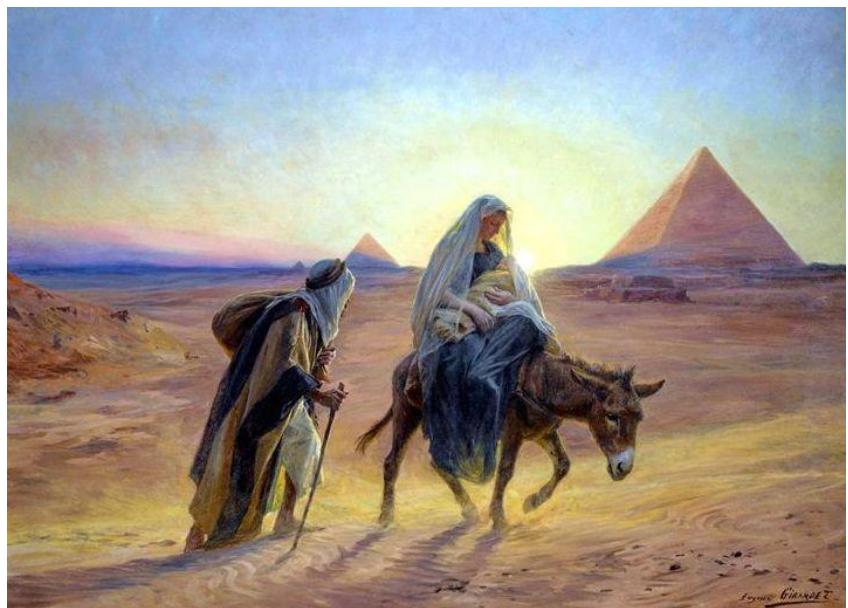


Salem United Methodist Church

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
2nd Sunday After Christmas

January 4, 2026
2nd Sunday After Christmas

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 Dustin Tanner
Sound Booth:	Steven Smith
Trustees:	Peyton Baker
Acolyte:	PJ Baker
Nursery:	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 20th 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 14th** 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 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 (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.

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. 3rd.

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

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: 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



