

SALEM SCRIPTURES

Salem United Methodist Church Newsletter

May 2018



On Sunday, May 20, 2018, Christian churches celebrate Pentecost. For Christians, Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter. On that day, the church celebrates the happenings recorded in the New Testament Book of Acts, chapter 2.

Notice when you go into church on Pentecost Sunday, the changes in colors in the sanctuary. Red is the color of Pentecost, and it signifies the tongues of flames seen over the heads of those praying together. The Scripture also tells us that the sound of the blowing of a violent wind filled the house where Jesus' followers were praying. In addition to the color red, churches often display tongues of flame and symbols of wind on banners and posters.

In Scripture, we read that the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to go into the streets telling of Jesus to all those they met. Following Peter's sermon, many were baptized, and the church began to grow. Because of this, we call Pentecost "the birthday of the church."

You are asked to come to worship wearing red. Invite a friend to join us. Then watch all they ways the Holy Spirit blows through our church family.

In This Issue

- Pentecost
- Mothers Day
- Memorial Day
- Calendar of Activities
- Preschool Graduation
- What How and Why of Discipleship
- Salad Luncheon

Mothers Day– May 13

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

The church continues to honor mothers every year on that Second Sunday of May. Join us for the special celebration of mothers this year. That morning we will recognize Mothers, Grandmother, Great Grandmothers and many women who love us like a mother. We also acknowledge those for whom this day is a painful reminder of the loss of a child or not being able to be a mother. We also want to issue a challenge, this year lets see which mom can have the most family there to celebrate her.



Memorial Day- May 28

Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, is a day on the civil calendar for remembering and honoring those who have given their lives in battle. The day is also known as Decoration Day for the custom of placing flags at the graves of the patriotic dead. Without legitimating war, there is resonance with the gospel reading: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

During the prayer time that morning we will lift up those who have died while fighting in the U.S. Military service. We will think about the ways God has blessed our nation through the sacrifice of others. And we will talk about how we best honor those that go before us.

CHURCH CALENDAR



Weekly Calendar Items

Adult Sunday school –
Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

Worship Celebration –
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

Karate in Fellowship Hall
– Monday and Thursday
at 5-8 p.m.

Girl Scouts – Tuesdays
@ 6:00 p.m.

Ladies Quilting Group in
the Quilting Room –
Wednesday @ 10:00
a.m.

Boy Scout Troop 471 –
Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.

- **United Methodist Men's Breakfast**– Saturday May 5, 8-9 a.m. @ the church.
- **Finance Committee Meeting**—Tuesday May 8 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **P.I.N. feeding the homeless breakfast** Saturday May 12 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Mothers Day**—Sunday May 13
- **Church Council Meeting** Monday May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Classroom.
- **Memorial Day**—Monday May 28 Church office closed.
- **Meals on Wheels Tuesday May 29— June 1** we are responsible for having two people each day pick up the food at the Sentara Rosemont nursing home and deliver the meals to homebound seniors in our community. There is a sign up list on the bulletin board across from the church office.



What, How and Why?

I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.
– JOHN WESLEY, FROM 'THOUGHTS UPON METHODISM'

When Wesley penned these words he was expressing his fear that someday the people called Methodists might lose the power that was driving the Methodist movement; that Methodists might forget why the movement started in the first place; that we would forget what we believed and why we believed it; that we might lose the spirit behind all that we do and say. Has that moment arrived in some parts of the world? Have we lost our focus on a holiness of heart and life which transforms individuals and communities? I believe in order to rediscover the power at the heart of Methodism, we must rediscover the what, how, and why of discipleship.

What is a disciple anyway? How are disciples really formed?

It is right, as the questions imply, to ask critically of ourselves and the church, what part do we play in the making and forming of disciples, and where does God enter the process? For we do believe that the mysteries of God's grace – prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying – are at and each church's process is unique. And yet we, as disciples of Jesus, have a role to play in our own growth as individual disciples, in our accountability to and with other disciples, and in the formation of an intentional discipleship system for our church.

We must take our part in the discipleship process seriously as it has been entrusted to us by Jesus:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have

Preschool Graduation

Salem United Methodist Preschool (S.U.M.P.) is our thriving preschool ministry. This program is a ministry outreach of the church. Every year we welcome from sixty five to seventy children ages two through five into our building Monday through Thursday. To see how these children learn and grow from the beginning of the year to the end is a great blessing.

The recognition of the children going from preschool to elementary school is important. It helps the children know there will be new expectations on them. They also will have to get used to a new space as opposed to the familiarity of Salem church. We appreciate all that they have done in learning and also celebrate that there is so much more to learn.

We will celebrate the end of the year with a promotion ceremony on Wednesday May 23 @ 10 a.m. Then on Thursday May 24 @ 10 a.m. will be the graduation ceremony for our pre kindergarten children. These special celebrations are a great way for our congregation to meet some of the many families that spend years in our church building. The whole church is invited to attend and celebrate these wonderful children.

commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

The key word in this text is “go!” Christianity is a going religion. We are a going faith. Our mission as a denomination is fundamentally rooted in the Great Commission. We are at our best when we are going. The spirit of the Methodist movement is characterized by going to the people with a passion to make disciples. We have forgotten that the power that fueled our passion for making disciples is found in our continual effort to answer the call of the Great Commission.

We must know the basic characteristics of a disciple, we must know our end product (what kind of disciples we hope our churches will produce), and we must think intentionally about how our church’s ministries and opportunities work together to assist in disciple formation. It is my hope that in the coming years as more of us join the movement of intentional disciple making, each person in the pew will also be able to state what a disciple is and have a basic understanding of how they are formed.

We need to answer the question:

Why discipleship?

In his book *Start* with Why, Simon Sinek unpacks how great leaders, movements, and companies know and operate from their Why. Simon offers that most companies know what they do, some know how they do it, but very few can tell you why. “When I say Why, I don’t mean to make money – that’s a result. By Why I mean what is your purpose, cause or belief? Why does your company exist? Why do you get out of bed every morning? And Why should anyone care?” – Simon Sinek, from *Start with Why*

Although Sinek speaks to the corporate world, I believe the lessons are the same for the church. Can we clearly articulate our why? As we look at this statement, we might (incorrectly) replace “make money” with “fill the pews.” Filling the pews might be a result, but it has nothing to do with our why, nor would it have anything to do with making disciples. Why we make disciples gets to our purpose, our cause, and our belief. It gets to the heart of why we exist. Why does your church exist and why should anyone care?

When asked, “Why are you here (in this church, in this place)?” what is your response? I ask this question when visiting churches and the exact numbers vary, but overall results are usually the same:

- Less than 5% will say they found this church on their own.
- 5-10% will say they were invited by a member of the church.
- 80% or more will say they were “born” Methodist and have always simply attended the United Methodist Church where they live. And a large portion of this group (60-70%) would say they have always been in this church; their parents or their grandparents came to this church, and thus, so do they.

The problem becomes, the longer we have been in one place, the greater the likelihood that we have forgotten why.

It is my assertion that many United Methodists have lost or forgotten their Why for being a disciple, for being in a particular church, and thus have forgotten or lost the Why of making disciples. As we seek to bring clarity to what a disciple is – how disciples are formed – the most important thing that we can do as followers of Jesus is to reconnect with our Why.

Fellowship Hall Worship and Salad Lunch—Sunday June 3

Sunday June 3 we will hold our worship celebration in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather at tables at 10 a.m. for worship. This service will be a bit more casual but also model like the early church gathering at tables for food and fellowship.

Following worship we will hold a kick off to summer Salad Lunch.. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite salad to share with others. We will eat and fellowship together during this meal time. We hope all of our church family can join us that Sunday and also everyone will bring a friend.

Come and feast on God's word and on some delicious and for some healthy salads.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Salem United Methodist

2057 Salem Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

757.471.2406

salemumcvb@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.salemumcvb.org

For Pastor Bill McClung

757.268.4384

Pastor.bill.mcclung@gmail.com

Salem United Methodist Church: Changing Lives Together!

Salem United Methodist Church
2057 Salem Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

PLACE
STAMP
HERE