



SALEM UCC NEWSLETTER

108 Church Street-PO BOX 1047
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
December 2017



*No Matter Where You are in Your Journey,
You are Welcome Here!*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the second chapter of Luke's gospel an angel appears before the shepherds living in the fields watching over their flocks by night. The angel appears to bring them good news of great joy for all of the people. The angel appeared to the shepherds, the least in the society. People who worked hard yet could not break out of the cycle of poverty. These were who God chose to tell the world the news of the birth of the Savior.

In the first week of our study *Sent*, Pastor Jacob Armstrong suggested that if the angel were to appear today, it may be to the cooks and servers working the overnight shift at a diner, or some other group of people who work while we are sleeping. Chances are, like the shepherds in the first century, some of these folks are unable to break the cycle of poverty despite working more than one job.

Or possibly the angel would appear to the men in this picture, the workers building the multi-purpose building in Guatemala I recently visited. Men, who work hard every day, yet have little opportunity to escape poverty.



In Luke Chapter 4 Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah and tells the people in the synagogue that he has been sent to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free.

This advent season a portion of my prayer time will be devoted to reflecting on these verses from Luke 4. Where is my poverty, what is holding me captive and blinding me? What is the good news Jesus is bringing to me this Christmas season.

As we journey through advent together I invite you to reflect on Luke 4:18-19, what is the good news Jesus is bringing to you this Christmas?—Pastor Mike

DECEMBER 24th SERVICES

10:00 a.m. RACHEL SEES THE MANGER

-With the Salem Players

7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

-with Special Music



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Jubilee

Dec.9 at 8:30 am

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Mountain Top
Lodge

Dec. 9 at 9:00 am

**Kris Kringle
Breakfast
Salem UCC
December 10
8:30 am**

**Pocono Mtn West
High School
Show Choir
Holiday Show
Clymer Library
DECEMBER 7th
6:00 p.m.**

**Taste, Sounds,
Scents of Jewish
Holidays
B'nai Harim
December 10
2 pm**

**Christmas
Concert at
St. Maximillian
Kolbe
Dec. 18th
7:00pm**

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<p>Excerpt from Devotional: 12-19-17 Luke 1: 46-49 <i>...Imagine a 13-15 year old girl being so in tuned with the Divine that she would give such a greeting to her older cousin. Mary had to travel quite a distance to get to Elizabeth's house, carrying a secret she knew could cause her death... death by stoning. The terrible fear that might have accompanied her on the caravan came to an abrupt halt when her cousin greeted her ...</i></p>	

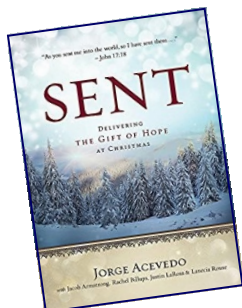
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

ADVENT STUDY WITH PASTOR MIKE

SENT

Delivering The Gift of Hope at Christmas

Pastor Jorge Acevedo and friends challenge our body, mind, and soul through story, art, and Bible study. Join the adventure of discovering how, when and where we are to be the hands, feet, head and heart of Jesus on earth.



**NEW DAY AND TIME
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:30**

December 3, 10, 17

SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH MISS LYNNE

Children's Ministry



**COME JOIN THE FUN AND
MEET NEW FRIENDS!**

GOD LOVES EACH OF US!

**Each week discover new ways
God loves us.**

DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Available through email or if you don't have a printer and want a hard copy let Debbie Lonergan know.

*May This help you keep
Christmas with you*



2017 SALEM UCC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Written by Deborah A. Lonergan

BEING THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS

TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL (TOMECE)

TOMECE operates the Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels; offers shelter, counseling, meal vouchers, as well as interfaith opportunities and publicity.

The Food Pantry no longer accepts clothing of any type. Please call Elaine Madere at 732-995-3370 if you have any furniture or household goods to donate.

For the last 10 months the Food Pantry has helped on average 265 families or 820 people per month. Food distribution is usually the second Monday and Tuesday of the month. In November they distributed 4,000lbs of Thanksgiving Turkeys; in December Christmas hams will be handed out.

HOLIDAY WISHLIST: CAKE MIXES, FROSTING, STUFFING, GRAVY AND CRANBERRY SAUCE
CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: BUY CLOTHING FOR FOOD PANTRY FAMILIES



***NO ONE HAS
EVER BECOME
POOR BY
GIVING***

***-Diary of Anne
Frank: the Play***



Salem UCC - Veterans Day Outreach Project

Sandy Spotts, VALOR House staff member accepts donations from Salem UCC congregation.

Many thanks to members of the Salem congregation for supporting our veterans at the VALOR HOUSE (located in nearby Jonas, PA) with donations of many dozens of pairs of socks and a large quantity of personal hygiene items. The mission of VALOR is to provide care, shelter, and a "hand-up" to veterans-in-need, due to personal health or resources. Your donations will make a difference in the lives of those who served our country.

Thanks, again!!



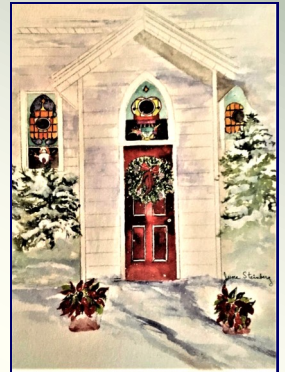
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

Original June Steinberg Christmas Cards

This year your purchase of Salem Christmas and Note cards can help support God's work in our community. You can choose from two different original designs of our beautiful little white church by our very own June Steinberg.



The cards come in packets of 10 cards and envelopes and can be purchased in Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$ 10 per packet.



The best news is that **ALL THE PROCEEDS** will benefit **Salem's Backpack Ministry** and the **TOMEC Food Pantry** at the Five Loaf House.

KRIS KRINGLE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Hackenbergs and Erlstens will be cooking

****Donations needed from Congregation****

Lisa will take the youth shopping

Carol will find needy family



**SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 25**



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

This will be a quiet, reflective service for those dealing with a loss or other major life change during this yuletide.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Michael Lonergan

Email: pastor.mike.lonergan@gmail.com

Pastor's Home Office:

- 570-355-5397



*During this holy
season it is good
for us to
remember...*

*"Christ has no
body now on
earth but
yours."*

Teresa of Ávila

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Phone:

570-643-1411

Church e-mail:

salemucc1411@hotmail.com

Church Website:

www.salemunitedchurchofchrist.org

CONSISTORY



Dave Sleightholm
President



Don Howarth

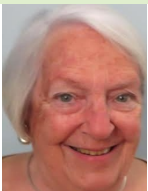


Bob Baechtold



Bill Andrews

**THANK THESE MEMBERS FOR THEIR TIME
&
SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH OUR CONSISTORY**



Carol Kehler



Donna Knecht



Fran Jamison



John Lyman



Lois Hill

SHARE OUR BLESSINGS

In a world of scarcity and fear, God offers abundant blessings and hope. Especially at this time of the year, as Christmas draws near and we re-read the story and sing the familiar carols about God's amazing gift to us two thousand years ago in a manger in Bethlehem, we cannot help to stop and marvel at all God has done in our own lives. Right here, right now, we are so blessed!

It is a true joy to share our blessings. In 2nd Corinthians 9:7 we read: "God loves a cheerful giver". God knows the joy that comes from giving, and He rejoices when we, as disciples of Christ, follow His example. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Jesus "gave Himself for our sins" (Galatians 1:4). "Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us" (Ephesians 5:2). God is a giver and He wants us to be like Him.

This Christmas, especially when so many of our friends and neighbors are feeling extra stress and strain, it is our prayer that all of us will open our hearts and share from the abundance of blessings we have from God.

Opportunities to share our blessings include:

- Give the gift of time to a loved one.
- Invite someone to Christmas Eve worship at Salem.
- Say "Merry Christmas" to everyone!
- Reach out to a "long-lost" friend or relative.
- Make a special offering to Salem in honor of Jesus' birth and presence in your life.
- Bring extra donations for the TOMEC Food Pantry.
- Designate a gift to the Deacons' Fund to help someone in need.
- Donate (folding) money to every Salvation Army collection kettle, or to other community appeals.
- Match your Christmas spending with a contribution to your favorite charity.
- Resolve to share more of your time, talent and treasure at Salem and beyond in 2018.

**Best Wishes
for a Joyfully Generous Christmas!
The Salem UCC Consistory**



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

EVERY ONE IS WELCOME

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Meet the Men of Salem at the Jubilee every 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30. Enjoy great conversation over a hearty breakfast.



WOMEN OF SALEM

Come to Mountain Top Lodge and treat yourself to great food and even better conversation. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00.

THURSDAY IS PIZZA NIGHT!

Let Dominic's do the cooking on Thursday night! Join fellow church members in an extremely relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other better.

Dominic's is located at 584 PA-940, Pocono Lake, PA 18347



WHAT IS YOUR IDEA FOR A GET TOGETHER?

Talk it up, don't be shy anyone can start a new tradition!
Let me know and I will post it in the Newsletter.

CONSISTORY MINUTES

September 17 2017

Author: John Lyman

Consistory:

Dave Sleightholm President

Bill Andrews

Bob Baechtold

Lois Hill

Don Howarth

Fran Jamison

Carol Kehler

Donna Knecht

John Lyman

Mike Lonergan Pastor

In attendance this month:

Dave Sleightholm, Bill Andrews, Lois Hill, Don Howarth, Fran Jamison, John Lyman, Mike Lonergan

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 8:30 am. August minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on the postcards: David spoke to Jacob who might be able to do both the postcards and the website, but is concerned about the effort. Dave will continue to pursue.
- AED: Mike contacted St. Luke's but has had no response. He will continue to pursue.
- Shrubs in front of the building in the front of the building look much better!
- ADA ramp at the front of the church: John attempted to find a ironworker to make wrought iron handrail but was unable to get anyone willing to do the job. Lois will approach her carpenter to see if he will do it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Planning session: The next session will probably be on a Sunday after church. More to follow.
- Snow removal on the sidewalks: how do we do it? Originally George did it but he can't do it anymore. Maybe ask for volunteers?
- Opportunities for giving; can we come up with a "opportunities for giving" sign-up sheet?
- Backpack program: this needs to be published on a Sunday. Carol may need some support, and this would be a good use of deacons funds.
- October 29, the Sunday Mike is gone: the church women's Guild will handle the service and Debbie will preach. The church will donate \$200 to the women's Guild for their ministries work.
- The chimes: they are now working, thanks Don Jones and others!
- CCLI license: it does not appear we have paid for one in several years. License is \$124 a year.
- Worship committee: Mike will pull one together this month.
- Cleanup at the back woodlot: once Lois is finished with the shrubs, the church will rent a chipper to clean up the back area. -Likely to happen in late November.
- John will dispose of the old light bulbs.
- There are several old gowns that are worn out and no longer used. The consistory will go through those gowns, set aside the good ones, and donate the rest to Laura Lyman to be used for charity quilts.
- It would help to clean up the shed.

Next meeting is 8:30 AM, October 15 , 2017.

Meeting adjourned.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Members include:

Susan Andrews, Lois Hill, Grace Conger, Jeanne Dyer, Pat Sleightholm, Donna Knecht, Fran Jamison and Thelma Baechtold

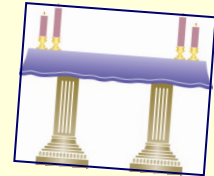
Prepare Communion Elements :

- Bread, roll, gluten free wafers and grape juice.
- Place elements on Altar and cover with Communion Linens.
- Communion trays and goblet are in the closet in the office.



Care of the Paraments:

- Changes made in accordance with the Liturgical Calendar and the Seasons of the Church —Paraments are in the closet in the office.
- Cleaning of Paraments and Communion Linens, as needed.



Altar Candles and Christ Candle:

- Check weekly and replace as needed.
- Check wick of Acolyte's candle lighter/snuffer and replace as needed.
- Check butane lighter for fuel and replace as needed.

Altar Flowers:

- Rotate artificial floral displays as seasons change —Flowers and holders are on the stage.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT ANY
MEMBER LISTED ABOVE**

HOW WILL YOU LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AT SALEM?

**ALTAR
COMMITTEE**

READER

**WOMEN'S
GUILD**

**DEACON
DEACONESS**

USHER

**CHOIR/
MUSIC
MINISTRY**

HOSPITALITY

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

COME, RELAX AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

JOIN OUR NEIGHBORS AT B'NAI HARIM AS THEY SHARE THEIR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS WITH US...

RSVP:

monroecountyunited@gmail.com

GETTING A SENSE OF THE JEWISH YEAR: THE TASTES, THE SOUNDS, SCENTS AND SPECIAL TOUCHES OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS




Congregation B'nai Harim
5349 Pocono Crest Rd
Pocono Pines PA
Sunday December 10th
2pm

This is a continuation of Monroe County United's program
Finding Common Ground Across Faiths
<http://www.bnaiharimpoconos.org/index.html>
RSVP to monroecountyunited@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE
**CHRISTMAS
HOPE**

WITH NASHVILLE-BASED
CHRISTIAN RECORDING ARTIST



MARK SMYBY

A HIGHLY ENTERTAINING
CONCERT OF TRADITIONAL
FAVORITES AND INSPIRATIONAL
ORIGINALS. GREAT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!

IN POCONO PINES MON DEC 18
7:00pm - St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
5112 Pocono Crest Rd.
free concert with love offering received
for more info about mark:
WWW.LIVEHOPENOW.COM

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS
WONDERFUL HOLIDAY
PERFORMANCE BY THE
SHOW CHOIR OF
POCONO MOUNTAIN
WEST
THURSDAY DECEMBER 7
AT
6:00 p.m.
IN THE
CLYMER LIBRARY
Call 570-646-0626
To Reserve Seat**

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT



REPORT



RESPECT



NOVEMBER
11



THANK YOU



SALEM ARCHIVES

By: Susan Kratzinger

There are several things missing from the Constitution of the Salem Sunday School of the Salem Reform Church—one is the date (though I believe it was formed at the end of 1898) and the other is Article VIII. Here is what they wrote:

Article I-Name
Article II-Object
Article III-Membership
Article IV-Officers
Article V-Elections
Article VI- Duties of Officers
Article VII (though they mistakenly wrote XVII)- Duties of Teachers
Article IX-Sessions
Article X-Amendments

One thing I didn't realize was that the Sunday School was set up for all persons (called scholars), not just for children. The object of the Sunday School "shall be to worship God and to study and teach the Holy Scriptures for the purpose of leading all who are connected with it to an intelligent Christian faith of life." The scholars must attend at least 10 Sundays a year (later amended to 8 sessions a quarter).

The Officers are set up like a school district—Superintendent, two assistant superintendents, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian (glad to know I would have had a job back then!) The Sunday School "shall work in harmony with the pastor and consistory."

Lynne, you may find the Duties of the Teachers interesting: "It shall be the duty of the teachers to make thorough preparation for teaching the lesson, to attend the teachers meeting, to keep order in their classes, to strive to win the affection and hold the attention of the scholars, to visit them at their homes, especially when they are sick or have been absent, and by all proper means secure faithful church membership of the scholars in their classes."

The Sunday School met regularly every Sunday at two o'clock in winter, two thirty in summer, and lasted about an hour and a half. An undated amendment later changed the time to 9:30 AM. Most of the remaining entries were numerical, listing the number of Officers, Teachers and Scholars present and how many pennies (yes, pennies) were collected. I'd say Sunday School has changed quite a bit in the last 100+ years, and how thankful we are to have Lynne Howarth as our very special Sunday School teacher.

Sunday Scripture Readings for the Month

12-3-17
1Cor 1:3-9
Isaiah 64:1-9

12-10-17
2Peter 3:8-15a
Isaiah 40:1-11

12-17-17
Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11
Psalms 126

12-24-17
A.M. --SKIT
P.M.-Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-20



Debbie Lonergan-Newsletter Contact
debLon5621@gmail.com

12-31-17
TBA
Pastor Away