

### December Message Titles Advent

- Dec 5 What's Love  
John 3:16  
Dec 12 Be the Witness to the Light  
John 1:6-8  
Dec 19 The Child to be born Will Be  
Called Holy  
Luke 1:26-38

### December Liturgist

- Dec 5 Teresa Soyez  
Dec 12 Kim Storer  
Dec 19 Judy Shifflett  
Dec 26 John Smith

### December Children Time

- Dec 5 Cathy Willis  
Dec 12 Pastor Willy Banza  
Dec 19 Annessa Russell  
Dec 26 Cindy Simons

### December Nursery

- Dec 5 Jennifer Saylor  
Dec 12 Staci Kempf  
Dec 19 Lisa Golubski  
Dec 26 Erica Rickard

# Salem News

Monthly newsletter of the Salem United Methodist Church

## December 2021

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship

### Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 pm - 12:00 pm

### Church Contacts

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### Salem UMC Mission

Disciples making disciples for  
Jesus Christ.

### Through the Bible Made Easy

Now is the right time to get ready to start reading through the Bible in 2022. If you are planning to do so & do not have a copy of Through the Bible Made Easy I would invite you to pick up a free paper copy in the church office. Or for those who prefer you can read or download a PDF copy on the church's web site under devotions. -Gene Eshleman

**Please Note:** If you want to give an offering to the Church, and have it be for tax year 2021, you need to make sure it is in the collection basket at worship, or mailed and postmarked by Dec. 31st, or give it to Suanne Eshleman (Financial Secretary) by Friday morning, Dec. 31. If it is received after this date, it will be on next year's (2022) statement of contribution.

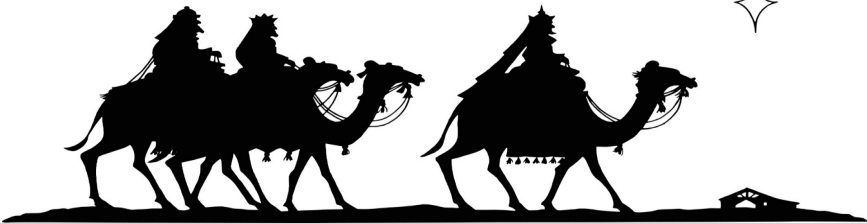
**UMW** Inviting all ladies on Tuesday, Dec 14, at 1pm at FLC north classroom for a boxed lunch from Bread Basket. Regular \$8.13 & Petite \$5.96. Let Jan Swickard at 316-217-2077 or Teresa Soyez at 316-553-1743 know what sandwich you want by Tues, Dec. 7

**Salem United Methodist Church Vision:** Salem United Methodist Church is a joy filled body of Christ which invites God's people into a connected relationship where they might find acceptance, belonging, trust and unconditional love as they seek to live their discipleship.

# December 2021

## Here's What is Happening

## Salem United Methodist Church

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 World Aids Day World AIDS Day 4pm FLC / Kitchen Family Fusion 5:45pm meal 6:30pm classes	2 6pm FLC Girl Scouts	3	4
5 Holy Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent 12pm FLC reserved	6 6pm FLC reserved	7 930am N FLC classroom Companions of Christ	8 4pm FLC / Kitchen Family Fusion 5:45pm meal 6:30pm classes	9	10	11 10am FLC reserved
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 11am FLC reserved 6pm FLC 4H	13	14 9am Commodities Distribution 930am SUMC Staff meeting 930am N FLC classroom Companions of Christ 1pm N FLC classroom UMW	15 4pm FLC / Kitchen Family Fusion 5:45pm meal 6:30pm classes	16 FLC 6pm Girl Scouts	17	18 Charles Wesley's Birthday (1707) 10am FLC reserved
19 4th Sunday of Advent	20 12pm FLC Singles Dinner 230pm FLC reserved 6pm FH reserved	21 Winter Begins 930am N FLC classroom Companions of Christ 1pm FLC reserved	22 No Family Fusion meal Youth only	23	24 Church office closed  Christmas Eve 7pm and 11pm services	25 Christmas Day No UMM breakfast
26 1st Sunday After Christmas Day Kwanzaa (Dec26-Jan1)	27 11am FLC Red Cross Blood Mobile	28 8am FLC Red Cross Blood Mobile 930am N FLC classroom Companions of Christ	29 No Family Fusion	30 6pm FLC Girl Scouts	31 Watch Night—New Year's Eve	Merry Christmas

# Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries

## December Birthdays

1 Javen Schmucker	16 David Briar
1 Travis Basye	16 Lois Musser
3 Ashley Snodgrass	16 Tim Bever
4 Tanner Gatz	20 Jerry Conyers
4 William Teel	21 Bob Brenzikofer
6 Gavin Cusick	21 Evan Hockett
7 Marcie Arrowsmith	21 Elda Pulaski
7 Andrew Stauffer	22 Zachary Roberts
7 Brian Stauffer	22 Linda Stevenson
7 Ryan Williams	23 Betty Schmidt
8 Grady Bott	24 Tayla Teel
8 Helen Scott	25 Rick Golubski
8 Bernice Hanson	25 Michael Stauffer
8 Jessica Motes	26 Lorinda Schreiber
10 Colter Guzman	28 Todd Allen
11 Kathy DeVaney	28 Kay Larson
11 Deb Will	29 Ashley Crider
12 James Baker	29 Gage Marsh
12 Laci Conyers	29 Heidi Porter
12 Joe Jolliff	30 Nathaniel Haines
12 Robert Schmidt	30 Carol Sauerwein
13 Jean Yumba	31 Ashli Teel
14 Presleyann Saylor	31 Jill Gonzales

## December Anniversaries

4 Jack & Lorinda Schreiber
11 Russell & Jane Naylor
17 Garrett & Ashley Crider
18 Robert & Janice Swickard
24 Louis & Nancy Crowl
26 Barton & Heather Moore
28 Dana & Judith Shifflett
31 Jon & Kathy Ross

## Psalms 91:2 NIV

I will say of the Lord,  
 "He is my refuge and  
 my fortress, my God,  
 in whom I trust."

If there are any Birthdays or Anniversaries missing or incorrect, please let us know in the Church office.

## Pastor's Column

### Prepare the Way

As we are preparing ourselves to enter the Advent Season, I've been thinking about the incredible opportunity we have as Christians.

The Bible tells us the story of John the Baptist, whose primary purpose of ministry was to be the one who would prepare the way for the Messiah. This was so the Messiah would have an entry point into the lives of the people. Yet, before He could come into the hearts of the people, an important thing needed to take place in their hearts, and it's called "repentance."

Mark 1:1-8 (NKJV) 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

We live in a day and age in which such a word may not necessarily be fashionable, yet it's as needed now as it was in John's day. While the people anticipated the presence of the Messiah, John prepared their hearts for His presence with a powerful message. This message was that before His presence, there must be repentance.

Even today, we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior to earth as a baby. Yet, as He lived and died for our sins, He wants us to come to Him with humble and repentant hearts.

We too are called to "prepare the way" for Christ to enter the hearts of people around us. Our friends and families are looking for the reality of changed lives. Not perfect lives but changed lives!

Part of "preparing the way" is removing the obstacles that would keep people from getting to Jesus. These obstacles could be anything that would cause their focus to shift away from Christ.

I would ask that you pray during this time that God will help you to be one who "prepares the way" for the Messiah to impact lives around you. Pray that God will use you to bring honor and glory to not just the babe in the manger, but our soon, coming King!

Let's prepare the way!

In Christ,  
 Willy Banza

## Christmas Children's Shoebox Ministry

Salem will again this year be participating in Shoebox Christmas. These boxes will be donated to children in need in the Newton area. Donate small gifts, hats, mittens, hygiene products, snacks and other items for boy or girl. Boxes are for ages: infant, 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-18. You can pick up a shoebox in the west foyer and complete one yourself, donate items to be included in a box or donate cash for items to be purchased. Please return all boxes or donations by Sunday, Dec. 12. If any questions, please contact Annessa Russell at 316-804-0813.

## Angel Tree

This will be the 25th year Salem will be involved in Angel Tree. This program provides children with a Christmas gift who have a parent in prison. Sign up sheets and Angels for you to select, are located at the west side of the sanctuary. If you are unable to attend Church to select an Angel or for any questions, contact Judy Shifflett at 316-772-6494.

## Craft Fair/Bazaar Thank you

We had a great Craft Fair/Bazaar because of all of you. Thank you to everyone who worked (some many hours), to those responsible for Salem Booths (jewelry, books, crafts, baked goods, silent auction and food court), those who baked, those who donated, those who came, those who helped with set up and cleaned up. Thank you to the church staff for their help. I hope I did not leave anyone out. With some additional donations we brought in \$6418.00. \$641.80 will go to Harvest of Love and \$5776.20 will go to the church budget. It was great to see the church come together. If you know any of the vendors that were there, tell them thank you.  
Jan Swickard

## 2021 Harvest of Love

Throughout December the Salvation Army and Newton Ministerial Alliance are inviting area churches, community organizations and residents of Harvey County to join in their annual food and fund drive to support people in need in our county. During December, we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to church when you come for worship and other church activities. The food will be taken to the Salvation Army food pantry in Newton, where it will be distributed to area residents who are feeling the strain of difficult economic times. If you wish to make a monetary donation you may write a check to Salem United Methodist with "Harvest of Love" in the memo line and place it in the Sunday morning offering. These funds will be distributed through Salvation Army office, and will go towards perishable food items as well as housing, utilities and medical assistance for Harvey County residents. In addition to food items for Harvest of Love, you may donate hygiene items during this time. These items will be sent to the Open Door Ministry in Wichita. There will be collection containers for food and hygiene items in the west foyer.

The following are ideas: breakfast foods like cereal, canned fruit & vegetables, canned meat like tuna & chicken, meals in a box, jar, or can like stews & soup, dry items like pasta, rice, & beans, baking stuff like: flour, sugar, & other things like peanut butter & jelly. For any questions contact Judy Shifflett at 316-772-6494.



## Staff Appreciation

Show your appreciation for our church staff on Sundays, Dec. 5th and 12th. There will be baskets at the west side of the sanctuary to leave your cards & gifts. Also, feel free to drop goodies off at the office for them to munch on during the holidays. The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will deliver them to the staff. If you are unable to be at church those Sundays and wish to give a card, please send it by Friday, Dec. 10 to: Salem UMC, c/o SPPR, 115 Old Main, Newton, KS 67114.