

# Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road  
Irmo, South Carolina 29063  
Established 1873

## December 8, 2024 The Second 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 love, 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 love. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your love, Alleluia!***

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Paul prayed this prayer of love for the followers of Jesus in Philippi, so we boldly pray for one another: “This is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters...”  
*(Philippians 1: 9-10)*

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

*Lighting the candles of Love and Hope.*

\***HYMN**

*To Be Known*

*WALTHAM (“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”)*

Recall the truth that we once knew: we were not made for solitude. We need communities of faith where we can feel God’s warm embrace.

For in the garden God declared that our brief lives on earth be shared with partners, friends, and family who hold us in our joy and grief.

In every age humanity relied on mutuality our God-breathed spirits weren’t designed to be divided and confined.

Both you and I are intertwined the warp and weft of humankind so please don’t try to go alone your human heart needs to be known.

A TIME OF PRAYER and **LORD’S PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY**

\***DOXOLOGY 95**

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

ANTHEM

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:68-79

\***HYMN 557**

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

PROCLAMATION

Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today’s Message: *We Can’t Go Alone*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who is with us: A God who walks with us in the valley, dances with us on the mountaintop, sings with us through the night and rejoices in the morning. We believe that this with-us God wired us for relationship, saying to creation on the very first week, “Humans should not be alone.” Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be, we strive to live like the Trinity—connected, united, and centered. We believe in the power of community. We commit to learning each other’s names. We choose to journey with each other. And we remember that no one can go through life alone. Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.**

*Adapted from Affirmation by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art*

### SENDING FORTH

\***HYMN OF RESPONSE 222**

*The Servant Song*

\***BENEDICTION**

\***CHORAL RESPONSE 211** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 2)  
***O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show; and cause us in her ways to go. 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.*



Advent Series: *Words for the Beginning*  
Today’s Message: *We Can’t Go Alone*

December 8, 2024  
Second Sunday of Advent

## STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

### Week of November 24, 2024

Needed each week to fund unified budget \$14,724.81

Unified budget received \$5,628.01

### Week of December 1, 2024

Needed each week to fund unified budget \$14,724.81

Unified budget received \$11,997.01

Needed to meet budget year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$706,790.88

Unified budget received year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$574,368.11

### Attendance

Worship 137 Sunday School 55

### On Line Viewing

291

## PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

**Brookdale** — Millie Howard, 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,

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:

**Ushers:** Lead – Randy Hilliard

Scott Butler

John Hood

Ron Joye

Mike Thacker

**Sound Booth:** Dustin Tanner

**Acolyte:** Rachel Rhodes

**Nursery:** Robin Jones, Lily Cole

## Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Linda Carder and Dale Sessions by Norma Sessions and Kenneth Carder.

## Craft Bazaar

The Bazaar is December **14 from 9 - 2**. Laila's Bakery of Newberry 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 month of December. We look forward to getting back together in January after the holidays.

## 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 **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.**

## Memorials in Loving Memory of

*Miriam Bickley*

by Dan & Carla Jennings – General Fund

*Harvey Peurifoy*

by Don & Miriam Lovett – Building Fund

*Bill Rolin*

by Dan & Carla Jennings – General Fund

by Larry & June Salters – General Fund

*William Stewart*

by Journey Sunday School Class – Handbells Fund

by James David Lindler – Handbells Fund

*Anita Weed*

by Faye Derrick – Building Fund

## Honorarium in Honor of

*Larry & June Salters*

by Salem OASIS

## 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.*

**1693 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.  
582 of the items came from OASIS.**

Follow us on Instagram (saileumcofirmo) 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.



# 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 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  
5:45 P.M. . . . . Youth @ Union UMC

### Monday, December 9

6:00 P.M. . . . . Girl Scouts

### Tuesday, December 10

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

### Wednesday, December 11

7:00 A.M. . . . . AA Meeting  
6:30 P.M. . . . . Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 12

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

### Saturday, December 14

9:00 A.M. . . . . Craft Bazaar  
7:00 P.M. . . . . AA Meeting

### Sunday, December 8

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10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Kid's Quest  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Prayer Class  
4:00 P.M. . . . . Youth @ Griner's House  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Tweens

### 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

E-mail: 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>