

# STATE STREET *Happenings* United Methodist Church

## Your Weekly News & Updates

### ***Pastor Laura Away***

Pastor Laura will be in Kansas with family from July 28 to August 12. In the event of a pastoral need, please contact Pastor Steve at 276 623-3831.

### ***Community School Prayer Walk***

This Sunday, August 3rd, SSUMC will partner with our greater Bristol TN/VA United Methodist Churches to pray over our local schools! Prayer groups will meet at 4:00 p.m. at First UMC for a short sending forth service. Groups from each church will then travel to various Bristol area schools to lift up the students, teachers, and staff in prayer as they begin a new school year. If you would like to participate, or are willing to lead a prayer group (prayer & liturgy will be provided) at a specific school, please contact Pastor Laura or Pastor Steve. A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Table.



### ***Back to School Clothing Giveaway – Communities In Schools Ending This Sunday, August 3rd !***

Communities In Schools of Appalachian Highlands is providing students an opportunity to participate in a Back-to-School Clothing Giveaway. With the help of local individuals, businesses, groups, and churches, students in need will receive new school clothes for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year.

There are two ways to help:

1. Shop for a Student – Sponsors “adopting” a student, or students, must write their name and information on the sign-out sheet, and pick a preference sheet from the Narthex. The preference sheet will indicate the child’s sizes, style, and color preferences so “adopters” can then shop for the student. Each student should receive the following items: 2 tops; 2 pairs of pants or shorts; 1 pack of socks; and 1 pack of underwear. Please spend approximately \$125 per student. Once the items are purchased, please place them in one large bag and return them back to Josh Bass by August 3, 2025.
2. Sponsor a student by making a monetary donation of \$125 – In addition to students receiving clothes that sponsors have purchased, high school students may have the opportunity to be taken shopping to purchase their own school clothes. This allows us to meet our students’ needs, ensuring that they get exactly what they need.. Donations can be made online at <http://cisofah.org/backtoschool/> or by mailing a check.

**August 3, 2025  
8th Sunday After Pentecost  
Communion Sunday**

## **Steadfast Love Made Real**

**Sermon:** "Steadfast Love Made Real:  
To Be Rich Toward God"

**Scripture:** Luke 12:13-21

**Theme:** "So it is with those who store up treasures for  
themselves but are not rich toward God."

-Luke 12:21



Join us this **Sunday, August 3rd**, as we bless and pray  
for all students, teachers, and school staff heading into a  
new school year.

**Wear your school colors or spirit wear**—whether it's  
your current school, alma mater, or favorite local team -  
as we celebrate education and community together!

Let's cover the school year in prayer, love, and a little fun!

### ***Beyond Worship Resumes, Sunday August 3rd***

Have you ever sat in a pew on Sunday or listened online and thought I really don't think what I heard is right? Or, maybe you heard something on Sunday morning and would like to know more. Would you like to talk with others in a safe space about unresolved, unanswered, or unasked faith questions? SSUMC has a small group that meets each Sunday at 4 PM in the parlor. The group has been away for the summer, but has resumed. If you are interested, drop in and explore.

### ***Church Picnic and Combined Service Bring Joy and Fellowship***

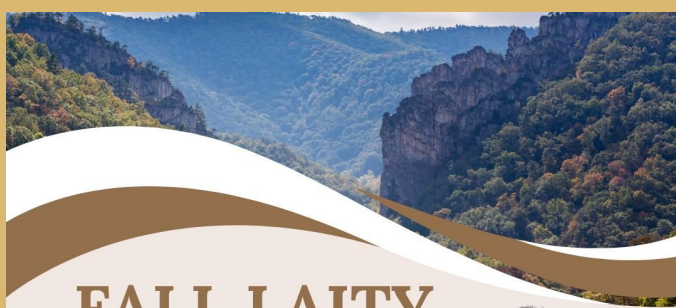
Our church picnic was a wonderful success, beginning with a special combined worship service that brought our whole church family together in praise! With sunny skies, great food, and joyful fellowship, the day was filled with laughter, love, and connection. The picnic was a heartwarming reminder of the blessings of fellowship and the beauty of spending time together in God's creation!

Thank you to everyone who helped and all who attended! It was a beautiful reminder that we are the church—wherever and however we gather!



***Request from your District  
Superintendent  
Reverend Jane Taylor***





## FALL LAITY RETREAT

Enjoy great fellowship with a time of learning and spiritual growth with Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett as she teaches and leads the weekend. This event is a joint event of both the West Virginia and Holston Conferences.



**Friday & Saturday**  
August 22-23, 2025



**Pipestem Resort**  
Pipestem, West Virginia

Registration for this event is only \$10 per person! Dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday will be provided and discounted hotel options are available. Register at: <https://www.mc-reg.brtapp.com/FallLaityRetreat2025>.



with **Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett**

**Please click on the photo above for details**

Dear Clinch Mountain & New River Clergy, I hope this message finds you well.

District Superintendent, Reverend Jane Taylor has asked me to reach out to you this morning and request your assistance in sharing an exciting opportunity with your congregations. We are pleased to announce the upcoming Fall Laity Retreat, which promises to be a time of spiritual growth and fellowship for all participants.

At this point, Holston has 22 members registered, and our goal is to reach 50 attendees from Holston. To achieve this, we need your help in spreading the word among your church members. This retreat will provide valuable insights and strengthen our connections within the Holston community.

Please encourage your congregations to register and participate in this enriching experience. Together, we can reach our goal and make this event a memorable one.

Clergy are also welcome to attend!

Thank you for your support!

### ***July OAK Luncheon a Great Success***

WOW! Terrific food was enjoyed by the OAK group on July 5th. Nineteen senior adults travelled to The Hickory Tree Grocery for great country cookin'. Whether we had jambalaya, burgers or fried green tomatoes, we had fun eating & sharing stories.



### ***Looking for a Place to Serve?***

Recovery at Bristol needs your help. We have lost some of our key volunteers and are in need of folks willing to help with meal set-up, clean-up, and being Christ's presence to our guests. If you are interested come join us at 6 PM each Thursday and see how Christ is at work each week here at SSUMC. You can also see Pastor Steve or Josh.



### ***F.I.S.H. Club Planning Session***

As we gear up for a new school year, we're inviting volunteers and anyone with a heart for children and youth to join us for a special **Planning Session!**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, August 19th at 5:30-7:00pm

**Location:** Room #115 – Open Door Room

**Dinner will be provided**, and childcare is available upon request.

F.I.S.H. Club (Faithful in Serving Him) is our weekday program for children and youth – from preschool all the way through 12th grade that meets on Tuesday nights, at the church, from 5:45p.m.-7:15 p.m.

Let's dream and plan together for a year full of faith, fun, and meaningful ministry. Your insight and presence can make a real difference!

**RSVP or Questions?** Contact Josh Bass @ [josh@state-street.org](mailto:josh@state-street.org).

### ***Children, Youth & Family Ministries: Upcoming Events!***

The Children, Youth, and Family Team has an exciting season ahead — and we can't wait to share it with you! Whether it's faith formation, fun outings, or family connection, there's something for everyone.

- Movie Time - September 14th at 1:30pm
- Bingo NIGHT - October 12th at 4-6pm
- Trunk-or-Treat - October 28th
- Waffle Bar - November 9th at 10am
- Movie Night/Tree Lighting - November 23rd at 10am
- Speedway in Lights - December 7th at 5:00pm

We believe growing in faith is something we do *together*. These events are designed to nurture relationships, deepen discipleship, and create lasting memories.

**Questions?** Contact Josh Bass at: [josh@state-street.org](mailto:josh@state-street.org) - we'd love to help you get plugged in.



### ***August OAK (Older Adult Kouncil) Lunch Outing***

The OAK group will be enjoying a lunch on Aug 28th at Greeko's Grill & Cafe in Bristol, VA. (Address: 3102 Linden Drive) We'll meet there at 11:30am. They specialize in Greek food. We have it on authority that they make the best burgers in town! Please, sign up by noon on Aug 27th at noon on the Welcome Table on Sundays or outside on the bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse office anytime. Contact Patty Killbreath at: 423-646-557 for further information.

### ***Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed***

Do you like to bring a smile to someone's face? Are you drawn to help those who feel isolated and alone to know they are loved? We have an opportunity for you to serve. State Street's Meals on Wheels program is looking for some more volunteer delivery drivers. Deliveries are made on every third Thursday of the month starting at 11:00 am. Meals and addresses are provided. Average is usually about 5 deliveries within a concentrated area in the Bristol community.

Next delivery is Thursday, July 17. If interested, contact Pat Buckles, our Meals on Wheels Coordinator, at **423-963-4761**.

***Movin' & Groovin' Classes are Taking a Break!***



Classes will resume at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 4th.  
Class time runs from 10:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Led by Heidi Quick and Beverly Wiginton.



### ***Youth Group Happenings***

- August 3rd: Regular programming as well as participating in the Community School Prayer Walk
- August 9: Tweetsie Trail Jams
- August 10: On break
- August 17: Regular Programming
- August 24: Regular Programming
- August 31: Group Fellowship

### ***August Blood Pressure Screenings***

Blood pressure screenings will be offered on August 17th at 9:30am & 12:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office (Rm 102) as well as Thursday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish in the Nurse Office



### ***Join Our Nursery Team!***

Our nursery volunteers are a vital part of our church family, creating a loving, safe, and welcoming space for our youngest members each week. Their care allows parents to fully participate in worship, knowing their children are well cared for.

We currently have an average of 6 children that hang out in the nursery every week! We're currently looking for more helping hands to join this joyful and rewarding ministry. Whether you can serve once a month or more regularly, your presence makes a big difference! If you love little ones and want to help plant seeds of faith, we'd love to have you on the team.

Contact Joshua Bass at [josh@state-street.org](mailto:josh@state-street.org) to learn more or sign up.





## **midweek prayer**

**WEDNESDAYS**

### **Mid-week Prayer Gathering** **Wednesdays at 12 noon**

Mid-Week Prayer Gathering meets every Wednesday at noon for a time of centering ourselves on God and sharing congregational prayers and concerns, reflective moments, and singing. Thirty minutes with a Zoom option available (contact the Office at 276-669-2101 for Zoom info).

### ***F.I.S.H. Club Schedule***

F.I.S.H. Club is now on summer break. Our regular schedule will resume at the beginning of the new school year in August.



### ***Spring Garden Preschool Now Enrolling***

Spring Garden is now enrolling for ages 6 mos. – 5 years for our upcoming summer and fall programs. Spring Garden Preschool in Bristol, VA is a nurturing early childhood education center that provides a safe and engaging environment for young children to learn and grow.

### ***Need Help with Livestreams or Zoom?***

If you're not sure how to connect to State Street's worship livestreams or Zoom sessions for Open Door Sunday School or any other study classes, we're here to help! Please reach out, and we'd be happy to guide you through the process. Let us know if you need assistance getting set up so you don't miss out on any of our events. Contact Betty in the church office at 276 669-2101 (leave a voice mail if she doesn't answer) or email her at [churchoffice@state-street.org](mailto:churchoffice@state-street.org). Our own State Street Geek Squad (currently made up of Dreama Chapman and David Schoeni) will get in touch.

### ***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.

**Recovery at Bristol will not meet on August 21 in order to provide a day of respite for the band and our volunteers.**

**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***

**This Sunday, July 27th, we are having One Worship at 10:00 a.m. (Church Picnic!!!). Regular Worship Schedule resumes on Sunday, August 3rd.**

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.**

+ + +

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

### **Church Office Hours**

The Church office is open:

- Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 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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