

Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873



Teaching Narrative for The Five Sundays
From December 28 – January 25

Seek → Trust → Claim → **Meet** → Follow

January 18, 2026
2nd Sunday After the Epiphany

January 18, 2026

2nd Sunday After the Epiphany

The color green is used to denote growth, reminding us of our journey of growing in discipleship and faith.

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE Salem Ringers

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Come and see the One who takes away the sin of the world.

We come seeking hope, healing, and new direction.

Jesus turns to us, just as He turned to those early disciples, and asks, "What are you looking for?"

We are looking for grace that restores and love that calls us by name.

Come and meet Jesus, the Christ.

May our lives bear witness to the One who has found us and called us His own.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we come today with open hearts, longing to meet You anew. May this time of worship deepen our trust, strengthen our faith, and shape us into followers who reflect the light of Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN 57** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (verses 1-5)

A TIME OF PRAYER & **LORD'S PRAYER**

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY 95**

ANTHEM *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* by Dan Forrest

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-39

***HYMN 593**

Here I Am, Lord

PROCLAMATION

Meeting Jesus

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 473

Lead Me, Lord

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE 347

Spirit Song (verse 1)

O let the son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

*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

Week of January 11, 2026

Will be reported next week

Attendance

Worship 136

On Line Viewing

227

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

Brookdale — Millie Howard, Mary Skenes

Carroll Campbell Place — Barbara Rolin

Generations of Irmo — Joyce Cook, Joyce Lewis

Lowman Home — Gwen Parnell

Tyborne UCP — Jessica Gore

White Oak Manor (Newberry) — Debra Ailes

Special Prayers — E.L. Ayers, Amy Bundrick,

Freddie Butler, Bob Davis, Emma Davis,

David Dunn, Mary Ann Gibson, Peggy Gooch,

Dawn Haltiwanger, Vicki Harris, Inez Hyatt,

Johnnie Metts, Lee McMillan, Jonnie Mitchell,

Margie Oswald, Mike Owen, Barbara Pereira,

Lucretia Seigler, Dustin Tanner, Gail Van Valkenburg,

Jim Van Valkenburg, Terry Waites, Marie Wicker

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Ushers:

Lead — Randy Hilliard

Will Bowers

John Hood

Sherri Puette

Dustin Tanner

Steven Smith

Preston Price

Claressa Poppell

PJ Baker

Sound Booth:

Trustees:

Acolyte:

Nursery:

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of their 40th anniversary by John and Betsy Goodale.

Memorials in Loving Memory of Alan Wells

by Don & Miriam Lovett — Building Fund

by Steve & Mary George Smith — General Fund

A Note from Your Pastor

I have recently met with Salem's SPRC team and the Salem staff, and wanted to share with all of you, my Salem family, that after many long months of prayerful discernment, I have decided to retire in June of this year. It feels like the right time for me, and for Salem. I did not arrive at this decision without much careful thought and prayerful consideration, and in the end, I felt spiritually led to this important life decision. Salem has been an absolutely wonderful appointment for us, and it will always hold a special place in Delaine's and my heart. I could not think of a better ministry team or a better congregation to be with as I conclude my ministry vocation. We've still got almost 6 months until then, so let's remain faithful in our ministry together and finish strong.

Love and blessings,

Pastor Jeff

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

After our break for the holidays the Ladies Lunch Bunch will resume our regular meetings. This month we will meet on **January 26, 11:30 a.m. at Carolina Wings** in Ballentine. All ladies are welcome.

January OASIS

We look forward to seeing everyone who signed up to join us this Tuesday at 11:30 for our luncheon and the talented "All for Him" singing group.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 19, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sweetheart of A Lunch

Join us for one "sweetheart of a lunch" on **Sunday, Feb. 8** in the fellowship hall after our morning worship service. Family Ministries will provide lasagna, salad, bread and cheesecake, so bring your appetite and enjoy a time of fellowship with us. The only thing we ask of you is to **RSVP by calling the church office no later than Wednesday, February 4th** so that we can properly prepare.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes have arrived for 2026! They are in the Welcome Center.

Rise Against Hunger is Returning

One of the most popular church wide service projects Salem UMC has done in the last few years is returning again this year. For the third year we will be raising money for and hosting a food packing event for Rise Against Hunger. We will be raising money beginning **Jan 11 through Feb 8** to determine how much we will be packing. Last year we raised over \$13,000 and packed thousands of meals and also donated several thousand dollars to the Philippines. The packing date this year will be on Sunday, March 1 with two packing times. More details will come as time goes and signups will be in the Welcome Center each week through Feb 8. Please prayerfully give for this mission once again and join us for a really fun afternoon of packing.

2026 Flower Calendar

The 2026 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.**

Al-Anon Group

Salem UMC welcomes a newly forming Al-Anon group in the Journey Classroom (green room # 202) on **Thursdays at 1 PM**. The group welcomes all family and friends who have been affected by the problems of alcohol or drug abuse and addiction in a loved one. If you have questions, please call 803-465-1609.

Salem UMC Over 50's PROM 2026

Salem UMC youth are going to host a PROM on Saturday, **March 21 from 5:00 - 7:00pm** for anyone and everyone 50 and over!!! Dress in your best and fanciest outfit and join for a blast to the past by walking down the red carpet to a night of dancing, dinner, pictures and more. This is a fundraiser hosted by the youth going to *Youth 2027* in Dallas TX. This PROM will be held in our fellowship hall and will be a night to remember. Tickets will go on sale beginning Monday, Feb 9. They will be \$50 per couple or \$30 per individual. Any questions please contact Jim Magann at jimmagann@gmail.com



THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, January 18

9:30 A.M.	Compass Kids
9:30 A.M.	Discovery
9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
10:30 A.M.	Morning Worship
2:00 P.M.	AA District Meeting
4:00 P.M.	Kid's Quest
5:00 P.M.	Youth

Tuesday, January 20

11:30 A.M.	OASIS
6:00 P.M.	Trustee Meeting
6:30 P.M.	Ricefield HOA Meeting
7:00 P.M.	AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 A.M.	AA Meeting
-----------	------------

Thursday, January 22

1:00 P.M.	Al-Anon Group
7:00 P.M.	AA Meeting

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

9:30 A.M.	Compass Kids
9:30 A.M.	Discovery
9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
10:30 A.M.	Morning Worship
4:00 P.M.	Kid's Quest
5:00 P.M.	Youth

Sharing God's Love

Urgent Pantry Needs: Pancake Mix, Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Can Soup, Canned Fruit, Diced Tomatoes, Coffee, Tea, Chili, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Fruit Juices, Cranberry Sauce, Canned or Powered Milk.

Household Items: King & Queen-sized sheets and comforters (new or gently used). New underwear for adults & kids, Winter coats, New socks all sizes, blankets all sizes, wash cloths, hand & bath towels, pots, pans, plates, glasses, cookware, bakeware, kitchen linens, small appliances.

Santa's Shop: Toys for Ages 1-18, Christmas PJ's, Stocking Stuffers, Candy, Games, Books, Personal Care Gift Sets, Gift Cards, Gift Wrap or Bags, Older Teen Boy & Girl Gift Items.

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

297 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on Jan. 13th.

91 items were from the Seekers Christmas Party

**Special thanks to the Sunday school classes for the donations and
Booking It Club for their cash donation.**

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: salemumesc.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

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

Ben Beam — Pianist

Angie Lain — Manager of Business & Finance

Miriam Y. Lovett — Organist

Jim Magann — Coordinator of Children/Youth
and Missions Ministries

Christopher Moore - Director of Music Ministry

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.

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>