

# ECCLESIA

December 2021



  
**FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
SALISBURY, NC  
EST. 1783

## IN THIS ISSUE

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### **On the Cover: Decorating the Lobby Chrismon Tree**

Club 45 and the youth helped decorate the chrismon tree in the Carter Lobby again this year. Each beautiful chrismon ornament is made by hand, and most of the ornaments decorating the lobby tree have been created in honor or in memory of loved ones. "Chrismon" combines the words "Christ" and "monogram" and each pattern is fashioned after early Christian symbols and images from the Bible and church history.

### **Pages 8-9: Advent & Christmas Calendar**

You can find a list of events going on throughout Advent and Christmas on these pages. There are many opportunities to get involved both in-person and online.

### **Page 14: Celebrating Libby's 100th!**

We celebrate with Libby Hollowell who turns 100 on December 3!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**YouTube Channel** FUMC Salisbury



**Sermon Podcast**

Salisbury Sermons on  
Apple Podcasts and Spotify

**Sermon by Phone**

Call 1(704)378-8581



**Facebook** @fumcsalisbury  
**Instagram** @fumcsalisbury



## REMARKS

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*Light. Darkness. Two realities that deeply impact our every day life.  
One unified theme for Advent.*

An honest look at the past year will notice many moments of darkness, perhaps too many to even count. I'm thinking about people experiencing loss, divisiveness, and economic challenge. We typically categorize the darkness as "bad" with a hope for more light. Author Barbara Brown Taylor, however, has learned a deeper truth.

According to Taylor, there's much to learn in the dark, from the dark. Her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, shares stories and insights about this theme. Think about picking up a copy and reading it during Advent this year. We will have some discussion groups based upon the book, and I would love for you to participate.

The first Bible story in Genesis 1 involves God creating light from darkness, with light and darkness forming day and night. The pattern of day and night gives our lives a rhythm. The dailiness of it all helps us to keep track. This is true during Advent, too. As children, Christmas always seemed far away. Into adulthood, when time has a way of rapidly slipping past us, Christmas comes quicker. An Advent calendar can help us track our days through the season.

I still remember the Conforti family Advent calendar from my childhood. The thick paper had a little paper door with a number, 1-25. The artwork was reminiscent of a Currier and Ives scene, along with some glitter accents. Starting on December 1, we would gently peel back the little door to reveal a hidden part of the picture. This would continue every day up until Christmas Day.

Over the years, Advent calendars have become more involved, and more delicious! Some have chocolate inside – every day is a new piece of candy. A Lego Advent calendar has a little Lego structure for each day; by Christmas Day, you can put together all 25 to create a charming yuletide scene. There's even a jewelry Advent calendar!

Let me share a couple reflections about these Advent calendars. First, the ones with a daily gift have me wondering. Are we so consumer-oriented for Christmas that we simply want more stuff? Getting one little gift each day keeps us on the hook. As entertaining as these fun Advent calendars are, I wonder if they miss the point. Second, these are more of a "Christmas countdown" rather than a calendar to mark the church's season. After all, Advent starts on November 28 this year, not December 1.

I'm not being a Scrooge. I'm just trying to learn to walk in the dark.

Read more in this edition of the ECCLESIA about the church's special gatherings and resources available to you. Please take full advantage of them all. You are invited. And you are encouraged to share the invitation with someone else.

May the blessings of Advent give bring light to your darkness,  
Pastor Mark





# DECEMBER



## Week of November 28-December 4

48	JONAH 3-4 PSALM 145 MARK 6	NAHUM 1-3 MARK 7	ZECHARIAH 1-3 MARK 8	ZECHARIAH 3-5 MARK 9	ZECHARIAH 6-8 MARK 10-11
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## Week of December 5-11

49	ZECHARIAH 9-11 MARK 12	ZECHARIAH 12-14 MICAH 1 MARK 13	MICAH 2-3 PSALM 75 MARK 14	MICAH 4-7 HABAKKUK 1-3 MARK 15-16	MALACHI 1-4 PSALM 2 REVELATION 1-2
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## Week of December 12-18

50	EZEKIEL 1-3 PSALM 128 HAGGAI 1-2	EZEKIEL 4-7 REVELATION 3	EZEKIEL 8-11 REVELATION 4	EZEKIEL 12-14 REVELATION 5-7	EZEKIEL 15-16 PSALM 53 REVELATION 8-9
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## Week of December 19-25

51	EZEKIEL 17-20 PSALM 80 REVELATION 10-11	EZEKIEL 21-22 PSALM 29 REVELATION 12-13	EZEKIEL 23-24 REVELATION 14-15	EZEKIEL 25-29 REVELATION 16	EZEKIEL 30-33 OBADIAH REVELATION 17
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## Week of December 26-January 1

52	EZEKIEL 34-35 PSALM 46 REVELATION 18	EZEKIEL 36-38 REVELATION 19	EZEKIEL 39-41 REVELATION 20	EZEKIEL 42-44 PSALM 84 REVELATION 21	EZEKIEL 45-48 REVELATION 22
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# CHURCH HISTORY

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*"Looking back, moving forward"*

## **Cub Scout Pack Origins at FUMC**

In 1952, Salisbury's First Methodist Church launched a new Scouting program for boys too young for the outdoor camping challenge of Boy Scouting. This new program began in 1916 in England. Lord Robert Baden-Powell prevailed on his friend, Rudyard Kipling author of *The Jungle Book*, for permission to use the book's characters in a new adventure program for elementary school boys. Each chartered unit became a Pack, divided into Dens (originally named Wolf, Bear, and Lion). The leader of the Pack was Akela after Kipling's fictional teacher and guide. The grand Howl signaled the start of each meeting.

The program has gone through numerous name changes from Wolf Cubs, to Cubing, and finally to Cub Scouts. The first official United States Packs were chartered in 1930. Cub Scouting is family friendly and requires parents, leaders, and charter organizations to collaborate to fulfill Scouting's purposes.

My father, Fred Jordan, Sr., wanted to be a Boy Scout in his youth, but my grandfather would not allow it. Grandfather Jordan thought Scouts were just gangs up to "no good." Years later he apologized for his mistake. When church leaders approached Dad about organizing a Cub Scout Pack, he eagerly volunteered. A year later I was old enough to join. In a sense he and I entered Scouting together.

The first project I remember was a get-out-the-vote campaign. I was still a tag-along child, but we went all over downtown Salisbury handing out "George Washington Medal" plastic coins that urged people to vote. We did not campaign for any candidate or political party. Scouting has always stayed out of politics. Our efforts promoted civic responsibility.

The following year we provided food for a needy family at Christmas. It was part of Scouting's commitment to "do a good turn daily." I still remember carrying a bag of poorly sealed flour to their house. For an eight year old it weighed a ton. My new Cub Scout uniform blue pants were dusted white.

Young boys learn best when they have fun. Cub Scouting is all about having fun. From pretend knights in shining armor to swimming lessons, Cub Scouting's ultimate aim is value formation.

In 2017, the Scouting program began admitting females. Women had long served as Den Mothers and Cubmasters. Now girls can join their brothers and male peers as equal participants. However, girls and boys have separate Dens and in many cases separate Packs. Bill Shaffer is our Cubmaster.

Looking back at an early picture of Pack 442, I can spot fellow Cubs who later provided significant leadership to our community. They became doctors, lawyers, business executives, coaches, a Rowan County District Attorney, and a judge. Scouting produces leaders. Each meeting begins with the Scout Oath: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country." Through Cub Scouting our church has made a significant investment in our community's future.

Fred Jordan,  
*Church Historian*

Many of the scouts in this 1954 picture grew up to be community leaders. Do you see any familiar faces? The adult leader in the picture is Fred Jordan, Sr.



# HARVEST PROCESSION



## Giving in Abundance

This year was the fourth annual Harvest Procession at FUMC. Each year we have collected food for Rowan Helping Ministries in excess of 2,000 pounds. This year we collected 140 bags of groceries weighing 2,221lbs!

Thank you to everyone who shopped for groceries, sorted items, and delivered this donation to Rowan Helping Ministries!

## PREPARING FOR ADVENT



Thank you to all the children, youth & adults who decorated the church so beautifully for Advent!!



# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## Thank you, Ginny!

All women of First Methodist - Ginny Champion Is stepping down as president of the United Methodist Women. Ginny has been a leader of the UMW for many years, and has been a great president of our group for the past two years. She will be leaving Salisbury to be near her daughter in Wisconsin later this year. We celebrate her ministry here at First Methodist, and pray for her as she prepares to move. We will miss you, Ginny!

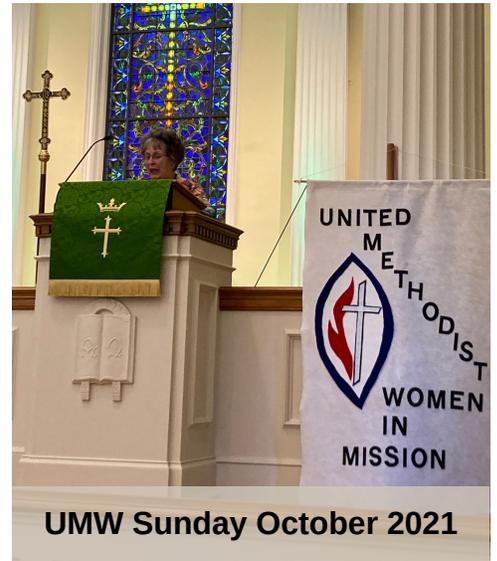
The role of UMW president will be transferred to me in the new year, and I think the new year holds some good opportunities for fellowship, learning and service!

A women's prayer breakfast will begin January 4, 8:30am at Hedrick's BBQ across from the Palms. We will meet every first and third Tuesday.

We will also continue with our two existing circles led by Brenda Loflin and Nancy Sherriff.

In addition, a new interest based group is in the planning stages! This group will be involved in mission project just like the circles. Let me know what your interests are! We would love to find a place for you within the life and service of FUMC's United Methodist Women!

- Barbara Senter  
2022 UMW President



## RECORDING WELCOME VIDEOS

### Welcome to worship!

Each week our live-streamed worship services begin with a brief video welcoming viewers. We all come to church hoping to connect with God, and also with one another. Worshipping online makes it possible for us to connect with God no matter where we are located, but having the connection found in worshipping alongside others is harder to find online. Beginning with a welcoming message to those viewing online, we can invite viewers to become co-worshippers.



# Advent at FUMC

## In Light and Darkness



### WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 & 11:00\* *Hanging of the Greens*  
November 28

#### ADVENT PRAYER STATIONS

6:30 *Following the Community Meal (6:00),*  
*Carter Lobby*  
December 1

#### SERVICE OF JOY

8:30 & 11:00\* *Gingerbread house making*  
*in the Fellowship Hall*  
December 12

#### LESSONS & CAROLS

4:00\* *in the Sanctuary*  
December 19

#### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

6:00 *in the Chapel*  
December 21

### AT HOME

#### DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Free and available for everyone of all ages!

Each one has:

- Scripture readings
- Devotions readings
- Reflections written by church members
- Coloring pages & questions for journaling



#### HOME ADVENT WREATHS



Available at the church for all ages (no cost, one per household please)

### BOOK DISCUSSION

#### IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM

*Learning to Walk in the Dark*  
by Barbara Brown Taylor

Books available through the church (\$13), or your favorite bookseller. Discussions December 12-14



\*SERVICES THAT WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

DETAILS FOR EVENTS AVAILABLE AT [FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/ADVENT-AT-FIRST](http://FUMCSALISBURY.ORG/ADVENT-AT-FIRST)



# Christmas Eve

## PAPER BAG PAGEANT

4:00 PM

Christmas Eve worship designed especially for families with young children, and the young at heart

## CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

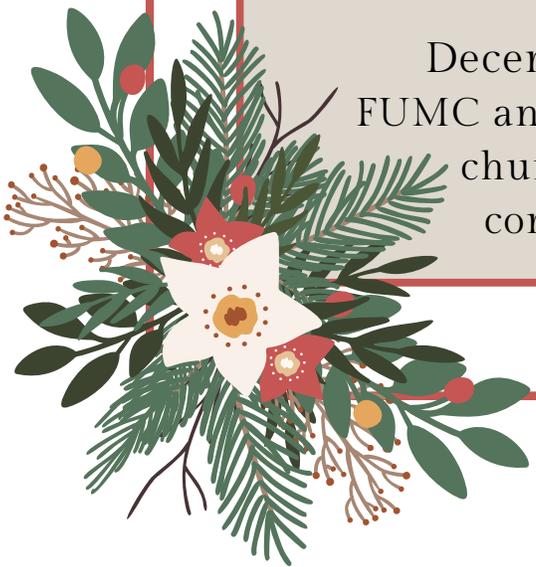
7:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve worship with candlelight communion  
(7:00 will be livestreamed)

## CHRISTMAS ON CHURCH STREET

December 17, 6:00-8:00 PM

FUMC and several other downtown churches are hosting this community wide event



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## Service of Joy

December 12  
during 8:30 & 11:00 worship

### During worship

Children will be leading throughout both worship services! Join us for the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of JOY!

### In-between services

Gingerbread house making in the Fellowship Hall! Supplies for each house will be packaged together on a tray for each family.



### SUNDAY MORNINGS

0-4 YRS

Nursery

Crossover Hall rooms B-106 & B-108

K-5TH

Sunday School

Sundays 10:00-10:45am

(KidzPraise! during Sunday School)



### THROUGH THE WEEK



PRE-K

K-3RD



4TH-5TH

### Preschool Playdate at the Park



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Salisbury Youth

### 6-12 GRADE MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SUNDAYS 10:00-10:45AM

YOUTH GROUP  
SUNDAYS 4:00-5:30PM

Newsletter



Recent Acolyte Commissioning with several of our acolytes during worship. Look for the new pectoral crosses they now wear!



Rohan, Tyler, and Evan painting upstairs in the education building, recently approved by trustees, beginning with the youth room

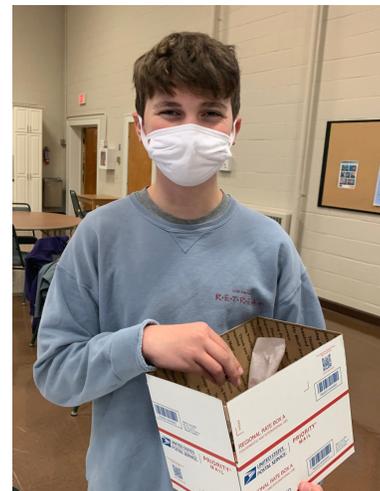
## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



### College Care Packages Sent

Thank you to those who donated items for our college care packages! The youth group packed the snacks into boxes, and wrote notes to each student to be delivered before finals week!

Stella and Meg even got to write notes to their siblings in college!



## VOLUNTEER AS A DOORSTEP VISITOR



Do you have the gift of Hospitality? Do you enjoy meeting new people? If so, please consider volunteering to be a Doorstep Visitor for 2022. The time commitment is only twice a year.

Duties include

- gathering the attendance sheets after worship,
- looking to see if there are any first time visitors,
- and if they provided contact information take them a Thank You bag (provided by the church).

You simply make an introduction, see if they have any questions about the church that you can answer and provide feedback to Pastor Mark. If you are willing to serve in this ministry, please contact Gloria Matthews at 704-798-5864 or [gfmmatthews@gmail.com](mailto:gfmmatthews@gmail.com)

# SCOUTS

## Semper Gumby

Troop 442 paddled the Drowning Creek section of the Lumber River in October. What started out as a lazy 7 mile paddle on a blackwater river turned into a quest as there were many trees that had recently fallen across the creek forcing us to portage around or drag boats under and over the timber. A trek that would have three hours turned into a 5 hour slog.

We spent the night at Chalk Banks after the scouts cooked a supper of hot dogs and hamburgers. There is always a reason to be prepared and the Troop lived up to its motto of "Semper Gumby" which means "Always Flexible". In November we will visit the Airborne Museum in Fayetteville to learn small unit leadership and then hike into camp at Raven Rock State Park.



**Scout Troop 442 (6-12)**  
**Mondays at 7:00pm**

Contact Bruce Kolkebeck (BK)  
(704)433-8151 bkolback@gmail.com

**Cub Pack 442 (k-5)**  
**Mondays at 6:00pm**

Contact Bill Shaffer  
(678)641-3513 shaffb31@yahoo.com

## AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD CARE



### Spreading Christmas Cheer

Merry Christmas from students and staff in the After-School Child Care Program! We have a busy month planned. We will be reading books, sending cards to Veterans, making crafts and ornaments. We will talk about the true meaning of Christmas, put up a tree and have a Christmas party with a small gift exchange.

We wish everyone a safe holiday season!

*"At this Christmas season  
may God's love fill your heart  
with the kind of perfect peace  
only He can bestow."*



# PRESCHOOL



## Festive Fun & Collecting Pennies for the Post's Christmas Happiness Fund

We love this time of the year! We are learning Christmas songs, listening to Christmas stories, and making lots of crafts! Everyone is looking forward to their class parties!

Our students collected loose change for our Penny Harvest. The money collected was donated to the Salisbury Post's Christmas Happiness Fund - to help other children have a Merry Christmas. In addition to all of the focus on Christmas, classes are talking a lot about winter and learning how animals adapt to the change in weather. If you know of someone that would like to learn more about our preschool please refer them to Kelly Austin (336)722-9260.

## PREVIEW FOR JANUARY

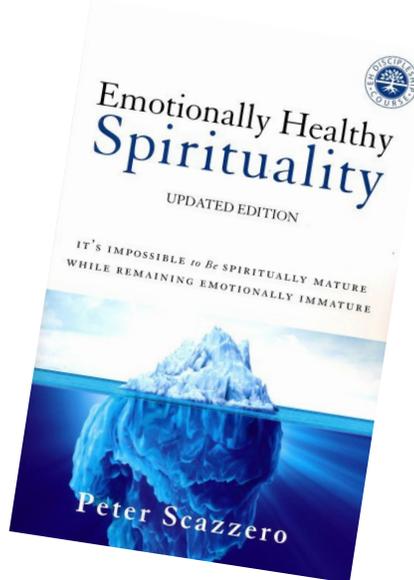
### Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

In January Pastor Mark will be leading a study exploring our need for emotional maturity and growth, and how that inner work influences our spiritual growth. We will be using the book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* by Peter Scazzero.

You can expect to learn through:

- Videos
- Written reflections
- Book discussion

Limited supply in the church office (\$10) or buy your copy from your favorite bookseller



*"Ignoring our emotions is turning our back on reality. Listening to our emotions ushers us into reality. And reality is where we meet God. . . . Emotions are the language of the soul. They are the cry that gives the heart a voice. . ."*  
— Peter Scazzero

## COMING UP...

### Christmas Season

**DECEMBER 25-  
JANUARY 5**

Dec 25 is only the first of 12 days of Christmas, so go ahead - leave the tree up!

### Office Closed

**DECEMBER 27-28  
& JANUARY 3**

The church office will be closed Dec 27-28 for Christmas, and January 3 for New Years. *(The office will be open Dec 29-31).*

### Calendar Meeting

**JANUARY 8**

Ministry leaders be on the lookout for more information about the calendar meeting coming up on Jan 8. It will be a great chance to gather and kick off the year!

### Do you have an article for the Ecclesia?

Send them to Jenni@fumcsalisbury.org with "(Month to be printed) Ecclesia" in the subject line.

Articles can be submitted by the first Friday of the month prior to when you would like it printed.

### Access the Church Calendar Any Time

Access the church calendar any time! Just go to [fumcsalisbury.org](http://fumcsalisbury.org) and look under the Connect tab. There you can also find a digital version of the Ecclesia.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

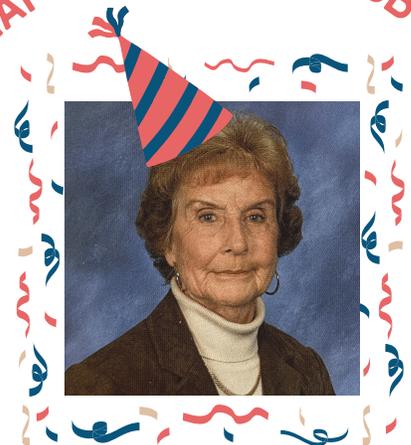
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1** Harold Buchanan  
Doug Miller
- 2** Harrison Banish
- 3** **Libby Hollowell's 100th!**  
Diana Storey  
Will Bivens
- 4** Isabella Banish  
Austin Hedrick
- 5** Angie Fansler  
William Austin  
Max Foote
- 6** Steven Anderson
- 7** Bud Mickle  
Julia Howard  
Phil Cooley
- 8**
- 9** Meg Bivens  
Carole Schall
- 10** Lincoln Howe  
Carolyn Gresham
- 11** Jenna Robinson  
Craig Johnson

- 12** Eddie Nicholson
- 13**
- 14** Chris Sherrill
- 15** Jay Hughes
- 16** Bob Roakes  
Bret Busby
- 17**
- 18** Regan Roakes  
Mason Lentz
- 19** Faye Hollar  
Henry Austin
- 20** Davis West  
Samantha Hensley  
Michael Rimmer
- 21** Delaney Fisher
- 22**
- 23** Anna Maphis
- 24**
- 25**

- 26** Al Carter  
Brianna Brinkley
- 27** Nelson Robertson
- 28** Ethan Mastro  
Phillip Floyd
- 29** Joe Steinman  
Judy Beymer
- 30**
- 31** Wes Fazia  
Celeste Ward  
Patrick Howard

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIBBY!



LIBBY HOLLOWELL TURNS  
100 ON DECEMBER 3

## THANK YOU!

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Dear FUMC Members and Staff,

I want to thank you all for the prayers that you have said in my behalf while I have been sick in the hospital, Autumn Care and now at home. Thank you for the cards that have been sent, the offers of help, the visits, emails and the support thoughts. Through God's help and support of the doctors, nurses and you I am on the road to recovery. Being sick is no fun.

Sincerely yours,  
Henry Buck



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the delightful gift bag that you delivered to me - there were so many nice surprises in it and such thoughtful items. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in it - it is great to be remembered in such a nice way by my church. It was also a pleasure to have a visit by Pat Paschall.

Members of First United Methodist Church,  
Thank you for the very thoughtful care note sent to our family for the transition of our beloved Joy, who was a light to the path of many.

Grace and peace,  
Vergel Latimore  
Alston, Adam & Alia

Thanks again to everyone. I love you, my church family, and my wonderful church!

Peace and blessings,  
Anne Wilson

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for all the good items sent to me by the church, but most of all - thank you for thinking of me.

With love,  
Dixie Scott

Dear FUMC Friends,

What a delight it was to open the orange "pre-halloween goodie bag" and find all the yummy sweets and useful gifts inside! We love everything! How thoughtful of our fellow church members to remember us this way. We especially thank Tyler, who filled our bag!

Thanks and love to all,  
Al & Marcia Carter

## FROM SPRC: CHRISTMAS LOVE OFFERING

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### Merry Christmas!

During this season of giving, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites your participation in a Christmas Love Offering for the Church Staff. If you wish to give a gift, you make do so online via the secure Online Giving Portal, or by placing your designated contribution in the offering plate by Sunday, December 12.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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Access the online directory anytime by going to [fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co](http://fumcsalisbury.ctrn.co), following the link on our website (under 'Connect'), or downloading the CTRN app on your smartphone or tablet. Enter the access code **fumcsalisbury** and your unique username and password.

You can update your information at any time, if you would like assistance in updating your information please contact the church office.

# ECCLESIA

NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MAKING AND NURTURING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES  
THROUGH THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD

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