



Rev. Kevin English, Pastor
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“Getting to Know You!”

Susan, Tate and I are soooo excited about becoming a part of our new Salem UMC “church family”!

First on the list of priorities is of course “getting to know you”. In the first few weeks, I would like to meet personally and informally with all the leaders of our church for a brief, confidential conversation either at the church office or your home. To guide our conversation a bit I have 5 questions we could discuss as your time allows:



1. How did you come to know Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord?
2. What do you see as your gifts and role(s) here at Salem UMC?
3. What are some of the best and most exciting things happening here at Salem?
4. What is the one thing (ministry, program, issue, etc.) that is already happening that you feel needs the most immediate attention (expansion or improvement)?
5. What is the one thing you would like to see unfold in our next 6 months together?

Of course, I will do my best to answer any questions you may have about my faith, our family and our future together here at Salem UMC.

When these conversations are completed in the next few weeks, we will be scheduling “Cottage Meetings” (small groups of 6-10 members and friends) either in members’ homes or at the church during the day, evenings or weekends as best suits your schedules. Please feel free to invite any members of your family and friends to join you whether they are currently part of our expanded “church family” or not. These “Cottage Meetings” will last NO LONGER THAN 90 minutes (scout’s honor). Our time will be invested in gathering for fellowship, fun and food (of course) as well as time for praise, prayer and worship followed by gathering, recording and discussing your anonymous responses to questions similar to those above. More details about that later.

When the “Cottage Meetings” are completed, we will share your responses to the questions in a PowerPoint presentation at a covered dish luncheon immediate after worship. My plan is to celebrate our conversations and “Cottage Meeting” results on April 8th, the first Sunday after Easter. More about that later too.

Time to get EXCITED about the great experiences God has in store for us in the near future!

+Blessings

Rev. Kevin

P.S. When you looked at the image in the upper right, what did you see? Did you see an alien-like thing or did you see people talking to and listening to each other?

“RUNNING WITH THE GIANTS”

“Life is a marathon not a sprint. You can’t run it successfully alone.”

There’s a popular myth- no, a lie out there, that” the instant you invite Jesus to be the Savior and begin to follow Him as the Lord of your life to the best of your ability, the only blues you experience are blue birds and blue skies”. It is abundantly true that does God loves you and does have wonderful plan for your life (Deuteronomy 28:8-14). However, every day is not “wonderful”, but every day can be “wonder-filled”. When the skies are stormy and the birds flying over head are vultures, its’ not time to just “suck it up cupcake” or to roll over and play dead, it’s time to stand on the promise, strap on the whole armor of God and “**run with the giants**”. Hebrews 11 tells us, “we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses” (Old Testament heroes) who are cheering us on and sharing how they not only experienced seemingly impossible tasks and overwhelming situations but actually turned these “unsolved opportunities” into practical life lessons for us when we too face what appears to be impossible tasks and overwhelming situations. Starting we are going to start “**running with these giants**” each Sunday during worship and all the days in between, because although every day is not “wonderful”, through the plan of God, the promises fulfilled in Jesus and the power of the Spirit and Word of God, they can and will be “wonder-filled”.



January 14th- Noah, for when you wonder if your life really counts.

January 21st- Joseph, for when life isn’t turning out the way you planned, and you feel like giving up on your dreams.

January 28th- Moses, for when you are fearful or reluctant.

February 4th- Abraham, for when you don’t understand God’s ways.

February 11th- David- for when you have failed “royally”.

February 14th- **ASH WEDNESDAY** Celebration, 7:00Pm. The Imposition of Ashes (repentance), Oil (forgiveness and healing) and Water (cleansing and refreshment).

My schedule and dedicated office hours:

As a rule, I plan to be here Tuesday morning through Thursday afternoon and Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. I will be staying in the parsonage Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. That means I will be available for celebrations, meetings, Bible studies, small groups and visitations. Regular office hours will be Tuesdays 10Am-1Pm and Wednesday and Thursday 9Am -1 Pm and other times as needed. Come see me or invite me to join you.

+Rev. Kevin



THURSDAY'S KITCHEN
Doing for Others

2018 Thursday Kitchen-Doing for Others started on January 25th providing meals to those who could use our help. We are meeting at church at 5:30 p.m., bless the food and the ministry, take the meals out in groups of two or more and make a quick visit. Those who want to return for a study should be back by 6:30 p.m. This will be done every second and fourth week, doing soup on the second week, and a small casserole on the fourth. Sign-up sheets are on the front pew where you can choose the date you want to help. Note: You do not need to participate with the meal to attend the Bible Study.

Those date are:
February 8th - soup
February 22nd - casserole
March 8th - soup
March 22nd - casserole



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 1, 2018 (6-8 p.m.),
Stewardship Training at First UMC.

Sunday, March 4, 2018 (3-5:30 p.m.),
"We Believe That?" at Crools Memorial UMC.

Sunday, April 8, 2018 (3-5:30 p.m.), Renewal
for Existing Church-"Fresh Expressions" at
Chestnut Memorial UMC.

Sunday, April 22, 2018 (3-5:30 p.m.),
"Navigating Social Media" at St. Luke's UMC.

For more information about these classes go
to: YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org.



ACOLYTES SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of the Month
Melody & Harmony Smith

2nd Sunday of the Month
Andrew and Adam Greve

3rd Sunday of the Month
Seth James & John Stephen Shaw

4th Sunday of the Month
Sam Tomcany and Michael Wiatt

5th Sunday of the Month
TBD

A Thought for St. Patrick's Day

Have you ever stopped to ponder
At the wonder of His ways?
Prayers unanswred, will so often
Prove His love in later days.
Yet we humans pout and worry,

Selfshily we ask our will~
Thinking surely God;s ignoring

Plans we want HIm to fulfill.
As you come ito His presence,
Though it seems your prayer's unheard;
Rest upon the Father's goodness,
In His love, and in His Word.

Claim His promises,
Know He's able,
See His heart in all you do

Dream big dreams,
Asking His wisdom~
You will find God's love is true!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



This newsletter begins a new series of articles that are intended to make the reader look deep inside and ask serious questions about themselves and their church. I am writing them anonymously so that we can concentrate on the message without worrying about who wrote it. Today, we will explore the issue of being a member of the church.

For many of us, we have been coming to church for as long as we can remember. Our mothers typically brought us to church nearly every Sunday. If you were lucky, both parents were regular church attendees. Your church day typically started with Sunday School, then preaching. For some, the order was reversed, but there was always a desire to come to church to play, have fun, and learn from our teachers. After church, many went to their grandparent's homes for Sunday dinner and family gatherings. Many of my fondest memories are of those family gatherings at my grandmother's home. I looked forward to those days and meals with family.

Once we became teenagers, things started to change. We no longer wanted to come to church on a regular basis. It wasn't "cool" to be seen at church. Even going to the family dinners was a chore. We had things to do, and church and family were not a priority. It got even worse when we got our driver's license, as we could come and go as we pleased. This is not to say everyone abandoned church in their teenage years, but for many, this was the norm. We became "CEO's" (Christmas/Easter Only) attendees.

However, as we got older, we started to have this feeling that something was "missing" in our life. After much soul searching, we realized that church and God was the void that we were feeling. We slowly started to come back to church, first by becoming intermittent and then more regular attendees. Now we attend regularly, but do we really know what it means to be a member of the church?

Church is not a country club or social club. It is not a place where we can go once a week and leave behind for the rest of the week. We have to be active participants in order for the church to thrive and survive. Otherwise, the church becomes stagnant and there is no real growth in membership or mission.

So, how do we become active participants in the church? There are many things we can do: participate on committees or boards when asked or volunteer, attend Sunday School, take your children to Sunday School (you can attend too), participate in Bible Studies, attend church fellowship functions, tithe your time and money, support your pastor, or any other methods of participation you or your pastor can come up with. And, do you know that participation not only helps the church, it helps you as an individual grow as a Christian.

As we begin a new year, please find a way to participate in our church, so that as the church body, we can each perform the function that God has given us as his unique gifts to accomplish. Through God, all things are possible. Take care and God bless.

Ye Ole Christian



Mark your calendar. Wednesday, February 21 is the UMW Unit Meeting. We will have our annual "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program, which will be led by Anne Carole Daniels. The meeting will be at the home of Glenna Hudgins at 7:00 p.m. The Agapes and the Lilly Hopkins Circle will each meet at 6:15 before the Unit Meeting.



The Snack Pack Program continues to be a project for United Methodist Women. We are fixing 52 (averaging about \$6.00 each) Snack Packs each week. So any and all help will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation please make your check out to Salem United Methodist Women. Also if you are shopping and can pick up some of the items that would be appreciated too.

We had a Baby Shower for Jesus in December where diapers and wipes were brought. We celebrated Jesus birth with a devotional presented by Sara Hogge and enjoyed delicious refreshments served by Lavenia (Sis) Thomas and Sara Hogge. We had a car load of diapers and wipes that was given to Social Services. We had 19 in attendance. Thanks to all who contributed gifts and thanks to Teresa Stewart who delivered them to Social Services.

LILLY HOPKINS CIRCLE.

The Lillies will meet on Wednesday, March 14 at the home of Sara Ann Brooks at 7:00 p.m.. Mary Ann Thomas will present our program. ~ We all brought small gifts (snacks, etc.) to our December Meeting for Jennie Diggs and sent them along with a love gift to her in Nome, Alaska. We continue to support her with our prayers and notes.



**IRIS
BLESSING**

A good memory is one that can remember the day's blessings and forget the day's troubles.



CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY



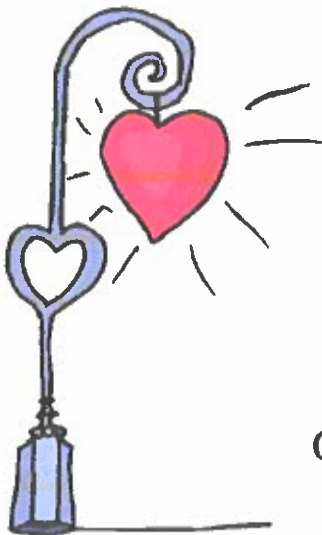
It's that time of year again! Grab your basket and join us for the Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt. It will be held on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday School. There will be crafts, refreshments and a egg hunt.

All Children up to 5th grade are invited. We look forward to a fun morning with friends!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Does the Winter weather have you wishing for Summer fun? Beginning Sunday, February 4th from 9:45-10:30 p.m. children ages 3-6th grade are invited to "Celebrate 'Son'days", a new Sunday School format with a VBS feel. Children will gather for games, music, crafts, and devotions. The last Sunday of the month will be our "Service 'Son'day", where the children will be serving our God with community outreach. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Stacie Wiatt @ 854-8778.



The Kangaroo's Courtship

"Oh will you be my wallaby?
Asked Mr. Kangaroo.

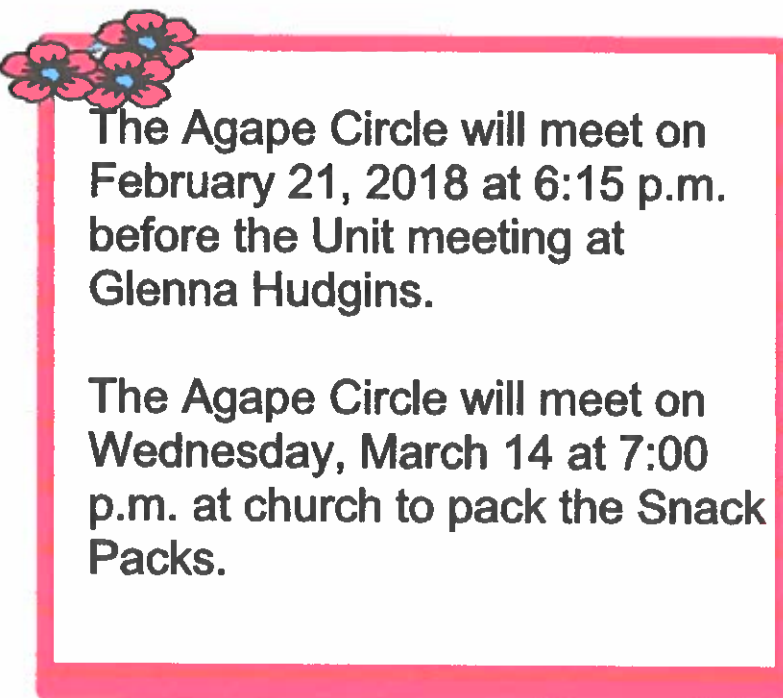
"For we could find so very many
Jumping things to do.

I have a pocket two feet wide
And deep inside,

My dear, you'd ride---

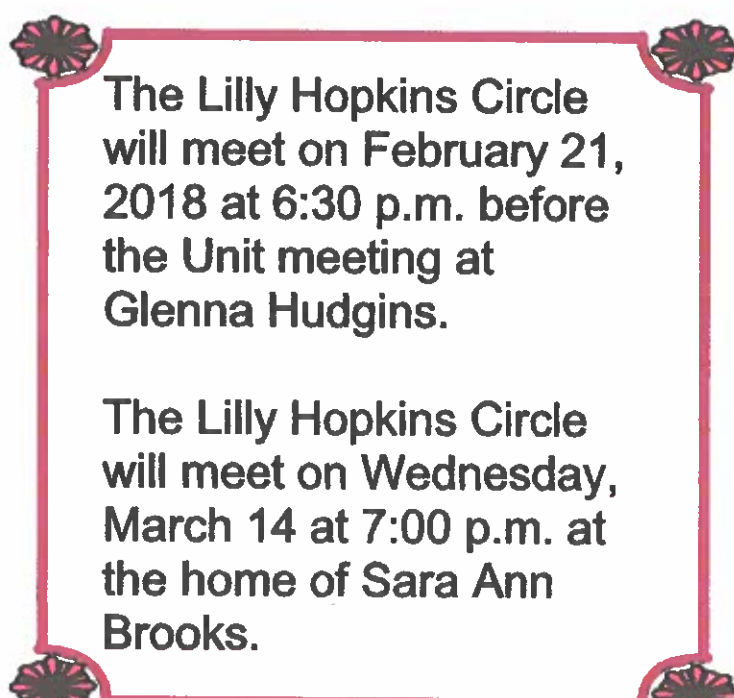
Oh come and be my bouncing bride,
My Valentine, my side-by-side
I am in love with you."





The Agape Circle will meet on February 21, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. before the Unit meeting at Glenna Hudgins.

The Agape Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at church to pack the Snack Packs.



The Lilly Hopkins Circle will meet on February 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. before the Unit meeting at Glenna Hudgins.

The Lilly Hopkins Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sara Ann Brooks.



Boyd Gunn Class News

The Boyd Gunn Class hopes you have noticed that the cross is back on the steeple of the church. It was awhile getting done, but it is finished and a real asset to our church. ~ We are pleased to announce that the proceeds from the yard sale amounted to \$1,500.00 and was given to the Mortgage Fund to be applied to the principle debt. At our Christmas meeting at the home of Glenna Hudgins we made a love gift to a family that had experienced serious illness. ~ We also donated funds to the Children's department to do some decoration of their classrooms. ~ We are sorry to lose Cheryl Ligon as our fourth Sunday teacher. We will miss her. ~ We are glad to have Karen Hudgins back in our class and we welcome any who would like to join us.



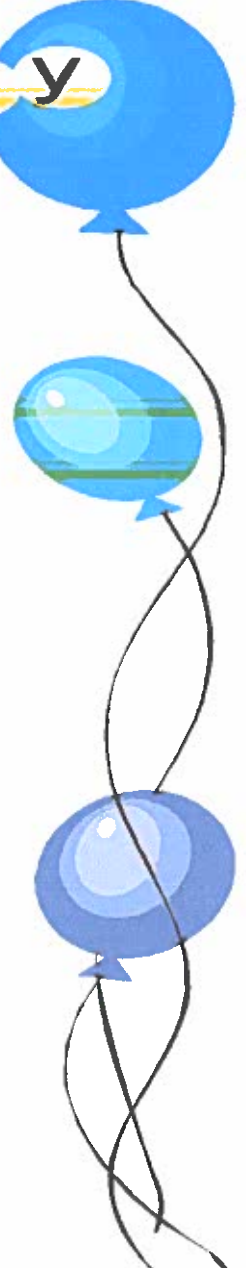
Ha p p y

B i r t h d a y

FEBRUARY

MARCH

- 01 Betsy Ann Stewart
- 01 Roger Campbell
- 02 Bill Edwards
- 03 Ryan Persinger
- 06 David Bing
- 06 James Diggs
- 09 Alvin Ingram, Jr.
- 09 Sylvia Teter
- 11 Sydney Morgan
- 12 Nicholas Wilks
- 13 Sue Mitchem
- 14 Frankie Pruitt
- 16 Debbi Minich
- 16 Kathy James
- 18 Jo Bridgers
- 21 Lindsey Boyden
- 24 Brad Liverman
- 28 Karen Hudgins

- 01 Lowry K. Hudgins, Jr.
 - 01 Kristen Powell
 - 01 Hunter Royall
 - 03 Ellis Robert Bing
 - 04 Rachel Dye
 - 07 Michael Persinger
 - 09 Jeff Sterne
 - 12 W. G. Mitchem
 - 12 Kartrina Ottinger
 - 15 Heather Hudgins
 - 16 Steve Bing
 - 17 Kyle Brown
 - 17 Patrick Gibbs
 - 18 Melinda Jones
 - 20 Ted Royall
 - 21 Patty Morgan
 - 26 June Rowe
 - 27 Leonard Jenkins
 - 27 Bri Sadler
 - 29 Belle Silver
 - 30 Chandler Rogers
 - 30 Meredith Sherman
- 

PRAYER LIST

- 
- Doug Ashberry
 - Kathy Bae
 - Stella Barstrone
 - Cheryl Baranski
 - Josh Belvin
 - Sonny Colonna
 - Amanda Cooper
 - Suzanne Fisher

- Helen Fuska
- Jason Hudgins
- Ruby Ingram
- Lenorad Jenkins
- Chris Karwacky
- Carolyn Kennedy
- Horace Kennedy
- Robert Minter Lewis

- Elizabeth Loveless
- Christine Montgomer
- Danny Shuber
- Janice Slaughter
- Mary Valdrighi
- Janice Vogel
- Mike Wellbron
- Carol Woof

NURSING HOME BOUND

- Mildred Diggs
- Betty Durkovich
- Martha Ellen Hall
- Alice Hatcher
- Mary Jo Robins
- June Rowe
- Erma Webb

March 2018



Usher: Paul Bing
Greeters: Boyd Gunn Class

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		February							April						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		25	26	27	28				29	30					
Communion	4	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.							Administrative Bd. 7:00 p.m.						
Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 p.m. Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.							Agape Circle 7:00 p.m. Lilly Hopkins Circle 7:00 p.m.						
Mortgage Sunday	18	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.							Thursday's Kitchen 5:30 p.m. Casserole Night						
Palm Sunday Food Bank Children's Easter Party	25	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.							Maundy Service Covered-Dish 6:30 p.m. Holy Week Services - 12 Noon						
		4							5						
		12							13						
		19							20						
		26							27						
		3							1						
		9							8						
		16							15						
		23							22						
		30							29						
		St. Patrick's Day							St. Patrick's Day						

