's not safe inside either as buildings are shelled. Go to Kenya where AIDS ravages the population... Sit in the waiting room with the parents whose pediatrician just announced their daughter has a brain tumor. Visit your neighbor whose depression shackles him to a chair; or look across the dining room table at the one you love but cannot quite understand.

Christ descended into hell. Thank God. "If the Lord had not been on our side, we would have been swallowed whole" (Ps 124:2). And the same Jesus who descends to every branch establishment of hell on earth asks us to follow him, not at a safe distance but up close... Just as Jesus invaded the devil's lair, so we dare to insert ourselves into places and situations that seem godless. But because Jesus descended into hell, we know there is no such thing as a godless place. Whenever we as the Church go to hell, we find that Jesus is there ahead of us, and we discover that we at long last are actually close to the Jesus for whom we long... You may not get credit for going; no one may be watching, but then no one could see Jesus on that Friday night and dismal Saturday. The closer we stay to Jesus, the more we love those he loved, the more we find ourselves in ugly places – which are no longer ugly, for Christ is there.

(excerpt from The Life We Claim, James Howell, 2005)



Girl Scout yard sale and UWF Bake Sale



United
Women
in Faith

November 4, 9am–12 pm

The UWF will have lots of baked goods, chicken pies, green beans and soup for sale. Flavorings and Rada cutlery will also be for sale. Proceeds go to funding our mission efforts in and around our county.



Community Tree of Hope Lighting



Sunday, Nov. 19 - 6pm

@ SUMC, 1206 SALEM ROAD

to shine and illumine the darkness for our community, our country, our neighbor, and our world

Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried—often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is “the Holy Living One is with you.” Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

Join us for our Advent/Christmas Series beginning Dec 3!



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY



SOUP, TREE LIGHTING & HANGING OF THE GREENS - (NOV 19, 5:10PM).

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SOUP OR CHILI! IMMEDIATELY AFTER SOUP AND SANDWICHES IN THE FH, WE WILL CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY HOPE TREE LIGHTING, NEW THIS YEAR IS A SPECIAL HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY AT APPROXIMATELY 6:15PM. INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND MAKE THIS A SPECIAL WAY TO START THE SEASON TOGETHER



Enjoy a cup of soup and a grilled cheese sandwich while supporting the Burke Literacy Council in improving the literacy skills of adults in our community. The ABC lunch for literacy fundraiser is Thursday, Nov 9, 11am-2pm at Saint Charles Catholic Church. The annual soup lunch is \$8 a meal and available by drive through at the church or free delivery for 5+ meals. For questions or to place your order, please call 828-437-7477



**BURKE COUNTY
Literacy Council**

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 remember we cannot send 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, 20 lunch items, and 20 supper items weekly. Thank You



OPERATION SANTA 2023

The J. Iverson Riddle Center has provided us with 9 residents to sponsor as a secret Santa!

- During November visit our “Angel” tree in the FH.
 - Take a card from the tree and shop for items on their wish list.
 - Return all gifts unwrapped by December 1 to the church office.
- (Labels are available to mark your gifts. Sending gift bags will also help the JIRDC staff to wrap them). Thank you for being an angel for a resident.



Prayer Requests & Concerns: Gerald & Mozelle Duckworth, Steve & Jane Stroup, Kevin & Joann Patton, Family of Fred Causby, Shirley Causby, Laqueta Carroll, Zach & Lucy Cagle, Billie & Garland Ross, Wanda & Gary Byrd, Kelly Basting, Bill Hutchins, Doris Garrison, Katie Gordon, Lopez Family, Brenda Dellinger, Deeston Brown, Katie Marler
 Home Bound: Millie Avery, Leota Garrison, Brenda Autrey, Janet Koon
 Nursing Home Residents: - Hope Ridge Family Care – Doris Garrison, Jackie Pruett

Our Financial Stewardship:

Thru October 31, 2023

Weekly budget need: \$3,987.40

Yearly Budget needed: \$211,332.00

Budgeted need to date: \$175,445.60

Total Received for Budget:

\$158,299.22

Ministry Expenses to Date:

\$168,712.95

We are \$17,146.38 behind budget for the year!

We are \$10,413.73 behind expenses for the year.

Monthly Greeter list

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

Salem UMC Blood Drive

Our Oct. Drive collected 19 pints of blood. They also had one first time donor!



American Red Cross

Gifts given in Memory or in Honor

Freddie Causby

by Brenda Dellinger

by Kay & Gerald Duckworth

by Jerry & Clarice Shuping

by Bruce & Kay Pollard

by Joe & Lynda Woody

by Norman & Kathryn Jones

by Mary Ann & Lisa Propst, Cary Clark

James & Margaret Romano

by Sal & Lori Siino

Bruce & Kay Pollard 's Anniversary

by Joan Borden

Messy Church night returns to SUMC

Monday **Nov 20 @ 5:30pm**



What Messy Church is:

- Messy Church is a form of church for every age that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality

- It typically includes a welcome, a creative time to explore the biblical theme through sensory engagement; a short worship celebration; and a sit-down meal together.

Reading the Torah Together in 1 Year

Space these out and read some of the passage each day or all at once. You have a full week to read the chapters. But it's usually better to at least divide it into 2 days.

Schedule Week of:

Nov 5 - Deut 7:12-11:25

Nov 12- Deut 11:26-16:17

Nov 19 - Deut 16:18-21:9

Nov 26- Deut 21:10-25:19

Dec 3 - Deut 26:1- 29:9

Dec 10 - Deut 29:9-30:20

Ladies of all ages are welcome to participate in the UWF.

Our next meeting is
November 2 @ 7pm in the FH.



United Women in Faith



November

2	Vicki Reinke
4	Sarah Horton
8	Janice Sorrells
9	Billie Ross
13	Kay Duckworth
15	Katie Gordon
20	Rebecca Dale
21	Joyanne Benfield
23	Carrie Williams
24	Troy Patton, Jane Stroup
26	Lance Riddick, Chris Garrison

ANNIVERSARIES

25 Wes & Sue Bunch

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the calls, texts, cards and prayers during our loss. Thank you to all who prepared and served food after the service. Please continue to pray for us as we try to find the footing on this new path we are on. We are devastated that he is gone but so thankful for the time we had with him. Much Love,
Amy, Courtney, Catherine, Carrigan & Camelia

CHURCH STAFF

Norm Jones, Jr.—Pastor (rev.norm@alumni.duke.edu)

Johnathan Greer, Dir. of Music Ministry (music@sumcm.org)

Sue Bunch, Pianist (s_bunch@att.net)

Zachary Cagle, Office Admin. (salemumchurch@gmail.com)

We are...

A place to belong...

A place of refuge...

A haven of peace & grace



LIGHTHOUSE
Congregation



SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - MORGANTON November 2023 Newsletter

MUSIC



SPOTLIGHT

Reflection:

As we prepare for a new season! It is the time to show gratitude to those around us and be one. As Thanksgiving comes, We gather together to bring our minds and voices and sing as one. It is hard to balance everything we have a lot of things going on in a busy world and we get caught up trying to make everything perfect for our families for the holidays but we do need to stop and reflect and be thankful for what we do have. As a new director I know this year has been a challenge but with a lot of self-reflection and people who care we can do great things. I want to share my gratitude to my Choir and my congregation! You guys are my family and I do appreciate all of you! May we make joyful music this season and remember what to be thankful for.



The choir will rehearse on (all Sundays) Nov. 12, 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 10 at 3pm at FUMC Morganton.

Cantata is Dec. 17 @ 4 PM

If you have been loaned out choir music and are not able to come please come see Johnathan

"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices."

Johnathan Greer,
Director of Music

Salem United Methodist Church

Rehearsals

Praise Team Practice: Wed - 5:45 pm-6:45 pm

Choir Practice: Wed - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



#SUMCMUSIC

To learn more about the music program please reach out to Johnathan Greer, Director of Music music@sumcm.org or 704-530-9687 (call or text)



November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>REMEMBER to FALL BACK with your clock Nov 5!</p>			<p>1 <u>FH Reserved UWF</u></p> <p>5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 6:30pm Charge Conference (FUMCM) 7pm Choir (Sanct)</p>	<p>2 <u>FH Reserved UWF</u> 7pm UWF Mtg (FH)</p>	<p>3 <u>FH Reserved UWF</u></p>	<p>4 9–12 pm Girl Scout Yard Sale and UWF Bake Sale</p>
<p>5 Deut 7:12 - 11:25 9:30 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:35am <i>Worship</i> (FH) 11:40 - Manger planning Mtg (Sanct) 12:20pm Youth lunch outing</p>	<p>6 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 4pm Worship Team (Sanct) 5:30pm MC planning Mtg 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)</p>	<p>9 11am <i>Literary Council Chili</i> (p3)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Deut 11:26 - 16:17 9:30 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:35am <i>Worship</i> 3pm Cantata Practice 4pm Church Council</p>	<p>13 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm GScouts (FH)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Deut 16:18-21:9 8:45 <i>Men's breakfast</i> (FH) 9:30 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:35am <i>Worship</i> 3pm Cantata Practice 5pm Soup, Tree Lighting, Hanging of Greens</p>	<p>20 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm Messy Church (FH) 7:15pm Neighbor session (Zoom)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day FH Reserved</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Deut 21:10 - 25:19 9:30 <i>Sunday School</i> 10:35am <i>Worship</i> 3pm Cantata Practice</p>	<p>27 10am Prayer Shawl (Ed Bldg) 6pm GScouts (FH)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 5:45pm Praise team (Sanct) 7pm Choir (Sanct)</p>	<p>30</p>		

(Pastor Norm away for holiday Nov 21-26)