

Salem United Methodist Church

1321 Salem Church Road
Irmo, South Carolina 29063
Established 1873



Series: Tell Me Something Good
Today: The Good News Is...
Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

March 15, 2026
4th Sunday in Lent

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Purple is a color of penitence and is used to reflect the preparatory season of Lent.

(Liturgy printed for this service is adapted from
Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

THE GATHERING AND WITNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE Salem Ringers

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS
MESSAGE FROM STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Janice Ayers, Chair

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR and WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**
In a world that often overlooks the vulnerable,
God sees every child, every stranger, every forgotten one.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."
For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Come, let us worship the God of mercy and justice.
Let us worship with open hearts and willing hands.

Let us pray:
Loving God, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN 140** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY 95**

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 24:17-22

ANTHEM *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Lutkin

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

GOSPEL READING Matthew 19:13-15

***HYMN 432**

Jesu, Jesu

PROCLAMATION

Series: *Tell Me Something Good*
Today: *The Good News Is...*
Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

***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 673** *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE 420** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* (v. 4)
Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

***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 March 8, 2026

Needed each week to fund unified budget \$15,042.40

Unified budget received \$5,769.01

Needed to meet budget year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$150,539.94

Unified budget received year to date (Inclgd. bldg. fund) \$115,753.27

Attendance

Worship 135 Sunday School 63

On Line Viewing

140

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER:

Brookdale — Millie Howard, Mary Skenes

Carroll Campbell Place — Barbara Rolin

Generations of Irmo — Joyce Lewis

Heritage at Lowman — E.L. Ayers, Bob Davis,

Vicky Harris, Nancy Kyre

Tyborne UCP — Jessica Gore

White Oak Manor (Newberry) — Debra Ailes

Special Prayers — Amy Bundrick, Freddie Butler,

Emma Davis, David Dunn, Mary Ann Gibson, Peggy Gooch,

Dawn Haltiwanger, Inez Hyatt, Johnnie Metts,

Lee McMillan, Jonnie Mitchell, Margie Oswald, Mike Owen,

Barbara Pereira, Lucretia Seigler, Dustin Tanner,

Gail & Jim Van Valkenburg, Terry Waites, Marie Wicker

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Ushers:

Lead – Sherri Puette

Melinda Hydrick

Robin Jones

Lee Newman

Sound Booth:

Dustin Tanner

Trustees:

Eric Puette

Acolyte:

Peyton Baker

Nursery:

Claressa Poppell

PJ Baker

Flower Ministry

The flowers which grace the Holy Altar today are given to the Glory of God by David and Nancy Schmidt and in memory of Kathleen Rooney Schmidt.

Our Christian Sympathy

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Nancy Poston and family on the death on her husband, Jim Poston.

Maundy Thursday Service

There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion service at **6:30pm on Thursday, April 2.** We hope to see you there.

OASIS Surprise!

Calling all John Wayne enthusiasts! Have we got a surprise for you for our next OASIS event? Larry Brown, a retired addictions counselor and life- long movie buff with the Shepherds Center will be here to share in a look at the life, times and films of the legendary Western Star, John Wayne. We'll view movie clips from some of his most famous Westerns and learn lots about this popular figure. We'll additionally enjoy a baked potato bar with chili and all the toppings, salad and dessert. The charge for our meal will be \$10.00. There will be no charge for our entertainment, but a love offering will be collected. Make plans to join us for this most popular presentation and fun event on **March 17th at 11:30** and be sure to call to **RSVP by Thursday, March 12th!**

Salem UMC Over 50's PROM 2026

Today is the last day to purchase tickets for the Prom!!

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 are \$50 per couple or \$30 per individual and now on sale in the Welcome Center as well as contacting jimmagann@gmail.com.

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, **March 30** at our normal time **11:30a.m.** We will meet this month at **M's Kitchen; 340 Columbiana Drive, Irmo.** All ladies are welcome!

Memorials in Loving Memory of

Virginia Dionisio

by Lou Holmes - Building fund

Rafe Ellisor

by Lou Holmes - Building fund

Gwen Parnell

by Carolyn Gilbert - Music Ministry

by Steve & Sallie Stafford - Building fund

by David & Martina Thomas - Children's Ministry

Easter Sunday, April 5th

We will hold two worship service opportunities on Easter this year. In addition to our **regular worship service at 10:30am**, Reverend Childress will lead a **sunrise service at the Church on the Lake site (Woodmen of the World) at 7:00am**. Additionally, the children will be flowering the cross during the Worship hour. If you have any flower donations to contribute to this event, please feel free to bring them. *Families are encouraged to take their family photos at the cross after our 10:30 worship.*



Drive Through Prayer Ministry is back!

Our Drive Through Prayer Ministry will ramp back up on **Monday, April 13th from 7:30-9:00am** here in the church parking lot. If you are interested in helping out to hold up signs or offer up a word of prayer for a neighbor, we'd love to hear from you! The ministry will run for 6 weeks each Monday and is a great way to start off your week. If you are interested and available on any Monday during this time, please call the church office or let Tina Overton know.

PORK 4 PEWS



EASTER EDITION

EASTER MEAL MADE EASY AND ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
RECOVERING OUR CHURCH PEWS

HUDSON'S BONE-IN SPIRAL GLAZED SMOKED HAM
\$70/PER HAM (APPROX. 12 SERVINGS)
ALL PREORDERS DUE BY TUESDAY MARCH 31ST
PICK UP EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. AT SUMC

*Contact church office or text Jennifer Hodges at
865.437.7950 to place order*

Sharing God's Love

Urgent Pantry Needs: Cold Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tea Bags Elbow Pasta, Pasta Sauce SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, etc., Chili, Soup, Crackers (Ritz or Saltines), Canned Tomatoes, Canned Meats, Fruit Juices, Fruit Snacks, Canned or Powdered Milk

Household Items: XXXL Clothing, New Underwear for Adults & Kids, Used Underwear for Kids & Men, White Socks All Sizes Sheets, Blankets, Comforters, Wash Cloths, Hand Towels, Bath Towels, Household Items: Pots, Pans, Plates, Glasses, Cookware, Bakeware, Kitchen Linens, Small Appliances.

Collecting for Easter: Now thru March 31st:

Children's Easter Outfits, Easter Baskets, Grass, Eggs, Bibles, Journals, Easter Books, Devotional Items, Candy, Small Stuffed Animals, Spring Toys.

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

456 items were delivered to Sharing God's Love on March 5th.



.....It's not March Madness
..... It's a March Mission
...Blessings in the Bag!

James 1:27 reminds us that caring for children in need is part of living out our faith. During this season of prayer and self-reflection, Salem's UWIF is leading a mission titled "Blessings in the Bag" to partner with the SC Youth Advocacy Program to provide needed items for youth who are being transported to foster homes.

Salem's members may help by donating simple items like toothbrushes and travel size soaps/shampoos (even from hotel stays) to include in toiletry bags. Other items needed are individually packed snack items: crackers, pretzels, popcorn, granola or cereal bars. These items will assist SCYAP drivers as they transport hungry youth. Yes, small things can make a big difference during a very difficult transition.

Sunday school classes, groups or individuals who would like to contribute a financial donation to help UWIF order sample size toothpaste, deodorants or snacks in bulk to include in individual bags are also much appreciated.

Donated items should be placed in the designated collection areas in the Church Office and Welcome Center by Thursday, March 19. Financial donations should be clearly labeled Bags of Blessing Mission with checks written to Salem's UWIF and turned in at the Church Office or to one of the UWIF leaders: Lisa Lee, Miriam Lovett, Lou Holmes or Debbie Joye.

All of Salem's ladies and friends are invited to attend a fellowship gathering on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 pm, for a time of prayer and action for children/youth in need. Ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall working together to assemble and attach encouraging messages to each bag. Thanks for helping to make this March Mission possible!

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Sunday, March 15	
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.	..... Genesis Bible Study
4:00 P.M.	..... Kid's Quest
5:00 P.M.	.....Youth
Tuesday, March 17	
11:30 A.M.	..... .OASIS
7:00 P.M.	..... AA Meeting
Wednesday, March 18	
7:00 A.M.	..... AA Meeting
Thursday, March 19	
1:00 P.M.	..... .Al-Anon Group
7:00 P.M.	..... AA Meeting
Saturday, March 21	
10:00 A.M.	.....Nurses Honor Guard
5:00 P.M.	.....Over 50's Prom
7:00 P.M.	..... AA Meeting
Sunday, March 22	
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.	..... Genesis Bible Study
4:00 P.M.	.....UWIF
4:00 P.M.	..... Kid's Quest
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>

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.



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
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