

# SALEM SCRIPTURES

Salem United Methodist Church Newsletter

December 2017

## Coming Home: Advent Worship Series

In the United States, Christmastime and thoughts of home just go together. “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” and “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays,” are two of the most popular holiday songs, year after year. Christmas movies and television shows regularly feature stories of people going to their family home or extended family home over the holidays. Advent and Christmas Season are about another kind of homecoming, the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, this earth, and all creation till “heaven and nature sing” with joy eternally. The Scriptures the church uses for Advent focus first on the final fulfillment, and later on the beginning of that fulfillment in Jesus.

This year’s Advent and Christmas Season series embraces the secular seasonal metaphor of homecoming to wrap the challenging biblical texts this season gives us. Each week’s service will invite us to “unwrap” something that leads us toward making our hearts, our lives, our families, our communities, and our world more like the home Christ’s ultimate homecoming will make it to be. And each week, we also suggest an afternoon or evening gathering for the whole church to experience a seasonal tradition together.



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## Angle Tree

This holiday season Salem United Methodist Preschool and Salem United Methodist Church will be sponsoring an angel giving tree. S.U.M.P. staff became aware of some families with young children who could use some prayers and a helping hand this holiday.

Please join with us and choose a tag off the Christmas tree standing in the narthex. These tags contain request for a Toy, Pajamas or Socks. There are 14 children and we hope to provide a toy, pajamas and socks for each child. When you have shopped for your chosen gift item, please wrap it and attach the gift tag securely to the package.

Please place the gift beside the tree by Monday, December 11, 2017.



## Amazing Grace at Sentara Rosemont

Wednesday December 6th from 6 - 7 pm Amazing Grace will be playing at Sentara Village Rosemont in Mamie's Building. Others are welcome to attend.



## Christmas Baskets

As the coolness of the season approaches, we begin to think of times of family gatherings. One of our annual traditions at Salem is lead by the United Methodist Men as they provide food baskets for needy families in the community. We partner with Virginia Beach Social services, our preschool and work of mouth to find families in need. We will be collecting the following items in the Narthex until December 14th.

- Cans of Soup
- Light Chunky Tuna
- 1 LB Spaghetti
- 2 LB Macaroni
- Boxes of Hamburger Helper
- Boxes of Tuna Helper
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Yams
- Canned fruit
- Saltine Crackers
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac & cheese
- Cranberry's (Jellied)
- Box of instant potatoes
- 5 LB bag of potatoes
- Boxes of Turkey stuffing
- Boxes of instant rice
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly or Jam
- Turkey Gravy (can or jar)
- Boxes of cereals
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 Gallon milk
- Turkey's are being provided by the Church

# CHURCH CALENDAR



## Weekly Calendar Items

Adult Sunday school –  
Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

Worship Celebration –  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

Karate in Fellowship Hall  
– Monday and Thursday  
at 5-8 p.m.

Girl Scouts – Tuesdays  
@ 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Quilting Group in  
the Quilting Room –  
Wednesday @ 10:00  
a.m.

Boy Scout Troop 471 –  
Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.

- United Methodist Men's Breakfast– Saturday December 2, 8-9 a.m. @ the church.
- Saturday December 2, 6-9 p.m. Church Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange.
- Wednesday December 6th from 6 - 7 pm Amazing Grace will be playing at Sentara Village Rosemont in Mamie's Building. Others are welcome to attend.
- Saturday December 17, put together Christmas baskets .
- Monday December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting in the Adult Classroom.
- Friday December 22, 6-8 p.m. Live Nativity
- Sunday December 24 @ 6:00 p.m. Christmas Even Candlelight and Communion worship.
- Sunday December 31, Christmas carol Hymn sing.

## Finance Committee

The narthex, pastor's office and preschool wing have undergone quite a transformation! The walls are freshly painted and the old blue carpet is gone. In its place there is new carpet and laminate flooring in the quilting room and classrooms. These improvements have resulted in many positive comments from both pre-school parents and Bazaar guests.

Here is how the finances worked out. The total cost of the project was right around \$21,000. We had saved approximately \$13,000 over the past couple of years from the annual pre-school tithes. In addition, we received a very generous donation of \$5,000. This left us with a \$3,000 difference which we covered by withdrawing \$3,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund. As a result, this fund is currently below the level where we would like it to be.

We ask everyone to prayerfully consider making a special donation to replenish this fund. To do so, simply write "Emergency Reserve Fund" in the memo line of your check and drop it in the collection plate on any Sunday. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity!



## Live Nativity

Friday December 22 6-8 p.m. come and see or be a part of our live presentation of the Nativity story. Different persons will take on the roles of Mary, Joseph, Angels, shepherds and wise men as we sing and share the story of our savior's birth. Invite your friends and family. This live sharing of Jesus birth is usually a wonderful experience for kids from one to 92. We would love to have lots of folks participate in making this sharing of the story possible. For more information contact Craig Nolin.







## **Choir Cantata– Sunday December 17 @ 10:00 a.m.**

### **“Forever God is With US”**

Sunday December 17 our Chancel choir and children’s choir will present a new cantata for the whole congregation to hear the Christmas story in song. In FOREVER GOD IS WITH US, Marty Parks masterfully crafts yet another Christmas celebration. Striking a friendly balance between the "fresh and new" and the "nostalgic and familiar," this is a musical certain to bring to mind favorite memories of Christmases past, while celebrating new traditions and the glorious hope of God with us. Creatively appealing and completely accessible, FOREVER GOD IS WITH US offers an opportunity to inspire unity, celebration, renewed purpose, and a deeper level of commitment in your choir family, as they minister to your church and community the blessed message of hope, joy, and peace found in the glorious truth that God is with us!

## **Christmas Cookie Challenge 2.5 mile run!**

Saturday December 9th at 9:00 a.m. is the Christmas Cookie Challenge 2.5 at Mount Trashmore. Registration is \$30. Register at [www.cookieracevb.com](http://www.cookieracevb.com)

Unlike any other race, this run goes 100% toward a charity fund that benefits people locally who are in need, giving you the chance to know your money is going straight back into the community of Hampton Roads! All of the proceeds will be going into a charity fund through our 501(c)(3) organization called Hard Work Pays, Inc, where our motto is " Helping families that work hard, but just need a little boost." Throughout the next few months people can nominate families or individuals who work hard, but are having trouble paying for things, such as clothes, food, medical bills, utilities, and more. These nominations will be accessed for accuracy and after the money has been collected, it will be split among these families in need right in time for Christmas! My hope is that it will also provide a fun experience for all Hampton Road individuals and benefit local businesses as well! As I always say, home is where the heart is!





## **Christmas Worship**

**Sunday Morning December 24, at 10:00 a.m. we will hold our regularly weekly worship celebration.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion will be held December 24, @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Carol Hymn Sing Sunday December 31 @ 10:00 a.m. Bring an idea of your favorite Christmas carol for us to sing in worship.**

## **Contact Us**

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

### **Salem United Methodist**

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**Salem United Methodist Church: Changing Lives Together!**

**Salem United Methodist Church**  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE