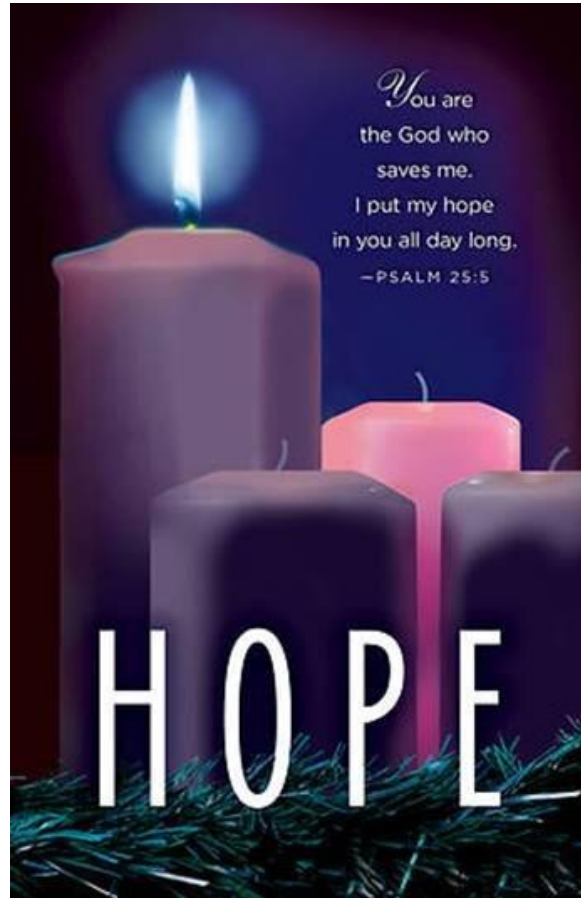


# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873



Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today's Message: *You Are A Blessing*

December 1, 2024  
First Sunday of Advent

## December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent

*The color blue represents hope during Advent, a season of new beginnings.*

### THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As we gather for worship today, we bring to God our longing for hope, both for ourselves and for the world.

\*SUNG PRAYER FOR HOPE –

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” (TFWS 2157)

***Come and fill our hearts with your hope. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your hope, Alleluia!***

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Jeremiah announced these words of hope to the people of Israel, so we boldly echo them today: “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.” (*Jeremiah 33:15-16*)

**Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of Hope.** (*based on Luke 1: 78-79*)

*Lighting the candle of hope.*

\*HYMN

*In Case No One Ever Told You*

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In case no one ever told you or you have forgotten You are a blessing and have been since you were begotten Fashioned from love Sent to the earth from above You're nothing short of a godsend

You are the masterpiece born of God's imagination Even the parts that are crying out for restoration All that you are Born out of stardust and scars Reflects God's perfect creation

You are uniquely created for love and belonging Forcing yourself to be someone you're not is exhausting You are a gift There is no box you must fit Let your belovedness blossom

A TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY 95

ANTHEM

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

\*HYMN 383

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

PROCLAMATION

Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today's Message: *You Are A Blessing*

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal Page 12

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE LAVABO

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with steadfast hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

### SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 593

*Here I Am, Lord*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE 211

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1)*

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

\*WE FOLLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

\*THE CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\*POSTLUDE AND DEPARTING

*\*Indicates that the congregation stands. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue with your participation. **Bold titles** indicate congregation participation.*

**STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE**

Will be reported next week

**PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:**

- Brookdale** — Mary Skenes
- Carroll Campbell Place** — Barbara Rolin
- Generations of Irmo** — Carolyn Brower, Joyce Cook, Dot Corley
- Lowman Home** — Gwen Parnell
- Tyborne UCP** — Jessica Gore
- Special Prayers** — Debra Ailes, E.L. Ayers, Amy Bundrick, Freddie Butler, Bob Davis, Faye Derrick, Mitchell Faulkenberry, Inez Hyatt, Lee McMillan, Jonnie Mitchell, Marilyn O'Mellan, Margie Oswald, Barbara Pereira, Shannon Robertson, Mary Simon, Susan Spearman, Steve Smith, Terry Waites

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:**

- Ushers:** Scott Butler, John Hood, Ron Joye, Mike Thacker
- Sound Booth:** Dustin Tanner
- Acolyte:** Charles Cole
- Nursery:** Martina Thomas, Kenzie Griner

*Flower Ministry*

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their Children and Grandchildren by Jake and Von McCarson.

**Craft Bazaar**

The Bazaar is December 14 from 9 - 2. PIP'S Street Kitchen will be the food vendor. We look forward to seeing you there! *Come shop with us!*

*A Welcome to our Guests!*

*We are honored that you are worshipping with us. Please complete the "red book" registration to record your presence. Also, please introduce yourself to those around you and visit our Welcome Center. We have a welcome gift for our first-time guests in the welcome center. Please stop by the desk at the close of the worship service. We hope you will return to join us again in Worship!*

*Ladies Lunch Bunch*

The Ladies' Lunch Bunch will take a break during the months of November and December. We look forward to getting back together in January after the holidays.

**Work Day at Reconciliation Ministries**

We will be having a work day at Reconciliation Ministries on **Saturday, Dec 7**. We will meet at 8:00am with the people at Reconciliation and will conclude the day with a lunch with them provided by us and end around 1:00p.m. We would love for all to be involved through either financial assistance, helping with food, working with the people there or even just prayers. Please contact Tommy McLendon with any questions at [mclendta@aol.com](mailto:mclendta@aol.com).

**OASIS Christmas Gathering**

Join us on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30** for our annual Christmas get together. Attendees are asked to bring your favorite heavy hors d'oeuvres and feel free to wear your holiday attire. Our very own, William Byrd will be with us to share his musical talent and provide some festive cheer! We will be accepting financial donations for Reconciliation Ministries. Call the church office to say you'll join us and share the food item you plan to bring as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Missions Christmas Project**

The Missions Committee of Salem UMC will once again support We will once again support **Midlands Orphan Relief** by asking the Congregation to prayerfully take a tag from the Christmas Tree in the Welcome Center and purchase the items (via guidelines provided) on the tag for a child in our area. **Please return all things purchased in a bag by Sunday, Dec. 15.**

*2025 Flower Calendar*

The 2025 Flower Calendar has been placed in the Welcome Center. Cost is **\$96 for two arrangements** and is a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize someone special. The arrangements are yours to take following the service. If you would like to donate the flowers, they will be arranged into several different vases to be delivered to shut-ins and the sick. **Please help support the church in this meaningful manner.**



*Light Up the Night*

The youth will be providing luminaries again this year for the Christmas Eve service. You may give a luminary in honor, or memory of someone. Please make donations out to the church designating them to Youth Luminaries. We will collect these through **Dec. 15**.

All funds collected will be used by the youth to purchase a new projection/Monitor system for the Fellowship Hall to replace what was damaged. Thank you for all your support.

Please note: *Names received after Dec. 15 are not guaranteed to be printed in bulletin due to time needed to get everything created and printed.*

**Minimum donation of \$1.00 per bag**

**Please Print**

**In Honor Of:**

**Given By:**

**In Honor Of:**

**Given By:**

**In Honor Of:**

**Given By:**

**In Memory Of:**

**Given By:**

**In Memory Of:**

**Given By:**

**In Memory Of:**

**Given By:**

You may add additional names on a separate sheet. The funds will go to Youth Missions.

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### Sunday, December 1

9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Prayer Class  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Youth

### Monday, December 2

6:00 P.M. . . . . Faith Circle

### Tuesday, December 3

7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

11:30 A.M. . . . . Salem Morning Circle @ J Peters  
7:00 A.M. . . . . AA Meeting  
6:30 P.M. . . . . Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 5

5:00 P.M. . . . . Nurses Honor Guard Fellowship Hall  
6:30 P.M. . . . . LMA Meeting  
7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Saturday, December 7

8:00 A.M. . . . . Missions @ Reconciliation Ministries  
11:00 A.M. . . . . Fellowship Hall Reserved  
7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Sunday, December 8

9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship  
11:30 A.M. . . . . Fellowship Hall Reserved  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Kid's Quest  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Prayer Class  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Tweens  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Youth

## Sharing God's Love

**Current Pantry Needs:** Cereal, Tea, Spaghetti Noodles, Elbow Pasta and Juices

**Household Items:** Diapers size 4,5 and 6. New Underwear and White Socks any size. Linens, Comforters and Blankets - All Sizes. Winter coats, all sizes.

*Drop-off containers are located in each Sunday School Room, Church Office and in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall entrance.*

**181 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Follow us on Instagram (salemumcofirmo) weekly for Pastor Jeff's **Wednesday in the Word**. It's a great midweek encouragement to get you through the rest of your week until we meet again on Sunday.

**Salem Morning Circle** will meet for Christmas Luncheon at J Peters restaurant in Chapin, SC on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11:30 AM.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
1321 Salem Church Road, Irmo, SC 29063  
CCLI #1562077

Website: [salemumcsc.com](http://salemumcsc.com)

E-mail: [smethodist@aol.com](mailto:smethodist@aol.com)

Phone 803-781-1626

*In case of an emergency,  
call 864-985-2456 or 803-422-9400*



### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Jeff Childress — Pastor

William Byrd — Pianist

P. J. Baker — Director of Children's Ministries

Sarah E. High — Director of Music Ministries

Angie Lain — Manager of Business & Finance

Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist

Jim Magann — Coordinator of Children/Youth  
and Missions Ministries

Tina Overton — Director of Creative Ministries

Dustin Tanner — Coordinator of A/V Tech and Communications

Marie Wicker — Administrative Coordinator

## E-Giving

Please prayerfully consider giving to Salem United Methodist Church through our e-Giving program. Scan the QR code below to be taken to Salem's donation page to present your offering.



You can also visit the link:

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-2365>