



January 2026 Steeple Bell



Jubilant gatherings in homes and city centers, countdowns rolling down, followed by midnight fireworks, cheers, and hugs, New Year's Eve becomes New Year's Day. Goodbye to the old, hello to the new, Christmas in our rearview. But not so fast, hold on a moment. Santa may have done his thing and headed North, but there are 12 days of Christmas, with January 6 – Epiphany – marking its end, but also another beginning.

While the calendar flips years on January 1, our new church year begins with Advent/Christmas, with Epiphany marking the continuation of God's

redemptive story, highlighting Christ as a light to the Gentiles, a light to the Nations, a light to All. Legend has it, these visitors from afar did not leave Christ behind, but carried his light home with them. Let us continue our journey as well, with Christ's light, love, and hope shining brightly before us all into the new year to come!

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

– Matthew 2:10-11a

*Blessings,
Pastor Jason*

UN IT'S TIME TO
DECK THE HALLS

**Unhanging the Greens, Undecking the Halls
Saturday, January 10, 10 am - Noon**

**Come on out and help
put everything away nice and neat,
so it will be ready to go back up November 2026!**



SISTERS WORSHIPPING IN FAITH TOGETHER



Come join us for our monthly gatherings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 -7:30. Light refreshments and nursery provided.

Jan 13 - "New"
Feb 10 - "Love"
Mar 10 - "Lent"
Apr 14 - "Walk the Walk"

Cafe Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to prepare food and staff the cafe on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please call or text Jane Slinger at 270-945-8711.





Dear BUMC Family

Thank you, for the individual gifts, cards, tokens of appreciation, and the cash gift from the church during the Christmas 2025 season. We are so blessed to be in ministry, worship, and fellowship with all of you.

*With Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Jason and Staff*

Places in Ministry



As we begin the new year and seek to determine where God would have us be in fellowship and service, we will host a “ministry fair” on Sunday, January 18, and Sunday, January 25, during the 10 o’clock hour. Representatives from various areas of ministry will be stationed around the church and available to answer your questions. Signup sheets will also be available.

Then, on Sunday, January 25, at noon, the Places in Ministry team leaders will meet to begin making plans for 2026.



Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? I am making a way
in the wilderness and streams
in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

IT'S A GREAT TIME FOR HALF TIME

Fellowship Meal, 5:45 p.m.
Classes & Groups, all ages, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Halftime activities will resume Wednesday, January 14, with a meal at 5:45 p.m. and classes and groups for all ages beginning at 6:30 p.m. We're hoping for great participation. Come ready to fellowship and enjoy a nice meal. There will be something for everyone (including vegetarian and gluten-free options).

We are in need of people willing to help prepare meals (church purchases the food). Signup sheets are posted in the cafe. Please stop by a choose a date that works for you.

For additional information about cooking Halftime meals, please call team leaders Jackie Bruington (270-668-3607) or Janet Dahmen (630-334-1592).

The TWIGS will meet at the home of Melissa Vowels on January 14 for a meal and lesson. Parents are encouraged to drop off their children between 5:30 and 5:45. Pickup will be after Halftime activities ~ 7:30 - 7:45.

Mission Notes



Thank you for your outpouring of generosity. The church donated 25 Christmas baskets for community families. The continued donations have ensured many local families will enjoy a time of fellowship and food with their loved ones.

May the New Year continue to strengthen, guide, and show you the love of our Savior. Let's look forward to the upcoming year with a fresh heart and eyes for serving those around us. Be blessed this New Year!

*Many blessings,
Charlotte Shepard
BUMC Mission Team*

THE TRIBE

Youth Ministry of Brandenburg United Methodist Church

Thank you very much to our church family for the gift for Christmas. I am blessed everyday by each of you!

Our Tribe wrapped up our December with a very eventful paint party! Just as we began to paint our artist led Mary and Joseph painting, the lights went out in

town! We grabbed our phones and painted anyway — making special memories together always!

Thank you to every person who baked or bid in our Annual Tribe Bake Auction. I am blessed by each of you and your heart for our youth and church.

The Tribe will kick off our new year on January 14 with a new study!

*In Christ,
Kelly Wilson*





"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 our Savior's Birth

As we reflect on the joy and hope brought by the birth of our Savior, we are reminded of the true meaning of this season – love, grace, and service. Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping us share His light with others.

This December, our children blessed us with a heartfelt performance of *No Time for Christmas*. Their message reminded us to slow down and make room for Christ in our busy lives – a beautiful way to celebrate His birth and focus on what really matters.

January Focus

This month the children will begin a 4-week curriculum called Level Up. We will use a retro video-game theme to focus on spending time with Jesus so we can "level up" into a brand new life and grow stronger in Him.

We'll also kick off Halftime classes with dinner and a lesson at Melissa's home. Details/reminders will be shared with parents on TeamReach.

When: Wednesday, January 14
 Where: the home of Melissa Vowels
 Time: 5:30 - 7:45
 Meal: Tacos, nachos and dessert

Volunteer Spotlight

A big thank you to Memory Jones who faithfully volunteers as a substitute for Sunday School or Children's Church or wherever she is needed. Memory, your willingness to serve keeps our program moving forward.

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.

As we begin this new year, may God's peace and joy fill your hearts and homes. Thank you for walking alongside us in this ministry – your prayers and support are very much appreciated. Let's continue to grow in faith and shine His light in 2026!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

— Jeremiah 29:11

*In Christ's Love,
 Melissa*



JANUARY CALENDAR

Regular Weekly Events:

Sunday, January 4, 11, 18, 25
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, January 5, 12, 19, 26

6:00 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, January 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Tuesday, January 6, 20, 27

6:00 p.m. FLC Reserved

Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21, 28

7:00 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

Thursday, January 8, 22

10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ

Saturday, January 3, 10, 17, 24

7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ

Current Events:

Saturday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Unhanging the Greens, Undecking the Halls

2:00 p.m. FLC Reserved - Eagle Scout Ceremony

Tuesday, January 13

6:30 p.m. SWIFT Ladies' Bible Study - "New"

Saturday, January 17

2:00 p.m. FLC & Kitchen Reserved - Birthday Party

Sunday, January 18

10:00 a.m. Ministry Fair

Sunday, January 25

10:00 a.m. Ministry Fair

12:00 p.m. Places in Ministry - Leaders Meet

SWIFT Gatherings

(Sisters Worshiping in Faith Together)

Winter Ladies' Study

Join us for monthly gatherings on the second

Tuesday of each month,

6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Our objectives are to deepen our spiritual walks,

foster fellowship, and strengthen relationships

among the women in our church.

Light refreshments and childcare provided.

January 13

"New"

February 10

"Love"

March 10

"Lent"

April 14

"Walk the Walk"

SERVING ON SUNDAY IN JANUARY

Contemporary Service (9 a.m.)

Greeters:

Atrium: Alec Stone, FLC Entrance: Judy Stone

Ushers: Chad Barley contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Megan Sonner,
Doug & Ilene Aebersold

Welcome Center: Jean Walls

Traditional Service (11 a.m.)

Greeters: Atrium: Lynn Thompson

Sanctuary Entrance: Barbara Thompson

Ushers: Ron Barger contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Mary Lee Ernst

Tellers: Melinda Stickle, Robyn Proctor

Welcome Center: Mary Lee Ernst

Follow-up for First-Time Guests: Peggy Darnall

Hospitality: Provide food/Staff cafe

January 4 - Simone & Chester Davisson/Joy Trotter

January 11 - Joy Adams

January 18 - Volunteer Needed

January 25 - Jane Slinger

Halftime Cooks

January 14 - Janet Dahmen

January 21 - Deepak Jacobi

January 28 - Cook Needed



Thursday, January 8

Clair Memorial United Methodist Church

202 East Union Street, Irvington

Thursday, February 5

St. John the Apostle Catholic Church

515 Broadway, Brandenburg

Thank you to each person who volunteered to build, serve, greet, and participate in our First Annual Live Nativity. We were blessed with many guests and church members who stopped by.





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.



Under the Son Spotlight

During our Bible story focus this month the students will learn that God has made each one of them special in their own way! We will talk about how each is unique like a snowflake. Students will also hear about Ruth and learn about being a loyal friend.

My staff and I would like to wish each of you a blessed 2026. May God bring you and your family good health and a year of happy memories.

Happy New Year!
This month at UTS we will focus on winter and snowflakes!

Toddlers will focus on the color Blue.
Three-year-olds will be introduced to numbers 9 and 10.
Pre-k will finish learning circular letters with D, P, B and R.

*Blessings,
Heather Dumont
Under the Son Director*



Under the Son staff and students celebrate Christmas!



THE STEEPLE BELL

Brandenburg United Methodist Church
215 Broadway
Brandenburg, KY 40108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ORGANIZED 1829
JANUARY 2026 EDITION
PASTOR: Jason Brock

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



(3) Stephanie Johnson (4) Elliott Proctor, Robert Qualls (6) Kevin Stickle (7) Joe Lambert, Martha Pile (9) Lucas Austin, Maggie Wilson (13) Katie Crossley (17) Rhonda Mucker (18) Melissa Stiff (19) Annette Allen, (20) Debra Dame, Elizabeth Wilson (21) Sarahann Cates (23) Patrick Kulkofsky (24) John Bruington (25) Dax Beasley, Will Frank (26) Miles Barger, Nathan Wilson (27) Betty Barger, Shannon Barley (29) Cole Aebersold (30) Kurt Aebersold, Molly Aebersold

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Brandenburg United Methodist Church



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online giving

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