

STATE STREET *Happenings* United Methodist Church

Your Weekly News & Updates

Pledge Campaign Update

Pledge Campaign Update

As of December 4, we have received 67 pledges with a total so far of \$365,144.67. This is a big jump from the last report. After all pledges had come in in 2025, we received 69 pledges for a total of \$400,390.18 of the 2026 pledges are new and 28 of the regular pledgers have increased their pledge amount. Keep those pledges coming. We know in challenging times, turning in that pledge can be an act of faith and we thank you for your investment in the work of the church. Pledge cards are available in the church office or on the Welcome Table on Sundays or [click here](#) to fill out a pledge form and turn it in by email.

Opportunities to Love God and Neighbor During Advent and Christmas. December 14 is the third Sunday of Advent. Two Sundays between now and Christmas Day. As you are making preparations, don't forget the real reason for the season!

Saturday, December 13 – TP Day

Mission at Edgemont Towers. Bristol TN/VA United Methodist Churches joining together to distribute free toilet paper to residents. Meet at Edgemont Towers Parking Lot. Address is 100 Ash Street, Bristol, TN. 10 am to noon.

Sunday, December 14 - at 2:00 pm: Handel's *Messiah* Sing-A-Long at Central Presbyterian Church, 331 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA.

Sunday, December 14 – Angel F.I.S.H. Tree:

All 50 Angel F.I.S.H. kids have been adopted REMINDER: Please return wrapped and labeled gifts to the church by Sunday, December 14. You can also help with a Wrapping Party on Thursday, December 18 at 2pm in Room 117.

Tuesday, December 16 – FISH

Club Christmas Store. Volunteers needed. Contact Josh Bass for more information.

Tuesday, December 16 –

Journey's End in downtown Bristol – a Christmas event that recreates Joseph and Mary's search for lodging. Meet at 6:00 pm at Downtown Center (Farmer's Market/Mural Stage). Ends at the Paramount where the Senior Show Choir is performing to 7:30pm.

Wednesday, December 17 – Advent Noonday Worship/Fellowship at State Street United Methodist Church. Clayton Farmer preaching about "Joy Within the Love of God." Noon to 1:00 pm. Lunch provided.

Friday, December 19 – Spring Garden Preschool Christmas Pageant. 10:00 am in

the State Street sanctuary.

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship

- Noon – State Street
- 5:00 pm – Three Springs UMC
- 7:00 pm – State Street

Gathering music begins 15 minutes before each service.

Sunday, December 28 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

One Worship at State Street at 10am. Carol Sing – You pick!

Baptism of Grace Marie Wagner - December 7, 2025

Parents are Sid and Laura Wagner, Grandparents are Dave Wagner and Kim and Tim Baker. Great-Grandmother is Nancy Wallace.



Speedway in Lights: A Bright & Merry Night!

Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry had a fantastic trip to Speedway in Lights on Sunday, December 7th! The big bus rolled out, packed with excited kids, youth, and families ready for Christmas magic. From glowing lights, racing around the racetrack, to festive laughs—and even a special moment with Santa (see photo!)—the evening was full of joy and togetherness.

Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make this night so memorable!



December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55

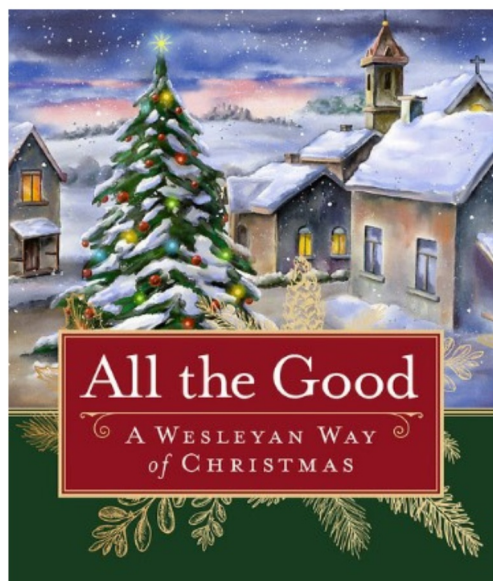
"He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

– Luke 1:53

Sermon:

"Practicing Advent: Embodying God's Love for Others"

"Our God challenges us to do such a complicated thing. God breaks down our dreams and hopes but reconstructs our dreams and hopes to liberate and to spread mercy and justice of god in this world for the people of God." - Dr. Jung Choi



**Worship series through
 December 21**

Angel F.I.S.H. Tree

All 50 F.I.S.H. Club Angels have been adopted—thank you!

Now we need your help with our Wrapping Party!!

Join us to wrap the gifts on **Thursday, December 18**, at 2pm, in Room #117. All supplies will be provided—just bring yourself and a joyful spirit! Contact **Josh Bass** (josh@state-street.org | 919-426-8643) with any questions.



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 – Volunteers Needed!

Christmas Store: December 16th at 5pm – 8pm. Our kids will be able to shop for gifts to give to their siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other adults. We need volunteers to help kiddos within the store to purchase different items and floaters to help get presents into bags. If you'd like to volunteer please contact Josh Bass at: josh@state-street.org.



Movin' & Groovin' Classes

This session will run through **Thursday, December 11**. Please contact Beverly Wiginton at: (Beverlycwiginton@gmail.com) or Heidi Quick (Heidikquick@gmail.com). Please come join us and have a great time!

Spring Garden Preschool

At Spring Garden Preschool, we believe every child is a precious gift from God. We are committed to children growing and learning in a faith-based environment, learning about God's love. If you are looking for a faith-based organization to make your end of the year taxable donation, we hope that you will kindly consider Spring Garden Preschool.

December Blood pressure screenings

Blood Pressure Screenings will be available on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6:00pm in the Parish Nurse office(Rm 102)



Youth Group Happenings

Youth Group will be on break until January 2026.

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

Mid-Week Prayer Gathering is on break until January 7, 2026. You are encouraged to attend the Bristol TN/VA Advent Noonday Lunches (see calendar above for information) on December 3, 10 and 17.



***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.**

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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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