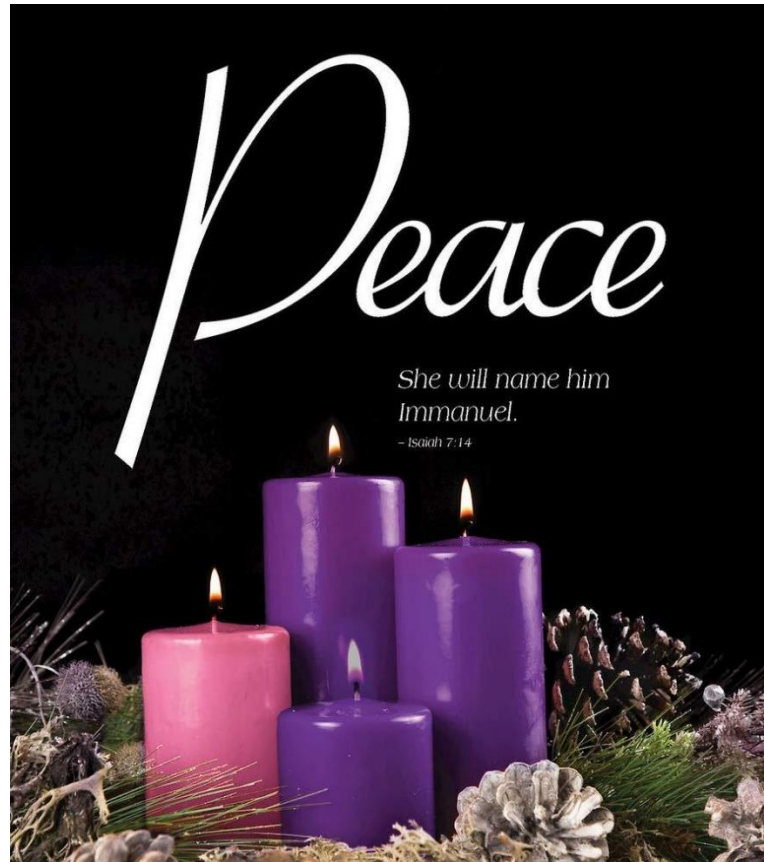


# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873



Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today's Message: *It's Worth the Risk*

December 22, 2024  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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The Fourth 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 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Salem Ringers

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 peace, both for ourselves and for the world.

\*SUNG PRAYER FOR LOVE –

*"Come and Fill Our Hearts"* (TFWS 2157)

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

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Micah announced to the people of Israel the coming reign of God's peace, so we boldly echo today: "But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace."  
*(Micah 5:2-5, selected)*

**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 Peace, and Joy, and Love, and Hope.**  
*(based on Luke 1: 78-79)*

*Lighting the candles of hope, love, joy, and peace.*

\*HYMN 218 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

A TIME OF PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The Herald Angels Sing* Salem Ringers

\*DOXOLOGY 95

ANTHEM *Christmas Night* Salem Ringers

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

\*HYMN 220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

PROCLAMATION Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today's Message: *It's Worth the Risk*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."**

SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 229 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 3)  
***O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height. In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. 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.*

### *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!*

## STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holiday schedule, the December 15, 22 & December 29, 2024 Stewardship Report will appear in the January 12, 2025 bulletin.

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>On Line Viewing</b>
Worship 171 Sunday School 56	538

### PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

**Brookdale** — Millie Howard, Mary Skenes

**Carroll Campbell Place** — Barbara Rolin

**Generations of Irmo** — 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,

Frank Eargle, Mitchell Faulkenberry, Inez Hyatt,

Joyce Lewis, Lee McMillan, Jonnie Mitchell,

Marilyn O'Mellan, Margie Oswald, Barbara Pereira,

Shannon Robertson, Mary Simon, Marty Spearman,

Susan Spearman, Steve Smith, Terry Waites

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

<b>Ushers:</b>	Lead – Randy Hilliard Scott Butler Ted Hornsby Ron Joye Mike Thacker
<b>Sound Booth:</b>	Dustin Tanner
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Peyton Baker
<b>Nursery:</b>	P.J. Garrett, Dawn Horton

## Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Barbara Ann Martindale by Inez Hyatt.

## Christmas Eve Service

We hope you will plan to join us on **December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm for our Christmas Eve Service.** Please bring any family members that may be visiting with you as we will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## Ladies Lunch Bunch

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

## OASIS

Join us **January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30** in the fellowship hall for our next Oasis event. Our very own Jennifer Brewton, from the SC Department on Aging will be here to share the many opportunities and programs that are available within our county. We will additionally enjoy a hot dog luncheon complete with all the trimmings. Please call us by Thursday, January 16th to RSVP so that we can plan appropriately for our meal and program. We look forward to seeing you then!

## 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.*

## Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for the calls, prayers, cards and monetary donations. I really appreciate it and love my Salem Church Family and Faith Circle and everything they have done for me.

Debra Ailes

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes have arrived for 2025! They are in the Welcome Center.

## Memorials in Loving Memory of

*Carolyn Brower*

by Rick & Cheryl Denton – Missions Fund

by Dan & Carla Jennings – General Fund

by Jim & Marie Lewis – Building Fund

by Don & Miriam Lovett – Building Fund

by Larry & June Salters – General Fund

## Honorarium in Honor of

*Salem's Musicians and Choir Director*

by Salem UMC Choir

*Merry Christmas  
from the Salem Church Staff*

*The Church Office will be closed December  
24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas.*

*The Church Office will be closed December  
31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Years.*



## Christmas Poinsettias

*In Loving Memory of:*

Sandra Durst by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Bill Sills by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Anita Weed by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Anne Pickens Collins by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Jean Phillips by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Bill Sills by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Jim Underwood by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Joan Underwood by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Fred and Virginia Denton by Rick & Cheryl Denton  
 Carl Dionisio by Rick & Cheryl Denton  
 Billy & Joyce Gibbons by Martha Gibbons  
 Mary & Curtis Gibbons by Martha Gibbons  
 Don & Dorothy Hensen by Lance & Janet Hensen  
 Dale & Sarah Stephens by Lance & Janet Hensen  
 Eula M. O'Sheal by Don & Miriam Lovett  
 Linda Carder by Kyle & Sandra Nash  
 Willard Nash by Kyle & Sandra Nash  
 Dale Sessions by Kyle & Sandra Nash  
 Ralph & Amy Rustin by Shep & Lynn Rustin  
 D.C. & Sybil Westbury by Shep & Lynn Rustin  
 Mrs. Thomas M. Gregg by Pete & Marty Spearman  
 Mary Francis Spearman by Pete & Marty Spearman

## General Fund Donations Given

*In Loving Memory of:*

John Drakeford by Gwen Drakeford  
 John & Ruth Hilliard by Randy & Natalie Hilliard  
 Homer & Mabel Jennings by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Brady & Anita Weed by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Carl & Margie Weed by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Tally & Pearl Weed by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Barry & Derek Joye by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Will & Nellie Joye by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Brady & Anita Weed by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Carl & Margie Weed by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Sally Clary Lee by John & Lisa Lee  
 Louise O. Younginer by Don & Miriam Lovett  
 Rev. & Mrs. George Baker by Steve & Mary George Smith  
 Nancy Baker Cooper by Steve & Mary George Smith  
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Smith by Steve & Mary George Smith



## Christmas Poinsettias

*In Love and Honor of:*

Pastor Jeff & Delaine by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Bill, Faye & Andy Childs by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Larry & June Salters by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Office Staff by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Salem Choir by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 David & Henrietta Ball by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Greg & Trisha Mayer by Luther & Barbara Chandler  
 Rhonda Collins by Joel Collins  
 Jeff Childress by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Andy Childs by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Bill Childs by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Faye Childs by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Sarah High by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Miriam Lovett by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Tina Overton by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Shep Rustin by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Sandra Sills by Joel & Rhonda Collins  
 Pastor Jeff & Delaine Childress by Martha Gibbons  
 Larry Salters by Martha Gibbons  
 Salem UMC Staff by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Hattie Koon by Lill Mood  
 Lula Liles by Lill Mood

## General Fund Donations Given

*In Love and Honor of:*

Jimmy & Brenda Dye by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Francis Haltiwanger by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Inez Hyatt by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Boone Jennings by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Ryann Jennings by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Tally Jennings by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Will & Dawn Jennings by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Debbie & Ronnie Joye by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 Steve & Mary George Smith by Dan & Carla Jennings  
 The Dan Jennings Family by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 The Erika Joye Family by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 The Furman Lovett Family by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 Steve & Mary George Smith by Ron & Deborah Joye  
 John & Maureen Lee by John & Lisa Lee  
 Pat & McLeod Murray by John & Lisa Lee  
 Salem United Women in Faith by June Salters

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

**Sunday, December 22**  
 9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
 10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship

**Tuesday, December 24**  
 5:30 P.M. . . . . Christmas Eve Service  
 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

**Wednesday, December 25**  
 7:00 A.M. . . . . AA Meeting

**Thursday, December 26**  
 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

**Saturday, December 28**  
 7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

**Sunday, December 29**  
 9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
 10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship

## 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.*

**340 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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>

### **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

Follow us on Instagram ([salemumcofirmo](https://www.instagram.com/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.