



STATE STREET *Happenings*

United Methodist Church

Your Weekly News & Updates

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Reconnect with God in 2025!

Christmas Eve Offering

A total of \$1,177 was contributed at the Christmas Eve services toward "Operation Warmth," a mission being coordinated by several local churches to provide heating support for those affected by Hurricane Helene. We had 83 in attendance at the noon service and 172 at the 7:00 pm services for a total of 255 at both services. Some from State Street also attended the service at our sister congregation, Three Springs UMC. Many also participated online. Thank you for offering a powerful witness to the presence of Jesus Christ in your hearts.

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

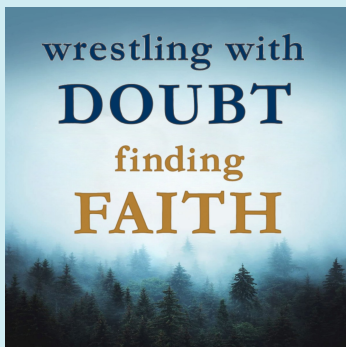
Sermon: "The Best is Yet to Come"

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

"John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming..."

Luke 3:16

Baptism of the Lord



Upcoming Worship Focus – January 19 through March 2

At times we may be under the impression that a strong faith and questions do not go together. Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Using a resource by Rev. Adam Hamilton called "Wrestling with Doubt/Finding Faith," we will seek to strengthen our trust in God in a way that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith – belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers.

- January 19: Is There a God?
- January 26: The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible
- February 2: Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?
- February 9: Is Heaven Real?
- February 16: When Prayers Go Unanswered
- February 23: Why Do the Innocent Suffer?
- March 2: A Postscript and Invitation to Faith

As Hamilton offers, "Do I choose to believe in a universe that is self-created, whose laws are self-created, where life is ordered out of nothing, or do I choose to believe in a universe that is an expression of the power, beauty, and will of a God whose origins I cannot explain? Both require a measure of faith."

Home-Bound Visited during Christmas Season

Home-Bound members were visited by the Pastors Laura and Steve, and the Parish Nurses, Sarah Smith & Patty Kilbreath. The gift bags included loaves of bread made by Anna Burns and Sweet duckies designed by Susan Murray. Thank you so much ladies. Of course, some goodies were

enjoyed. We also provided communion to those desiring it. What a blessing we received! Our members truly felt cared for by State Street UMC during this most Holy time of Jesus' birth.



Shoes for Guatemalan Children

Please consider taking the Guatemalan children's shoe challenge. It's simple: count the number of shoes you own. Then give .50 cents for pair to buy shoes for children in Guatemala. For example, if you own 20 pairs of shoes, give \$10.00. If you own 80 pair give \$40.00. Ray and Sarah Smith will be going to Guatemala in February and will give out the shoes. The shoes will be purchased in Guatemala and cost about \$6.00 a pair. Last year they were able to give out 243 pairs of shoes because of your generosity. Make checks to: State Street for Guatemala or you may also give cash.

Sincerely,
Ray and Sarah Smith



Youth Group Happenings

- Fellowship Outing – January 12th at 3:00 p.m.
- Resurrection Parent Meeting – January 19th at 3:00 p.m.
- Resurrection – January 24th -26th



Muffins & Doughnuts with Moms & Dads

Join Josh Bass, Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, in conversation to talk about ministry ideas for 2025! Click on the attached flyer for more details!



Souper Bowl Sunday

Join the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry for food, fun, and fellowship! If you would like, bring a side dish or dessert to share! There will be soup and sandwiches provided. You are welcomed to wear your favorite team's color or jersey! A love offering will be taken up to support meals provided by F.I.S.H. Club.

Resurrection 2025 January 24-26

Resurrection 2025 is on its way and the Youth of State Street are really excited! Resurrection is an awesome annual event of worship and spiritual growth for youth and youth mentors. It takes place each year in Pigeon Forge, TN.

If you would like to sponsor a child, please give \$100 (if you are writing a check, please put "Resurrection" in the memo.)

Any student that would like to participate, can let Josh Bass know! The Resurrection meeting with youth, parents, and chaperones will be Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 p.m.



Church Nursery Positions Available

Church Nursery Workers are needed at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, VA. Qualifications include a love for God and God's children. Previous experience in child care preferred. Current positions require minimum age of 18. A background check will be required. Compensation is \$15 per hour. Hours available include:

Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 5:15 - 7:45 p.m., and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Please send cover letter and resume to: josh@state-street.org. For more information, call Josh Bass at: 276-669-2101, ext. 125.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

While we are looking for additional nursery workers, we could use some church volunteers to assist with hospitality and care for children and their families who attend and/or visit State Street. If you are willing to help, please contact the church office.



January OAK (Older Adult Council) Luncheon Outing

The OAK group will be meeting at The Cracker Barrel near exit 7 on Thursday, January 23rd at 11:30 am. Feel free to bring friends or families to share our first lunch of the new year. Please sign up by January 22nd at noon. Sign-up sheets are on the welcome table on Sunday mornings and outside the Parish Nurse Office on the bulletin board. For further information call Patty Kilbreath at 423-646-5577.

Blood Pressure screenings

Blood Pressure screenings will be available on Sunday, January 12th at 9:30am and 12:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office (Rm 102). Screenings will also be available on Thursday, Jan 23 at 6:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office



Recovery at Bristol Thursday at 6:15 p.m. ~ Fellowship Hall

Recovery at Bristol is a place for fellowship, worship, and healing. It is a worship opportunity open to everyone. It is a place to gather and bask in the unconditional love of Christ. There is a meal provided, a praise service and short groups offered after the service. This is a place for anyone has been wounded by life to come and feel welcomed.

- Dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall before worship.
- In-Person Worship at 7 p.m. or live on YouTube.
- Support groups meet following worship.
- Transportation to and from Recovery available. If you need a ride, contact the Church Office.
- Childcare provided (upon request).

If you have questions about Recovery, please call 276-669-2101 Ext.123 for Rev. Steve Patterson or Ext.125 for Josh Bass, Coordinator of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Visit our YouTube Channel



To Make a Gift Online

This QR Code goes directly to the giving page on our website.

Sunday Worship In-Person & Online

SSUMC offers opportunities for worship on Sunday mornings with three different spaces and flavors:

+ 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel – Informal worship with traditional hymns.

+ 9:01 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall – Modern worship with music led by the Praise Band.

+ 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary – Traditional worship with choir and traditional hymns.



Godly Play (a worship experience for ages 4 - 4th grade) is offered at the 9.01 a.m. service, with the exception of Communion Sundays.



STATE STREET ONLINE



9:01 and 11:00 Services Livestreaming on State Street's YouTube Channel - StateStreetUMC

**YouTube Channel -
StateStreetUMC**

Your respect and care for the health of one another is appreciated. ***Masks or no masks, all are welcome. No explanation or judgment necessary.***

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Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. - John Wesley's Three Simple Rules

Church Office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Church Office email and phone are: churchoffice@state-street.org and 276-669-2101.



**State Street UMC seeks to be a place
where NO ONE is a STRANGER
and ALL are ACCEPTED.**

**We certainly are not perfect, but
have experienced STRENGTH
found in WALKING WITH GOD.**

State Street United Methodist Church | 650 Valley Drive | Bristol, VA 24201 US

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