

The  Newsletter of the  
Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

# Mountain Shepherd

Volume 36 December 2018 Number 12



Salem United Methodist Church — Wolfsville

**CELEBRATING  
200 YEARS**

Salem will be celebrating its 200-year anniversary next year.

Our first Salem History article is on page 9

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## Salem to be part of Country Churches Christmas Tour

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 — 1:00-5:00 p.m.



Photo by Jody Brumage

**Country Churches Christmas Tour**

Salem will be one of ten congregations participating in this year's Country Churches Christmas Tour on Saturday, December 15, from 1-5 p.m.

The tour is sponsored by the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society, and features churches from Myersville to Harmony to Wolfsville to Foxville, all decorated for the Christmas season and sharing their history. New to the tour this year will be the old Foxville School, which has been acquired and restored as a community center by Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church. This building was the last two-room school to operate in our area, closing in 1961.

The tour starts at the Myersville Town Hall, where brochures, maps, displays, refreshments and restrooms will be available. Visitors are then able to visit sites in any order they prefer.

Snow date for the tour is Sunday, December 16, at the same times.

Check the historical society's website [www.mwahistory.com](http://www.mwahistory.com) for updates and information.

**Celebrate the Christmas Season with us . . .**

- \* **Sunday Worship Themes — 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.**
  - Sun Dec 2 "Warning in Time of Indifference"
  - Sun Dec 9 "Forgiveness in Time of Conviction"
  - Sun Dec 16 "Mary and Joseph"
  - Sun Dec 23 "The Angels and Shepherds"
  - Sun Dec 30 "All Who Heard"
- \* **Salem Christmas Party — 5:30 p.m.**
  - Sat Dec 8 Party includes potluck dinner, visit from Santa, & caroling.
  - All ages — Bring a wrapped gift under \$5 for the exchange game.
- \* **Country Church Christmas Tour — 1:00-5:00 p.m.**
  - Sat Dec 15 Visit Salem as well as other area churches (Snow Date: Sun Dec 16)
- \* **Christmas Eve Program — 7:00 p.m.**
  - Mon Dec 24 Celebrating the Birth of Jesus





# The Mountain Shepherd

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Worship: Pastor Bob Snyder  
Sun. School Leaders: Bobby Fogle & Kathy Laky  
Chair, Board of Trustees: Gary Barkdoll  
Church Treasurer: William Burrier  
Sunday School Treasurer: Mary Fogle  
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations: Michael Burrier  
Food Pantry: Dennis Draper, Patrick Boyton  
and Jennifer Gormer

**Salem Membership Statistics:**

Current Membership: 240  
2018 New Members: 9

**Salem Physical Facilities:**

Church built 1847  
Educational Building built 1967  
Parsonage built 1974–75

**Salem Website:**

www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org

**Colophon:**

Produced using macOS Pages 7.1 and macOS 10.12.6 on an Apple iMac computer, HP LaserJet P3015 postscript laser printer, and Ricoh MP-3054 digital copier.

**Purpose of Newsletter:**

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communicating with our members, their families, and our many friends of the Wolfsville community and surrounding areas. We pray that this newsletter will inspire you, our readers, to regularly attend worship services, Sunday School, and all other activities of the church. For those who are unable to attend, this newsletter is a means of bringing part of the church to you.

**Salem Mission Statement:**

At Salem, with God's help, we pledge to INVITE others to Christ, HELP each other grow in faith, and SERVE those in need in our congregation, the community, and the world.

**Salem Vision Statement:**

We will direct our efforts out into the community to serve people's needs and bring them to Christ.



## 2018 MISSION PROJECTS

**2018 Goal**

1. Frank & Nancy Stottlemeyer, Retired, New Tribes Mission .....	\$2,460
2. Operation Christmas Child (shipping for shoe boxes) .....	350
3a. Salem Mission & Outreach (local needs) .....	1,180
3b. Wolfsville Elementary School PTA - "All Pro Families Breakfast" .....	900
4. Food Pantry at Salem .....	1,180
5. Mary E. (AIM - France) .....	1,020
6. United Methodist Board of Child Care .....	1,360
7. Gideons (Frederick County) .....	600
8. Potato Project (Society of St. Andrew) .....	600
9. Middletown High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes .....	600
10. Ronnie & Angi Hopkins (TMS-Global, Nicaragua) .....	780
11. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick .....	780
12. Compassion International (Sponsored Child in Tanzania) .....	456
13. Hero's Club after school ministry .....	4,500
14. World Vision (Sponsored Child in Colombia) .....	420
<b>TOTAL GOAL for 2018 .....</b>	<b>\$17,186</b>

**Here's how you can give . . .**

1. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church, or place cash in an envelope marked "Missions."
2. Tell us which mission project(s) you wish to support by making a note on your check or envelope.

3. Place your contributions in the offering plate at Sunday worship or mail to Salem.

If you do not designate a project, your contribution will be distributed to the project or projects needing funds to meet the monthly minimum payout goals.

### MISSION PROJECTS - NEWS & UPDATES

*Salem Mission Project No. 6*

#### United Methodist Board of Child Care

**CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** — Each year, the entire offering received at Salem's Christmas Eve program is given to the Board of Child Care.

The Board of Child Care is an agency within the United Methodist Church that is dedicated to ministering to the needs of troubled children and their families.

They take care of children by providing long term places to stay and schools they can attend while there, as well as sponsoring children for adoption and day care.

Campuses are located near Baltimore and in Falling Waters, West Virginia.



#### OFFICE HOURS for PASTOR BOB SNYDER

**Sunday**  
7am - 1 pm Prep, worship, Sunday School (at church)  
6 - 7 pm Bible Study (at church)

**Monday (day off)**  
6-7 am Devotions (at home)  
9-11 am Planning Time (at home)  
5-6 pm Hero's Club (at church)

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**  
6-7 am Devotions (at home)  
9 am - Noon Parsonage Office  
Noon - 1 pm Lunch  
1-5 pm Visitation, meetings, or parsonage office

**Saturday**  
7-9 am Final touches on Sunday's sermon (at home)

Also, Pastor Bob will be at church or in homes to attend meetings or check-in on evening activities at the church. He will make hospital visits and other visits as situations arrive. He will be working at home in Myersville, at the parsonage office, or elsewhere, as needed.

Celebrating Jesus' Birth

# Christmas *at* Salem



Salem Mission Projects Nos. 2 &amp; 3a

## Operation Christmas Child & Salvation Army Stockings

■ By Barbie Stottlemeyer

We delivered 30 shoeboxes to Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, one of the local collection facilities. The folks at Trinity were very appreciative of all the boxes we delivered. The lady in charge of the program there asked all the volunteers to stop what they were doing and to gather around our boxes where she offered up a prayer of blessing for our boxes and recognizing Salem for our continued support of the Samaritan Purse shoebox project over the years.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the project again this year. Our church's contribution to this project certainly will bring joy to 30 children who otherwise may not have experienced the joy of opening a gift, but more importantly to know that someone from far away cares about them.

Also, thanks to Robin & Theresa Haupt for delivering the stockings, filled by Salem members & friends, to the Salvation Army in Frederick.



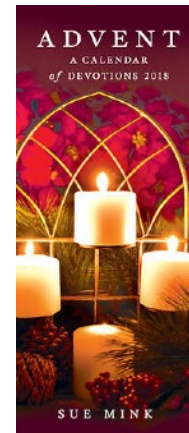
## Advent Devotional

Salem is providing an Advent devotional to each family attending Sunday worship. Each devotional includes a brief reading for each day in Advent, beginning December 2nd. Each day includes a suggested scripture, a short devotion, and a closing prayer.

The daily readings will help us focus on the things that truly matter during this busy season so that we can experience spiritual renewal.

The author, Sue Mink, is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary and lives in Leesburg, Virginia.

Salem will also be lighting Advent candles during Sunday worship services.



United Methodist Women

## Bee-lievers to Share Recipes

■ By Fonda Gormer, President, UMW Bee-lievers

The Bee-lievers will welcome in the Christmas season with a recipe exchange at their December 6 meeting at 7 p.m. in the church social area.

Those attending are invited to bring a holiday food, and the recipe to prepare it, to share with the group. Copies of the recipes will be distributed.

Women attending are also asked to bring a seasonal reading for devotions. Please join us for this meeting as we will be planning activities for the coming year.



## Salem Christmas Party set for Saturday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.

■ By Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer

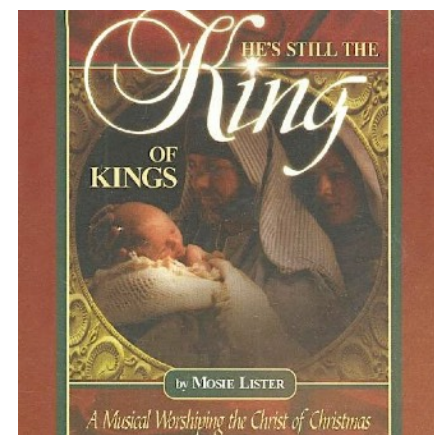
You are invited to the annual Salem Christmas Party to be held at the church on Saturday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m. Come together as a church family for an evening of fellowship and outreach to the community. A potluck dinner will be enjoyed by all. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Fun activities are being planned for all ages. We will be playing the exchange game which is enjoyed by children, youth and adults — bring a wrapped gift under \$5. There will also be a visit from Santa and caroling, weather permitting.



## Salem Children's Choir to sing Christmas Eve

■ By Sara Weitzel, Children's Choir Director

The Children's Choir will be rehearsing for the Christmas Eve Service, beginning Sunday, Dec. 2nd, and continuing every Sunday through Dec. 23rd. All children who are available that evening and interested in participating in the choir are invited to meet for practices in the social hall, by the piano, during the last 10 minutes of the Sunday School hour (approximately 10:50-11:00 a.m.). This rehearsal time gives the opportunity for the children who normally attend the second service to be able to participate in the choir as well. If you have any questions, please contact me at (email: srweitzel@hotmail.com; cell phone: 240-409-1241). Thank you!




## Salem Adult Choir to sing Christmas Eve

■ By Sandy Lewis, Choir Director

Salem's Choir will be practicing each Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary through December, preparing music for worship and for a special music presentation on Christmas Eve.

This year's Christmas musical is titled, "He's Still the King of Kings" by Mosie Lister.

We welcome everyone who would like to sing with us.



# Attendance Offerings

## October 2018

		Worship*		Sunday School		Average Attendance		
						Worship	Sunday School	
Oct	7	68	\$2,381.25	49	\$471.00	84	52	
Oct	14	93	2,537.50	51	115.50	80	49	
Oct	21	79	2,680.00	52	92.00	77	45	
Oct	28	90	1,776.00	66	269.00	80	53	
						June	54	

\*Worship attendance & offerings include both worship services.

- Missions: \$1,127.75
- Cemetery Endowment: \$205.00

- Building Fund: \$525.00
- Building Addition: \$125.00

(Missions, Building Fund offerings, etc. are not included in Worship & Sunday School offerings above.)

**Average Attendance Jan-Oct 2018**

Sunday Worship: 84

Sunday School: 52

### CROP Walk successful despite rain

By Fonda Gormer

The final pledges have been collected and counted for the 2018 Wolfsville/Myersville CROP Hunger Walk.

Though the walk was rained out, donors generously supported our effort to reduce hunger.

Together, "would-be" walkers collected \$2,172 for local and international hunger programs.

The funds are sent to Church World Service in Elkhart, IN; in turn, 25% will be distributed locally, divided equally among the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, the Middletown Food Bank and Salem United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

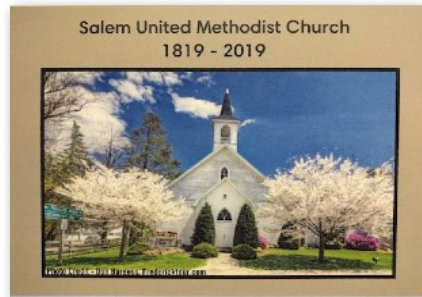
Participating churches and the amount raised are as follows:

- Grossnickle Church of the Brethren \$545
- Harmony Church of the Brethren \$450
- Salem United Methodist Church \$775
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church \$402
- Total: \$2,172

Next year's CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for September 22, 2019. Mark your calendar!

A sincere thank-you is extended to everyone who made this year's "walk" successful. No one should be hungry, but the need is great!

May God bless each of you!



### United Methodist Women Anniversary Calendars

The Salem congregation will be 200 years old in 2019. As part of our celebration, the Bee-lievers have designed a 2019 calendar, with pictures of events and people from years past.

The cost of each calendar is \$15. Checks should be made payable to "Salem Bee-lievers." Calendars may be obtained from Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer or Fonda Gormer at 301-293-2436.

### Salem Iron Men

By Bill Weaver

The Salem Iron Men have just wrapped up their study of John Eldredge's book, *Wild at Heart*. We will be taking a brief break to enjoy time with families and friends for the holidays in December. The Iron Men will resume meeting on January 13th and the 27th at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to join the Iron Men at the Ole Mink Farm, February 1-3 for a men's retreat.

To register on-line:  
[goo.gl/forms/n127i75oBKZvigLh2](http://goo.gl/forms/n127i75oBKZvigLh2)

### Worship Through Giving — Tithes & Offerings

By Bill Burrier, Church Treasurer

The scriptures tell us we will be blessed by our giving ministry and God will be pleased (Deuteronomy 15:10).

Giving tithes and offerings is a part of our spiritual worship. We don't give in order to get. We give to make an impact; we give to make a difference in people's lives; we give to further the ministry of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:7).

..... WAYS TO GIVE .....

#### ◆ Worship Services Plate Offering

Give by cash or check during any of our worship services. If you give cash and would like it to be reflected on your year-end giving statement, please use an offering envelope.

#### ◆ By Mail

You may mail your tithes and offerings to Church Treasurer, Salem United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 94, Myersville, MD 21773. Make checks payable to Salem United Methodist Church.

#### ◆ Electronically Online (Safe & Secure)

Salem is now offering the convenience of online giving. Go to our church website and select GIVE. Create an account on the secure server at Vanco Payment Solutions, a United Methodist endorsed service. You may set up recurring giving, e.g., weekly, monthly, or give one time. Funds will be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. No more checks to write and you may change your giving amount at any time. This is a personal choice. Salem members who have already signed up for electronic giving are pleased with the service.



**December**

# Calendar of Events



- Sun 2 Holy Communion** - 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. worship
- Thu 6 Board of Trustees Meeting** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Thu 6 UMW "Bee-lievers"** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Sat 8 Christmas Party** - 5:30 p.m. at Salem
- Thu 13 Church Council** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem
- Sat 15 Country Churches Christmas Tour** - 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Wed 19 Building Committee** - 7:00 p.m.
- Mon 24 Christmas Eve Program** - 7:00 p.m. at Salem

Recurring Events: Children's Choir every SUNDAY 10:50 a.m. in social room  
 Hero's Club After School Ministry is held every MONDAY when school is in session  
 Adult Choir every TUESDAY 7:30 p.m.  
 Food Pantry is open every TUESDAY 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Salem  
 Women's Bible Study every WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. at Salem  
 Praise Band practices every THURSDAY at 7:00 p.m. at Salem  
 The church is cleaned FRIDAY or SATURDAY every week

## Newsletter Distribution

- 1. E-Mail** — We are currently notifying 207 of our readers via e-mail when our newsletter is posted online. Our desire is to obtain as many e-mail addresses as possible.
- 2. Pick Up Paper Copy at Church** — We are printing 85 copies for members who do not have e-mail and can pick up their copies at church.
- 3. First Class Mail** — We are mailing up to 30 copies, using the 50 cents First Class postage rate.

Photo by Jim Laky



## Blessing of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes and Salvation Army Stockings

(Above Photo) Pastor Bob and the children at Salem's 11:15 a.m. contemporary service say a prayer to bless the Salvation Army Christmas Stockings.

(Photos at Right) The Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes blessed at Salem's 11:15 a.m. contemporary service during the children's time message.

Our thanks to everyone at Salem who filled stockings and shoeboxes with gifts for children locally and far away.

Photo by Bill Burrier



Photo by Jim Laky



# Who's Doing What, When?

<b>9:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP</b>		<b>DECEMBER</b>
<b>Lay Readers</b> 2 - Dennis Draper 9 - Jennifer Gormer 16 - Sue Ellen Stottlemeyer 23 - Fonda Gormer 30 - Steve Leatherman	<b>Ushers</b> 2 - Dick Kline & Steve Leatherman 9 - Vernon Stottlemeyer & Robin Haupt 16 - Donald Stottlemeyer & Meredith Harshman 23 - Philip Koons & Brandon Leatherman 30 - Bill Buhrman & Dennis Draper	<b>Music</b> 2 - Sara Weitzel 9 - Praise Band 16 - Sara Weitzel 23 - Sara Weitzel 30 - Susan Koons
<b>Greeters</b> 2 - Bob & Petie Stup 9 - Dennis Draper 16 - George, Barbie & Matt Stottlemeyer 23 - Andrea Palmer 30 - Fonda Gormer	<b>Acolytes</b> 2 - Loralli Snyder 9 - Noah Taveras 16 - Kenslie Buhrman 23 - Valentina Barkdoll 30 - Patrick Waite	
<b>11:15 A.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>		
An informal FAMILY FRIENDLY service with contemporary Christian music, pastor's message, children's time, sharing of joys and concerns, and prayer.		<b>Music</b> Dec 9 - Works in Progress Praise Band Dec 23 - Works in Progress Praise Band

## It's Your Day!

### December Anniversaries

- 3 - Ron & Amy Ellis
- 12 - Bob & Petie Stup
- 23 - Jon & Fonda Gormer
- 24 - Dennis & Ruth Draper

### December Birthdays

- 3 - Joe Hawkins
- 4 - Judith Harne
- 4 - Dottie Hager
- 6 - Cody Blickenstaff
- 8 - Sara Weitzel
- 9 - Theresa Haupt
- 9 - Mark Koons
- 11 - Amber Breneman
- 12 - Laura Colbert
- 17 - Holly Rippeon
- 18 - Holly Brashears
- 23 - Bill Burrier
- 25 - Stuart Tolland
- 28 - Lavena Jenkins
- 29 - Jackson Haddock
- 30 - Keagan Mellott

NOTE: To have your anniversary or birthday added, contact Bill Burrier.

*Salem Mission Project No. 7*

### Frederick County Gideons

The Frederick County Gideons recently combined into a single consolidated camp, now called "The Frederick County MD Camp." Bruce Dearing, former treasurer of the Frederick County West Camp is now president of the new combined camp.

Mr. Dearing recently wrote in a letter to Salem, "Thank you for all you do. It has been a great year. The Ladies Auxiliary has done wonderful work spreading the Word in the medical offices and School Nurses office this year. We have visited many schools and have good success at Frederick Community College. Pray that doors will open at Hood College, Mount St. Mary's University, and the Maryland School for the Deaf. We had a good distribution at the State Fair and during a recent 5-day blitz in Baltimore. Bibles continue to flow out locally.

"Thank you again for your prayers and financial support. One teacher came out of a school to thank us and we shared that it is the local churches that make it possible.

"It is exciting to see the empty boxes of Bibles and the children's smile and excitement to get them. Those who do not want a Bible are given a card with instructions to download the Gideon Bible app onto their smart phones. The world keeps changing." 😊

### Holy Communion

**Sunday  
December 2, 2018**

**9:00 a.m. and  
11:15 a.m.**



### Sticky Buns & Apple Pies For Sale

As a fundraiser for Salem's United Methodist Women "Bee-lievers," Anita Harshman is making Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns and Apple Pies.

- Pecan Cinnamon Sticky Buns: \$12 a dozen
- Apple Pie (9-inch): \$10 each

You may purchase these items directly from Anita. To place an order, call Anita at 240-818-0126. Orders can be placed at any time and can be picked up after services on Sunday.



Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman



## Christmas Thoughts

If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things,  
and again with things...

If we consider ourselves so unimportant that we  
must fill every moment of our lives with action,  
when will we have the time to make the long, slow  
journey across the desert as did the Magi?  
Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds?  
Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary?  
For each of us, there is a desert to travel.  
A star to discover.

And a being within ourselves to bring to life.

—Author Unknown

*Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman*

## My Gifts for Him

*By Olga Pyles*

Once more the bells peel out o'er all the earth  
To acclaim with joy the wondrous Savior's birth.  
My heart is full, with tears my eyes are dim,  
So pitifully small my birthday gifts for Him.

I have only my hands for some work to do each day  
Only my feet to keep walking in His way.  
Only my lips and tongue to sing His name in praise,  
To ask for His love throughout the night and day.

My eyes to see the good in my fellowman,  
My will to try to help wherever I can;  
Only my ears to hear whenever He speaks;  
My heart and soul for those I know He seeks.

He gave so much for me of His great love,  
He left His home, the celestial realms above.  
On earth He walked to teach men how to live  
In brotherhood, to be kind and to forgive.

I would walk in His way trying hard to fulfill  
Whatever for me would be His holy will.  
He is my Savior, my Shepherd, from Him I'll not part  
I want to give Him my all, my soul, my heart.

*Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling  
among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the  
one and only Son, who came from the Father.

—John 1:14

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!



## RECIPE



### Chocolate Reindeer

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 cup butter, softened	3 eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder	3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons cream of tartar	72 small pretzel twists
1 teaspoon baking soda	72 candy-coated milk chocolate pieces
1/2 teaspoon salt	36 small red gum drops

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large mixing bowl beat butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar, cocoa powder, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping sides of bowl occasionally. Beat in eggs and vanilla until combined. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour.
2. Divide dough into 6 equal portions. Wrap portions in waxed paper or plastic wrap. Chill for 3 hours or until dough is easy to handle.
3. On a lightly floured surface, roll each dough portion into a circle 6 inches in diameter. Using a knife, cut each circle into 6 wedges. Place wedges 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.
4. For antlers, on each triangle lightly press a pretzel into the upper corners. Press in chocolate pieces for eyes. For a nose, press a red gumdrop into the dough triangle about 1/2 inch from the point.
5. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 7 to 9 minutes or until edges are firm. Do not overbake. Cool on cookie sheet for 1 minute. Transfer cookies to a wire rack; cool. Makes 36 cookies.

*Fonda Gormer made this for the Bee-lievers Women's Group recipe exchange.*



## Celebrate the Lord

*By Helen Parker*

Again it's time to celebrate  
The birth of Christ our King.  
O, come let us adore Him  
And hear the angels sing!

What joy in the town of Bethlehem  
So many years ago,  
When a Child was born in a stable  
His beautiful face aglow.

Said those who gazed upon Him,  
"What Child is this Whom we see?  
'Tis said His name will be Jesus  
Who will save all humanity."

So then and now, we celebrate  
The birth of Christ our King.  
And if you listen closely  
You may hear the angels sing.

## Christmas Day

*By Harold F. Mohn*

Christmas is a festive day  
That sets the soul aglow.  
A day we offer presents  
To those we love and know.

A joyous day for young and old  
That comes but once a year.  
A day the bonds of friendship  
Draw us close and near.

A day we should remember  
Amidst the joy and cheer,  
The birth of Infant Christ Child  
And Savior loved and dear.

If anyone is in Christ, the new  
creation has come: The old has gone,  
the new is here! —2 Corinthians 5:17



## Message from the Pastor and Worship in December

■ By PASTOR ROBERT E. SNYDER

**H**appy December! During worship the first two Sundays of December, we'll complete our Sermon Series "God's Help in Time of Need."

For the remainder of the month, we'll experience the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, and through our own eyes.

Christmas is a time when people really yearn for God's love. You can help a family member or friend experience God's love by bringing them along with you to worship during the month of December. Give someone the greatest Christmas present ever – give them Christ. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas! God Bless. —Pastor Bob

### December 2 – Advent 1

#### Holy Communion

#### "Warning in Time of Indifference"

#### Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:30b – "The Lord will judge his people."

One day we will all face God and give an accounting of our lives. Earlier in Hebrews 10, we read, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God" (10:26-27).

Experiencing increasing persecution in the early decades after Jesus' death, Jews who had initially converted to Christianity were now returning to the Jewish faith. They had become indifferent. Returning to the Jewish faith was the easier, safer way. We cannot believe in Jesus and be indifferent to being his disciple. The two are incompatible. Our confession, "I believe" calls for us to strive to live more and more as Jesus lived. God calls upon

us to make this response, not to remain indifferent.

### December 9 – Advent 2

#### "Forgiveness in Time of Conviction"

#### 1 John 1:1-10

1 John 1:9 – "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." With the sin of Adam and Eve, every human being is born into sin. Even as we strive to become more and more like Jesus, we continue to stumble and sin. "If we claim to be without sin the truth is not in us" (1:8). The good news is that when we stumble and stray and confess our sin, God forgives us, picks us up, and restores our relationship with him. What we cannot do for ourselves, God does for us!

### December 16 – Advent 3

#### "Mary and Joseph"

#### Luke 1:26-38

#### Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:38 – "Mary answered, 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.'" Matthew 1:24 – "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife."

Regarding Jesus' birth and childhood, both Mary and Joseph were called upon to respond in faith to God who had chosen them. Perhaps we feel that only those who appear in the pages of the Bible or as famous people in history books are chosen to do important things for God. But that's not true. As husbands and wives, parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, as friends to others, in workplaces and on the playing fields, as family members in our local churches, we are all chosen by God to play an important role in his human family.

### December 23 – Advent 4

#### "The Angels and Shepherds"

#### Luke 2:8-15

Luke 2:8-9 – "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." Luke 2:10-11 – "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord.'"

The shepherds were on the lowest rung of the social ladder yet God chose them to be the first to visit Jesus. They were terrified at first, but God sent his messengers to calm them and give them the courage to act. Who are you in this story? A messenger for God? In need of a messenger from God? What is our deepest desire this Christmas?

### December 24 – Christmas Eve

#### Worship at Salem, 7 p.m.

Worship includes prayer, the Bible story of Christ's birth, children's live manger scene, Christmas hymns, children's choir, children reciting Christmas poems, and the adult choir performing "He's Still the King of Kings." We'll end by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. All are welcome!

### December 30

#### First Sunday after Christmas

#### "All Who Heard"

#### Luke 2:16-20

Luke 2:17 – "When they [the shepherds] had seen him [baby Jesus], they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." We normally think of the main characters on the day of Jesus' birth to be Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the angels and the shepherds, and the wise men (who may have arrived a few days later). But verse 17 tells us that after visiting Jesus at the manger, the shepherds spread the word, and "all who heard" were amazed. Aren't we part of "all who heard"? I can imagine some in this group running to the stable to see Jesus for themselves! This Christmas Season we have the opportunity to run to Jesus, praise and give thanks to him, receive the love he offers us, and commit in 2019 to share Christ's love with others.



1819-2019

## History of Salem United Methodist Church

## Part 1 — Roots in the Past

CELEBRATING  
200 YEARS

of ministry in Wolfsville

■ By Fonda Gormer

**The Heritage of Salem**

Mention the heritage of Salem United Methodist Church in Wolfsville and what is the first thing you think of? How many of you thought of the Hoover house and barn?

While these structures do play an important part in our history and are two of the few remaining evidences of our roots, have you ever wondered about the people behind our congregation—the ones who brought it into being, who nurtured it, who ministered to it?

Have you ever wondered why we started as United Brethren in Christ? Why our cemetery is located where it is?

Our church will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2019. Each month in the coming year, *The Mountain Shepherd* will include an article about our history and some of the people involved in its ministry in the Wolfsville area.

This article sets the stage for those stories to answer some of the questions above.

**The Hoover Family**

No discussion of Salem's story is possible without a discussion of the Hoover family.

Their story is pieced together from a variety of sources which do not always agree on dates and places, due to the lack of early records.

This version is the most logical.

**Johannes Huber (John Hoover Sr.) Arrived in America in 1732**

Johannes Huber was the first in the family to live in America.

Immigration records from the 1700's list several men by this name entering the port of Philadelphia on various ships in various years.

The man with connections to Wolfsville, per family tradition, migrated from his birthplace in Canton Bern, Switzerland, to the Palatinate area of Germany to escape religious persecution.

On September 30, 1732, he arrived in America. Landing in Philadelphia, he moved first to Lancaster County, then

York County, and finally to Frederick County, Maryland. The area where he settled is now part of Washington County.

Despite some claims otherwise, the late president Herbert Hoover is not descended from this Johannes Huber, or the English variation "John Hoover".

Genealogist tracings and DNA testing have confirmed that the local Hoovers are not related to the late president.

**Marriage of Johannes & Mary: First Mennonites to settle around Ringgold, Maryland**

Johannes Huber married Mary Watson, and they became the first Mennonites to settle around Ringgold, in Washington County.

Their children included Henry born about 1748, married Anna Wertz; John born 1753, married Susan Stouffer; Ulrich born 1755, Anna Maria born 1759, married Jacob Welty; Mary married Matthias Hoffman; Elizabeth married Michael Sprenkle; Christianna married John Wertz; Christopher married Hester (maiden name unknown); Susannah married George Mentzer.

These children married into other Mennonite families of the area and the names are still familiar ones in the area between Ringgold, Maryland and Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Johannes died in 1804, and was buried in the Hoover family cemetery on their farm "Necessity" along with Mary, who had predeceased him. The cemetery is located in a field in the area of Rinehart Road and Watery Lane.

**Land Transactions Between 1769 and 1800**

Johannes Huber, or John Hoover, Sr., made at least 10 land transactions in Frederick County and 17 in Washington County between May 30, 1769 and 1800.

He signed his deeds and his will with his mark, indicating he could not write.

The transaction of interest to Salem

is this: *August 15, 1799- John Hoover, Sr. of Washington County for 700 pounds sells to John Hoover Jr., of Frederick County the 291-acre tract of land "whereon the said John Hoover, Jr. now dwells," part of a tract called "Egypt" which the Lord Proprietor of the late Province of Maryland granted to Daniel Arnold and said Arnold some time after sold to Christian Stover, and said Stover by his deed of March 15, 1785 sold to John Hoover, Sr.*

Christian Stover, or Stouffer, was the father-in-law of John Hoover, Jr.

**John Hoover Jr. acquires land in the Wolfsville area**

The 291 acres transferred to John Hoover, Jr. are located in the Wolfsville area, including the farm across from the Wolfsville Ruritan Park and south to Stottlemeyer Road.

This is where John Hoover, Jr. and wife Susan Stouffer settled and raised their family. They lived in a house on the property, probably built in 1754 by Daniel Arnold, near the large stone house that now stands near the corner of Brandenburg Hollow and Stottlemeyer Roads. This first house is no longer standing.

Shortly before John and Susan died, they built a two-story stone house nearby; all that remains of this home is the bottom story, which was converted to a garage.

John Hoover, Jr. acquired vast tracts of land in the Wolfsville area. His will, written in 1822, gives a total of 763 acres to his three sons, John, Jacob and Christian. The will also makes no mention of Susan, so apparently she had already died.

**John Hoover Jr. and son John helped establish Salem**

John Hoover, Jr. and his son John are the ones who became part of the United Brethren in Christ denomination, and became instrumental in the establishment of Salem.

The story will continue in the January 2019 issue of *The Mountain Shepherd*.

**Sunday School Classes**

Every Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.



**Children, Infant to 4 years**

Teacher: *Caroline Buhrman*

**Children, Grades K to 2**

Teachers: *Michael & Jennifer Burrier*

**Children, Grades 3 to 5**

Teachers: *Kathy Laky, Melissa Thornton, Patrick Boyton*

**Youth, Grades 6 to 12**

Teacher: *Fonda Gormer*

**Young Adult Class**

Teacher: *Denny Leatherman*

**Adult Discussion Group - Couples & Singles**

Teacher: *Bill Burrier*

**Men's Class**

Teachers: *George Harne, Bobby Fogle, Meredith Harshman*

**Women's Class**

Teachers: *Mary Cline & Darlene Burrier*

*Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. —Mark 16:15 New International Version (NIV)*

**Heavenly Humor**



Used with Permission

Sorry folks, we're booked up . . . God himself couldn't get a room here tonight.

*Some thoughts to ponder . . .*

Allow yourself a few minutes of quiet during this busy season to sit and listen for what God might be saying to you.

Our lives are a window through which others can see Jesus.

This year, as you pack up the Christmas decorations, don't put away the spirit of Christmas.

Submitted by Marilyn Leatherman

**The Mountain Shepherd**

Salem United Methodist Church  
12477-79 Wolfsville Road  
Myersville, MD 21773-9303

[www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org](http://www.SalemChurchWolfsville.org)

Address Services Requested

**TWO WORSHIP SERVICES**

— Every Sunday —  
9:00 a.m. Traditional  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary

Place Stamp Here