



The Lamplighter

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others" Matthew 5:16

December 2022 Volume 26 Issue 12

A publication of New Salem United Methodist Church ♦ Randleman, North Carolina

Light a Candle

During this time of year, it can be easy to get distracted. There are so many things competing for our attention, time, and energy. Seasonal activities have a way of dominating more and more of each day as we head toward Christmas morning. Yet, it is also at this time of year when we can remind ourselves, we are anticipating the return of Christ. The season of Advent is a very simple and tangible way to guide us as we travel through the longest night with the new year on the horizon. The lighting of candles that represent hope, peace, joy and love may seem insignificant and trivial, but they have the potential to be transformative if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us this Advent season.

Anthropologists have long observed that people across cultures and history tend to perform rituals during times when there is a need to collectively or individually slow down and act in a deliberate way. Neuroscience tells us that our brains are wired to comprehend our reality through making predictions. This is a challenge when we are bombarded by the demands of the Christmas season. Rituals are structured which means they are predictable. Simply lighting a candle can lower your anxiety, stress, fear and even blood pressure. All are good this time a year, but even if there is no direct influence of the world we live in, rituals provide a sense of control as the light of a few candles has the potential to bring hope, peace, joy, and love into the chaos of everyday life.

This Advent season I encourage you to add the ritual of candle lighting into your holiday customs and traditions. If you have an Advent Wreath, great. If not, don't let that stop you from participating with this spiritually centering activity that opens our hearts and minds. Any candles, no matter the size, shape, color, or aroma can enliven the wonders of this season as we prepare for the celebration of when God put flesh on and walked among us.



Fill the Wagons

School Backpack Pals Program

We are starting our "Fill the Wagon" program. Bring your food items the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to donate money, make your check payable to "CIS Randolph County" with "Randleman Schools" on the memo line. Foods needed are:

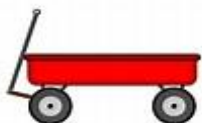
Capri Sun Juice Pouches or Similar

Single Serve or Small Boxes of Mac & Cheese or Similar

Granola Bars or Cereal Boxes, Oatmeal or Similar

Ramen Noodles or Similar

Cans of Ravioli, Vienna Sausages



Anniversaries

- 1st Tommy & Angela Garner
- 4th Chris & Rhonda Apple
- 7th Joe & Jeanette King
- 16th Frank & Nancy Hayes
- 16th Robin & Sherry Jobe
- 31st Ronnie & Shirley Flinchum

Birthdays

- 3rd Karen Vaughan
- 4th Sherry Heath
- 5th Kathy Baggett
- 5th Lilly Nelson
- 6th Van Slagle
- 8th Brenda Russell
- 8th Lola Martinez
- 16th Karen Routh
- 19th Sherry Fonner
- 24th Martha Bailey
- 25th Jean Dodd
- 31st Austin Whitehead

We will be placing poinsettias in the church sanctuary on Sunday, December 18th. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Sheri Small at 336-588-1679. **The cost is \$10 each and all orders must be received by Sunday, December 11th.** There are also order forms available at the church and on our church website umcnewsalem.org.



*Join us for a Christmas Eve
Drop-In Communion Service on
Saturday, December 24th, 3:00-4:00 p.m.*

Connectional UMYF will meet at
5:30 p.m. on
Sunday, December 18th
at Spillman's Christmas Tree Farm.



Join us as Pastor Steve leads an Advent Bible Study "***The Wonder of Advent—Delighting in the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love of Christmas***". We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

Pastor Steve will also offer this study at 6:00 p.m. at Old Union UMC on November 29th, December 6th, 13th & 20th.

Have a prayer request for the Neil Goslen Phone-tree? Contact the office, (336) 498-3936 or on the [New Salem Cell Phone \(743\) 241-1355](tel:7432411355). Please leave a message.



Please Be in prayer for:

People involved in the Ukraine/Russian war. Tommy Garner, Jim South, Ben Goslen & family, Patsy Russell (Angie Garner's Aunt), Stephanie Smith (Aubree Smith's Mother-in-law), Tammy Overman, Marty Russell, Ricky Barker, Betty Barker, Betty Owen, Becky Reese, Bonita Campbell



*Worship with us
this Christmas*



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM, in the Fellowship Hall and in the Susanna Wesley Classroom for Sunday Bible Study Groups.

9:30 A.M.

Our Worship Services are live each Sunday Morning in our sanctuary and on our YouTube Channel. You are also invited to view the recorded service at a later time at the link found below.

GIVING & CONTACT INFORMATION

New Salem UMC

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Pastor Steve Bergkamp

Cell phone: 561-512-0199

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NEW SALEM YouTube CHANNEL

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHWYgOsR5oLamk6gMUWW5yQ>

Deadline for information for the January 2023 edition of "The Lamplighter" is Wednesday, December 28, 2022.

