

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.



Clinch Mountain District Picnic

This Saturday, August 9th, Clergy and Laity of the Clinch Mountain District are invited to gather at Beech Grove UMC for a time of fellowship and fun. This will be an opportunity to meet member of the new churches that have joined our District since the realignment that was approved by the Holston Annual Conference in June. All food is being provided by the District.

Community School Prayer Gathering a Powerful Start to the School Year

On Sunday, August 3, members of our greater Bristol TN/VA Missional HUB and community came together in faith and unity to lift up our schools in prayer. From teachers and administrators to students and parents, we gathered at various local schools to ask God's blessing over the coming school year! We prayed for wisdom, strength, protection, and joy—for both educators and learners alike.

While our Youth and members gathered at Virginia High, Dr. David Scott, Superintendent of Bristol, Virginia Public Schools expressed is gratitude and love for the churches not only praying over the schools, but continuing to be



a supporter of the staff, students, and parents that are involved in all of the schools.

Thank you to all who participated, whether in person or in spirit! Your presence made a difference. As we move into the school year, let us continue to keep our schools in prayer, remembering that God goes before us and walks with us every step of the way!

May we remember: our prayers matter—and our schools are never alone.



Youth Group Shares God's Love by Feeding the Homeless

On Sunday, August 3, our Youth Group put faith into action by packaging and serving meals to those experiencing homelessness in our community! This powerful act of service was more than just a mission—it was a reminder that God calls us to care for the least among us. The youth showed remarkable maturity, empathy, and teamwork throughout the entire experience! They are already planning to do this again in the near future!



New Worship Series through August 31

How do we hear God's voice? We are often hungry for a sense of purpose, direction and calling in our lives. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are. Together we will learn to minimize the barriers that prevent us from listening to God and recalibrate our spiritual lives to be more in tune with who God is and how God is calling us. And we will do it together - in the context of community. We pray that God will use us to have an impact in the world far greater than the sum of our parts.

Resource: On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion by Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross and Susan Robb.

Sermon: "Overcoming Obstacles: Getting Ourselves Aligned with God"

Scripture: Samuel 3:1-10

Theme: "As we seek to discover God's voice in our passions and purpose, let us not forget that who we are is more important than what we do." – Jevon Caldwell-Gross

**On Purpose
Finding God's
Voice
in
Your
Passion**



Youth Group Happenings

- August 9: Tweetsie Trail Jams
- August 10: On break
- August 17: Regular Programming
- August 24: Regular Programming
- August 31: Group Fellowship

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.



Beyond Worship Resumes Sunday, August 10th

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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

All are invited to join the Wednesday Morning Bible Study which meets on ZOOM. Our study of the book of Revelation begins on Wednesday, August 13 at 10:00 a.m. Call Ray or Sarah Smith with questions: 843-907-0706.

Compassion Tree – Backpack Donations

Over the past 2 years, we have had a special Christmas Tree dedicated to collecting and distributing needed items to our neighbors who do not have a home. Our Compassion Tree,

located in the Library, has provided many items this year. We now have an opportunity to touch lives throughout the year, and have been **asked specifically for backpacks**. These can be gently used or new. If you have a donation, it does not need to be wrapped, just place it underneath the tree. Thank you for your support of our community.

Request from your District Superintendent

Reverend Jane Taylor

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!



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.brapp.com/FallLaityRetreat2025>.

with **Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett**

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

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.

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 - 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.



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 to learn more or sign up.



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. 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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