

9:00 am Worship Service

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

*Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1-3)* #234

Advent Candle Lighting Barb & Katie Yoder

Hymn *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* #204

Prayers for the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn *We Three Kings (v. 1)* #254

Children's Time

Salem Ringers *Traditional Christmas Melody*

Impact of Your Generosity

Offering Prayer

*Doxology #95

*Hymn *The First Noel (v. 2-5)* #245

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 Jim Aberts

Sermon The Gift of Imperfection

*Hymn *Joy to the World* #246

Blessing

Postlude

**Please stand if you are able.*

Our Salem Church Family Prayer List

Samantha Enck	Jim Yoder	John Weaver
Tammy Buffington	Rick Stief	Virginia Moore
Renee Troutman	Harry Cassel Family & Friends	
Mark Blankenship	Shannon Gornick	
Ed Lull	Gerri Messman	

An assisted listening system is available from a smartphone application to help people to hear the service better. Download the WaveCAST Audio Receiver app and log in to the SalemGuest Wi-Fi – the password is MINISTRY. If you need assistance, please go to the sound booth.

Welcome!

We hope our time together is a source of hope and peace.

Nursery Care is provided during worship for infants to age 4.

Prayer Requests can be written on the cards located in the lobby. Place your request in the prayer quilt near the sanctuary entrance.

Friendship Pads are in the pews. Please take the time to fill them out and pass them down the row. The information you provide helps us with attendance and to follow up with guests.

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Children (K – 4th grades) – Room 204

Youth (5th - 12th grades) – Room 403

Wrestling with Grace (Adult Class) – Room 406

(Join us to go deeper reflecting on the sermon.)

Ages and Stages (Adult Class) – Room 404

Children's Chapel - The 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, Pre-K through 4th Grade children can attend Children's Chapel after the Children's Time during the morning service.

Coffee Time – Join us after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Offering Collection Boxes – If you would like to make a gift to support the mission and ministry of Salem, please place your gift in one of the offering boxes on the back walls of the Sanctuary. Offering envelopes are available in the pews for your convenience.

E-Giving Use the QR code to make a one-time gift or to set up recurring giving. Salem's e-giving provider is Nucleus Giving. If you want to support with a special offering, just make a note on the memo line.



Building Community One Question at a Time

A good conversation comes down to being a good listener. Listen carefully and ask follow-up questions: Try asking:

What do you think the best invention was? Why?

Share the question. Have fun while getting to know others a little better.

Electronic Newsletter Sign Up!

Each Friday we distribute an electronic newsletter called *Friday Friendly*. Please use this QR code to sign up or notify the Office Manager to be included.



"All worldly joys are less than that one joy of doing kindness."
~ John Wesley

Christmas Angel Tree ~ Gifts are due Today!

Thank you for your generosity! If you purchase a gift card please write the amount on the card if no receipt.



Salem Children's Christmas Party

TODAY ~ 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

We will be watching the movie, "The Star", having snacks and making crafts. Come in your pajamas with a pillow and blanket!

Salem Youth's Christmas Party

December 28th ~ 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Join us for games, food and a gift exchange.

Grades 5th to 12th are Invited! Plan on bringing a \$5-\$10 gift for a fun exchange.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

All donations are kept and distributed right here in the Manheim School District Area. You can ring bells at Longeneckers True Value or Hilltop Acres Farm Market. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



December Special Offering ~ Church World Service Blankets



Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the CWS Blankets and Kits ministry. \$10 provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need. \$25 provides a CWS Blanket and CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.


The United Women in Faith send a huge ~ Thank you!

Salem's support of the Faith Thank-offering Boxes was another huge success. We raised \$520.86 to help others during this Christmas Season. Thank you for your wonderful donations. We have returned your boxes for future collections. It's wonderful when we work together to help others. **The Wrestling with Grace Sunday School Class says, Thank you!** Your generous donations filled 39 bags to be delivered to the residents at Mt. Hope Nazarene Retirement Community, Pleasant View Community and Salem's shut-ins. We also collected \$200 from coffee time to benefit Mt. Hope Nazarene. The creative Nativity scenes are fantastic and on display across from the mailboxes.



Corsair Blue Jazz Christmas Concert ~ December 21st at 3:00 pm
Join us in the Narthex before the concert for fellowship, coffee and cookies at 2:00pm. Enjoy the talents of the Corsair Jazz Band while listening to Christmas music. Our very own Kelly Parker is their bass player.



A huge welcome to Phyllis Hess!
 Phyllis will be our new Office Assistant working Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. She will assist Gina with clerical duties, answer the phones and be available during the day for any of your questions. She comes to us with over 15 years of experience as a dedicated secretary for UPMC. Please stop by and say hello when she begins in the office on January 6th. We are excited to have her join us!

Save the Date!

(Check out the Friday Friendly for details.)

- December 21 – Corsair Blue Jazz Christmas Concert** (3:00pm)
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service** (7:00pm)
- December 28 – Youth’s Christmas Celebration** (12:30pm – 2:30pm)

This Week at Salem

- Today, December 14**
9:00 am – Worship service
10:15 am – Sunday School
11:30 am – 2:30 pm – Children’s Christmas Celebration
- Wednesday, December 17**
6:15 pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm – Salem Singers Rehearsal

Our entire worship service, including the Children's Message, is live-streamed and recorded. By entering the sanctuary or allowing your child to participate, you consent to being filmed. Those wishing to avoid the camera may sit in back half of the Sanctuary. Salem United Methodist Church of Manheim is not responsible for any unauthorized use of recordings by outside parties.

Church Contact Information

- John Laughlin, ext 3 pastorjohn@salemmanheim.org
Church Secretary, ext 2 ... officemanager@salemmanheim.org
Keith Mitchell, ext 4.....businessmanager@salemmanheim.org
Ext 8 Financial Assistance
Ext. 7.....Salem Handyman Service
Natalie Abram children@salemmanheim.org
Alysa Merkey.....youth@salemmanheim.org

Going Deeper in “The Gift of Imperfection”

Read the following a few times:

Matt 2:1-12; Matt 6:33; Jer 29:13; Rom 12:1; Luke 9:23

Reflect on the following:

1. If the Wise Men showed up today, what ‘treasures’ might they bring for Jesus?
2. What kind of gift would you want to bring to Jesus and why? (It could be something meaningful, funny, creative, or even symbolic.)
3. What is something you believe you’re gifted at or something you enjoy doing? How could you use that gift to honor God or serve others?
4. The wise men gave Jesus gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Why do you think they brought gifts at all? What do you think those gifts said about how they saw Jesus?
5. Why do you think the Wise Men were willing to travel so far just to see Jesus?
6. The Wise Men are outsiders, yet they show up first to worship Jesus. What does that say about who Jesus came for?
7. The star guided them step-by-step — not all at once. How do you see God guiding you today (even if it’s just one step)?
8. Herod saw Jesus as a threat. In what ways can Jesus feel threatening to our routines, pride, or desire for control?
9. How can we be more intentional about seeking Jesus—not just in church services, but in everyday life?

Wise Men Challenges — For This Week

1. **Seek Jesus with Intention** - Choose one spiritual practice to pursue daily this week. (Reading the Bible, prayer, conversation)
2. **Give a Costly Gift** - Do something for God or someone else that costs you something. (Time, money, comfort)
3. **Follow God’s Direction — Even If It Changes Your Plans** - Identify one area where you feel God prompting a next step (a relationship to mend, a habit to give up, a risk to take for growth, a place to serve).



December 14, 2025

Rev. Dr. John A. Laughlin, Sr., Pastor



- Frank Rittenhouse, Organist
Pat Myers, Choir Director
Terri Briskie, Accompanist
Doug Winters, Bell Director

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Church Secretary in Office: Wednesdays 4pm – 8pm