

Message from the Pastor: You are the Church!



I remember one Sunday, at the first church John and I belonged to, the pastor had worship set up in a most unusual way. There were no bulletins for us as we entered the front doors, no lights on, no heat on in the building, no organist on the bench, and the pastor did not come on the scene until all the people had gathered and were chatting away in their discomfort. Perhaps it was a stewardship presentation, but the purpose is lost on me now.

That service recently came to my mind as Laity Sunday planning began. Certainly, some of the people who are a part of making worship happen and items that are used for a worship service require money from Salem's coffers: staff, equipment, worship materials, electricity and the like. That's a reality. Beyond staff and equipment though, there's you. Not only worship but all of our communal life together as a congregation would be so much poorer if it weren't for you. You know who you are.

You are the one who reads our Scripture, prepares the altar and Communion elements, makes phone calls and takes meals to those who need a friend or are under the weather. You are the one who helps in the kitchen, works with staff, teach our children, teach our youth, run the AV equipment, turns the lights on and make sure the heat is set just right. You are the one who contacts the contractors, helps make decisions, makes sure there's water in the fridge, substitutes on the piano, changes lightbulbs, and oh so much more.

Imagine what our church life would be like without you and others like you. No, really imagine that one day you came for worship or a church gathering, and no one had done anything to prepare. What would that be like? What would you do? What could you do now that you're not doing? We're preparing for a delightful Laity Sunday service on October 20th. The service will be led, the sermon preached, the readings read, and the prayers prayed all by laypersons. Persons just like you. For the truth is the church really is the people.

You might remember from Sunday School Hymn #475:

The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

May God richly bless you today and always.

Pastor Jane



October 2024 Dates:

October 1--Bible Study 1pm

October 2—Salem Stitchers 1-3pm

October 6—Worship Service with Holy Communion 9am

--- Youth Group during worship

October 7—Finance Committee 6pm

October 8—Bible Study 6:30pm

--- Trustees 7pm

October 13—Worship Service 9am

October 14—Church Council 7pm

October 15—Bible Study 1pm

October 16---Salem Stitchers 1-3pm

October 20---Worship Service 9am/Laity Sunday

--- Youth Group during worship

--- UMW meeting after worship

October 22---Bible Study 6:30pm

October 27—Worship Service 9am

October 29—No Bible Study (5th Tuesday)

October 30—Salem Stitchers 1-3pm



Sunday Sermons for September:

October 6—Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 *“A God Who Died”*

October 13—Hebrews 4:12-16 *“Confidence Before God”*

October 20—Scripture and Sermon Title to be determined by lay preacher, Tracy Fusco

October 27—Mark 10:46-52 *“Have Mercy On Me”*



Eleanor Green	October 10
Carly Beth Garubba	October 13
Alexis Markardt	October 16
Nikki Olszyk	October 16
Rachel Gress	October 19
Clay Cole	October 28
Jack Jenkins	October 28

United Methodist Youth Fellowship:

The UMYF will meet every other Sunday to discuss scripture and how it relates to real life, service to our community, and other ways we can grow our faith. Our goal is to have fun, make friends and be an active part of the church. Starting in October, we'll be meeting during regular church service at 9am on Sundays -- the upcoming dates are 10/6 and 10/22.

If you know a young person that is: artistic (card making, wood carving), outspoken (sanctuary reading), culinary interest (baking), or musically inclined (singing or playing an instrument) then please share this opportunity with them.

The UMYF is open to young people ages 12 to 18.

For more information, please contact the UMYF leader, Kristen Rock at 570.466.8865.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NEEDS YOU! The shoeboxes have arrived! Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) is underway. Fill a box for a boy or girl that will be sent around the world. Boxes, labels, and other important info are on the round table inside the front doors. Last day to bring boxes in will be **November 17**. Questions? Contact Jane Peet at 570-470-6259.

Please Note: **All Saints Sunday** is November 3rd. If you have anyone dear to you who has died since last we honored our saints, please email or text Pastor Jane with their name. We will honor them during this special service.

Plans Underway for Confirmation Class: Beginning in late January, Salem Community Church will be holding our first Confirmation Class series in several years. Rev. John Lutz, Sue Place, and Pastor Jane will be leading interested youth in this formative adventure. Together we will explore the basics of faith and church membership.

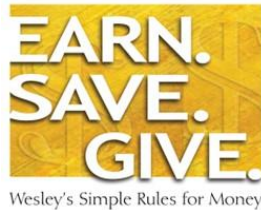
**Salem Church Conference
November 2-11:00 o'clock at
Salem Community Church**

Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Judy Walker, will conduct our annual business meeting at our Church on Saturday, November 2, at 11:00 am. We will be grouped with six other charges in our area. The Superintendent will also be conducting business with four other area charges in our building at 12:30 pm on the same day.

Business to be done at these conferences in anticipation of operations in 2025 will include election of officers, setting the pastors' salaries, reviewing reports of membership, Trustees, and the audit of our finances for 2023.

All members of Salem are invited to be present with voice and vote at the 11:00 am session. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

P. S. The United Methodist Women have graciously agreed to serve light refreshments at noon for those attending either the morning or afternoon church conferences. Thank you, UMW!



**Preliminary Results of
Earn. Save. Give.
Very Encouraging**

As of September 22, we have received 28 Estimate of Giving cards from families of our congregation. They have made known their commitments for the mission and ministry of the Salem Community Church in 2025. Sixteen of these families have notified us that they intend to increase their giving!

In addition, we have another 13 families with known records of giving. Altogether, we expect to receive over \$124,000 for the year ahead.

If you intended to submit an Estimate of Giving Card but just haven't done it yet, it is not too late! Please contact Pastor Jane or Pastor Jeff and we will see that you receive one for your use.

God bless you, and God bless the Salem Community Church.

OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING TO HELP HONSEDALE SALVATION ARMY SERVICE EXTENSION



Our Special Offering this quarter will go to the Salvation Army for their Honesdale Service Extension Unit. They provide emergency services, a Food Pantry, rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and help with prescriptions to people throughout Wayne and Pike Counties.

Ms. Shelly Mihalik, the Executive Director of the Service Extension Unit, will be with us in worship on Sunday morning, October 6. She will report about the needs they met last year in their winter heat assistance program through your gifts. She intends to again dedicate the funds from our Special Offering to this critical need for many senior citizens and other families in our region who are struggling.

Last Fall, your generosity enabled us to donate \$5,156 to The Salvation Army Honesdale Service Extension. Please consider a generous gift any Sunday this October to help this outreach organization keep our neighbors warm this winter. You may also make a one-time donation through our web page (saalemchurchhamlin.com) which we will include in our offering to The Salvation Army.

THANK YOU in advance for your generous support of love for our neighbors in need.