



Monthly Newsletter of Salem UMC, Morganton, NC

Salem Scoop

“Follow Me”

In 2010, I traveled to Antigua, Guatemala to work in the Aldea El Hato village. The village is nestled on the side of the mountain, Cerro de la Cruz, a main focal point of Antigua. In this village, we poured concrete steps so the people of the village could travel up and down the mountain to their homes. I was working one day and Delia, a ten-year-old girl from the village, came and grabbed my hand. She led me to a rock sitting nearby where she motioned for me to sit. As we sat, she pulled out her Bible and started reading Genesis. Her Spanish Bible was bright white with pages tattered from being turned. As she read the creation story to me, she asked if I knew Jesus. I told her, yes, then began to tell her part of my faith story. When I asked her about her faith journey, she shared her faith story, living in the village.

The village was a poor village, somewhat oppressed from general and basic needs. Women were treated as property and not privileged to basic health needs. Shoes were a commodity, extended families were housed together, and men left the families or had multiple families in the village. Many of the houses were shanties or lean-to houses made of corrugated metal. Families were so large that many family members slept on homemade pallets placed on the concrete or dirt floors. The needs and oppression of these people were visible but despite their situations, they exuded so much joy. They gathered with the mission team to pour concrete, they provided food for our lunch, they invited us into their homes, they helped us give out over 300 pairs of shoes to children. Reflecting on Delia and the current living conditions of the village, I wondered what kept them faithful to God? I wondered about their motivation for God and their service to others. Near the end of the trip, I asked Delia how they remained so faithful in their discipleship and love for God through all that they experienced. She took my hand and led me up the mountain. She pointed to the cross that overlooked the city. She explained that many look up at the Cerro de la Cruz paying homage to Jesus Christ. But for the people of Aldea El Hato, that view of the back side of the cross, consider it an honor and privilege to look at the Cerro de la Cruz overlooking the city because it represents Christ leading them out in the world to serve. This was a powerful statement and one that has repeatedly been a reminder of the Great Commission Christ gives to us.

Over the next twelve weeks, we will dive into Jesus’ life and the instructions he gave his disciples. Although we, as Christians, come to know Christ and can identify what we believe, Jesus seemed to care more about what His disciples did. We will journey through Scripture to discover “What Disciples Do!” Just as Delia and the village grew and maintained an excitement about following Jesus, my prayer is that Salem is challenged and transformed to live out the exciting call of Jesus, “Follow Me.”

I invite you to join us in reaching out to our neighbors in putting Christ’s love into action so that those we serve may know how great Christ’s love is for them.

Pastor Monica

PARSONAGE



UPDATE

As our parsonage restoration continues, brick matching the original installation has been delivered and preparations are under way to begin installing! Once the brickwork is complete, final inspection with the county will be scheduled. Upon successful inspection, a certificate of occupancy (CO) will be granted! This will be the final declaration that the building is structurally safe and ready to be habitable. The next step will be focusing on interior clean up. Stay Tuned!

MONDAYS with Monica!!

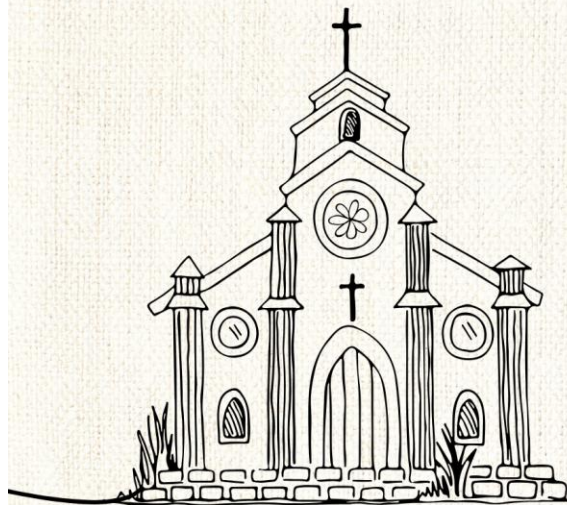
Beginning Monday, September 8th, each Monday we will have the opportunity to spend time with Pastor Monica! To help her and us become more acquainted, small groups of 8-10 will sign up to have a breakfast, lunch or dinner together. This will be an informal time to ask and answer questions of each other about who we are, our thoughts, our hopes, and to share our faith stories! The Mondays with Monica signup sheet is located in our Opportunity Corner.

LIFE IS BETTER
TOGETHER
BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21ST 10:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP MEAL TO FOLLOW

INVITE SOMEONE
TODAY!!!

**WELCOME BACK
TO CHURCH**



Joint Charge Conference

Let's remember and celebrate all
that God has done!

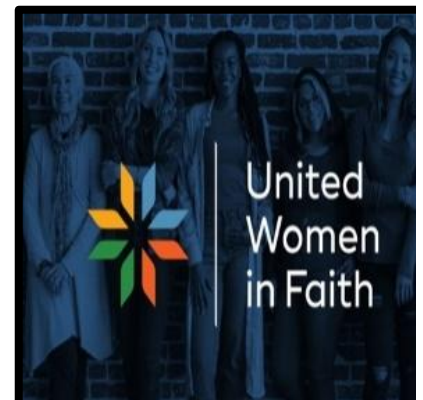
Sunday, September 28th 2025 | 2:00 PM

Fellowship and Refreshments
will follow in the Fellowship hall

Salem will host a joint charge conference on Sunday, September 28th at 2 pm. There will be a time of worship together and a time of fellowship afterward. As a church, we want to express hospitality to churches who choose to join us that day. We need volunteers who can bring a sweet treat, fruit, or finger foods for this day. Sign up at the Opportunity Corner in the Sanctuary or the Mission Station in the hall of the administrative building. Please mark your calendar to attend as we celebrate the ministries of Salem and the fruitfulness of God that has taken place in 2024.



YOU'RE INVITED!
Saturday, September
13th 12:00 Noon
Fellowship Hall



The United Women in Faith are selling one pound bags of pecans, either halves or pieces for \$12.00. Orders need to be paid for when ordering. This is a new crop of pecans and will be available in November. Please give your orders to Doris Ingram by September 21st. All proceeds will go to missions.



Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, September 14th, 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 Brady Keller prior to the meeting.

Church Council Chair – Brady Keller

SPRC – Bob Harbour

Trustees – Jerry Carroll

Finance – Vicki Reinke

Outreach – Jodi Brown

Witness –

Nurture – Joyce Gibson

Parsonage – Lara Autrey

Secretary – Ray Duckworth

UWF – Virginia Robinson, Kay Pollard

Lay Leader – Kevin Reinke



WEEKLY SIGN CHANGER WANTED!

We are currently looking for someone to change our church sign from week to week. No experience necessary! Must be able to pass sobriety test while standing on the brick wall to reach the top line.



The Richard Van Wormer family and the Reinke family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of prayers, support and memory donations made during the recent passing of our husband and father. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. We would also like to say thank you for the anonymous flower delivery.

With sincere Appreciation,

Sheila Van Wormer and Vicki Reinke

YOUTH NEWS

MORGANTON COLLABORATIVE YOUTH

EVENTS **FALL** 2025 SCHEDULE

21 SEPTEMBER **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS** ...
5:00-6:30 PM COLLABORATIVE YOUTH EVENT
FIRST UMC MARION- 176 Robert St, Marion, NC 28752

19 OCT **MC KINNEY FARMS CORN MAZE** ...
TIME TBA cost \$15 per person
Those interested need to sign up at the Opportunities Corner or with Pastor Monica

16 NOV **MEALS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE** ...
5:00-6:30 PM youth will be prepping and cooking meals for Fostering Hope
Oak Hill UMC 2239 NC-181, Morganton, NC 28655

7 DEC **CAROLING AT JIRD & CHRISTMAS PARTY** ...
TIME TBA Eco-friendly events to raise environmental awareness.
Salem UMC 1206 Salem Road, Morganton 28655

17-19 JAN **WINTER YOUTH RETREAT** ...
TIME TBA Students will gather to retreat, rest, have fun, and BE1
At Christmount Retreat Center/ Black Mtn. NC

More information to come



Our Financial Stewardship

Through August 26th

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$ 146,139.56

Offerings Received to Date: \$ 190,599.51

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$143,518.76
Backpack Ministry	\$ 1,495.00
Back to School Biscuits	\$ 25.00
SUMWF Yard Sale	\$ 2,250.00
Youth	\$ 380.00
Youth St. Matthews Van	\$ 750.00
Youth Retreat	\$ 315.00
Parsonage Relocate/ Restore	\$ 4,200.00
Building Fund Cemetery	\$ 475.00
BF Cemetery Grave Purchase	\$ 5,000.00
Building Fund Steeple	\$ 1,341.00
Building Fund Roof	\$ 1,742.50
BF Restoration/Parsonage	\$ 800.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,488.00
Organ Concert	\$ 2,350.00
WNCC Pastor Salary	\$ 16,793.36
WNCC Pastor Interm	\$ 12,800.00
WNCC Roof Helene Relief	\$ 19,112.50
WNCC Reimbursements	\$ 1,292.45
WNCC Rent Check	\$ 5,200.00
WNCC Restor/Relocation	\$ 1,500.00
Pass Through	\$ 149.94
Pass Thru To Help a Family	\$ 1,500.00
Pass Thru Cross Connection	\$ 280.00



Church Office Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays

12:30 Noon to 6:00 pm

-Pastoral Care-

Pastor Monica Childers

828-493-3179

pastor@sumcm.org

Wednesday Work Day



Join us every Wednesday from 9:00 am to Noon throughout the month of September as we purge and clean multiple rooms on our church campus!





*Our condolences to the
Richard Van Wormer family.
Richard passed away on August 9th.*

GIFTS GIVEN

IN MEMORY

IN HONOR

Colon Byrd	<i>by Blue Ridge Life Members Telephone Pioneers Club by Margaret Carswell by Jerry & Clarice Shuping by Mary Propst by Cary Clark by Edith Dale</i>	<i>by Doris Ingram by Lynda & Joe Woody by Lisa Propst by Beulah Duckworth</i>
Richard VanWormer	<i>by Bruce & Kay Pollard by Lynda & Joe Woody</i>	<i>by Doris Ingram by Edith Dale</i>
Bruce & Kay Pollard, Jerry & Clarice Shuping	<i>by Edith Dale</i>	
Monica Childers & Family, Nancy Krall, Vicki Reinke, Virginia Robinson, Sue Cronk <i>by Bruce & Kay Pollard</i>		



- 1 – Zane Whitener
- 4 – Bill Hutchins, Stephen Reinke
- 6 – Sara Reinke
- 7 – Joann Patton
- 10 – Ernest Stroup
- 11 – Kim Garrison
- 13 – Dawn Hutchins, Elizabeth Smith
- 15 – Katie Horton
- 16 – Kevin Reinke
- 20 – Monica Childers
- 21 – Linda Wilson
- 23 – Cindy Robinson, Lynda Woody
- 26 – Jodi Brown
- 27 – Wynn Whitener
- 29 – Hamilton Brown



23 – Charles & Lara Autrey



October 16th - Blood Drive - 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm

October 22nd - Trunk or Treat - 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

November 8th - Bake Sale & Scout Yard Sale – 9:00 am - Noon



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	3 9:00 – Workday 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	4 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	5	6 UWF to Mooreville for Conference Annual Celebration
7 9:30 – Sunday School 10:35 – Worship Noon – Choir	8	9 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	10 9:00 – Workday 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	11 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	12	13 12:00 – UWF meeting
14 9:30 – Sunday School 10:35 – Worship Noon – Choir 12:00 – Church Council Mtg.	15	16 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	17 9:00 – Workday 10:00 – Prayer Shawl	18 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	19	20
21 Back 2 School Sunday 9:00 – JIRDC Worship Volunteers 9:30 – Sunday School 10:35 – Worship Noon – Choir Noon – Covered Dish Noon – Nut Orders Due 5-6:30 @ First Marion Collaborative Youth Grp.	22	23 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	24 9:00 – Workday 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 2-4 pm FH Reserved	25 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm	26	27
28 9:30 – Sunday School 10:35 – Worship Noon – Choir 2:00 – Cluster Charge Conference	29	30 Church Office Open 12:30 – 6:00 pm				



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