



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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December 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

With my impending knee replacement surgery on December 10th and the subsequent recovery period, this Advent and Christmas will be unlike any other I have experienced in my life. This is usually one of the most hectic times of the year for me as I balance church and family responsibilities. I have often longed for a quieter, calmer holiday season. Be careful what you wish for.

Advent is intended as a time of preparation which entails one of my least favorite activities... waiting. We look to the upcoming celebration of Jesus' birth, but also with anticipation of His second coming. We are supposed to pause and reflect on the hope of God's intervention in this world both "already" and "not yet."

Yet, this season is usually one of preparing for parties, meals, visits, concerts, services as well as shopping for and wrapping presents. It is always exhausting and a time of chaos more than calm. So, while I dread the pain that awaits me, I am interested to see what Christmas looks like from a more meditative perspective. Perhaps you can find some Christmas calm also... minus the surgery.

Steve

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will be having a Christmas party for all ages on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy snacks, games, singing, pictures with Santa, and more! Bring a snack to share and bring a friend! If you have a prize worthy item to donate, see Sheena Johnson.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

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.



We need help for our school Angel Tree kids through sponsors or donations. We have the most children ever this year... over 400! If you can donate or help please contact Edie Hall ASAP since the deadline is Wednesday!

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". There is no book to buy, but you will have printed material for class.

Week 1: "Mary Had a Baby"

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

Week 2: "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"

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

Week 3: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

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

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

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

Class dates are Sunday November 30 @ 3pm and Wednesdays December 3, 10 and 17 @ 6:00pm. **NOTE:** This is a change in the regular Wednesday start time.

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

BOOKWALTER CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

The Outreach Team is reviving the in-house Christmas card delivery we have done in the past. If you would like to send cards to members who REGULARLY attend or to our Homebound members, please place them in the mailbox in the Fellowship Hall along with a donation of 40 cents per card.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The Civil Air Patrol that meets at Bookwalter will lay wreaths on the graves of several veterans following worship on Sunday, December 14th.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

We will gather at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service.

PEAS ON EARTH DINNER

We will have our fourth annual "Peas On Earth" dinner on December 28th in the Fellowship Hall after worship. This is centered around the Southern tradition of Black-Eyed Peas and Ham for blessings in the New Year and we will have other soups plus cornbread and desserts also.



We exceeded our goals for the Inskip Thanksgiving baskets collection. Way to go Bookwalter!



The Youth made \$890 with their bake sale!