

Salem's News

April/May 2026

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Transforming Lives Through Christ (TLC)
Sharing, Serving, Worshiping, Nurturing



Photo courtesy of Peter Cieslukowski

Passover Seder 2026 at Salem.

Featured Committee: Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. In this issue, we are highlighting the **Staff Parish Relations Committee**, known as **SPRC!** For the story, please turn to page 4.

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Our Mission

Transforming Lives Through Christ (TLC)

We Share Christ's Love

We Serve Others Through Christ

We Worship, Glorify, and Praise God

We Nurture People to Live as Disciples of Jesus Christ

Message from Pastor ShinAe

Shalom, Salem UMC Family!

It is such a joy to celebrate and bless the launch of our very first newsletter. My prayer is that this digital “front porch” becomes a sacred space for us—a place where we can share the beautiful stories of how God is moving in our lives and our community. This past Good Friday, we gathered around the table to observe the Passover Seder. It was a powerful moment, but it often brings up a curious question: Was the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples actually a Passover Seder?

A Tale of Two Timelines

If you look closely at the Gospels, you’ll notice the timing feels a bit different depending on who is telling the story:

- The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke): These accounts suggest the meal happened on the first day of Unleavened Bread—the very night the lambs were sacrificed. To them, the Last Supper was the Passover meal.
- The Gospel of John: John tells us Jesus was standing before Pilate on the day before Passover (John 19:14). In this timeline, the Last Supper happened a day earlier.

Why the Difference Matters

This isn’t just a matter of checking the calendar; it’s about a beautiful theological picture. By placing the crucifixion on the afternoon before Passover, John highlights that Jesus is our true Passover Lamb. At the

exact moment the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple, the Lamb of God was giving His life for the world.

The Synoptic writers, on the other hand, focus on the Cup of Salvation. When Jesus held up that cup

and spoke of His blood “poured out for many;” He was linking our redemption directly to the ancient promises God made to Israel.

Looking Toward the Great Feast

Whether the meal was technically a Seder or a special farewell dinner, the heart of the message

remains the same: Jesus’ death is the bridge to our freedom.

Interestingly, at that meal, Jesus declined to drink the final “cup of consummation.” Instead, He made

us a promise: He would drink it anew with us in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 26:29).

So, as we journey together as a church, we live in that “in-between” time. We look forward with hope

to the day Christ returns, when we will all lift that fourth cup together, toast “Le-Chaim!” (To Life!),

and join our voices in a final, joyful “Hallelujah!”

With gratitude and joy,

Rev. Dr. ShinAe Kim



Salem's Leadership Team 2026

Rev. Dr. ShinAe Kim - Pastor

Church Council Chair:

Jim Stein

Trustees Chair:

Bob Guers

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC) Co-Chairs:

Carol Ascione

Katy Heckman

Certified Lay Minister:

Brenda Binns

Finance Chair:

Kim Degler

Worship Chair:

Wendy Fitzwater

Education Chair:

Steve Freeman

Nominations/Leadership Chair:

Rose Galuska

Other Ministries

Hand Bell Choir Director, Allison Dugan
Orwigsburg Food Pantry, Katy Heckman
Team Orwigsburg Liaison, Kim Degler

Technology Ministry Coordinator, Bruce Foster
Visitation Coordinator, Rose Galuska
Welcoming and Outreach, Brenda Binns (CLM)
Historian, Bob Guers

Church Staff

Secretary, Stacie Jones
Choir Director/Organist, James Deaven
Worship Leader, Kevin O'Brassill
Drums, Randy McCurdy
Honorary Pianist, Yvonne Siegfried
Treasurer, Sharon Burkhardt

Bob's Corner

This story is from the book, "The Life and Labors of John Seybert: First Bishop of the Evangelical Association," by Rev. Samuel Peter Spreng. It was first published in 1888.

Rev. Seybert was the first pastor of our church. He was the first bishop of the Evangelical Association.

Our story starts during the American Revolution. On Christmas Day 1776, George Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River and captured the city of Trenton, N.J. German mercenaries from Hesse-kassel were captured and sent to prison in Lancaster, Pa. Among them was a lad of 15, Henry Seybert, John Seybert's father.

When the war ended, Henry decided to stay in America. In the Town of Manheim near Lancaster,

Henry was arrested as a vagrant. He was sold into indentured servitude to a farmer for \$100. He was an indentured servant for three years.

John was the eldest of three sons. Henry died very young, at 45, and his mother left, joining a commune north of Pittsburgh. This left the boys running wild in Manheim.

"I was the worst of all the boys my age, even my brothers," John wrote. "I was unable to be confirmed in church because of my wickedness."

However, at the age of 19, during an all-night vigil common in those times, John started convulsing. That night changed his life, and he began to preach. He had the Holy Spirit in him from that night on. "Hallelujah."
-- Respectfully submitted by **Bob Guers**, Salem Historian

Featured Committee: SPRC

Here is the latest news from your Staff Parish Relations Committee:

SPRC Members: Carol Ascione and Katy Heckman, co-chairs; Ed Folk, Steve Freeman, Rose Galuska, Susan Stein, Brenda Binns (CLM); and Pastor ShinAe.



Children sign “God Bless America” at Salem’s April 12 Sunday Service.

Please give a warm welcome to Stacie Jones, who is Salem’s new Administrative Assistant. Stop by to meet Stacie in the Church Office, Tuesday through Friday, from 9 am to 1 pm.

A Journey of New Ideas and Events Initiated

A suggestion box has been placed at the rear of the sanctuary, open for all comments and concerns. The **revival of this newsletter** is part of our mission to **better communicate with the congregation** and **to encourage growth and transparency** within the church. We aim to uphold **Congregation Engagement and Community Outreach Ministry** by doing the following:

- To **increase the security** of Salem’s bank **safe deposit box**, there are now new keys, signature cards and copies of the contents on file.
- There is continued support for **Pastor ShinAe’s Visa extension and Green Card**.
- The Eastern PA Conference has approved **two grants in the amount of \$5,550**, with the purpose of **expanding Congregational Engagement and Community Outreach Ministries**. Salem now celebrates three annual **Invite-A-Friend Sundays**, sharing God’s love and planting seeds for the ongoing growth of God’s Kingdom throughout our Church and community.
- **February 15, 2026: “Walk Together in Love:”** 30 guests received a welcome gift and shared refreshments and fellowship after the service.

- Every Sunday service includes **member-written prayers**.
- **Guest musicians** share their talents each month.
- **Members’ favorite hymns** are featured in services.
- The bulletin includes a **calendar of events** on the first Sunday of each month.

- **May 24, 2026: “God Bless America”** Start inviting your friends and family soon! As we rejoice in 250 years of the USA, historical topics of interest will be presented for 5 weeks preceding this Sunday. Surprises are in store!
- **Sept. 13, 2026: Jonathan Bond Performs Special Music** during Sunday Service. Then join us at 2 pm for a spirit-filled concert.

Please continue sharing your comments and special hymn requests in the suggestion box. Whether positive or negative, your SPRC is eager to listen, learn, and reach a solution so that we can all Share God’s Love. Don’t hesitate to reach out!

-- Respectfully submitted by **Carol Ascione and Katy Heckman, Co-Chairs**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We continue to give thanks for the generous spirit God has placed within this congregation. Your faithful giving enables us to live our mission: "Transforming Lives Through Christ."

Salem UMC's 2026 budget is \$208,170. We work to stay within this plan despite unexpected challenges – such as the recent harsh winter – which can create additional financial pressure. Below is where we are year-to-date (as of March 31, 2026):

Offerings: \$50,079

Expenses: \$53,414

There are several ways to give at Salem: at Sunday services, via mail to the office or online at SalemUM.com. Also, there is the option for recurring donations to be automatically deducted from a bank account at regular

intervals. For more information about automatic giving, please contact the office at 570-366-0201. Thank you!
- Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Burkhardt, Treasurer

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Several projects need to be done around the church and office. They include:

- Replacement of church porch roof trim in front
- Removal of the exit door for the old ramp and installation of a window
- Installation of a handrail to the office basement. The lumber and handrail were donated, but we need someone to install it.

Please call Bob Guers (570-573-8879) if you can help with any of these projects. Thank you!



Maintenance was done on the furnaces in the church and office, and a small water heater was replaced in the office. The piano in the sanctuary was tuned on March 3. We had a contract with Koch's Lawn Service for snow removal this year. A pre-owned printer was purchased for the church office. A generous donor paid for the printer. A monthly fee will be billed to cover toner and maintenance. Also, a weed trimmer/blower, and a small freezer were recently donated.

- Respectfully submitted by **Katy Heckman**

Outreach Ministries

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Please join Pastor ShinAe on Wednesdays at 2 pm for a closer look at the **Book of Matthew!**

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

This group meets at 10 am Thursdays.

THURSDAY DINNER CHURCH

Dinner Church is 5:30 pm April 16 and 23; and May 7, 14 and 21.

SNL

Meal and Movie Nights are May 3 & 17 at 6 pm.

COMMUNITY SHARING BOX



Donors place food and paper goods in the box at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library, and hungry Families can take what they need.

FOOD PANTRY


Salem is providing volunteers for the **Food Pantry** for May. We need at least four people on Friday for packing boxes, and even more for distribution on Saturday. The dates are **Friday, May 15, at 6 pm** for packing; and **Saturday, May 16, at 8:30 am**, for distribution. Anyone can help on Friday for packing. On Saturday, only those who are high school graduates or older are permitted to help. Please let **Katy Heckman** or **Steve Freeman** know if you can help as soon as possible. Thank you!

- Respectfully submitted by **Katy Heckman**

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Passover OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:15 pm – Handbell Practice	2 Maundy Thursday OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:00 am – Women’s Small Group	3 Good Friday/Passover Seder OFFICE 9 – 1 PM	4
5 Easter / Communion 10:00 am – Morning Worship 6:00 pm – SNL Movie Night	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga with Ed Folk	8 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:15 pm – Handbell Practice	9 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:00 am – Women’s Small Group 5:30 pm – Dinner Church	10 OFFICE 9 – 1 pm	11
12 10:00 am – Morning Worship 4 - 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts Meeting	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga with Ed Folk	15 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:15 pm – Handbell Practice	16 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:00 am – Women’s Small Group 5:30 pm – Dinner Church	17 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 4 - 9:00 pm – Scrapbooking	18
19 10:00 am – Morning Worship 6:00 pm – SNL Movie Night	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm – Yoga with Ed Folk	22 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM Earth Day 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:15 pm – Handbell Practice	23 OFFICE 9 – 2 PM 10:00 am – Women’s Small Group 5:30 pm – Dinner Church	24 OFFICE 9 – 2 PM	25 Pathways Bridges Innovation Session (Rev. Dr. Chris Heckert) 10 am-4:30 pm Asbury UMC
26 10:00 am – Morning Worship 4 - 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts Meeting	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga with Ed Folk Sight and Sound Trip	29 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:15 pm – Handbell Practice	30 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:00 am – Women’s Small Group		

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM	2 North District Conference 10 am Asbury UMC
3 Communion 10:00 am – Morning Worship 6:00 pm – SNL Movie Night	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga Class	6 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 7:30 - 8:30 pm – Handbell Practice	7 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 5:30 pm – Dinner Church	8 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM	9
10 Mother's Day / Handbells 10:00 am – Morning Worship	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga Class	13 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm 5:00 pm – Finance Mtg. 6:00 pm – Church Council 7:00 pm – SPRC Meeting	14 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 5:30 pm – Dinner Church Pastor to GA -> 5/19	15 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 6:00 pm – Packing Boxes for Food Pantry	16 8:30 am – Food Pantry Distribution Orwigsburg Community Yard Sale
17 10:00 am – Morning Worship 2 - 4:00 pm – Girl Scouts Meeting 6:00 pm – SNL Movie Night	18 OFFICE CLOSED Women of Salem Meeting – 4:00 pm	19 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga Class EPA Conference -> 5/21 Wildwood, NJ	20 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color!	21 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM	22 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 4 - 9:00 pm – Scrapbooking	23
24 10:00 am – Morning Worship ----- 31 10:00 am – Morning Worship	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED Orwigsburg Memorial Day Parade	26 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 7:00 pm – Yoga Class	27 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 10:30 am -- Eat, Pray ... Color! Bible Study – 2:00 pm	28 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM 4 - 8:00 pm – Orwigsburg Farmers' Market 5:30 pm – Dinner Church	29 OFFICE 9 – 1 PM	30

