

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Holy Ground Ministry is available in the lobby. Help yourself to drinks and snacks.  
Please be sure to use a lid on coffee cups to avoid spilling in the sanctuary.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**OPENING PRAISE SONG**                    *“Great in Power”*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**                *John 4:23-24*

## APOSTLES’ CREED

**HYMN**                                        *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #89*

## OPENING PRAYER

*Written by Kai Richardson*

*Dear Heavenly Father, King of Kings, and Anointed One, we thank You for a new year, and an opportunity to start fresh with new resolutions that will lead us closer to You. Help us to rely on You so that we stay close through prayer; for You are the comfort during any affliction, knowing that Your promise gives us new life. Help us to focus on the things above rather than worldly or harmful things that may hinder our walk with You. We are thankful to have You as someone to turn to in times of trouble. Most importantly, we are ever grateful for Your gracious act of healing us by Your wounds and cleansing us by the shedding of Your blood on the cross. Please, keep us in step with Your ways and guide us through this new year, allowing us to remember why we have a new year in the first place. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.*

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                        *“Soon And Very Soon”*

**SCRIPTURE**                                *Revelation 21:1-8*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**SERMON**                                    *“The Citizenship in the Kingdom of God”*

## COMMUNION

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Written by Kai Richardson*

*Dear Heavenly Father, as we start 2025, allow us to realize how much we’re blessed to have family, friends, stability, and a new year. We have much more than we deserve and are blessed to have many of the things we desire; please help us to be humble with what we have. We humble ourselves before You by returning a tenth of what You have given us; because we know that from You, through You, and to You are all things. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.*

**HYMN**                                        *“America the Beautiful” #696*

## BENEDICTION

**SENDING SONG**                        *“Shalom to You” 2x*



## Pastor ShinAe Speaks

*(Continued from outside)*

Syria is home to the city of Dacus, where the Apostle Paul was converted. It was heavily influenced by early Christianity, where many churches were founded, and despite persecution by the Roman Empire, there were many Christians and martyrs in Syria. It was the site of vigorous Christian growth during the Byzantine period. Later, Syria fell under the control of the Islamic Empire in the 7th century, and today, 90 percent of the country's population is Muslim. However, despite being in a Middle Eastern country that is recognized as Muslim, 10 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Protestant. Of that 10 percent, Protestants make up 10 percent. There are still those who defend their faith under Islamic persecution.

In 1885, American Methodist missionary Appenzeller and Presbyterian missionary Underwood came to Korea with the Gospel, and a revival that began in 1907 in Pyongyang, the capital of what is now North Korea, spread throughout the country. Since its division into North and South Korea, there has been no religious freedom in North Korea, which is now ruled by the Communist Party. The Canadian pastor, Hyun-Soo Lim, traveled to North Korea more than 150 times over 18 years, starting in 1997, to deliver massive humanitarian aid to the North Korean people, until he was suddenly arrested in January 2015, sentenced to labor indoctrination, and held for 31 months before being released in August 2017.

Iran is Persia, where Daniel appears in the Bible. When the people of the land saw that Daniel's God was the true God, many would come to believe in Him. However, the rise of Islam in the 7th century led to the Islamization of Iran in the 10th century. However, there are still true Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

Istanbul, the capital of the Türkiye, was originally named Constantinople and was the birthplace of Christianity, but it too is now a land of persecution. The brutal murders of a German missionary and two young Turks who converted to Christianity in 2007 shocked the world, but there are still believers here.

It is Jesus' command to us to take the gospel to all nations. It is the mission of those who wait and prepare for his return. At the end of 2023, of the world's 7,359 languages, 704 had the entire Bible translated, and 2,731 had only partial translations. 3,924 languages have no Bible translation at all. Unreached groups are not just those across the ocean. There are unreached people in your home, in your neighborhood, and in your country. My prayer and blessing is that they will see the God you believe in and confess that He is the real God.



## SUNDAY SERVICE

# Announcements

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God  
In honor of Nancy Anderson's birthday from her daughters,  
Sharon Burkhardt & Julie Letcher

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Charlie, John, Bill, and Edna.
- Jack DiMaio's family on his passing.
- Gary Kodlick, for healing.
- Gil, who is sick.
- The family of Ray Hoffman, who passed away on December 31. May his memory be cherished.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remember these upcoming meetings on Wednesday, January 8:

- 5:00 pm – Finance
- 6:00 pm – Church Council
- 7:00 pm – SPRC

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

Please note that starting in the New Year, there will be an adjustment to the Admin Assistant's office hours. Until further notice, her hours will now be from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Tuesdays through Fridays. Thanks for your understanding, and Happiest New Year from Salem's Office!

## BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor ShinAe in a weekly Bible Study with a focus on Genesis. On Wednesday, January 8, we will return with a 2:00 pm Bible Study Retreat at Shalom House! All are welcome, as always.

## 2025 WINTER NATURE SERIES

The first event of this year's Winter Nature Series will be at St. Paul's Reidler Hall on Sunday, January 19 at 2:00 pm, titled the "Guardianship of Trees." Chris and Bianca Shadle, of the new Forest Stewards committee of the Schuylkill County Conservancy, will address the ways the committee serves the community in managing woodlots and neighborhood trees. There will be tree-related crafts for children and snacks, so all ages are welcome!

## THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER CHURCH

Sign ups to volunteer and contribute to the meal are on the Welcome Desk. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to church in a casual setting, or to reach out to a family whose work or sports activities prevent their attendance on Sunday mornings. Meal begins at 5:30 pm, worship begins at 6:00 pm. This is a free event and all are welcome.

- January 9 – Shepherd's pie from Market Square Coffee House
- January 16 – Soup + sandwiches

# Pastor ShinAe Speaks

December 29 – “Waiting for His Second Coming”  
Revelation 1:1-3, 7-8

The book of Revelation is the word of God revealed to the apostle John. 65 of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments have already been fulfilled. However, the book of Revelation is about things that will happen in the future. We are living in the middle of the book of Revelation.

In Revelation 1:8, the Lord Himself says, “I am the Almighty God, the beginning and the end, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” In Matthew 26, Jesus was already predicting his return, even before his death on the cross and resurrection. In Acts 1, we hear a conversation just before the resurrected Jesus ascended to heaven after spending 40 days with his disciples. The disciples asked him when he would restore Israel, and he told them that only God knew the time, but in the meantime, **Jesus gave them a mission: to take the gospel to all the world.** It was to take the gospel to all nations, but the truth is, evangelism to the Gentiles wasn't very active in Jesus' day. The Jews weren't even close to the Gentiles. The disciples had no idea how to fulfill Jesus' command to take the gospel to the whole world.

Around that time, there was a persecution of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem. To the Jewish religious establishment, Jesus' followers were heretics, and in the eyes of the Romans, Jesus' followers were considered agitators. Finally, Stephen was martyred by being stoned for his testimony of Jesus. At this point, many of Jesus' followers fled to Judea and Samaria to escape persecution and defend their faith, and it was there that they spread the gospel. **Persecution became an open door to sharing the gospel.**

The Gospel traveled beyond Israel to Damascus, Antioch, and Rome, Greece. Along the Cardo, the Roman highway that dominated the Mediterranean coast in the first century, the gospel gradually reached the Roman Empire. Emperor Constantine of the Roman Empire recognized Christianity in 313, and Emperor Theodosius issued an edict in 380, making it the state religion of the empire.

The Gospel traveled from Jerusalem to Samaria, to Antioch, to the Roman Empire, and to Europe. So when did the Gospel make its way from Europe to America? Of course, many European Christians came to the New World after the discovery of the Americas by Columbus in 1492, but it wasn't until the 16th and 17th centuries that full-fledged missionaries began bringing the gospel to the Americas.

The Gospel was first brought to China in the 7th century, then in the 13th century, but it did not grow, and then again in the 16th century by Catholics and the 19th century by Protestants. However, in the 20th century, as China became communized, Christianity was heavily suppressed. Some churches are recognized by the Chinese Communist Party. But what kind of Christianity is recognized by the Communist Party, which advocates materialism and atheism? However, even today, there are true believers in underground churches in China who continue to practice their faith in the face of repression and persecution.

*(Continued inside)*

# Looking Ahead...

Mon 1/6	Office Closed
Tue 1/7	Office Open 9 am – 1 pm 7 pm – Yoga with Ed Folk
Wed 1/8	Office Open 9 am – 1 pm 2 pm – Bible Study at Shalom House 5 pm – Finance Meeting 6 pm – Church Council Meeting 7 pm – SPRC Meeting
Thu 1/9	Office Open 9 am – 1 pm 10 am – Women's Group 5:30 pm – Dinner Church
Fri 1/10	Office Open 9 am – 1 pm
Sat 1/11	
Sun 1/12	10 am – Morning Worship 2:30 - 6:30 pm – Girl Scouts Meeting

**SUMC Sunday Service is LIVE on Facebook!**

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**Sharing, Serving, Worshiping, Nurturing**  
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(Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9-1pm)

Servants	
Ministers – People of God	
Bishop – Cynthia Moore-Koikoi	
District Superintendent – Rev. Hun Ju Lee	
Pastor – Rev. Dr. ShinAe Kim 570-710-4536   <a href="mailto:ahavato@yahoo.com">ahavato@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>Certified Lay Minister</b> Brenda Binns, Lay Leader	<b>Music Ministry</b> Worship Leader – Kevin O’Brassill Keyboards – Yvonne Siegfried, James Deaven Drums – Zakk Tomicich Handbell Director – Allison Dugan
<b>Nursery Attendants</b> Lynn Nickels Angie Brish	<b>Church Council</b> Council Chair – Jim Stein Treasurer – Sharon Burkhardt
Administrative Assistant – Emily Jones	

Salem United Methodist Church

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST (TLC)

*Sunday, January 5, 2025*



**Today's Message**  
*“The Citizenship in the Kingdom of God”*  
**Communion**

Rev. Dr. ShinAe Kim



**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*