

Newsletter from Salem UCC Church

Pocono Pines, PA

Spring/Summer edition, 2016

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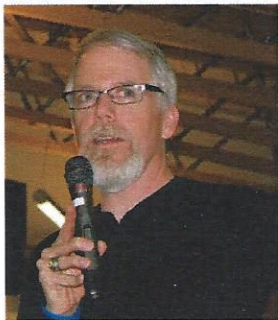
Salem UCC, Dr. Stanley Menking, and the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, PA are partnering together to provide a comprehensive student minister mentorship program.

The Reverend Dr. Stanley J. Menking has agreed to work with the Moravian Seminary and Salem UCC to provide a structured educational mentorship program for Michael Lonergan. Dr. Menking is a retired United Methodist minister who is a long term resident of Lake Naomi with his wife, Betty. In addition to serving as the formal mentor for Mike, Dr. Menking will be handling various pastoral duties at Salem UCC for the balance of the 2016 calendar year. We are truly blessed to have such a distinguished and well respected theologian and nationally recognized religious educational leader of Dr. Menking's renown who is serving as our Church Pastor.

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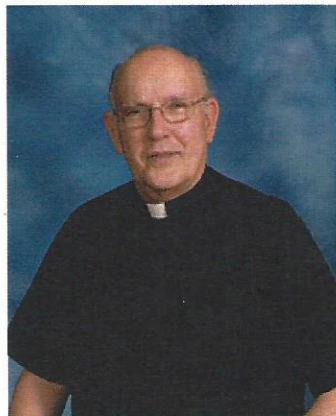
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Salem welcomes Mike Lonergan ...



The Salem UCC congregation is happy to welcome Debbie and Mike Lonergan (Mike is pictured at left) into the Salem family. Debbie and Mike currently live in Bethlehem, PA, but regularly travel to the Pocono Pines area to join in our church activities. Welcome Debbie and Mike!

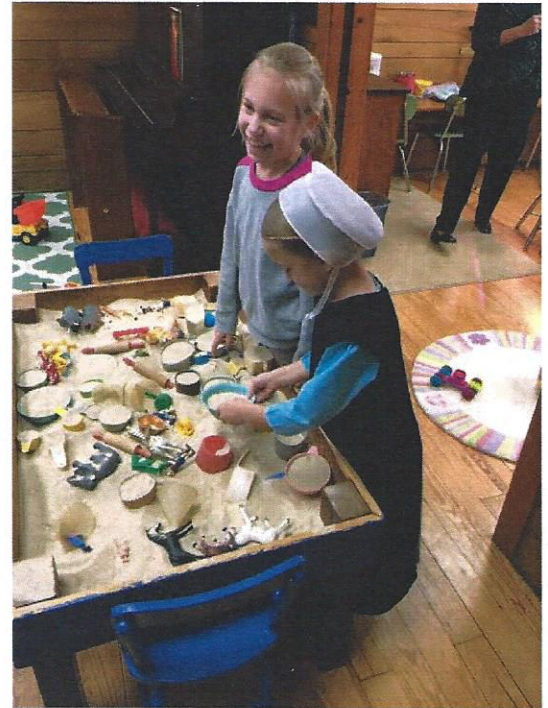
Salem bids a fond farewell to our long time pastor, John Stowell.



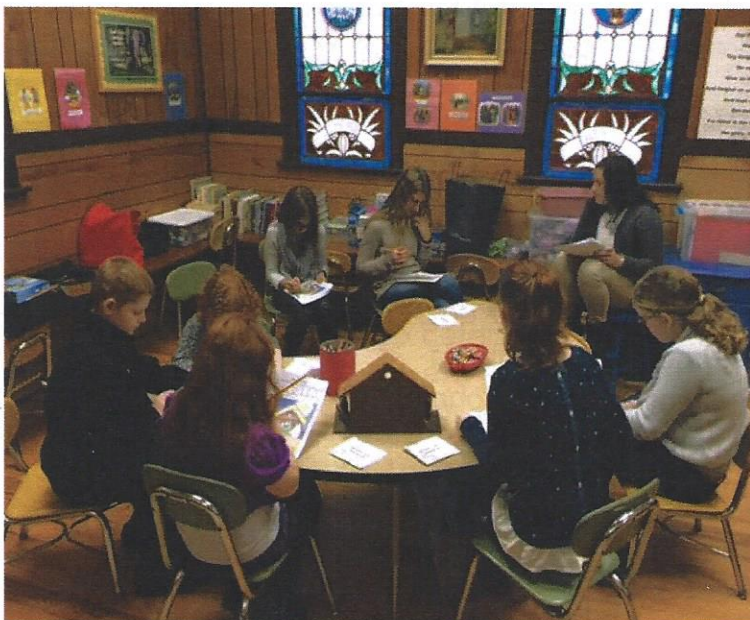
After faithfully serving our congregation for over eight years, Pastor John Stowell (pictured at left) is taking some well deserved time off. Pictured at the right is Mike Lonergan presenting Pastor John with a watercolor painting of Salem UCC Church as a farewell gift from the congregation. The artist of the watercolor is our own church member, June Steinberg.



Salem extends a helping hand ...



In January, Martha and Stephen Stoltzfus, plus their eight children and their son-in-law (all pictured above left) joined the Salem congregation to participate in our Sunday service. Their daughter, Malinda Joy Stoltzfus and Olivia Price (pictured above right) made a new friendship during Sunday School. The Stoltzfus family are friends with Susan Kratzinger who is one of our newest Salem members. In February, Salem learned from Susan that the Stoltzfus family and their local Amish community neighbors experienced substantial storm damage when a tornado completely destroyed their Whitehall School House building. Salem UCC was able to provide them with a helping hand by assisting with the finances and various supplies needed to restore their school house.

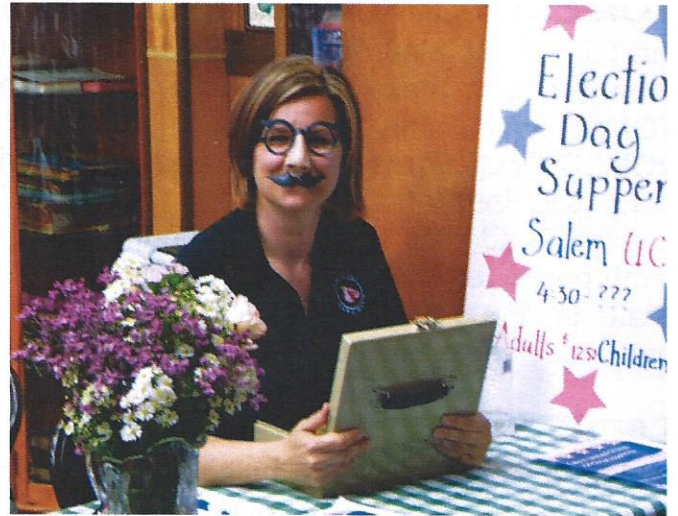


The youth at Salem are enjoying their Sunday School program ...

Every Sunday, the children at Salem UCC are able to participate in structured religious education programs that are coordinated by Lynne Howarth, with the assistance of other members of the congregation and our ministerial student from the Moravian Seminary, Mike Lonergan.

Our Election Night Supper was another big success ...

Pictured at the right is Kelly Hixon wearing her favorite disguise. Kelly helped to collect the money for the event that was attended by over 100 people. Every election night the Salem church congregation, with the help of our guest chef, Justin Miller, hosts a full supper for the local residents. The chef's Chicken Francaise entrée was a big hit this year. There were also plenty of delicious desserts prepared by the Women's Guild. After casting your vote in the next election why not stop by our church for the Election Night Supper and enjoy some good food and fellowship.



Keeping score ...

Now that spring has arrived and the hibernation season is over, some of you have asked about the current status of the ongoing battle between George White and our local bear in an effort to keep the trash bin area secure from various scavengers. The current score is noted below:

Bear = 2 George = 0

The entire congregation is still rooting for George to ultimately prevail!

Work continues on various church renovations ...



The congregation continues to work on various needed renovations to the church facility. The most recent improvements involved new flooring in the kitchen and both bathrooms. It is expected that our next effort will concentrate on renovations to the main sanctuary, and the front and side entrance vestibule areas.



Miscellaneous Updates:

TOME C: Salem UCC continues to be an active participant in the various programs sponsored by the Top Of The Mountain Ecumenical Council (TOME C). If you wish to donate to the TOME C Food Pantry, please make your checks payable to Salem UCC and mark the memo line "Missions - TOME C Food Pantry". Cash donations should be placed in a separate envelope marked "Missions - TOME C Food Pantry" so as not to get the donation mixed in with our regular collection. Non-perishable food and cleaning supplies should be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Always needed in addition to food: pet food, Ensure, diapers, wipes, shampoo, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste, feminine monthly care products and laundry detergent. Due to reduced funding by the State, the Food Pantry is in need of funds to meet the increased number of people they serve. Presently, they serve 266 families consisting of 848 people.

Lenten Discussion Series: Mike Lonergan recently conducted a discussion series that reviewed a book by Alan Hamilton titled "*24 Hours That Changed The World*", which chronicles the last 24 hours of the life of Christ and the impact of His crucifixion. Currently, he is conducting a review of a book by Mike Slaughter titled "*Change The World.*" Both programs were well received, and Mike is planning to conduct additional programs in the future, so stay tuned.

Demographic Analysis: Recently, Dr. Menking conducted a discussion regarding a demographic analysis that he completed for Salem, so that we will have a better understanding of the church's local service area. Copies of his detailed demographic analysis are available on the information table in Fellowship Hall. This information will be very helpful as the church evaluates how to position itself for the future.

Backpack Program: The backpack program continues to provide needed support of supplies and food to 52 children who are students at the local Tobyhanna Elementary School.

Memorial Garden: Don't forget to consider ordering an engraved brick that can be placed in the Salem Reflection & Memorial Garden to honor a loved one or a special event. Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall. Completed forms should be returned to Don Jones for processing.

New backrests available: The church now has six (6) new backrests that are available for those who may be experiencing discomfort or having some trouble with their backs while using the pews during the Sunday service. Please notify one of the ushers if you would like to use a backrest.



SIGN CONTEST - Reminder, the forms for entering the contest to help determine the wording for the back side of our main "**Come Home**" sign are available on the information table in Fellowship Hall. The final date for submitting your suggestions is 7/17/16. Please return your completed contest entry form to Don Jones.

We are on the Web. Check us out at
WWW.SalemUnitedChurchOfChrist.org