

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 4, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas

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*The color white is used as an expression of joy and  
celebration in this season of Christmas.*

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE  
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS  
\*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST  
**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**  
God has called us into a new year, a new season, a new beginning.  
**We come seeking the One who leads us day by day.**

Just as God watched over the Holy Child,  
**God watches over us with steadfast love.**  
Come, let us worship God together.  
**We come to worship the One who protects, guides, and  
restores.**

*Let us pray:*  
**Lord of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, as we enter this new  
year, guide our steps. Lead us by your Spirit and open our hearts  
to trust your voice and to follow the path you prepare for us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 246** *Joy to the World*

A TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY 95**

ANTHEM

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON  
GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2:13-23*  
**\*HYMN 140** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
PROCLAMATION *Trusting God’s Guidance*

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**  
Let us pray:  
**Holy God, we give thanks for this holy mystery in which you  
have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the  
name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 98** *To God Be the Glory*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE 251** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (verse 2)  
*Refrain:*  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell  
it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. (Refrain)*

**\*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 2025 Stewardship Report will appear in the January 11, 2026 bulletin.

Week of December 28, 2025

Attendance On Line Viewing  
Worship 100 Sunday School 47 372

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, Vicky Harris, Inez Hyatt, 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  
Sound Booth: Dustin Tanner  
Trustees: Steven Smith  
Acolyte: Peyton Baker  
Nursery: PJ Baker  
Robin Jones

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of their angel baby, Eleanor Elizabeth, by the Watford family.

Our Christian Sympathy

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Worth and Susie Wells and family on the death of their son, Alan Wells.

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mary Rye upon her passing.

Memorials in Loving Memory of  
Mike Slusher

by  
Dan & Carla Jennings – Pew Fund  
Brenda Miller – Building Fund

Ladies’ Lunch Bunch

Due to the close proximity of our meeting dates to Thanksgiving and Christmas, we decided at our October gathering to just take a “lunch break” during November and December. We will resume meeting the last Monday of each month in January.

January OASIS

Make plans to join us now on **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30** in the fellowship hall as we are treated with a very talented singing group called “All for Him!” We will enjoy a catered meal from Cracker Barrel and fellowship with each other as we enjoy the sounds of this gifted group. **It’s important that you RSVP by Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** so that we may properly prepare. We hope to see you there!

Calling All Book Lovers &  
Book Beginners!!

We would love to have you join us for the Booking It book club on the second Monday of each month at 6:00. We meet every other month at the church and other months at an offsite place. Our book selection are various types of books that are suggested and voted on by the group. If you would like to join us at our next meeting, it will be a soup dinner at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 12th here at Salem’s fellowship hall. Please reach out to Allison McLendon (803) 530-7143 or [mclendta@aol.com](mailto:mclendta@aol.com) if you are interested or have questions.

Offering Envelopes

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

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.***

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

Al-Anon Group

Salem UMC welcomes a newly forming Al-Anon group in the Journey Classroom (green room # 202) on **Thursdays at 1 PM, beginning January 8**. 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.

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.*

**223 items were delivered to Sharing God’s Love on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

# THIS WEEK AT SALEM

**Sunday, January 4**

9:30 A.M. . . . . Compass Kids  
9:30 A.M. . . . . Discovery  
9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Youth

**Monday, January 5**

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

**Tuesday, January 6**

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

**Wednesday, January 7**

7:00 A.M. . . . . AA Meeting  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Salem Morning Circle @ Seekers Class

**Thursday, January 8**

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

**Saturday, January 10**

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

**Sunday, January 11**

9:30 A.M. . . . . Compass Kids  
9:30 A.M. . . . . Discovery  
9:30 A.M. . . . . Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. . . . . Morning Worship  
3:00 P.M. . . . . Youth/Children Council Meeting  
5:00 P.M. . . . . Youth

**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](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  
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



# 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>

