



# Happenings

## Your Weekly News & Updates

### Worship Series Through March 29

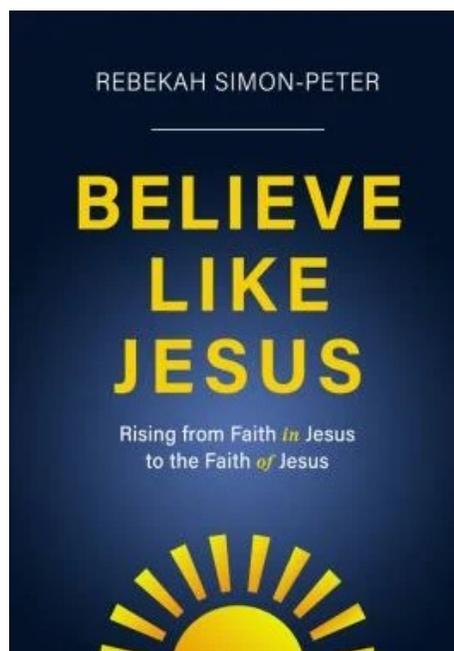
**March 8, 2026**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

**Sermon:** "Seeing the Living Water"

**Scripture:** John 4:5-42

"A Miracle Mindset: A miracle mindset sees abundance where others see a dry well or a social barrier."

- *Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter*



### Believe Like Jesus Reflection Questions 2nd Sunday of Lent

The Core Belief for the 2nd Sunday of Lent was "Believe Your Prayers Have Power". Here are some personal reflection questions as you seek to grow in your faith:

- Jesus believes his prayers have power. Do you believe your prayers have power? What doubts, fears, bad habits, and limiting beliefs may derail the power of your prayers? What can you do about that?
- Jesus also prays for the strength and power of God to work through Him, as he does when choosing the Twelve who will carry on his legacy. Create a prayer asking God to work through you to do something big.
- How do you visualize God answering your prayers? Practice receiving God's answers with an open mind and heart.

Pastor Laura ([pastorlaura@state-street.org](mailto:pastorlaura@state-street.org)) and Pastor Steve ([spatterson@state-street.org](mailto:spatterson@state-street.org)) are both available if you would like to speak with them further about your Lenten journey.

### Why Music Matters in Worship

**A Series of Reflections from State Street's Music Leaders**  
**This Week: Joe Jessee, Contemporary Worship in Reflection**

For those who may not know me, my name is Joe Jessee. I have been at SSUMC for almost 9 years working with our praise and worship ministries. I have had the blessing of serving in both

the Chancel Choir and the 901 Praise Band over the years, and I now serve as Worship Leader and Worship Planner for the 901 Praise Band. It has been such a blessing to worship with SSUMC for almost a decade, and in reflection, it's actually a pretty amazing story as to how I got here at all!

Growing up in Russell County, my family has always been very religious. My father is a pastor to this day, and on every car ride we would listen to "positive, encouraging, K-Love." For those who might not know this phrase, this is the slogan of a radio station, FM 99.7, that plays Christian Contemporary music. I was raised on these songs and when I first started singing as a child, these are the songs that would come to mind.

At my family's previous churches, I began singing in their youth ministries when I was only 12 years old. At my family's current church, I served for 7 years as a vocalist and worship leader singing Christian Contemporary music. This music was my gateway into the performing arts and to this day serves as my greatest love in regard to the expression of my faith. KLove's motto has remained my own: Positive & Encouraging. This music has a way of connecting and tugging on the heartstrings of those who hear it, especially me.

Upon entering SSUMC, I was a year deep into my bachelor's degree in music education, studying history, theory, opera, and art songs. Bryan Underwood invited me originally to sing with the choir, but eventually I found my way back to Christian Contemporary, which has always felt like home. Now, 9 years later, I still have the privilege to lead worship with songs that guided me along my own personal faith journey. It is truly the BEST "job" a musician like me could ask for, and I have been blessed abundantly with likeminded musicians who have a heart for service. I pray that our band feel like a blessing to some of you, and I assure you, it is a blessing to us to be able to worship with you weekly.

*Stay tuned for more reflections from our State Street music leaders.*

### **Hospice House Church of the Month update!**

Our distribution of the Zip bags and sign-up for meals & stocking went very well. More to do, though. We are in need of more meals taken to the HH House for the in-patients and families. Please contact Patty Kilbreath at 423-646-5577 until March 20th followed by Sarah Smith at: 843-907-0706 until March 27th. We distributed about 85 bags and signed up 13 meal participants. (We usually have at least 20) A large black bag is available for depositing filled zip bags in the Narthex. Please, return them by March 8th. We now have 65 zip bags returned! The children & Youth will be filling pretty bags and delivering them for the Home Hospice Patients after that. Our church is so generous with all of the efforts we put forth. You are such a blessing to so very many.

### **Hospice House Church of the Month News**

Your State Street Staff joined together to provide lunch and offer compassion and support to the patients and families at Hospice House. A BBQ meal with lots of yummy side dishes and desserts was provided and Pastor Laura, Pastor Steve and Josh Bass offered prayer and singing, by request. Parish Nurses Patty Kilbreath and Sarah Smith provided emotional support and encouragement. Church Office Administrator Betty Fitton and Financial Administrator Carol Hammer contributed food items. Families and staff expressed how blessed they felt. We saw many faces transform from being overwhelmed and burdened to sharing tears and smiles of gratitude. One family member even gave a financial contribution. There is still time for you to participate and there are a lot of ways you can help. You will be blessed.

### **Women's Morning Circle News**

Women's Morning Circle Group will hold its March meeting on **Tuesday, March 11**, beginning at 10:30am in the Church Parlor. We will continue our study of Dr. Adam Hamilton's series entitled, "The Message of Jesus," led by Sarah Smith. Lunch reservations are due to Juanita Cox by Friday, March 6th; her contact info is as follows: telephone: 276-791-9014 or email [Juanitacox26@gmail.com](mailto:Juanitacox26@gmail.com). The cost for lunch is \$5.00. Come join us....all women are welcome..... we would love to have you!

## "I Want to Know More" Small Group

Are you interested in knowing more about the basics of United Methodist belief and practice? Would you like to learn more about church membership? Do you want to know more about State Street UMC and its ministries? Is there more you want to know about making a commitment to follow Jesus with a church community? Pastor Laura is hosting an informational gathering on Sunday, March 15 and 22 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the Parlor. Those interested will go together to Bella's for supper afterwards.



### Mark Your Calendars

The Season of Lent is here. Lent offers a 40 day period of intentional spiritual preparation for the Easter Celebration. We are reminded of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. We reflect on our mortality and our human foolishness and how much we truly need saving. We lift high the cross. This Lent we will be using a resource by Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter called "Believe Like Jesus: Rising from Faith in Jesus to the Faith of Jesus." The book includes, in the appendix, some spiritual and faith reflection questions for

each of those 40 days. The book is available for purchase from [cokebury.com](http://cokebury.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [rebekahsimonpeter.com](http://rebekahsimonpeter.com) and [marketsquarebooks.com](http://marketsquarebooks.com). Please contact the church office if you would like us to order a copy for you. The cost is \$25.

### Holy Week

#### **+Sunday, March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday**

All three Sunday services (8:45, 9:01 and 11:00 am)

9:01 Worship features Recovery Band

Fellowship lunch at 12:15 pm - bring a side dish or dessert

#### **+Thursday, April 2 Holy Thursday (From the Last Supper to the Cross)**

**5:00 pm** Traditional Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Worship at Three Springs UMC, 6610 Reedy Creek Rd.

**6:00 pm** Recovery Fellowship Dinner

**7:00 pm** "The Living Last Supper: A Dramatic Musical Experience for Holy Week" offered by chancel choir and readers. State Street UMC

#### **+Friday, April 3 at 7:00 pm Good Friday Requiem**

"*Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen" featuring chancel choir, community choir and orchestra.

#### **+Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunrise with Breakfast at Three Springs UMC, 6610 Reedy Creek Rd.

(Time To Be Announced)

**10:00 am One Worship** at State Street featuring Praise Band and chancel choir

**11:00 am** Easter Celebration at Three Springs UMC

### Blood Pressure screenings

Free Blood Pressure Screenings will be available on Sunday, March 8th at 9:30am & 12:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office. Screenings will also be available on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office.



## Special Program – The 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Our Country

2026 marks the 250th year that we have existed as a country! In celebration, the Bristol Historical Association has joined the King University Institute of Faith and Culture as well as the Rocky Mount Historic Site to co-sponsor a two-day event for our community on March 26 and 27. The focus will be on the role of religion during the Revolutionary War. Dr. James Byrd, author of “Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution. Will be the guest speaker and will offer a comprehensive analysis of how American revolutionaries defended their patriotic convictions through scripture.

The opportunities to hear Dr. Byrd speak are:

- **Thursday, March 26 at 6:00pm – In the chapel at State Street United Methodist Church.**
- **Friday morning, March 27 (Time to be announced) – in the chapel of King University. This event is designed for the students of King University, but the public is welcome.**
- **Friday evening, March 27 (Time and details to be announced) – Rocky Mount Historic Site.**

Don't miss the opportunity to broaden your view and understanding of the war that set the stage for the United States of America!

## Move 'n' Groove

Move 'n' Groove classes will run through **Thursday, March 12**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at **10:30am** for our 1-hour class. Dress comfortably and wear sneakers/tennis shoes. We warm up in the chairs with stretching, move on to dancing in the chairs, floor moves, focus areas work, line dances, and finish with some seated cool-down moves. Music ranges from golden oldies, country hits, R & B, etc. to music suggested by the members. As long as the song has a beat, we can move to it! Move 'n' Groove is an opportunity to have a great time of fun and fellowship while also reaping the cognitive, social/emotional. and physical benefits that occur while we Move 'n' Groove! Ask someone you know who is already attending, they are the ones who can tell you what we do! If you have any other questions, please contact Beverly Wiginton by phone (423.741.0145) or email (beverlycwiginton@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** Regarding inclement weather changes during these winter months, Move 'n' Groove classes will follow the same schedule as the Bristol, VA City Schools' decision. School announcements are available on WCYB.

## Palm Sunday Celebration

Join us for food, fun and fellowship on Palm Sunday! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and the church will provide the main dish. All are welcome!

**When:** **Sunday, March 29th** at 12:15pm

**Where:** In the Fellowship Hall



## LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Wednesdays @ 12-1 PM



Join us each week during Lent for a Lenten Luncheon focused on spiritual practices that help us grow in faith.

DATE	TOPIC / SPEAKER	LOCATION
February 25th	<b>SCRIPTURE STUDY</b> Rev. Rich Mullan, Virginia Ave Beginning Worship Service	Beech Grove 7429 Eddie City Hwy. Bristol, VA 24202
March 4th	<b>PRAYER &amp; FASTING</b> Rev. Robert Kariuki, John Wesley Teaching and Discussion	Three Springs 6610 Reedy Creek Rd. Bristol, VA 24202
March 11th	<b>CONFESSION</b> Rev. Laura Rasor, State Street Teaching and Discussion	Addilynn Memorial 2225 Ancestral Rd. Bristol, TN 37620
March 18th	<b>SIMPLICITY</b> Rev. Ray Amos, Addilynn & Aldersgate Teaching and Discussion	State Street 650 Valley Dr. Bristol, VA 24201
March 25th	<b>SERVICE</b> Rev. Steve Patterson, State Street Teaching and Discussion	Reynolds Memorial 1320 Mary St. Bristol, VA 24202
April 1st	<b>WORSHIP</b> Joshua Bass, State Street Ending Worship Service	John Wesley 311 Lee St. Bristol, VA 24201



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## Lenten Lunches

Join our Bristol United Methodist Churches this Lent for a special series of Lenten Luncheons, held each Wednesday, starting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00–1:00 PM at participating congregations across the Bristol area. Each gathering will focus on spiritual disciplines—practices that help us grow in grace and deepen our walk with Christ.

Through teaching, discussion, and worship, we'll explore meaningful Lenten themes such as Scripture Study, Prayer & Fasting, Confession, Simplicity, Service, and Worship. A simple lunch and time of fellowship will be shared at each location as we journey together toward Easter.

We invite you to come and experience this season of reflection and renewal with our United Methodist community.

Click on the flyer for more information.

## March OAK (Older Adult Council) Lunch Outing

The OAK group for those seniors and their companions are having their March lunch at **Osaka Asian Restaurant** on **Thursday, March 26th at 11:30am**. We will meet at the restaurant. Feel free to bring a friend with you. They have a varied menu that will tempt you to try several items. Please sign up by noon on **Wednesday, March 25th** on the clipboard on the welcome table on Sunday mornings or on the bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse Office. For questions call Patty Kilbreath at 423-646-5577 **before** March 20th and Sarah Smith at 843-907-0706 **after** the 20th.

## Youth Group Activity

**March 8th at 3pm:** Youth will **NOT** meet on March 8

**March 15th at 3pm:** fellowship outing

**March 22nd at 3pm:** dinner, fellowship, lesson, and fun

**March 29th at 12pm:** Palm Sunday Luncheon

For questions, contact Josh at [josh@state-street.org](mailto:josh@state-street.org) or at 276-669-2101 (Ext. 125.)



## F.I.S.H. Club News and Opportunities

### F.I.S.H. Club News and Opportunities

F.I.S.H. (Faithful In Serving Him) Club meets on Tuesdays at 6-7pm, during the school year. It 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.

This spring, F.I.S.H. Club will explore Bullies of the Bible, helping children learn how faith, courage, and God's love guide us in standing up to fear, pride, and misuse of power. Through stories like Herod and the Wise Men, Moses and Pharaoh, and Saul Becomes Paul, kids will discover both the harm bullying causes and the hope of God's transforming grace—especially during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

- **Tuesday, March 10th:** Holy Week and Easter
- **Tuesday, March 17th:** Holy Week and Easter

Click the buttons below to see Volunteer Opportunities and the entire Spring Schedule.



### Recovery at Bristol News

Recovery at Bristol meets each week on Thursdays. Dinner at 6.15pm, worship at 7.00pm, small groups to follow. Transportation and child care provided by request. Contact Pastor Steve. Recovery offers an additional worship opportunity each week. Recovery at Bristol is a place you can come and help in many ways to show the love of God to people trying to change their lives. Come at 6:00pm. Have a meal. Look around. God may have something special in mind for you.

### 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.*

### United Methodist and Area Church News

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



### 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*

**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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