



SALEM
United Methodist Church
Changing Lives Together

2023 Salem Scriptures December Edition

A Greeting from Pastor Matthew Martin

Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have been in ministry with you at Salem United Methodist Church for a month, Time flies when we are having fun.

I want to thank you for welcoming me as your pastor as well as welcoming my family Tabatha and Mary. I am still getting to know your names and I appreciate you wearing name tags to help me learn your names. I am starting to put names with faces, please forgive me if I get a name wrong.

In looking at our time together in November we accomplished welcoming a new interim pastor, we had 2 charge conferences, one to set the pastor's salary, and our annual charge conference, we had a great Veteran's Day celebration. Thank you to Jim Becker for putting the slide show together and to the children for processing in with the American flags. We also celebrated Thanksgiving with our families. I am thankful for this church and for the love and support that you give.

December is going to be a busy month. I am looking forward to celebrating Christ's birth with you this Christmas season we are going to be looking at the sermon series from Humbug to Hallelujah. During this season of Advent I am going to challenge you to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. If you are like me it seems like our calendars fill up with so much in December from Christmas parties, shopping, church events, work parties, more shopping, finding time to wrap gifts and before you know it Christmas has come and gone without taking time to focus on Christ's Birth. My favorite scripture this time of year is from **Isaiah 9:6-7** "For to us a Child is born to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince of Peace."

This year Let's take time to and focus Christ Birth instead of being busy or worrying about what needs to be done to make the Perfect Christmas celebration.

It is my prayer that you and your families have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pastor Matt



Save the Date! December 10th at 5pm

Bring a covered dish to share with all!

Signups begin Nov 19th

Childcare will not be available for that day.

We would love for all kids to stay and join with us in the festivities!

Don't forget your wrapped ornament!

(Up to a \$15 value)

Oh... and wear your track shoes.. you may need them!

Rules will be provided at the event!



Advent Bible Study

Every Sunday with Pastor Matthew Martin for the month of December before worship at 8:30am!

"Because of Bethlehem"



SALEM

United Methodist Church

Preschool Christmas Program

December 14th @
10:00am & 11:00am



Christmas Cantata



Join us for worship on December 17th to hear our beautiful members sing Christmas cheer into our hearts!

Cookie Fellowship after!



**United
Methodist
Men**

Breakfast

December 2nd, 2023
8:00am



12/2 Sarah Moss
12/4 Craig Grabeel
12/9 Tabatha Martin
12/14 Brooke Jones
12/18 Evelyn Swanberg
12/21 Fran Madole
12/25 Carol Higgins
12/28 Stan Moss



A big thanks to the
Boys Scouts for the
new railing on to our
church!



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Salem United Methodist Church Trustees/Church Council Information

The church finance report for October was

Beginning Balance: \$ 11,274.57

Total Tithes: \$ 7,657.00

Expenses: \$ 5,823.82

Ending Balance: \$ 13,107.75

Emergency Reserve Fund: \$ 12,253.56 (+\$8,000.00 in CD Form)

Notify Stan Moss of any repair requests or concerns.



Holiday Food Drive 2023

Nov 5th - Dec 22nd

Rather than canned foods or non-perishable foods, please consider purchasing a gift card from your local grocery store to help cheer up a family in need for the holidays!

Feel free to bring them into Sundays Offering Plate or Church Office!

Contact Deb Grabeel 757-647-0711

Quilters



Bring a fellow quilter, your lunch, your needle/thread, and join this talented group!

December Dates

6th at 10:00am

13th at 10:00am



Quilters Retreat

"No Frills Quilt & Craft Retreat"

December 27th to 31st

9am-5pm, 31st 11:30am - 5pm

Cost: \$35 registration fee/\$10 per day

Four Days of open sewing, 6ft tables for your use, music, a time for relaxation!

Contact Deb Grabeel for more info!

Advent Church Decoration 2023



Christmas Eve Services

December 24th, 2023

10:00am

&

4:00pm

