

Salem Signal

3962 Salem Road, Covington, GA 30016

Phone 770-786-6027 Fax 770-786-6050

Newsletter for September

August 30, 2021



Deadline for next newsletter articles:
August 22, 2021

Pastor's Reflections

Special points

Of interest

- Upcoming Events
- Announcements
- Birthdays

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Dear Salem Family,

The prophet Ezra told the story of the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Centuries before, the Israelites, following Joshua, had moved into the promised land. There they set up a civilization, then a kingdom, and then under Solomon they built an awe inspiring temple. Time passed, the kings became wicked, the civilization fell apart, and finally they were conquered by the Babylonians. The last thing that many Israelites saw, as they were taken off into exile in Babylon, was the destruction of their temple.

Years passed again, God brought the Israelites back to Jerusalem. They rebuilt the walls and the homes of Jerusalem, and then eventually they started on rebuilding the temple. Ezra recorded that while many people cheered as the foundations for the new temple were laid, the older ones who had seen the first temple cried. This smaller temple would never be the awesome temple they had known in their youth. The exile had marked a dramatic change in the history of Israel, and it would never be the same.

I think we are beginning to see that this Pandemic will mark a dramatic change in our history, the history of American churches, and the history of Salem. Nothing will be quite the same as it was. We need to take time to remember our past, to honor those who have served so well before us, and maybe even allow ourselves to grieve a little. It is better to acknowledge our grief and share it, than to just bury it and move on.

And then, like the Israelites, we must pick up our shovels and our spades and work for a new and different future. As it was in the history of the Israelites, some things need to change. God wasn't done with the Israelites, as long as they were willing to follow. God will not be done with us as long as we are willing to follow.

I'm glad we have this scripture, Ezra 3:12;

"But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy."

It shows that God knows and honors our sorrow and our joy, even when they come at the same time. If we continue to follow God, in a few years, with God's grace, we will celebrate the birth, the 200 year history, and the rebirth of Salem United Methodist.

God bless us all!

Pastor David



September Birthdays

September 1

Carole Ann Kumm

September 2

Sara Ann Meadows

September 4

Nancy Taylor
Don Underwood

September 6

Alnida Ngare

September 9

Mary Alice Williams

September 10

Molly Kate Standard

September 13

Cecile Gordon

September 14

Glenn Moore, Jr.

September 16

Ally Rose Wayne

September 18

Corky Kumm
Carol Standard

September 22

Jerry Williamson

September 25

Rob Daniel
Ruth Pearson

September 26

Yvonne English

September 28

Rush Coleman

September 29

Rita Hadaway

September 30

Katie Cott

SEPTEMBER



September Anniversaries

September 2

Martin & Mae Lewis

September 7

Wesley & Nancy Taylor

September 15

Jeremy & Melissa Chriswell

September 22

Jessica & Joe Martinez

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



Covid Vaccinations

Covid Vaccinations
Monday, September 13
9 am—2 pm
In the Family Life Center
To be given by the Newton
County Health Department



Flu Shots
Sunday, September 26
10:30 am and
11:45 am

We will again partner with CVS to administer flu shots after both worship services.



Flower Calendar dates still available are 9/19, 26; 10/17; 11/21, 28; 12/12.

LOCK UP VOLUNTEERS are needed to lock up the church after the 11:00 service on a rotating basis. If you are interested in additional information please contact the church office.



Salem UMC will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger event on Saturday, September 25. We will be filling bags with rice and nutrients and then packaging the meals to be sent to orphanages and schools around the world. A minimum of \$3500 must be raised in order to hold this event. If you would like to contribute please note on your check that it is for Rise Against Hunger. Please contact Carol Standard for additional information. **The deadline to sign up to help with this event is September 5.**

Prayer List

Shut-ins & Long Term Recovery: Al Coleman, Weston Barnette, Rosemary Breedlove, Ann Deerman, Dave Kincaid, Cornelia Melton, Barbara Speeler, Don & Bev Stewart, Shirley Thomas, Ola Vaughn, Betty Wayne

Church Family: Debbie Anderson, Jeff Adams, Wanda Adams, Dave Bennett, Sonia Lamb, Dale & Glenn Moore, Luanne Mowrey, Paul & Sheri Parker, Andy Peabody, Joe Peabody, Jr., Fred Vick

Friends & Family: Bill Bennett, David J. Bennet, Dan & Michelle Connors, Lisa Long, Jason Tames, Kathryn Wilder, People of Afganistan, Hurricane Victims