



THE COMPASS

January 2026



LAY LEADER REFLECTION

On January 6th, Christians around the world will celebrate Epiphany through worship, feasts, and the holy scripture readings of the Magi's journey to visit the boy Jesus, the baptism of Jesus in the waters of the Jordan River, and Jesus's first miracle at the Wedding in Cana. Epiphany celebrates the many ways God is revealed to us, and how we are called to reflect God's light of love, gifted to us through the life and ministry of Christ Jesus, and to share the good news of God's extravagant welcome to all Creation through the way we respond to the world.

Reflections on Epiphany often focus on seeing Christ in migrants, and linking the Magi's journey to today's displaced people, and emphasizing, through our actions, that welcoming the stranger is a core faith practice. During the season of Epiphany this year remember how strangers were welcomed to the manger and home of the young Jesus and considered how Jesus commissions us to leave our homes, our places of comfort, and go to places that are uncomfortable and where we ourselves might feel displaced. Sit at tables where the hungry gather, visit the rooms of those without fellowship, walk the streets where those without shelter pass the hours, make eye contact, smile, and greet others as you would greet a friend. In those places, in those faces, we shall see Christ.



Lay Leader
Susan Chesley

ADVENT CELEBRATION

What a way to kickoff the Advent season! Family fun was had by all at our old-fashioned Dickens themed Advent Celebration. We enjoyed the sounds of carolers, delicious soups, bread, and Wassail, devotion and Blessing of the Greens, and loved creating vintage Christmas ornaments to take home. We finished the evening with a viewing of "Mickey's Christmas Carol." Thank you for bringing diapers for CCAP, and sharing the evening with us!



GIVING TREE/WRAPPING PARTY

Thank you for making another season successful. The Giving Tree was able to assist children from BBB, Social Services, and Bright Futures. It also supported Operation Remember in bringing smiles to nursing home residents this Christmas. From filling wish lists to wrapping gifts the Giving Tree made a difference to the young and young at heart. Thank you from the Giving Tree team (Kerry Mueller, Deya Hamilton, and Betty Sue Unger).



KIDS CHURCH - JANUARY

Happy New Year to All!

Sunday January 4 - 25 We will be on our regular schedule.

January 4 - Kids Epiphany celebration. The Wise Men Meet Jesus.

January 11 - God's Community grows and changes. Solomon Builds the Temple .

January 18 - Jesus Visits the Temple.

January 25 - Jesus Renews the Temple.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Director of Children's Ministries

Patty Singhass



Kids Church Classrooms: (We combine as needed.)

Room 202 ages 3 - 5

Room 206 Kindergarten - 2nd grade

Room 201 3rd - 5th grade

Room 219 The Blessing Place Nursery 12 weeks to 3 years old

Parents, please sign up to help at the Kids Connect table by Room 201. Each week we need about 2 helpers.

SAVE THE DATE!

Parents and Leaders mark your Calendar for the 2026 Vacation Bible Camp!

Monday, June 8 through Thursday, June 11 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday at the 10:00 AM service on June 14.

Rainforest Falls - watch for more details to come.



2025 Children's Musical



United
Women
in Faith

Candle Burning Ceremony

Lift up a loved one
"In Memory" or "in Honor"
\$5 per person named

The United Women in Faith would like to shout out a big THANK YOU to all who participated in any of our events in 2025. With the funds you helped us raise, we were able to send \$300 to each of the ten missions we support. The Laurel Center received over \$400 from the Ladies' Tea alone this past year.

In January, the United Women in Faith (UWF) will be asking the congregations to recognize names of people who are important to them, but have passed on, and to also recognize people who are currently an important part of their lives. This is a fundraiser and lifting up a name is \$5.00. The names will be listed in a pamphlet which will be printed and available during the February 8th worship services. The forms to list names will be on the table in the Narthex. The deadline to participate will be at the end of Sunday services on January 25th, so that gives everyone several weeks to participate. Make checks out to: BSUMC UWF and leave payment with your form in the glass bowl on the table. Thank you for participating in this event.

JANUARY YOUTH CALENDAR:

January 4: Bowling at Northside Lanes, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (Bring money for shoes and food.)

January 7: Senior High Chick-Fil-A 6:30 AM (Pleasant Valley)

January 11: BLAST 6:00 – 7:45 PM

January 14: Senior High Chick-Fil-A 6:30 AM (Pleasant Valley)

January 16-19: BLAST RETREAT 4:00 PM Friday – Noon Monday

January 25: BLAST 6:00 – 7:45 PM

January 28: Senior High Chick-Fil-A 6:30 AM (Pleasant Valley)

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:



Big
Loud
Awesome
Spirit
Thing



SAVE THE DATE!

2026 Chocolate Festival



Saturday, February 7, 2026
11 AM - 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall



**Scan code to donate baked goods
and/or silent auction items**



The Chocolate Festival is coming Feb 7th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Sign up to donate baked goods, auction items, and help run the event. EVERYONE mark your calendars now to come have a great time!

BUILDING BRIDGES AT BRADDOCK

Director of Latino Ministries
Margie Hernandez
margie@braddockstreetumc.org



What does Latino Ministry look like at Building Bridges? It is people gathering with an open heart and a willingness to care for the least of these. It is a time where we step out in faith and empower our siblings with love and compassion. Every week we gather and teach English to adults while offering free childcare to their children. Families are coming together because they feel safe and cared for. Our teachers are committed to their students and each class looks different.

- Debbie Moss has a large screen in class and discusses questions on the citizenship test while helping the students with their interview questions. She has created an environment where each person is valued, and they feel equipped to move on to their dreams of becoming US Citizens.
- In the hallway, you meet Nina Frederick with our most advanced students. Some of her students have been with us since we started our program back in 2020. It is time for English conversation where the students choose the topic of discussion and Nina has even offered line dancing classes. Laughter abounds in the hallway as 'no Spanish spoken here" rule is always followed.
- Marina Fairbanks teaches the family class of two families that are eager learners and bring their babies. When I told them that we do not have childcare for infants they requested to care for their babies during class so that they could come together as a family. We offered this opportunity and stepped out in faith. They rarely miss a class, and those babies are adorable and loved by their teacher and classmates. What a blessing!
- Kristin Hockman has a group of learners that have also been with us with for several years. They offer each other hope as they start their class with the Upper Room each week. Kristin has been joining us for our Just Neighbors clinic and was gracious enough to step out in faith and teach these amazing women.
- Mark Fairbanks teaches our second level students. They are a lovely group of young learners. They will be future students for Nina's conversation class.
- Laurie Gaulke is with our "littles", children 4 and under. She is joined by high school volunteers and together they have reading time in Spanish and English, they do crafts and play games.
- Linda Canuelette teaches our level one learners. Each week she encourages them to keep trying and not give up. This class is made up of new students.
- Heather Eickmeyer has taught our basic learners for most of the semester, but now the class is led by a new friend in ministry, Betty Jenkins. She is working hard with Heather to keep our basic learners engaged in learning.
- In the fellowship hall, there is laughter, learning, and excitement as our children ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade join us while their parents are in class. We are blessed with a new group of middle school to high school English learners. Delia Delgado is a community helper that joins us to just play games with this group of boys and have conversation classes.

THANKS to your generosity that makes this program possible, for the Christmas gifts given to our children, and for the cookies baked for our Christmas party. We had over 100 people in attendance at our annual Christmas Party and it was a blessing. Our district superintendent joined in on the fun and was extremely grateful for the connections we have made in creating a safe place for our immigrant siblings. Victor Gomez was with us that evening and offered individual quiet prayers. I am extremely grateful to the staff at our church that has embraced this ministry with me.

There are many needs in our immigrant community. If you are interested in helping us, we would truly appreciate it. There are opportunities at our monthly Immigration Clinics, driving our students to appointments during the week, joining me in home visits, and above all we need your prayers.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

February 28, 2026

Come Walk With Us on February 28th!



Braddock Street UMC is honored to once again serve as the host site for Coldest Night of the Year, an international walk that raises awareness and funds for homelessness and supports the mission of WATTS.

For the past four years, our church has welcomed this meaningful community event. Last year, over 800 people joined us to spend an afternoon walking in the shoes of someone experiencing homelessness.

The walk offers two route options through Winchester: **2K Walk**: A loop through the downtown area. **5K Walk**: A route extending to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and back through downtown. All routes begin and end at Braddock Street UMC and conclude with a soup kitchen in our Fellowship Hall. Billy Sous and Clem's Kitchen will be generously providing the soups.

We are also in need of volunteers, especially those familiar with Braddock Street, to help guide participants through the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, and Wolfe Street areas. If you would like to walk or volunteer, please register at:

www.cnoy.com/locations/winchester. For questions, contact Robyn Miller at (540) 514 - 7218. We hope you will join us as we walk together in support of our neighbors experiencing homelessness, especially those we welcomed and sheltered here at Braddock Street from January 3 – 10.



DAMASCUS MISSION TRIP

In September 2024, Hurricane Helene brought devastating flooding to western North Carolina and southwest Virginia. Immediately volunteers of many faiths descended upon this broken area to help in the recovery and rebuilding of property and lives. Over eighty homes have been repaired or new homes constructed in this ongoing mission coordinated by Impact Missions (a program of the Baptist General Association of Virginia). In early December, our district sent its third adult mission team to help with the recovery in Damascus, Virginia. We were hosted by the Chilhowie Christian Church and served with volunteers from other parts of Virginia for four days. We continued construction of a new "tiny" house for an 86 year old man whose home had been washed away in the Helene flooding. He had been living in a camping trailer heated only by a portable gas stove for 14 months. While on our mission, we painted the new three room house, laid flooring, hung doors, installed trim, and constructed an entry porch. Our skills varied from home construction management to knowing which end of a paint brush to pick up. As we left the tiny home, tired and dirty, we knew that in a few weeks the house would be completed and a life would be partially restored.

In the words of my friend and fellow volunteer, John Brischar: "We are restoring hope for the owner. People like us with a mission - not to just build a home, but to build a community, give hope and carry on Christian fellowship of caring for each other. We don't only rebuild homes, we rebuild faith."



BACKPACK MINISTRY

Thanks to Scott Singhass and the Athletic Department at Shenandoah University, who donated vegetables collected during their annual food drive. We have enough to probably get us through the remainder of the school year! We currently have 100 children receiving weekend food bags. Thanks to everyone for your generous donations!



VITAL SIGNS

2025 Annual Average In-person Worship: 346

2025 Annual Average Online Worship: 92

2025 Offering: \$1,016,996*

2025 Budgeted Offering: \$1,041,534

Budget vs. Actual Offering: - \$24,538*

*Amount received at time of publication

Total 2026 - 2028 Warm Welcome Capital

Campaign Pledges: \$720,045

Amount received to date: \$208,720

2026 General Pledge Campaign: \$757,258

STAFF DIRECTORY

Lead Pastor: Jason Duley

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Associate Pastor: Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings

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Minister of Music: George Amos

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Director of Children's Ministries: Patty Singhass

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Director of Youth Ministry: Kristin Beall

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Director of Latino Ministries: Margie Hernandez

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Finance/Communications Admin: Rachel BeDell

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Secretary: Deya Hamilton

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Visitation Pastor: Rev. Frank Sherman

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Organist: Bill Baber

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Worship Video Arts: David Titus

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Building Superintendent: Jay Quintin

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Kitchen Manager: Sandi Webster

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Custodian: Doug Clowser

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A full directory of 2025 Church Leadership is available on request.



**BRADDOCK
STREET**
United Methodist Church