

STATE STREET *Happenings* United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 23 – Christmas Trees: Decorating and Lighting

- 4:00 pm: Inside Tree Decorating - help decorate the Advent trees that are placed in the narthex each year
- 5:00 pm: Inside/Outside Tree Lighting and Carol Sing (led by the Hills are Alive)
- Enjoy fellowship, carols, and refreshments as we welcome the Light of the World into our midst.

Click on the flyer for more info.

State Street
United Methodist Church

Christmas Trees

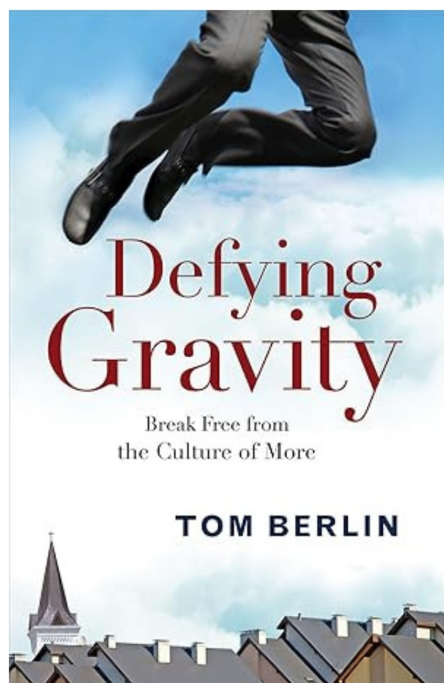
Decorating and Lighting

November 23rd, 2025

4:00 pm	Inside Tree Decorating - help decorate the Advent trees that are placed in the narthex each year.
5:00 pm	Move Outside for the Tree Lighting of the tree, planted in memory of Wink Steele in 1996, and Carol Sing (led by the Hills are Alive Chorus)
5:30 pm	Fellowship and Lighting of the Indoor Trees

Snacks and hot cocoa provided. Music by The Hills are Alive Chorus, a 20 member all-female a cappella group.

Your Weekly News & Updates



Sunday, November 23, 2025 Christ the King/Reign of Christ Thanks-giving/Commitment Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 116:4-7

"I tell myself, you can be at peace again,
because the Lord has been good to you."

-Psalm 116:7

Sermon: "Defying Gravity: When We Get It Right"

"Giving is a tangible way to remember, week after week, that we are dependent on God for all that we have. It reminds us that God sustains us and that God is trustworthy."

- Rev. Tom Berlin

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 our speaker was Vann Averitt. Click the button below to watch the video.

[Watch Video Here](#)



Wink Steele Memorial Tree

The evergreen tree on the church’s front lawn is lit to remember and celebrate the life of W.G. (Wink Steele). Wink was an active member of the Open-Door Class. He died suddenly on Holston Mountain while on a hike with Troop 8 Boy Scouts. Over the years the tree has grown to over 90 feet. The tree serves as a shining example of Christ’s eternal light for the Bristol community.

Generosity Drive for State Street UMC

“Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others.” II Timothy 6:18
Thanks to your generosity and support, State Street has been experiencing growth in people making the commitment to be members, in worship attendance, in giving to support the financial needs of the church and in mission and service to those most vulnerable in our community. Your estimated giving offers assistance as the financial needs and obligations for 2026 are being explored and developed.

[Click here](#) for information about how your gifts are used. We are asking supporters to fill out a pledge card that shares your estimated giving for the upcoming calendar year. On November 23, we will pray for and celebrate those commitments as part of all three mornings worship services. You can return the pledge cards to the church office or put them in the box on the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings. You can also submit a pledge form online. [Click here](#) for a fillable pledge form, or click on the pledge card at the right.

STATE STREET
241 W. 2nd Street, Bristol, VA 24201

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I/We will financially support our church in 2026 in this way, with God's help: \$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks
\$ _____ monthly for 12 months
\$ _____ quarterly
\$ _____ annually

Signature _____

Preferred method of giving:
☐ Check
☐ Automatic Bank Draft
☐ Online
☐ Contact me about other options

If you have trouble with the fillable form, you can print it out and mail it to:
State Street UMC,
ATTN: Carol Hammer,
600 N. 2nd St.,
Bristol, VA 24201
Or contact Carol by phone at 776.669.2101 x124 (leave a voicemail and she will return your call).

November OAK (Older Adult Council) Luncheon

The OAK group will have a lunch at 620 State on **Thursday, November 20th**. The bus will leave at 11:00am from the church. You may meet us there at 11:30am. Please, indicate if you are driving or riding the bus. They have many varieties of food, including Asian & Americana. Friends & family are always welcome. Sign up by Nov 19th at noon. The sign up is at the welcome table on Sundays or other times on the



bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse Office. Call Patty Kilbreath for further information at: 423-646-5577.

November Blood pressure screenings

Blood Pressure Screenings will be available on **Thursday, Nov 20th** at 6:00pm In the Parish Nurse Office (Rm 102)



Friendsgiving Dinner

State Street UMC will offer a special Friendsgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day

This is a time of fellowship for anyone who would like an alternative to cooking at home. Maybe your family plans have changed. Maybe the big dinner you planned has been delayed. Maybe you would like to share this day with new friends. This is a time for you.

When: Thanksgiving Day Noon until ????

Where: SSUMC Fellowship Hall

Who is invited: Anyone looking for fellowship and a time of sharing.

What should I bring: The church will provide the Turkey and Dressing. Bring a side dish and/or a dessert. Sign up on Sunday or call the Church Office so we can set a place for you.



Celebrate Thanksgiving at State Street UMC

SSUMC will again host a Friending Lunch on Thanksgiving Day at noon. A Sign-up Sheet is available in the Narthex each Sunday or you can call the church office. Bring a side dish or dessert. The church will provide the turkey and dressing. See the attached flyer for more information or contact Pastor Steve.

Click on the flyer for more information.

Movin' & Groovin' Classes

This session will run through **Thursday, 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!

Angel F.I.S.H. Tree

Every year, State Street UMC provides 3 gifts (tops, bottoms, and a toy or other gift) to each F.I.S.H. Club Angel. We hope you will join us in this heartwarming mission.

This will start on Sunday, November 16! We have 50 children and youth to be adopted.

- **Adopt and Shop:** The deadline to return gifts is Sunday,



Dec. 14th. Please contact Josh Bass, by email at josh@state-street.org, or by phone/text at 919-426-8643. He will match you with a F.I.S.H. Club Angel and can answer any questions. Upon signing up, we will send you instructions. When you deliver your gifts to the church, please make sure the gifts are marked with the child's name, wrapped in one box/bag, and placed in Josh's office!

- **Monetarily Adopt:** If you aren't able to shop, please make a donation of \$75 to State Street UMC and note "**Angel FISH**" and we'll take care of the rest!

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 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.



Advent Season Poinsettia Orders

We are now accepting poinsettia orders for the upcoming Advent season. The cost is \$11.00 each. You may place an order until Monday, December 15th. Please return the order form and payment to the church office. For instructions on how to pay online, please contact Betty at the church office at: 276-669-2101, ext. 121. Please contact Susie Gordon at: 423-646-1203, or Meredith Massie at: 423-571-4498, or Catherine

Brillhart at: 276-591-6952, with questions. To view a fillable form, please click on the button below. Send online form to Betty at: churchoffice@state-street.org.

**Fillable Poinsettia Order
Form**

F.I.S.H. Club Christmas Store Needs Items!

Fall Cleaning? Don't just throw it all away, donate it to the FISH Club for our Annual Christmas Store, open on Tuesday, December 16th! We will take gently used/new items for our kids to give to their siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other adults. **Some examples of items are jewelry, toys/games, clothing, household items, and fragrances, men's items such as tools, electric razors, fragrances.** Any items that you would like to donate can be placed inside Josh's office. For questions or more information, please contact Josh at josh@state-street.org.



Guatemalan Shoe Challenge

Ray and Sarah Smith go to Guatemala in January, for their mission trip. As part of that mission they distribute shoes to children. Please consider taking the Guatemalan Shoe Challenge. Here's how: Count the shoes you own and donate .50 cents per pair to buy shoes for children. Make checks out to the church or you can give cash to Ray or Sarah.



Youth Group Happenings

- **Sunday, November 23:** Movie afternoon and tree lighting at 4pm
- **Sunday, November 30:** No programming

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).



midweek prayer
WEDNESDAYS



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**

United Methodist and Area Church News

Go to holston.org and view and/or subscribe to The Call for news from our area.
Go to umnews.org for news and information about United Methodists around the world.

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.**

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

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