

December 2025 Steeple Bell



As I look upon the lighted trees scattered across the church and mine at home, I reflect on the many childhood years where each morning of the season I would wake and make my way slowly up the stairs, the lit and decorated tree inching into view. The last few steps like a cat I would crouch low and pop my eyes just above the top step, the presents at last in sight. Long days of anticipation and wonder led slowly to Christmas day when all would be revealed.

While focused more on the presents as a child, I still spend the season in a similar way with a slow walk, a click of the switch, and the joy of a lighted tree each morning. I ponder the wonder of that child, God and mortal human, carried 9 months and born to humble Mary and Joseph. Many had waited

generations for the words of the prophets to take flesh and dwell among us. God coming to us, not in a rush of fire or noise, but in the coos and cries of an infant child in the silence of the night, bringing true life, light, and love to the world.

Let us take a moment, many moments this month, to stare like a child into the warm embrace of Christmas trees and decorations of the season. In these moments may the wonder and hope of Christ's coming be relived in our heart, even as we look forward with solid faith to that one day we will see him face to face, be held in his warm embrace, and join in with the heavenly choirs who sang at his birth "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward humankind" Luke 2:14.

***Blessings and Merry Advent
and Christmas to all!***
Pastor Jason

Shared Worship Service and Soupfest Lunch

On Sunday, December 7, we will have a shared service in the sanctuary beginning at 10:30 a.m. Immediately following, we will share our Soupfest lunch in the Family Life Center. The church will provide drinks, crackers, and cookies. Please bring your favorite soup and/or dessert to share. If possible, please bring your soup in a crockpot.



- Sunday, December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent**
10:30 a.m. Shared Worship Service in Sanctuary
Soupfest Lunch immediately follows in FLC
- Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
10:00 a.m. Youth Bake Auction
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
6:30 p.m. A Christmas Play in 2 Acts presented by the Children and Youth Ministries
- Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
- Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services**
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (contemporary)
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (traditional)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

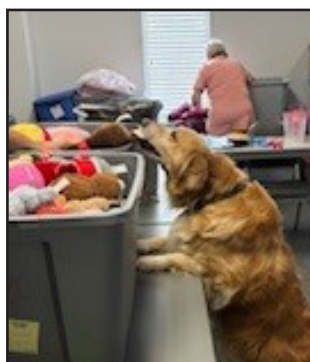


We would like to thank everyone for their participation. Thank you to the children for blessing the boxes. We surpassed last year's total of 258 to this year's Grand total of 312. May God bless these children, and may they be moved by God's grace.

OCC Head Elves

Mary Lou Lotz & Mary Plemmons

The OCC elves were very busy this year, shopping & shopping and paying their bills. We had old elves and new elves, short & tall. We even had a four-legged elf. We accepted all the help we could get this fall. Packing the boxes was quite a job. The elves were tangled in necklaces with balls. We worked hours and hours to fill all of the boxes. Then we took them down to the Pastor's office. We had bake sales with goodies that many prepared. Donations to cover flying them from here to there.



A Christmas Play in Two Acts

Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 pm

Sanctuary at BUMC
 Act 1 - Children's Ministry
 Intermission with Cookie Swap*
 Act 2 - Youth Ministry

* Please bring 2 dozen cookies to swap

CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING EVENT

DEC **13** 10 AM ET

\$45
 PER
 PERSON

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a local charity in Meade County

COME join US TO learn some tips and tricks of cookie decorating! award winning cookie artist, Robin Lancaster, will guide you step-by-step decorating four festive christmas cookies - No experience needed. You'll learn how to use tipless bags, play with different icing textures, and leave with a box of your very own sweet creations!

 The Nest in Flaherty

4300 FLAHERTY ROAD

VINE GROVE, KY 40175

More Information: Contact

Lesley Wilson 270-668-9673

NOTE: The event will last approximately 2-3 hours

MANUP
 MEADE COUNTY



Christmas MAN UP & WOW

JOIN US on DECEMBER 4th for our
 Annual Man Up & Women of Worth Family Event
 All ages are welcome to attend!

ST JOHNS
 CHURCH

7:00-8:00 PM

Light holiday
 refreshments served
 after the service.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
 OF FELLOWSHIP AND
 WORSHIP

Note -- there will not be a
 meal beforehand.

THE TRIBE

Youth Ministry of Brandenburg United Methodist Church

DECEMBER, what? Anyone else feeling that way or just me? How did we get here so quickly?!?

The Tribe enjoyed our annual Tribe Thanksgiving after working through a series on Gratitude! What a great time to sit and reflect on all we DO HAVE and are blessed with and negate the feelings of inadequacy and what we don't have. We enjoyed identifying things we were thankful for that we often take for granted.

The month of December will be focused on the blessing of the birth of Jesus and the importance of the man-

ger, where it all began. Our Tribe will enjoy our Christmas party and last weekly meeting for the year on December 10. We are also working hard this month on Act 2 of the Christmas Program scheduled for December 14 showcasing the Children's Ministry in Act 1 and Youth Ministry in Act 2. We hope you can join us that evening for a night of fellowship and worship.

As we wrap up another year together, know how thankful I am to be loved and supported by you and with the youth of our church. I don't take it for granted or lightly one day. I love them endlessly and can share with you for hours how impactful they are on my life and how blessed I am to get to work with your best gifts from Heaven.

*In Christ,
Kelly*





Melissa Vowels

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
 — John 15:5

Celebrating a Season of Thankfulness

As we enter into this season of gratitude, we pause to thank God for his goodness and faithfulness. We are so thankful for our volunteers, supportive families, and the joy of seeing children grow in their love for Jesus.

In children's church, the TWIGS focused on thankfulness and the many ways we have been blessed by our heavenly Father. We explored how our talents are gifts meant to bring more people to Jesus. We celebrated Friendsgiving with a potluck lunch, games, and crafts — a beautiful reminder of community and God's love.

December Focus:

- Acolytes
- Wednesday Night Ministry after the Half-time meal
- Our last Wednesday night for 2025 will be on December 10
- Christmas Program presented by the Children and Youth — Sunday, December 14 @ 6:30 pm

Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you, Heather Papp. Heather is truly the glue that holds us together. Her dedication and heart for ministry inspire us all. We appreciate you, Heather!

How You Can Partner with Us

- Pray: Ask God to help our children grow in faith and wisdom.
 - Serve: Volunteer to teach or assist in a class.
- Your time makes an eternal impact!

*In Christ's Love,
 Melissa*



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Regular Weekly Events:

Sunday, December 14, 21, 28

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups - all ages

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, December 1, 8, 15, 22

6:00 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, December 2, 9, 16, 23

10:30 a.m. Sisters in Christ (BUMC Library)

Wednesday, December 3, 10

6:30 a.m. Brothers in Christ

5:45 p.m. Halftime Fellowship Meal

6:30 p.m. Classes and Groups - all ages

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 17

6:30 a.m. Brothers in Christ

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11

10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ

Saturday, December 6, 13, 20, 27

7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ

Current Events:

Thursday, December 4

7:00 p.m. ManUp & Women of Worth Meade County

Family Christmas Event

St. John the Apostle

Sunday, December 7

10:30 a.m. Shared Worship Service - Sanctuary

Potluck Soupfest Lunch follows in FLC

Saturday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Christmas Cookie Decorating Class

Sunday, December 14

10:00 a.m. Youth Bake Auction between services

6:30 p.m. Christmas Program presented in two acts
by the Children and Youth

Wednesday, December 24

Church Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Church Office Closed

SERVING ON SUNDAY IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 7 Combined Service (10:30 a.m.)

Greeters: Atrium: Linda Dodson

Sanctuary Entrance: Leslie Ford

Ushers: Ron Barger contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Joel Ramsey,

Jean Walls, Mary Lou Lots

Tellers: MaryLee Ernst, Betts Price

Welcome Center: Joan Wilson

Follow-up for First-Time Guests: Donna Funk

Contemporary Service (9 a.m.)

Greeters:

Atrium: George Wardrip, FLC Entrance: Bonnie Wardrip

Ushers: Chad Barley contacts ushers

Welcome Center: Joan Wilson

Traditional Service (11 a.m.)

Greeters: Atrium: Linda Dodson

Sanctuary Entrance: Lesley Ford

Ushers: Ron Barger contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Joel Ramsey

Tellers: Betts Price, MaryLee Ernst

Welcome Center: TBD

Follow-up for First-Time Guests: Donna Funk

Hospitality: Provide food/Staff cafe

December 7 - Sandra Stone

December 14 - TBA/ Eric and Daphne King

December 21 - TBA

December 28 - Jane Slinger

Halftime Cooks

December 3 - Ilene Aebersold & Megan Sonner

December 10 - Kitchen Crew

Mark your calendars:

BUMC Winter Ladies' Study

Please join us on the following Tuesday evenings – January 13, February 10, March 10, & April 14 – from 6:30 to 7:30 pm as we focus on a theme, scripture passage and a few questions. Our objectives are to deepen our spiritual walks, to foster fellowship, and to strengthen relationships among the women in our church. Light Snacks & Childcare provided.

Memorial Bricks for Prayer Garden

If you are interested in purchasing a memorial or commemorative brick to be placed in our Prayer Garden, following are the details: Three lines can be put on the brick, 13 characters to a line (spaces count). Cost for each brick is \$55 (due only when the bricks are finished).

Please contact Pat Carlson at (270) 422-5700 for more information or to place your order.

Calling All Bakers & Bidders!

Our annual Youth Bake Auction will be held
Sunday, December 14 between worship services.
 Please have all items to church by 9 a.m.



Christmas Love Offering

Please prayerfully consider making a one-time donation to the Christmas Love Offering for our church staff. This Christmas gift is thanking them for their hard work and dedication to our congregation. We ask that donations be made by Sunday, December 14. Please make note on your cash envelope, check, or electronic donation that your donation is for the "Christmas Love Offering."

The SPRC thanks you for your support.
Nancy Inman



The United Methodist Mountain Mission will pick up at our church Wednesday, December 10. Please bring your items in beginning Sunday, December 7, following our shared worship service and soupfest which is to follow. The staging area will be in the gym, on the side nearest the exterior doors. Drop-offs may be made during church office hours Monday and Tuesday. The truck will be here early Wednesday morning.



Meade County Golden Angels is a Christmas ministry for the senior citizens of our community. This year's goal is \$6,000 which will enable the Meade County Ministerial Association to purchase 75 Kroger gift cards in the amount of \$80 each. To donate, please make checks payable to MCMA (Meade County Ministerial Association) with "Golden Angels" on the memo line or envelope. Donations must be received no later than Friday, December 12.



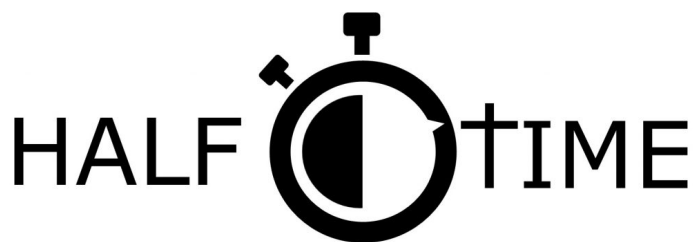
Operation Turkey Drop!

As part of our Turkey Drop, we packed and delivered to the Meade County Clothes Closet and Food Pantry 30 holiday food boxes. Prior to that, we had delivered food sufficient to feed 15 more families. We were also able to supply meals for several families at the Meade County Health Department.

I'm grateful to be a part of a church family that believes in Christ and Community! Thank you to each of you for all you have done behind the scenes to make this campaign a reality and success!

May the love of Christ continue to shine through you!

Charlotte Shepard
Mission Team Co-Chair



Dear Church Family,

Merry Christmas to you all! We have so much at BUMC to be thankful for this holiday season, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our Halftime ministry on Wednesdays nights such a huge success.

First of all, thank you to everyone who has provided a meal. This ministry would not happen without the loving hands of those who cook. Thank you!

I also want to thank our very faithful kitchen crew who show up every week to set up, clean up, and

serve. You all are an inspiration! Thank you!

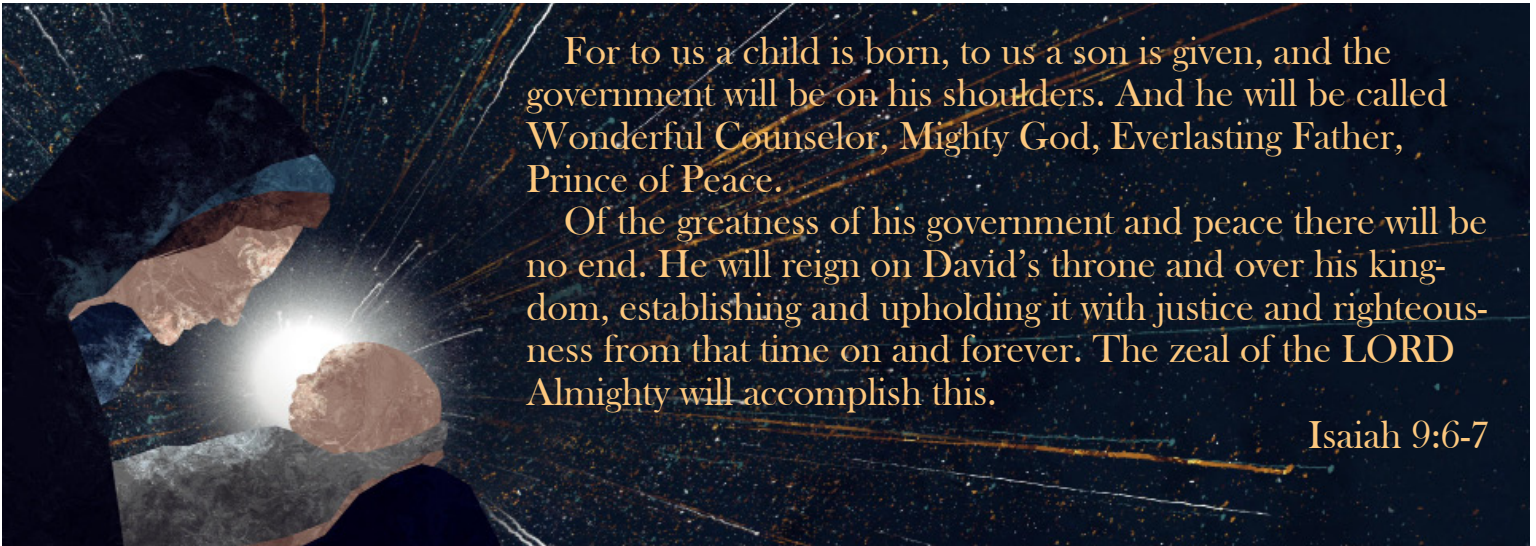
And to all of you who faithfully come to enjoy a meal and a time of fellowship, your smiling faces make it all worthwhile.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10, which will be our last meal of the fall 2025 Halftime session and will be prepared and served by our kitchen crew.

And now we are looking ahead to the winter/early spring Halftime session which will begin January 14, 2026, when we will need cooks to prepare Halftime meals (the church pays for the food). Signup sheets are posted in the gym. Please stop by and choose a date that will work for you.

Thank you for your service, love and support in this ministry. Have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our King, Jesus.

Jackie Bruington



Under the Son Spotlight

Merry Christmas!

This month at UTS we will have fun with Christmas activities and hearing about the birth of Jesus, the true reason for our holiday season!

Toddlers will focus on the color Green.

Three-year-olds will be introduced to numbers 8 and 9; and review 1 through 7.

Pre-k will continue learning circular letters adding S, J and D.

Our Bible story focus this month will be the Christmas Story. Santa, decorated trees, stockings and presents are a fun way to celebrate Christmas. However, the children will hear of the Angel who spoke to Mary and the baby who was born in the stable, the shepherds who heard the good news while tending their flocks, and the wise men who followed a star to find the One True King, baby Jesus.

My staff and I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas surrounded with family, friends, love, peace and laughter.

*Blessings,
Heather Dumont
Under the Son Director*



THE STEEPLE BELL

Brandenburg United Methodist Church
215 Broadway
Brandenburg, KY 40108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ORGANIZED 1829
DECEMBER 2025 EDITION
PASTOR: Jason Brock

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.



(2) Samuel Hamilton, Jeremy Pollock, (5) Lillian Stiff, (8) Scott Scholl, John Swanson, (12) Kelly Nelson (13) Pat Carlson, Amanda Pierce, (14) Zachary Slinger, Isaiah Pierce (16) Coty Wilson (17) Joslynn Schoenbaechler, (18) Eli Dix, (19) Brenda Brooks, (20) Suzy Harreld, Johnna Pollock (21) Whitt Aebersold, Heather Papp, Jason Stiff, (24) Emma (Wilson) Jones (26) Megan (Aebersold) Sonner, Willard Knipp (27) Jessie Trotter, Jeramiah Witt (28) Grace Cates (31) Tyler Stickle, Josh Trotter, Sophia Vowels

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Brandenburg United Methodist Church



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QR code for
online giving

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