

# Salem Signal

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Newsletter for May

April 30, 2020



Deadline for next newsletter articles:  
May 24, 2020

## Pastor's Reflections

### Special points

#### Of interest

- Upcoming Events
- Financial News
- Those Who Serve Us
- Announcements
- Birthdays

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This past Sunday was our seventh Sunday out of our usual worship places due to the mandatory "sheltered in place" order by Governor Kemp. When this order to shelter first came out, I first thought it would be over within about month. *But boy was I wrong!* With the uncertainty of how medical information is being read and understood both within the medical community and in communities as a whole, there is some disagreement by just about everyone in what places should be opened or closed.

With that in mind, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the cabinet of the North Georgia Conference have decided to ask us to keep our churches closed until June 22. An email I received from the Bishop and the cabinet said this, "After talking with medical experts and reviewing data today (4/27/2020), we are asking you not to gather before June 22, 2020. This is the date that current models predict that we in Georgia can begin safely relaxing our shelter-at-home strategies."

I'm sure that this new date for remaining closed may not be what we were all expecting. That being said, I do know and believe that the date chosen by the Bishop and the cabinet was thoroughly discussed and prayed over. For the next 8 weeks, Salem UMC will continue to worship via Facebook Live on Sundays at 10AM. Also, the church offices will remain closed on an ongoing basis during the week with minimal openings for the business of the church to take place. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

In case you have not heard, the Bishop of the North Georgia Conference has appointed me as the new pastor at Greenville UMC, in Greenville, GA. Greenville UMC is located in the LaGrange District of the Conference. My appointment there is effective June 30, 2020. Brenda and I are so very thankful for our three years with all of you here at Salem, and we will greatly miss being with you.

At this time, I would like for all of you to begin to pray for your new pastor, David Cott and his wife, Katie, as they begin to prepare to move here to serve you, also effective June 30, 2020. David is currently serving a church in the South Georgia Conference and will be moving to the North Georgia Conference. David has some family (*grandchildren!*) in the Covington area and is looking forward to being closer to them. If you are on Facebook and have not yet done so, please consider asking David and Katie to be your Facebook friends. As soon as I have their mailing address, I will forward that to you so you can also send them some cards to greet and welcome them. Again, please remember to pray for them as they prepare to move here in less than 2 months.



## May Birthdays

### May 1

Mike Rodock  
Jarett Chriswell

### May 2

Bryan Dobbs

### May 5

Linda Schell  
Kevin Kelley

### May 6

Drew Dement  
Jacob McGinnis

### May 8

Sarah Story

### May 9

Diane Shannon

### May 10

Dale Moore  
Joanna Story

### May 12

Gary Bloodworth

### May 14

Ann Deerman  
Bobby Standard

### May 15

Billy Hadaway

### May 20

Macy Standard

### May 22

Ken Story

### May 24

Ashley Roberson  
Aaliyah Morales

### May 26

Henrietta McGinnis

### May 27

Adams Sagara

### May 30

Rosalyn Austin  
Sonia Lamb

## May Anniversaries

### May 2

Randall & Sara Ann Meadows

### May 10

Bill & Susan Atkinson

### May 14

Pat & Kim Miller

### May 29

Charles & Anna Ingram

**Have we  
missed your  
Birthday or  
Anniversary?  
Be sure to  
call the  
Church Office  
and let us  
know.**



## CELEBRATE



### CALLING ALL GRADUATES

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, we would like to include them in our Graduate insert on Graduation Sunday, May 19. We will need a short bio with a picture of your graduate. Please bring to the church office or email it to [office@salemumc.org](mailto:office@salemumc.org) before May 15.

### Refuge Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign –

The annual baby bottle campaign is the largest fundraiser that Refuge Pregnancy Center has each year. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the only way to fill a Baby Bottle in the near future in to do it on-line or by mail. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the Baby Bottle Campaign. You can either mail a check to The Refuge Center – 1307 Milstead Ave., Conyers, GA 30012. Please list “Baby Bottle and Salem UMC” in the memo line. Or you can give online at [www.refugeconyers.org/babybottle](http://www.refugeconyers.org/babybottle) .

**Prayer List – Please remember our shut-ins that are in nursing homes. They cannot receive any visitors at this time.**

**Shut-ins & Long Term Recovery:** Weston Barnette, Willis & Jeanette Britt, Ann Deerman, Jack & Joan Gibson, Ed Hooten, Mike McGraw, Harry & Cornelia Melton, Shirley Thomas, Ethelene Thompson, Ola Vaughn

**Church Family:** Rob Daniel, Louise McGiboney, Louise McGraw, Luanne Mowrey, Andy Peabody, Dianna Saltzgiver, Linda Schell, Don & Bev Stewart

**Family & Friends:** Anissa Brodie, Richard & Erika Casey, Michelle Connors, Cooper Family, Margaret Cousins & family, James Cowan, Betty Daniel, Phil DeMore & family, Tom Drill, Dyer Family, Fran Enyart, Todd & Sabrina Fletcher, Goodman Family, Kristin Hammons, Harmon family, Stefanie Houser, Hurley Family, Ann Kennedy, Stephanie Lowe, Martha Malcolm, Bobby Martin, Gerald Penn, Jimmy Phibbs, Billy Ragsdale, Barbara Schafer, Ryan Schafer, Marge Shearer, Ruby Lee Sheppard, Thompson Family, Jay Tice