

Your Weekly News & Updates

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 – in the chapel of King University at 9:15 am. This event is designed for the students of King University, but the public is welcome.**
- **Friday evening, March 27 – 6:00 pm at 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!

Worship Series Through April 12

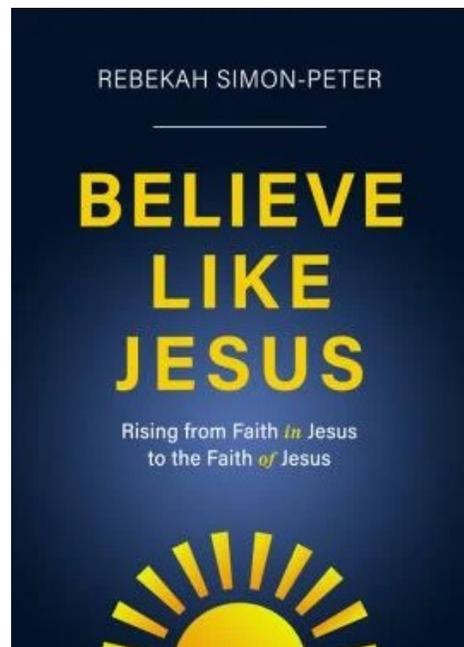
March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "The Loud Cry of Life"

Scripture: John 11:1-45

"Resurrection reality isn't just a future hope;
it is a present power."

- Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter



Believe Like Jesus Reflection Questions 4th Sunday of Lent

The Core Belief for the 4th Sunday of Lent was "Life Purpose". Here are some personal reflection questions as you seek to grow in your faith:

- If you're unsure what your purpose is, ask yourself these two questions: What makes me come alive? How can I use it to contribute to the benefit of others? The answers don't necessarily have to center on your faith or the church.
- Today, act as if you already live on purpose? What you spend your time on can tell you about your purpose. Write out the itinerary of a typical day. Be specific. Compiling a list of your activities like this can do one of two things – one, by showing you what you spend your time on, the list can guide you toward your purpose; or two, the list can reveal that what you're spending your time on isn't all that worthwhile. What does your list show?
- Sometimes you already know your life purpose but have trouble accepting it. As your life purpose becomes clearer, list the ways you can live it out. Think of as many possibilities as you can. Say YES to opportunities, requests, and needs consistent with living your life on purpose.

Pastor Laura (pastorlaura@state-street.org) and Pastor Steve (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: Randall Egan, Handbell Director, Keyboard player for 9:01 Praise Band

In the late 1990s, worship leader and singer-songwriter, Matt Redman wrote:

"I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus"

From time to time, I do find myself losing focus when it comes to worship. I begin to focus on only the correct notes and rhythms while playing keyboard for the 9:01 praise band instead of focusing on bowing down and praising God through each note played. While directing handbells, I find myself worrying about if we have enough ringers to cover all the notes in a particular piece instead of working with our ringers to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and lift every note rang to God.

Worship is more than the song choices we make for each service. Worship is so much more than preparing musical offerings to the best of our ability. State Street UMC gives us a variety of outlets to worship God. As we prepare and take part in each worship service, I pray that we focus on pure, spirit-led worship. From traditional music to modern praise songs, the genre does not change our focus. Jesus teaches that it must be done "in spirit and truth". As we enter for worship each week, may we all come with a sincere heart, focusing on God's worth rather than location or outward appearance.

May we always focus on the heart of worship at SSUMC!

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

Lunch at Logan's Restaurant Following 11:00am Service

This **Sunday, March 22nd**, immediately following our 11:00am service, we will have our Monthly Sunday Church Member & Guest Lunch at Logan's Restaurant at 3174 Linden Drive, Bristol, VA (Exit 7). If you know you can attend **this Sunday**, please text or email David Luther so he will have an idea of our group size for reservation purposes. If you have not made a reservation but find that you can come at the last minute, please come on. We will have room. David's cell number is: (423) 646-6599. Either calls or texts are fine. Or you can also email him at DavidLuther77@embarqmail.com. Please invite your friends to join us as well.

Hospice House Church of the Month update!

The Hospice House news update. 76 zip bags returned thus far for the Home Hospice patients.

Youth to place bags in decorative bags soon & deliver to the facility. 14 meals have been pledged and numerous appreciations given for both. Stocking has been done by 2 teams so far. There are still needs to be met: donations to purchase kitchen & laundry items, more meals promised through the end of March, and gratitude for our generous work through March 9th. Call Patty Kilbreath at 423-646-5577 or the church office at 276-669-2101, Ext 128 to leave a message.



Easter Flower Order Form

Easter is April 5, 2026, and we are preparing for a very special service. Fill out this form and bring it to the church office with your choice method of payment. If paying by check, please note "Easter flowers". The cost is \$19.00. Please get your orders in early, as a limited number of hydrangeas are available. The deadline for orders is Friday, March 27. If you would like to order online, contact Betty in the church office at 276-669-2101, ext. 121.

Please contact Susie Gordon at: 423-646-1203,
Catherine Brillhart at: 276-591-6952, or
Becky Fletcher at: 423-571-4498 with questions.

Given By: _____

Phone : _____

Number Hydrangeas Ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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Click on the photo to fill out online.

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 cokesbury.com, amazon.com, rebekahsimonpeter.com and 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)

6:00 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

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!

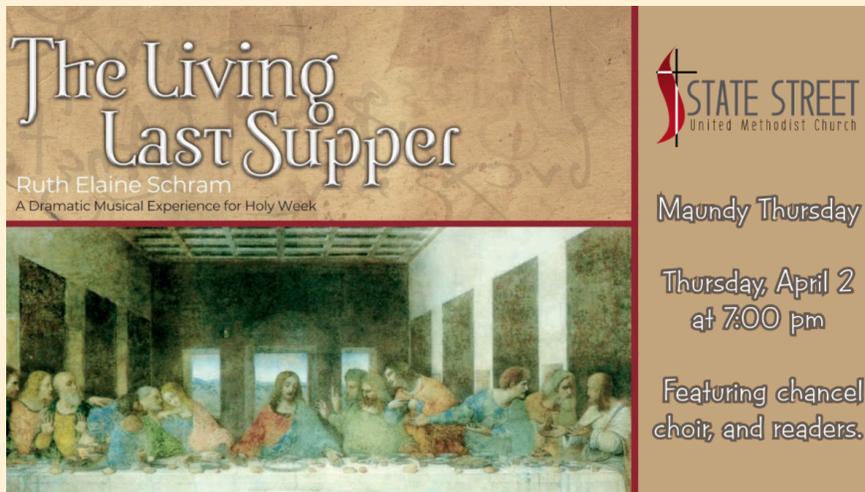
When: Sunday, March 29th at 12:15pm

Where: In the Fellowship Hall



Maundy Thursday Pot Luck

Each year church members are invited to share a meal with our Recovery Community before the Maundy Thursday service. This year we will gather on **Thursday, April 2 at 6 PM**. The church is providing meat and drinks. You are asked to bring either a side dish or a dessert. This is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship before we worship together at 7 PM. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Steve or Josh Bass.



The Living Last Supper

The Living Last Supper: A Dramatic Musical Experience for Holy Week" will be performed here on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00pm**, in the Sanctuary. The production will feature the chancel choir, and readers.

Cast members are:

- Table Preparer No. 1: Nancy Arnold
- Table Preparer No. 2: Susan Murray
- Jesus Christ: Juan Higueta (the husband of our pianist, Victoria Keller)
- Simon Peter: Pete Buhls
- Andrew: Derek Evans

- James the Lesser: Doug Murray
- James the son of Zebedee: Josh Bass
- Matthew: Sid Oakley
- Simon the Zealot: Danny Wallace
- Bartholomew: Greg Cochran
- Phillip: Ray Feagins
- Thaddaeus: Tom Fowlkes
- John: Klyne Lauderback
- Thomas: Randall Egan
- Judas Iscariot: Barry Hopper

Our choir will be singing and the service will end with Holy Communion being served.



Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna

Join us on Good Friday, April 3rd, for Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna, featuring our chancel choir, community choir and orchestra.

Rehearsals For "Living Last Supper"

Participants in "The Living Last Supper" are reminded that we have 2 rehearsals. We will rehearse and be fitted in costumes on **Sunday, March 29th at 3:00pm** in the Sanctuary. We will also rehearsal with the choir on **Wednesday, April 1st, at 7:00pm**. A rehearsal for those who miss the Sunday practice will be held on **Tuesday, March 31st, at 7:00pm**. the program is on Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00pm.

Move 'n' Groove Class is on Break!

Move 'n' Groove classes are taking a couple of weeks off and will resume on **Thursday, April 2nd, and run through May 7th!**

Spring Garden Preschool (at State Street) is currently enrolling for their upcoming fall program!

Spring Garden is a Christian based preschool that serves ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Please call 276-466-8505 or email springgardennews1@gmail.com for more information. As most private preschools in our area, Spring Garden has provided snacks for all children enrolled in their program by purchasing snacks in bulk and serving to the children. In January 2026, new VDH guidelines require any child care facility in Virginia to serve individually packaged snacks when providing snacks for children enrolled in their program. Unfortunately, the increase in providing individually packaged snacks vs snacks in bulk, for 40 plus children is a cost the preschool is unable to absorb and we have had to ask parents to start providing snacks for their children. While most of our families are able to provide these snacks, we would like to keep snacks here at the preschool for times when parents may forget that extra snack or in a time of need when a family may be experiencing a financial hardship. If you would like to donate, we would greatly appreciate it!! Some ideas of individually packaged snacks are goldfish, cheezits, vanilla wafers, veggie straws, pirate booty, etc. Please contact Michelle Smith for any questions. 276-466-8505 or springgardennews1@gmail.com

Blood Pressure screenings

Free Blood Pressure Screenings will be available on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00pm in the Parish Nurse Office.



Lenten Lunches

Join our Bristol United Methodist Churches this Lent for a special series of Lenten Luncheons, held each Wednesday, starting on February 25th, 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.](#)

LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Wednesdays @ 12-1 PM

BRISTOL

VA UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES TENN
LOVE LIKE JESUS

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	SCRIPTURE STUDY Rev. Rich Mullan, Virginia Ave Beginning Worship Service	Beech Grove 7149 Gate City Hwy. Bristol, VA 24202
March 4th	PRAYER & FASTING Rev. Robert Kariuki, John Wesley Teaching and Discussion	Three Springs 6610 Reedy Creek Rd. Bristol, VA 24202
March 11th	SIMPLICITY Rev. Ray Amos, Addilynn & Aldersgate Teaching and Discussion	Addilynn Memorial 3225 Avoca Rd. Bristol, TN 37620
March 18th	CONFESSION Rev. Laura Rasor, State Street Teaching and Discussion	State Street 650 Valley Dr. Bristol, VA 24201
March 25th	SERVICE Rev. Steve Patterson, State Street Teaching and Discussion	Reynolds Memorial 1320 Mary St. Bristol, VA 24202
April 1st	WORSHIP Joshua Bass, State Street Ending Worship Service	John Wesley 311 Lee St. Bristol, VA 24201

 #BristolUnited

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** March 20th.

Youth Group Activity

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 or at 276-669-2101 (Ext. 125.)



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 24:** Easter Fun Night
- **Tuesday, March 31:** Spring Break
- **Tuesday, April 7:** Regular FISH
- **Tuesday, April 14:** Regular FISH
- **Tuesday, April 21:** Regular FISH
- **Tuesday, April 28:** Regular FISH

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

[F.I.S.H. Club Schedule and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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 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.

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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