

STATE STREET *Happenings* United Methodist Church

Your Weekly News & Updates



October 26, 2025 @ 3pm
State Street United Methodist Church
650 Valley Dr., Bristol, VA 24201

Community Hymn Sing Festival Sunday, October 26th at 3pm

Join a variety of Community choirs on **Sunday, October 26th, at 3:00 p.m.**, for an evening of joyful singing as we raise support for Isaiah 117 House, a ministry providing safe, loving care for children entering foster care. Come lift your voice, celebrate community, and give hope through song!

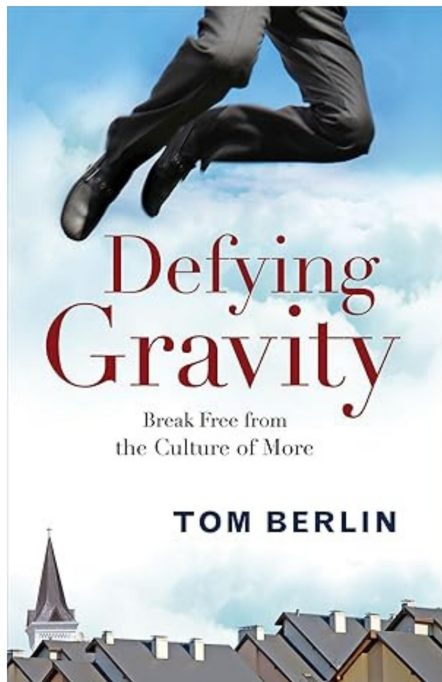
New Member Sunday

On Sunday, October 19, 5 persons united in membership at State Street UMC. They are:

- Cary and Jack Peterson – transfers from North Raleigh UMC in Raleigh, NC
- Amy and Sam Shuttle – transfers from Sinking Springs Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, VA
- Bob Neff – joined as an affiliate member with his primary membership remaining at Christ UMC in Kettering, OH

Since January of 2025, State Street has celebrated 4 infant baptisms and 4 adult baptisms and 24 people have become professing members. Of those 24, 4 have joined by Profession of Faith, 8 by transfer from other United Methodist congregations and 12 by transfer from other Christian denominations. We've also welcomed 2 retired United Methodist pastors, 1 reaffirmation of membership and 1 affiliate member. All glory to God! If you are interested in joining and/or finding out more about what that means, contact Pastor Laura or Pastor Steve.





Sunday, October 26, 2025
20th Sunday After Pentecost

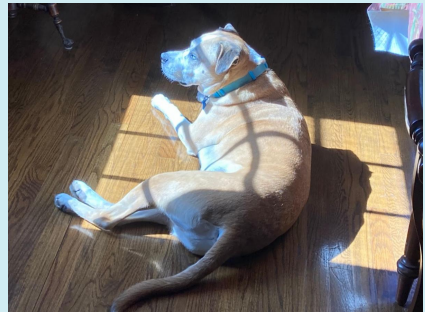
Scripture: Philippians 2:3-8
 "Let the same mind be in you that
 was in Christ Jesus."
 - Philippians 2:5

Sermon: "Black Holes"

Theme: "To live the Christian life, then, is to enter
 into the way of Christ in such a manner that the
 forces of God's kingdom begin to order our actions
 and thoughts. Paul understands that in order to
 experience this transformation, we will have to defy
 the gravitational forces and black holds of the
 kingdom of self and allow Christ to pull us into a new
 reality."
 -Rev. Tom Berlin

Gravitational Witness

Each Sunday as part of this sermon series, we will hear testimonies and stories from folks in the church and their reflections on the "pull" of God on their lives. This past Sunday Pastor Laura shared about "The Kingdom of Bowie," she and David's 80 pound lap dog, as a way to illustrate how we often operate out of the Kingdom of Self (thinking that the world does and should revolve around us and our perspective) instead of being led by the Kingdom of God.



Click the button below to watch the 11:00 service and hear more about the Kingdom of Bowie vs. the Kingdom of God.

[View Video Here](#)

OAK (Older Adult Kouncil) is on the road again!!

We will be Traveling to The Kitchen at Grace Meadow Farms in Jonesborough on **Thursday, October 23rd at 3:00pm**. This is family-style eating at it's best. Please, sign up by noon on Wednesday, the 22nd of October, on the welcome table on Sundays or the bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse office (Rm 102). Call Patty Kilbreath @ 423-646-5577 for further information.

Movin' & Groovin' Classes Are Taking a ShorBreak!

Move 'n' Groove classes are taking a 2-weeks break! The next session will resume on **Thursday, October 30** and run through December 11. (Note: The class will NOT meet on Thanksgiving morning.) If you have any questions, contact Beverly Wiginton (Beverlycwiginton@gmail.com) or Heidi Quick (Heidikquick@gmail.com). Join us and have a great time!



October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is set aside for Pastor Appreciation Month. This serves as a reminder that pastors are more than spiritual leaders; they are pillars of strength, wisdom, and compassion within their communities, deserving of heartfelt gratitude and recognition for their selfless service. Pastor Laura and Pastor Steve are amongst the unsung heroes of State Street and continue to give invaluable contributions to the congregation and community that extends beyond the pulpit. And Pastor Ray shares his energy and heart in many ways, even in retirement. Please take a moment this month and show your appreciation to our wonderful pastors while also praying for their continued faithful service to State Street and their ministry as a whole.



Rev. Laura Rasor
Lead Pastor



Rev. Steve Patterson
Associate Pastor



Rev. Ray Smith

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.

- Trunk-or-Treat - **Tuesday, October 28th**
- Waffle Bar - **Sunday, November 9th at 10am**
- Pins & Friends w/Bristol TN/VA UM Churches - **Sunday, November 16 at 5pm**
- Movie Night/Tree Lighting - **Sunday, November 23rd at 4pm**
- Speedway in Lights - **Sunday, 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.

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).



Youth Group Happenings



- **Sunday, October 26:** No Programming
- **Sunday, November 2:** Regular Programming 3pm
- **Sunday, November 9:** Fellowship Event at 3pm
- **Sunday, November 16:** Pins & Friends w/Bristol TN/VA UM Churches at 5pm
- **Sunday, November 23:** Movie afternoon and tree lighting at 4pm
- **Sunday, November 30:** No programming

Trunk or Treat ***Tuesday, October 28th*** ***starting at 6:30pm***

Children, Youth, and Families are invited to our annual Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot! Come dressed up in your best Halloween costume and be

ready to have lots of fun! There will be dinner served, along with lots of fun games to play!

Candy Donation: If you would like to donate candy to the Trunk-or-Treat, we will be accepting bags of pre-wrapped Halloween candy in the Narthex, starting **October 5th!**

Trunk Decorators: If you would like to decorate a trunk

and distribute candy, please let Josh know by

October 26th! Volunteers are asked to have their car parked and ready

by 6:20pm, but can start decorating at 5:30pm! **For more information, please contact Josh Bass at: josh@state-street.org**



Click on the flyer to learn more!



November Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Tuesday, November 4th at 8:30 a.m. We serve the best \$5.00 breakfast in Bristol. Butch Flannagan will speak about his recent trip to Ireland.



F.I.S.H. Club News

Do you have a heart for kids and youth? Have you felt called to serve in Children and Youth Ministry?

F.I.S.H. (Faithful In Serving Him) Club is an outreach ministry where we provide transportation to the church for children and youth in our area. Participants receive dinner and enjoy activities/discussions designed to explore God's love, Christian character, and promote fellowship.

F.I.S.H. Club meets on Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

This year, our focus is on Big Bad Bible Bullies with the theme verse being, "Love God! Love People!" from Matthew 22:37-39.

We are NEEDING volunteers who are willing to have fun and show God's love through actions and words. Click on the button below to see opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

Club 52

Club 52 is an opportunity to invest in the spiritual

development of the Youth of State Street United Methodist Church!

The pledge is for only \$1 a week for the next year (that's a total commitment of \$52)! Please consider becoming a member of Club 52 and supporting the future of youth ministry. To make a pledge, you can give by check or online by indicating "Club 52" with your payment. For any other questions, please contact Josh Bass at: josh@state-street.org.



Recovery at Bristol Thursdays 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**

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.



To Make a Gift Online



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



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.**



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