

The Salem Heartbeat

Sharing Christ with the world!

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SEPTEMBER 2026 Edition

THE ORCHARD ✝ A Reflection from the Spiritual Council

There was once a small orchard nestled in a valley. It was not the largest orchard anyone had ever seen, nor was it the most impressive. But generations had loved it. Children had grown beneath the branches. Families had gathered in its shade. Its fruit had nourished people through good seasons and difficult ones. Some of its trees were young and full of promise, while others had stood in that soil for so long that no one could quite remember the orchard without them.

For many years, a gardener cared for the orchard. He knew its trees well. He knew which ones needed extra attention, which branches had survived old storms, and which roots stretched beneath the soil farther than anyone could see. He planted and watered, pruned and tended. Through changing seasons, he remained.

The people of the valley loved him. Eventually, however, the gardener's season in that orchard came to an end. With gratitude for the years he had given, the people honored him and sent him on his way.

But the orchard remained. And because orchards still need tending, another gardener was called. The new gardener entered the orchard knowing he had much to learn. He did not know every tree's history. He could not possibly understand all the stories that had unfolded beneath those branches. He had never before been responsible for an orchard quite like this one.

Still, he went to work. He walked among the trees. He tended forgotten corners. He supported weak branches and cared for struggling trees. He planted some new things. He pruned some old things. He undoubtedly made mistakes along the way, because gardeners are human too.

Over time, much of the orchard continued to grow. Yet change is difficult, even in an orchard.

Some trees remembered how things had once been.

"The former gardener knew us better," one whispered.

"He understood this orchard," said another.

"Things were better then," someone remembered.

Meanwhile, other trees were excited about what might grow next. They saw new possibilities and wondered what the orchard might become. Before long, something subtle began happening. The trees started talking more about the gardeners than about the fruit. Some defended the old gardener. Others defended the new one. Some became frustrated. Others became hurt. Conversations that began as concerns sometimes became whispers, and whispers sometimes traveled farther than anyone intended. The orchard became restless.

Then one day, an old traveler came through the valley. He sat beneath one of the orchard's oldest trees and listened for a while. Eventually, he asked a simple question.

"When a gardener plants a tree, who makes it grow?"

The trees thought for a moment.

"The Master of the orchard."

"And when the gardener waters the ground, who sends the rain?"

"The Master."

"And when one gardener's season ends and another gardener's season begins, to whom does the orchard belong?"

This time the trees answered more quietly. "The Master."

The traveler smiled. "Then perhaps you have spent too much time talking about gardeners."

The orchard became still.

"A faithful gardener should be appreciated," the traveler continued. "Honor those who have cared for you. Remember the good they have done. Give thanks for every season in which the Master used them."

"Likewise, encourage those who labor among you now. Pray for them. Help them. Remember that they, too, are merely servants of the Master."

Then the traveler looked across the orchard.

"But never confuse the gardener with the owner."

"The orchard has always belonged to the Master."

A breeze began moving through the branches. The traveler looked upward.

"You know, trees often fear the wind. Yet wind is not always the enemy of an orchard. Sometimes it reveals where roots have grown deep. Sometimes it shakes loose branches that are already dead. Sometimes pruning makes room for new growth. That does not mean storms are pleasant. They rarely are. But the Master can use even difficult seasons to make an orchard healthier. So do not spend your days trying to determine which tree was right about every storm. Instead, ask whether you are still bearing fruit."

The trees listened.

"Are your words strengthening the orchard or weakening it?"

"Are you encouraging the trees around you or tearing them down?"

"Are you pursuing peace?"

“Are you forgiving one another?”

“Are you helping young trees grow strong?”

“Are you making room beneath your branches for those who have not yet found a place in the orchard?”

“And most importantly, when people taste the fruit growing here, does it point them toward the goodness of the Master?”

No one spoke for a while.

Finally, the traveler stood, picked up his staff, and continued down the road.

The orchard did not suddenly become perfect. Some wounds still needed healing. Some conversations still needed to happen. Some trees still saw things differently. Trust would take time to grow in places where it had been damaged. But gradually, the wisest trees began doing something remarkably ordinary. They returned to bearing fruit. They sank their roots deeper into the soil. They stretched their branches toward the light. They encouraged the trees beside them. They stopped measuring the orchard only by what it had once been and began asking what the Master might yet cause it to become. And slowly, the orchard remembered something it should never have forgotten:

The orchard never belonged to the gardeners.

It belonged to the Master. It still does. Perhaps that is a word for all of us at Salem.

We can thank God for those who have served faithfully in seasons past. We can pray for and encourage those serving today. We can acknowledge hurts without allowing them to define us. We can disagree without becoming enemies. We can forgive. We can rebuild trust. We can encourage one another and pursue “what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19)

Most of all, we can remember why this orchard exists. Not to preserve anyone’s legacy. Not to vindicate one side or another. Not to prove who was right.

We are here to **glorify God, advance His Kingdom, equip His saints, and share His gospel.** There is still fruit to bear. There are still people who need Jesus. There is still another generation that needs a place beneath these branches.

And through every season—past, present, and whatever may come next—the orchard belongs to the Master.

May we be found faithful in it.

—*The Spiritual Council of Salem Church*

SEPTEMBER IN WORSHIP

Sermon Series: “ACTS-The Church Comes Alive (Part 2): The Kingdom Unstoppable” Acts 3-13:3

Series Big Idea: The Kingdom of God is unstoppable because the risen Christ is building His Church.

WEEK 11 — SEPT. 06 — “The Face of an Angel”

Text: Acts 6:8–7:60 / Big Idea: Faithful witnesses stand firm even unto death.

WEEK 12 — SEPT. 13 — “Scattered for the Mission”

Text: Acts 8:1-25 / Big Idea: What persecution intends to destroy, God uses to multiply.

WEEK 13 — SEPT. 20 — “One Desert Road”

Text: Acts 8:26–40 / Big Idea: God pursues one person at a time.

SEPT. 27 — Guest Speaker: Melissa Steinour



Each week we pray for members and friends of our Salem Church family, a church here in the Waynesboro or surrounding area, one of the countries in which Christians are suffering severe persecution, and one of the ministries we support with our mission funds. Please join us in the ministry of prayer!

Sept. 06: ***Pastor Steve & Kim Wagoner***
Five Forks BIC Church
Persecuted Christians in North Korea
She's Somebody's Daughter

Sept. 13: ***Fred & Darlene West***
Friends Creek Church of God
Persecuted Christians in Saudi Arabia
Spring of Hope Counseling Center

Sept. 20: ***Fred & Judy White***
Full Gospel Pentecostal Church
Persecuted Christians in Afghanistan
Don & Karen Stauffer (India)

Sept. 27: ***TT & Cleve Williford***
Germantown Church of God
Persecuted Christians in Iraq
Waynesboro Community / Human Services

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please continue using the Prayer Cards on Sundays as they allow the prayer request and name to be accurately passed from the Pastor to the Secretary to be added to the bulletin. It is very difficult to hear and record the requests when given verbally during the service. It also allows them to be read so those in the Fellowship Hall and parking lot hear them. Thank you for your help with this important ministry of the church.

To send requests through the Prayer Chain, you can email them to Sandi Barnett at:
barnetts05@comcast.net
or call her cell: 240-675-3495

WELCOMING & CELEBRATING NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISMS:

On Sunday, August 16th, Salem Church welcomed the following new members during the 10:45 AM worship service: John Andersen, Cathie Meade, Esther Ricker, and Tammy “TT” Williford. Then later that evening during the annual Sunday School Picnic, Pastor Brent Mangus conducted a Believer’s Baptism service in which 3 people became the FIRST to be baptized by emersion onsite at the Salem Church Property: John Andersen, Charlotte Beeler, and Charlotte Rodriguez. We praise and thank God for our new members and for the ones who publicly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus by following Him in water baptism!



IT’S SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN! The Regional Meeting Kick-off for our area is Saturday, September 12th 10 AM – 12 Noon at Chambersburg Alliance Church. Sherry Hill cannot attend. Would someone be willing to go on behalf of Salem? If we pre-register for the meeting, we will get 50 free boxes. Please contact Sherry at 717-404-2043, if able to take her place.

There are OCC shoeboxes and information available on the Mission Table in the Salem Church Sanctuary. **Shoeboxes are due back at Salem by Sunday, November 15th.** For more information about Operation Christmas Child, you can go online to:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

SALEM CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING PROJECT FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER: Disaster Relief / Samaritan’s Purse

Please put “Disaster” on the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS FROM ST. PAUL AME CHURCH!

The St. Paul AME Church congregation will be joining us at Salem Church on Sunday, October 4 to celebrate World Communion Sunday during the 10:45 AM worship service. We will also be receiving a special offering to help them with repairs on their parsonage.



Fall Begins September 22



SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

Dates to Remember:

September 09	Leland Ministry	<u>Time:</u> 2:00 PM
September 10	Ministry Council	7:00 PM
September 12	OCC Regional Mtg. / Chambersburg	10:00 AM-12:00 PM
September 18	Salem Game Nite	6:00 PM
September 18-20	EA National Gathering / Ohio	
September 20	Newsletter Deadline - October edition	8:00 PM

Regular Weekly Activities: Wednesday Bible Study 10 AM Salem Fellowship Center. Celebrate Recovery-Wednesdays 6:30 PM Fairview Ave. BIC Church, Waynesboro. **Men's Bible Study**-Thursdays 8:30 AM. **Men's Community Book Study**-Fridays 6:30 AM Salem Fellowship Center. / **Regular Monthly Activities:** Leland Ministry-2nd Wednesday 2 PM The Leland, Waynesboro. **Game Nite**-3rd Friday 6 PM Salem Fellowship Ctr.

SEPTEMBER 2026 WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SCHEDULE

DATE	Worship Leader	Greeter/Usher	Acolyte	Counters	Flowers	Nursery
9/06	Michelle Lushbaugh	Wendy E.	Josiah	Lana L. / Terry E.	Lu K.	TBD
9/13	Ruth Ann Helman	Jamie & Hannah	Josiah	Sandi B. / John M.	Rodney & Tina	Wendy E.
9/20	Fred West	John M. / Linda S.	John M.	Wendy E./ Fred Wh.	Linda S.	TBD
9/27	Aurita Rose	Terry & Paula	OPEN	Ruth Ann H. / Linda S.	Jean K.	Wendy E.

BIRTHDAYS

9/02 Louanna Sturm
 9/07 Helen Main
 9/08 Bob Brown
 9/12 Jessica Woodring
 9/15 Linda Barnett
 9/17 Jamie Snyder
 9/21 Connie Hollenshead
 9/27 Sherry Hill



ANNIVERSARIES ♥



9-7-85 David & Michelle Lushbaugh
 9-12 Carroll & Louanna Sturm
 9-12 Corey & Jessica Woodring
 9-29 Brad & Glenda Bennett

PLEASE NOTE-CHANGES TO MEALS SCHEDULE FOR FOSTER FAMILY: Our foster family - the Black's, need to change their meal delivery day from Tuesday to Wednesday. Also, the delivery/drop-off time is now 4:30-5 PM. If you are interested in participating, please see Joie Rotz. **Recently updated September meal delivery schedule:** 9/2-Wendy Eigenbrode; 9/9-Kim Kennedy; 9/16-TBD: (Ruth Ann); 9/23-TBD: (Paula); 9/30-TBD: (Darlene).

Salem Church Leadership

Ministry Council Officers & Members 2026:

Council/Congregation, President:

Butch Rotz 717-762-6961

Council/Congregation, Vice President:

Ruth Ann Helman 717-762-8972

Secretary:

John McGuire 240-357-6237

Co-Treasurers:

Sandi Barnett 240-675-3495

Kim Kennedy 717-977-0461

Members:

Mike Eisenberger 717-977-0292

Michelle Lushbaugh 717-762-4193

Deidra Mangus 724-689-7169

Linda Stoler 717-655-7833

Fred West 717-762-7093

Judy White 717-762-7008

Ex-officio members:

Brent Mangus (Lead Pastor)

Sandi Barnett (Treasurer)

Kim Kennedy (Treasurer)

Council of Elders 2026:

Terry Eigenbrode 717-762-4720

Troy Johnson 717-762-4426

Jean Kahl 717-977-0867

Jim Ressler 717-762-2643

Jeff Rhodes 717-762-9435

Sam Rose 717-762-8582

Butch Rotz 717-762-6961

Linda Stoler 717-655-7833

Ministers to the Community:

All members

Church phone: 717-762-8531

E-mail: salemchurch@pa.net



Ministry Teams

Administrative Ministry Teams - TBD

Financial Oversight - Bob Crouse

H.E.L.P. - Linda Stoler

Historical Records - Wendy Eigenbrode

Personnel - Linda Stoler

Caring Ministry Teams - *Deidra Mangus

Board of Deacons - Joie Rotz

Funeral Meals - Paula Eigenbrode

Family Assistance Fund - Linda Stoler

Meals - Bonnie Rhodes

Prayer Chain - Sandi Barnett

Christian Education Ministry Teams - *Michelle Lushbaugh

Adult Sunday School - Tom McCloud

Bible Studies, Classes, Seminars - Pastor Brent

Children's Ministries- Jack Martin

Nursery - Cindy Johnson

Fellowship Ministry Teams - *Fred West

Game Nite - Jean Kahl

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner - Diane E., Lu K. Judy W.

Outreach Ministry Team - *Ruth Ann Helman

Leland Ministry - Lu Kennedy

Mission Team - Jim Ressler

Relay for Life Team - Linda Stoler

Salvation Army Bell Ringers - Tom & Fern McCloud

Property & Maintenance Ministry Team - *Judy White

Cemetery - Troy Johnson/John McGuire

Property & Maintenance - Troy Johnson/John McGuire

Columbarium/Scattering Garden - Paula Eigenbrode

Safety & Security - Chuck & Jamie Snyder

Property Improvement Committee - TBD

Spiritual Council - *Linda Stoler

Pastoral Relations Ministry Team - Jeff Rhodes

Worship Ministry Teams - *Mike Eisenberger

Worship Team - Linda Wilson

Praise Music Team - Wendy Beeler

Tech Team - Sam Rose

Marquee - Michelle Lushbaugh

Acolytes - Fern McCloud

*The names with an asterisk are the liaisons for that ministry