



# Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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[www.bookwalter-umc.org](http://www.bookwalter-umc.org)

**November 2025**

**Bailey Hueser**, Choir Director  
**Todd Spangler**, Pianist

**Reverend Stephen K. Doyal**, Pastor  
**Betsy Payne**, Secretary

**Edie Jo Hall**, Children's Director  
**Taylor Stephens**, Youth Director

*Sharing God's love with our neighbors,  
inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ.*

## ARTICLE

*(As we hope to expand our Small Group ministry, here are some thoughts from Rick Warren's daily devotional)*

Small groups aren't just beneficial—they're biblical! Jesus started his public ministry at 30 years old. And soon he started a small group; he went out and gathered 12 guys and for the next three years, he traveled and ate and ministered with them.

You need a small group because they're relational. That's important because life is all about learning how to love. And you can't love unless you build relationships. Small groups are the laboratory for learning relational skills. They're a laboratory for learning how to love.

You can't have a conversation with a crowd. But in a small group you can ask questions and share wisdom. In a small group you can pray in specific ways for each other, get support, and share the ups and downs of life.

You don't have to know everybody in the church for it to be your church. But you do have to know somebody. You need a few people who celebrate with you and show up when you need them.

## HOMECOMING

Bookwalter's 143rd Homecoming is THIS Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 11 a.m. The speaker for the day is Rev. Aaron Solmon, Director of Spiritual and Community Relations of Wesley House.

A covered dish luncheon follows.



This will also be **All Saints Sunday**, which we will observe by lighting white candles for people we have lost since last November. Please bring a free-standing white candle if you would like to participate.

Also note that Daylight Saving Time ends this day.

## **THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

We are once again joining forces with the Friends of Inskip group to provide Thanksgiving baskets for those in need in our community.

Our contribution this year will be **250** boxes of instant stuffing, **250** packets of gravy (not jars!) and **250** Kool-Aid packets. We will collect through November 16 which will also be "Bread For the World" Sunday.

## **VETERANS PRESENTATION**

We will have our annual recognition of Veterans on Sunday, November 9. We do this with a special slide show and music. If you have submitted a photo and information in the past, we still have that on hand. If you have not, please email a digital photo of your Veteran to [sdoyal7@gmail.com](mailto:sdoyal7@gmail.com) along with which branch of the military they served.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Our next Church Council meeting will be Monday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. in person in the Chapel Class or online via Zoom. This will be our last meeting of 2025.

## **OUTREACH MEETING**

November 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Chapel Class

## **YOUTH BAKE SALE**

The youth will have a Bake Sale before and after church on Sunday, November 16th as they are raising funds for Resurrection 2026. Grab some goodies and be generous!

## **HERE'S YOUR SIGN**

After losing a letter in a storm, we replaced the entire sign on the front of the church. Special thanks to Charles Gault for navigating this process.



## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

Despite drizzling rain, we had a great turnout for our annual Trunk or Treat this past Sunday



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** – \_December 13 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Join us for this year's Christmas concert as we celebrate the story of Christ's birth through the timeless carols and melodies we all know and love. ***Songs of the Season!*** beautifully weaves together Scripture and music, sharing the message of hope, joy, and peace that came to earth that first Christmas night. We're also delighted to welcome students from West High School as our special guests this year, joining us in song as they raise funds for their upcoming trip to the UK this summer. Come and experience the wonder of the season with us - Saturday, Dec 20th at 7:00pm and Sunday, Dec 21st at 3:30pm.

**PEAS ON EARTH DINNER-** December 28

## **ADVENT STUDY**

This Advent season, join us for a 4-week Bible study rooted in the rich legacy of African American spirituals. **"Sacred Songs from the African American Tradition: An Advent Journey of Hope, Justice, and Joy"**. These spirituals—rooted in sorrow, hope, resistance, and deep faith—guide us toward a broader understanding of redemption, liberation, and joy.

Each week, we will explore a beloved spiritual, engage with scripture, and share meaningful conversation. The study is designed to honor history, foster knowledge, and to discover how meaningful these songs remain relevant for us today. There is no book to buy, but you will have printed material for class.

### **Week 1: "Mary Had a Baby"**

Theme: Incarnation & Sacred Worth

Scripture: Luke 1:26–38 and Luke 2:1–7

### **Week 2: "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"**

Theme: Call & Response

Scripture: Luke 2:8–16 & Matthew 2:1-12

### **Week 3: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"**

Theme: Humble Birth & Divine Identity

Scripture: Luke 2:11-12 and John 1:10-11

### **Week 4: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

Theme: Redemption, Liberation and Awakening

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 & Matthew 28:19-20

**Class dates** are Sunday November 30 @ 3pm and

Wednesdays December 3, 10 and 17 @ 6:30pm.

If someone would like to attend, but does not want to drive, please contact Pat and arrangements will be made for transportation.

## **HOPE AND RESTORATION WOMEN'S EVENT**

This event featuring Dr. Carol Price-Guthrie was very well received and we are already talking of hosting one again.

