

The Salem Heartbeat

Sharing Christ with the world!

From the Pastor's Heart

Wrapped Up in You

A Memoir by Brent Mangus

When I was a freshman in high school, the world seemed to shift under my feet. My grandfather died that year—the kind of loss that makes a teenager suddenly feel older than he should. But the aftershocks kept coming. A couple of years later, my grandmother, my sweet Grandma Kathy, was in a terrible automobile accident. It was one of those phone calls where you hear the words, but it feels like they're traveling through water before they reach you. The miracle was that she survived at all. The tragedy was what the accident did to her body.

The doctors moved quickly, performing surgeries, rebuilding bones, piecing her together again. After the hospital stay came rehab—long weeks of physical therapy, recovery, and the slow process of relearning the basics of living. Eventually, she came home. Not to her home, but to ours. She moved into my sister's old bedroom, and our house—already full of life and noise—became a place of healing.

I've shared before how Grandma Kathy was the happiest, sweetest person you could hope to meet. Her smile was almost reckless in its generosity. I never once heard her speak an unkind word—not even in those rare moments when she certainly had the right to. She spoiled us kids on our birthdays and at Christmas with an almost comical enthusiasm. On Christmas morning, we'd walk into her house and find mountains of presents like we were her very own VIPs. And she didn't just buy clothes—she bought the brands. In the 90s that meant Tommy Hilfiger and Nautica. She kept us looking like the cool kids even when we weren't.

But the accident changed everything. No more job. No more big Christmases. The woman who had poured her life and resources into us needed something back from us now. And my family gave what we could—mainly a place for her to heal and the dignity of being surrounded by people who loved her.

Strangely enough, those months of her living with us are some of the sweetest memories I carry.

One memory, though—well, “sweet” is not the word I'd use. It's more... unforgettable. One day, I came home from wherever teenage boys go, and, without knocking, I opened her bedroom door to say hello. And there she was—my grandmother—midway onto her portable toilet. I had never in my life wanted to see my grandmother naked, and I certainly didn't want it burned into my memory with that level of clarity. But there it was.

DECEMBER 2025

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***“The Little Church with
a Big Heart!”***



REGULAR SUNDAY

SERVICE TIMES:

9:30-10:30 AM

Sunday School for all ages

10:45 AM

Traditional Worship Service

Pastor Brent Mangus, MDIV



IN WORSHIP - DECEMBER 2025



Ongoing Series Title: “Bearer of the Flame: Christ’s Word to the Church”

Big Idea of the Series: Christ is the Light of the World, and He calls His Church to bear His light with faithfulness, love, truth, and endurance. But if we lose our way, He will remove our lampstand.

December 7 - Week 5: Sardis – Wake Up! / Text: Revelation 3:1–6

Theme: The appearance of life but inward deadness / Big Idea: Christ’s light cannot be faked. True revival begins when the church awakens to His presence.

December 14 - Week 6: Philadelphia – Hold Fast to the Flame / Text: Revelation 3:7–13

Theme: Perseverance and mission / Big Idea: Even when we feel small, Christ can use us powerfully when we remain faithful.

December 21 - Week 7 (Final Sunday before Christmas Eve): Laodicea – A Flame Rekindled

Text: Revelation 3:14–22 / Theme: Lukewarmness and self-sufficiency / Big Idea: Christ knocks at the door, inviting us to rekindle a passionate, dependent relationship with Him.

December 24 - Candlelight Christmas Eve *Communion Service 7 PM at Salem Church

Theme: Christ the Light of the World/ Text: John 1:1–14, John 8:12 / Big Idea: Jesus is the light no darkness can overcome—and He has come to dwell with us.

New Series Title: Wonderful Peace: A Journey into God’s Shalom for the New Year
Theme Hymn: Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace

December 28 - Week 1: Passion for God’s Will / Text: Psalm 37:1–7

Big Idea: Lasting peace comes when our desires align with God’s desires.

***Please note we will serve and celebrate Christmas Eve Communion on December 24th. Communion Elder is Terry Eigenbrode.**



*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!*

- Dec. 07: Coby & Emma Grove**
 Solomon’s United Church of Christ
 Persecuted Christians in Iraq
 WCRH Radio
- Dec. 14: John & Ruth Ann Helman**
 South Mountain Bible Church
 Persecuted Christians in Somalia
 Xin Luan & Ying Deng (China Outreach)
- Dec. 21: Mike & Bev Henicle**
 St. John’s Church
 Persecuted Christians in Maldives
 Camp Joy El
- Dec. 28: Bob Hess**
 St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
 Persecuted Christians in India
 Cedar Ridge Boys Home



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



MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2025



USHER/GREETER

12/07 Wendy E. / John Mc.
12/14 Terry & Paula Eigenbrode
12/21 Tom & Fern McCloud
12/28 Mary Margaret B. / John Mc.

WORSHIP LEADER

12/07 Dennis Goshorn
12/14 Fred West
12/21 Aurita Rose
12/28 Lu Kennedy

ACOLYTE

12/07 Michelle Lushbaugh
12/14 **OPEN / TBD**
12/21 Tom McCloud
12/28 John McGuire

OFFERING COUNTERS

12/07 Ruth Ann H. / John Mc.
12/14 Sandi B. / Lana L.
12/21 Terry E. / Troy J.
12/28 Wendy E. / Fred Wh.

NURSERY

12/07 Cindy Johnson
12/14 Wendy Eigenbrode
12/21 **OPEN / TBD**
12/28 Wendy Eigenbrode

*ALTAR FLOWERS

12/7 Darlene & Fred West
12/14 Diane Ellis
12/21 Sherry Hill
12/28 Jeff & Bonnie Rhodes

**If you signed up for Altar Flowers and plan to have them on display in the Sanctuary, please contact the church secretary no later than the Sunday before (one week prior) in order to have your dedication in the bulletin. We also have silk flowers on hand for those who do not wish to use live floral bouquets.*

"Wrapped Up in You" continued from front page

I slammed the door. I considered running away and never coming back. But a few minutes later, she called me back into the room. And here's the thing—she didn't mention it. Not a word. She just smiled and acted like nothing unusual had happened. What else could she do? By then she had spent months in hospitals and rehab facilities, being bathed by nurses, interrupted by staff, losing whatever privacy she once had. To her, modesty had become a luxury she couldn't afford. But to teenage me? I felt the shock down to my shoes.

Thankfully, the other memories I have from that time are far more beautiful.

Grandma Kathy loved country music. Loved it. When she moved in, we set up a TV in her room, and she had a daily ritual: she watched CMT at the same time every day. Her nephew Lance was one of the show hosts, and she was so proud of him she could burst. For an hour or two, Lance would stroll across the screen, introducing music videos with that TV-host grin, and she'd sit there beaming like she'd raised him herself.

Around Christmas that year, Garth Brooks released a new song—"Wrapped Up in You." A warm, toe-tapping, smile-inducing song that somehow wrapped twinkle lights around your heart. Grandma loved it instantly. It became our thing. I'd wander into her room during CMT's Top 20 Countdown, climb onto the edge of her bed, and we'd watch together. And whenever "Wrapped Up in You" came on, we'd sing along—playfully, terribly, joyfully. She'd laugh, her whole face lighting up in a way the accident could never dim.

Even though tragedy brought her into our home, I'm thankful—deeply thankful—for the last half of my senior year spent bonding with her in ways I never would have otherwise. She was a gift—one of the most tender, genuine gifts God ever gave to this world, and especially to me.

Those days—those songs, those quiet afternoons, her laughter filling our hallway—they wrapped themselves around me like that Garth Brooks melody. Even now, all these years later, I realize I was the one wrapped up in her. And I still am.

December 2025 Calendar of Events / Activities

REGULAR WEEKLY / MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

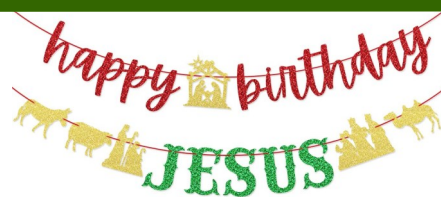
Wednesday Morning: Bible Study, 10 AM-12 PM Salem Fellowship Center

Dates to Remember:

December 07	Congregational Meeting for 2026 Budget, Etc.	9:30 AM (no Sunday School)
December 10	Leland Ministry (Caroling-all welcome to come)	2:00 PM
December 11	Ministry Council	7:00 PM
December 15	Newsletter deadline (Monday due to Christmas)	5:00 PM
December 19	Salem Game Nite	6:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion	7:00 PM
December 25	Joy to the World - Merry Christmas!	N/A



12/02 Rick Beeler
 12/03 RaeLynn Wilson
 12/03 Roger Fuller
 12/04 Deidra Mangus
 12/04 Josiah Mangus
 12/11 Madilyn Kennedy
 12/12 Deb Nash
 12/13 Joann Morganthall
 12/15 Glenda Bennett
 12/18 Koda Wilson
 12/22 Chucky Snyder



12-29-72
 Butch & Joie Rotz

Vet's Christmas Blessings

Once again Salem Church will partner with this Waynesboro American Legion program. Local Vets in our assisted and nursing home facilities will each receive a Christmas package. Salem Church will be providing the personal care items: toothbrush, tooth paste, lotion, body wash and Kleenex. Money to cover the cost has already been provided. **We ask for your prayers of blessing for these veterans and a grateful heart for their service to our country.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES:

The decision to cancel church due to inclement weather will be made by the Ministry Council President, Butch Rotz; Buildings and Grounds Coordinator, Troy Johnson; and Pastor Brent. Sandi Barnett will also send out a Prayer Chain email. You should expect a phone call from a Ministry Council member if church has been cancelled. Please use your own wisdom and don't drive if the conditions are bad in your own neighborhood!



MISSION BULLETIN BOARD

Want to know what is going on with our supported missionaries? Don't forget to check out the Mission Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Center. There you will find the latest newsletters and updates!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LELAND & HEARTHSTONE RESIDENTS



Salem Church will be giving gifts this year to the Leland and Hearthstone residents. It will be about 128 gifts.

Again this year Sandi and myself will purchase the gift items and place them in gift bag for each resident. If you would like to help donate toward this you can do this thru your Sunday offering envelope and put "Leland gifts".

Every year Salem has supported this Christmas giving and we would like to "Thank You" !! All the residents will love the gifts they receive. God Bless you all!! Paula Eigenbrode and Sandi Barnett



We will be caroling on Wednesday Dec. 10th at 2 pm at the Leland. We hope you can join us!

WINTER COATS & TOYS FOR CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!

The staff at Human Services will be using monetary donations to purchase winter coats and toys this Christmas for children. If you would like to help, please place your donation in an envelope, then put it in the Salem offering plate. All donations must be received no later than December 7th. Please make checks payable to Salem Church with "Human Services" on the memo line.



LAND O' CHRISTMAS TREE AND NATIVITY DISPLAY

Remember to visit Real Kill to see Salem's Nativity Display from Nov. 21 - Dec. 30.

Also, stop at 66 W Main St. and see Salem's tree that has been decorated by Lana Lemmond and Mary Margaret Bittle. This is a NEW LOCATION! This display is weekends only from Nov. 21 - Dec. 14 and is a FREE event presented by the WALL Lions Club and Main Street Waynesboro. This is a great community event with 40 trees and some other Christmas displays.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGER VOLUNTEERS

It's time to help "Do the Most Good" for Salvation Army. Salem is signed up to ring on Saturday, December 13. Call Tom McCloud at 717-300-0215 for a time. If this is not a good day for you, there are other weekdays Nov. 28 through Dec. 24. Never rung before? Have questions? Give Tom a call.

90% of money raised stays in the Waynesboro-Greencastle-Mercersburg area!



RELAY FOR LIFE DRY SOUP MIX FUNDRAISER

Relay for Life is holding a Soup Mix Fundraiser. It is dry soup mix to which ingredients need to be added. The cost is \$9.50 per package. If interested, see Linda Stoler to place an order. Our Salem Church Team will get credit for each sale. Our profit will be 50%. There will be a flyer placed at the entrance to the church! There may be some information on Facebook, however if one order is placed, it will help with the shipping cost! The team will pay the shipping charge, if one order is placed.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Ministry Council Officers & Members 2025:

Council/Congregation, President:

Butch Rotz 717-762-6961

Council/Congregation, Vice President:

Sherry Hill 717-794-2785

Secretary:

John McGuire 240-357-6237

Co-Treasurers:

Sandi Barnett 240-675-3495

Ruth Ann Helman 717-762-8972

Members:

Mike Eisenberger 717-977-0292

Lu Kennedy 717-762-9692

Michelle Lushbaugh 717-762-4193

Deb Nash 503-891-5448

Linda Stoler 717-655-7833

Judy White 717-762-7008

Ex-officio members:

Brent Mangus (Lead Pastor)

Ruth Ann Helman (Treasurer)

Sandi Barnett (Treasurer)

Council of Elders 2025:

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 - *Sherry Hill

Financial Oversight - Bob Crouse

H.E.L.P. - Linda Stoler

Historical Records - Wendy Eigenbrode

Personnel - Linda Stoler

Caring Ministry Teams - *Deb Nash

Board of Deacons - Lu Kennedy

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 - *Lu Kennedy

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

Women's Fellowship Project Group -Joie Rotz

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 particular ministry