

THE COMPASS

December 2025



**BRADDOCK
STREET**
United Methodist Church

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 14 8:45 & 11:15 AM CHRISTMAS CANTATA

DECEMBER 21 8:45 AM CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

(DECEMBER 21 - NO 10:00 AM SERVICE)

DECEMBER 21 11:15 AM ORCHESTRA PLAYING DURING WORSHIP SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH CANDELIGHT COMUNION

5:00 PM CONTEMPORARY (PRELUDE BY THE PRAISE BAND AT 4:45PM)

8:00 PM TRADITIONAL (PRELUDE BY MEMBERS OF THE MUSIC MINISTRIES AT 7:45 PM)



YEAR END SERVICE

DECEMBER 28: ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:30 AM



ADVENT MISSION FOCUS

Our Advent mission focus this year is a Diaper Drive to benefit CCAP, which we will be launching at the Advent Celebration. Please bring any package of diapers, preferably sizes 2 – 6, to build our Christmas tree of diapers. Diapers can be brought to the Gathering Space all throughout Advent. The deadline is December 21.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

December will be a busy, and hopefully, exciting month for the music ministries at Braddock Street. All the ensembles have been rehearsing for months to make this Advent and Christmas season as meaningful as it can be for everyone. There are many musical events headed your way, including hosting a choral concert. Please see below for all the information.

IF YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT – THIS IS FOR YOU!!

The Braddock Street Orchestra will have its first rehearsal on November 30 at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary. Anyone who plays an instrument is invited to join us! The full rehearsal schedule is listed on this page. You can pick up music in the choir room anytime before the first rehearsal. The orchestra will provide music on December 21 for the 11:15 AM worship service. Please contact George Amos, george@braddockstreetumc.org, if you have any questions.

The Sanctuary Choir and New Voices Choir will present their annual Cantata on December 14 at both traditional worship services, 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM. This year, the Cantata focuses on the Advent season of preparation, hope and proclamation. We hope this musical offering will be the perfect start to your Advent season.

The Children's Choir has been working extremely hard since September on this year's Christmas musical. Follow along as the children tell us about the events that led to Christmas night. The story of Jesus' birth and our salvation is too good of a story, and it needs to be told over and over again. The date of the musical is December 21 at the 8:45 AM worship service.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Minister of Music

George Amos

george@braddockstreetumc.org

Music Ministry Dates to Remember

December 14 8:45 & 11:15 AM: Christmas Cantata at the Traditional Worship Services

December 14 4:00 PM: Rehearsal for the Braddock Street Orchestra

December 20 10:00 AM: Rehearsal for the Braddock Street Orchestra

December 21 8:45 AM: Children's Choir Musical

December 21 11:15 AM: Braddock Street Orchestra playing during worship

December 24 5:00 PM: Contemporary Christmas Eve with Candlelight Communion
(Prelude by the Praise Band at 4:45 PM)

December 24 8:00 PM: Traditional Christmas Eve with Candlelight Communion
(Prelude at 7:45 PM)



KIDS CHURCH - DECEMBER

December 7 Regular schedule

December 14 Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration - We will all travel to the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Message at the 10:00 AM service. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday with crafts, games, music and fun for Kids Church! Parents, please note that kids pick up will be in the Fellowship Hall.

December 21 NO Kids Church. All will attend the 8:45 AM service for the Children's Choir Musical. The Blessing Place nursery will be open 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

December 28 NO Kids Church/No nursery (One worship service only at 10:30 AM)

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Director of Children's Ministries
Patty Singhass



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



WHAT IS ADVENT?

Director of Children's Ministries
Patty Singhass

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward, anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This is sometimes referred to as the Twelve days of Christmas.

Advent is a time of heavy anticipation. It focuses on waiting for a big occurrence. During Advent we're anticipating the full realization of something that began at the first Christmas when Jesus Christ was born but isn't yet fully realized. Technically, Christmas begins on December 25. Everything leading up to that date is Advent. And it's important to note that distinction so we can be fully mindful of the hope that faith speaks into our human experience.

In The United Methodist Church, we affirm that Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead as prelude to the revealing of the new creation. So when Christ returns, a renewed creation comes, too. This new creation is marked by the unity of Creator and created alluded to in the book of Genesis. In the New Testament, this renewed creation is aligned with freedom from death, sin and decay. So, the renewed creation takes the shape of a world without the bounds of death and liberated from the systems and actions through which humans tear themselves apart from one another and from God. There's a lot of hope inspired by believing that such a world is possible. Advent is a season for reflecting on and renewing that hope.

What do we do for Advent?

One of the ways we reflect Advent in communal worship is by utilizing an Advent wreath, a simple wreath surrounding four exterior candles and one central candle. The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of a renewed creation: Joy, Hope, Peace and Love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one more of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's ongoing presence. We, of course, can bring this practice home, creating our own Advent wreaths and contemplating our own longings for more joy, hope, peace and love.



YOUTH CALENDAR:

Sunday Dec. 7 10:00 AM Worship Service:

Confirmation Initiation Service (Salt and Light) .

Confirmation classes will be each Sunday at 9:45 AM

Sunday Dec. 7 6:00 - 7:45 PM: BLAST

Sunday Dec 14 3:00 – 7:00 PM: Caroling and Christmas Party, and Bel Canto. Meet in the Sanctuary.

Sunday Dec 21 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Army of the One This is a campus wide hide and seek game that is ideal to invite friends and visiting family! RSVP that morning for meal count!

Sunday Dec 28 NO BLAST

YOUTH MINISTRY

Director of Youth Ministry

Kristin Beall

kristin@braddockstreetumc.org

**Big
Loud
Awesome
Spirit
Thing**



PRAYER PARTNERS ARE GOING!

Most of our students have been assigned a secret prayer partner adult to pray for them this school year. This is such an important ministry to our students and I am always needing more people willing to pray. Can you?

kristin@braddockstreetumc.org

ARMY OF THE ONE

Sunday, December 21

6:00 – 8:00 PM



A full campus hide and seek style game of Romans and Christians modeled after the real life history of the persecution of Christians. Wear comfortable layers of clothes as you will be in and out of buildings- camo and black clothes encouraged! This is an AMAZING time to invite friends, family and neighbors! College kids back on break welcome!



BLAST WINTER RETREAT

January 16 – 19

Camp Overlook

Cost: \$150

(Open to 6 – 12 graders and leaders)



Come spend your MLK weekend growing closer to one another and Jesus! Learn what it means to surrender your fears and worries, your stuff, and even your heart and see what happens. Plus, bonuses! Stop at Buccees and get your photo with the beaver. Tube a mountain. Eat lots of meals and snacks. Roam an awesome beautiful retreat center taking in God's creation. Don't miss out on this awesome weekend!



**RSVP with
deposit due by
December 14!**

LAY LEADER REFLECTION

Welcome to Advent and the Season of waiting and preparing for something new, something larger than our imagination, to be born in our midst. Into this sacred season, I encourage you to pause, breathe, quiet the noise of your busyness and be ready for the unexpected. Lift your face to the night sky and imagine the Bethlehem Star guiding you into the celebration of Peace, of Hope, of Joy, of Love. Expect the very best of yourself and others and sing your gratitude to all Creation. United Methodist Minister Jan Richardson writes, “The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before ... What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God’s back fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.” Embrace what is to come and behold your sacred place in the great chain of being!



Lay Leader
Susan Chesley

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In October, the Social Justice Initiative Healthcare Pod raised \$550 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by participating in the Stephens City Community walk, which raised over \$65,000 for community mental health education, awareness, and support.

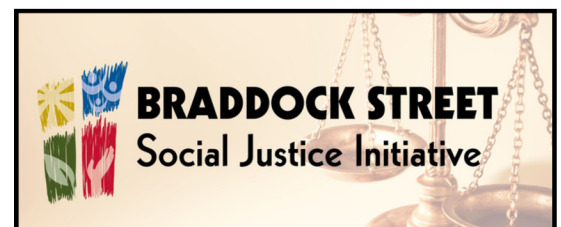


In November, members and friends gathered at Espresso Bar and Cafe in Winchester to write to our elected officials in support of the Affordable Care Act and maintaining access to healthcare in America. The team wrote over 40 postcards to Congress! For more information on getting involved with the Healthcare Pod, please contact Emily Turner at yurcake@gmail.com.



The Social Justice Initiative Climate Pod is preparing a tip sheet that could be distributed and used by the congregation (and maybe beyond). The following is a link to the EPA website, which has tips across several areas. <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change>. Since the government sites seem to be a bit unstable, members hope to prepare a more user-friendly or written document summarizing these tips.

Members of the SJI Climate Pod have set a goal of identifying 2-3 concrete next action steps to present at their December 12 meeting, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in Room 137. Please consider attending this important planning meeting and come prepared to discuss the information from the EPA website and what to include in a summary tip sheet as well as other ideas for next steps. For more information, contact Ellen Schwalenstocker at eschwalen@gmail.com.



BUILDING BRIDGES AT BRADDOCK

Director of Latino Ministries
Margie Hernandez
margie@braddockstreetumc.org



Did you know that between our children, ESL adult students and volunteers, we are averaging 60 people on Wednesday evenings? We have all the rooms occupied on the first level with students and we have a conversation class taking place in the hallway! Thank you to all our Sunday School classes that share the rooms with us. You make it possible for us to be in ministry.

Our Bridges are getting stronger as we collaborate and share the load with other local churches. Emmanuel UMC in Stephenson has graciously become an extension of our Building Bridges program by opening two classrooms for our ESL students. This has enabled us to offer Basic and Level I ESL classes on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 AM. So far, our two teachers are working with 4 adult students. This partnership is a blessing to our immigrant community.

We had our Just Neighbors Immigration Clinic on November 15th at our church and our friends from Emmanuel UMC volunteered for the event and prepared breakfast for our volunteers. What a blessing to have such loving collaborators in ministry.

In the month of November our children learned about gratitude. They were visited by Ori Largent from Leyendo Juntos, and she read a book to our children about community helpers. They made beautiful cards that they gave to teachers and family.

Our "littles", with the leadership of Laurie Gaulke, and our Millbrook High School Volunteers made handprint cards for the Jubilee Sunday School Class that they share the room with. Love in action!

November was a very busy month for Building Bridges as we honored El Dia de los Muertos with Folklore es Vida. We had over 200 people from the Latino community sharing our fellowship hall and enjoying the evening together while dancing and eating together.

December will be an exciting time as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with our families. Thanks to your generosity our families will receive Christmas gifts for their children. Our Christmas party will be held on December 17 and we will need plenty of Christmas cookies for our children to decorate. The adults and children all enjoy a time of fellowship where we have a large pizza party, sing Christmas Carols together and play games. We hope you will join us! If you would like to volunteer or bake some cookies for our party, please reach out directly to Margie Hernandez at margie@braddockstreetumc.org



Building Bridges will take a winter break from December 24th – January 7th and meet again starting January 14th.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Brewster, Chairman

Because of your generous support during the past year, Braddock Street missions has been able to participate in multiple amazing opportunities! We had the return of an international youth mission trip, a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Child Reintegration Centre, several trips to help with hurricane and natural disaster relief, assembling thousands of meals with Rise Against Hunger, in addition to all the other outreach programs Braddock St. UMC supports!

There are many exciting things to look forward to in 2026, so be on the lookout for information about the container project being put together to be sent to the CRC! Want to go? Trips are planned for July 19 – August 1, 2026 (interest meeting: February 8, 2026, application deadline February 16, 2026) and October 18 – October 31, 2026 (interest meeting May 3, 2026, application deadline May 10, 2026).

More hurricane and natural disaster relief trips are in the works as well.

Want more information? Contact David Brewster (dabrews@gmail.com or 540-539-3453).

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

As is our tradition and commitment, the first \$10,000 of our Christmas Eve offering goes to the Child Reintegration Center (Helping Children Worldwide). We make this donation in advance of Christmas on Giving Tuesday each year so that it is matched and doubled!

Any of the Christmas Eve offering over \$10,000 is evenly split between CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.



CHILD REINTEGRATION CENTRE



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK



GIVING TREE/WRAPPING PARTY

The Giving Tree was a huge success! Thank you all for assisting us with many area children and Operation Remember with nursing home residents. The Braddock Street congregation supports the Giving Tree each year and we are able to bring smiles to the young and young at heart. Thank you for all you do to assist us each year.

We will have our wrapping party on Friday, December 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. This is multi-generation friendly, so bring the whole family. It will be a fun time! (PLEASE bring scissors and tape.)

We are excited for the Christmas season. This mission makes such a difference in many lives. We are incredibly grateful for your help.

If you have any questions please contact Betty Sue Unger 540-323-0683 or bettsue@operationremember.org

Operation Remember Christmas Wrapping Party December 12 at 6 PM



SET UP HELP NEEDED AT 4 PM



FAMILY PROMISE TACKY SWEATER PARTY

Saturday, December 13
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Braddock St. UMC Fellowship Hall

- Tacky Sweater Contest
- Hot Cocoa Bar
- Live Entertainment
- Ornament Making

To Benefit:



Tickets \$25
Free for Kids!

Scan for
tickets



BRADDOCK ST. UMC WATTS WEEK

January 3 — 10, 2026



Braddock Street will once again host the Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS) the week of January 3–10, 2026. WATTS is a low-barrier shelter serving Winchester, Frederick County, and Clarke County. Last season, 81% of WATTS's guests were from our local community—people who may be your former classmates, friends, coworkers, or neighbors. WATTS was founded by local churches after a man tragically froze to death on the streets of Winchester. Together, the churches provide safe, warm shelter—and with your help, we can offer our guests a loving, welcoming environment that encourages them to come inside and receive care. Beyond shelter, WATTS staff assist guests with the steps needed to overcome homelessness, such as securing identification, attending doctor appointments, entering rehabilitation, and more.

How You Can Help

We need many hands to make this ministry successful! Even if you can only serve one shift, your help is greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed to:

- Serve delicious dinners and warm breakfasts
- Help with showers in the evening
- Provide fellowship and encouragement
- Ensure our guests have a safe, warm place to sleep



Donations Needed

If you'd like to support WATTS week financially, please make checks payable to BSUMC with WATTS in the memo line. Financial donations will be used for food, supplies, and thermal underwear.

We also need:

- New boxer brief underwear and white undershirts
- Travel-size toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, disposable razors, Kleenex, etc.)
- Various food items
- Cleaning supplies (Lysol spray, Clorox wipes)

Donations may be left in the Mission Room (Room 134).



Volunteer Sign-Up

To volunteer, please scan the QR code or sign up on the Braddock Street website.

For more information, please contact Robyn Miller at (540) 514-7218 or bardymiller1993@gmail.com. If you are interested in providing a breakfast, dinner, or food items, please contact Genger Borton at gengerborton@outlook.com or Jill Allen at jallennurse@yahoo.com.

Together, we can share God's love in a tangible way and help our neighbors find warmth, safety, and hope.

Scan code to volunteer



Vital Signs:

YTD Average In-person Worship: 346
YTD Average Online Worship: 104
YTD Giving: \$19,594 behind budget

Monthly Budgeted Offering: \$85,128

January Offering: \$84,329
February Offering: \$92,977
March Offering: \$107,640
April Offering: \$77,847
May Offering: \$81,356
June Offering: \$84,134
July Offering: \$80,816
August Offering: \$79,894
September Offering: \$70,607
October Offering: \$72,083

YEAR END GIVING

Thank you to all who have faithfully pledged to our financial campaigns. Your generosity is helping us accomplish. God's work here. Also, year end giving always makes a difference. Donations can be mailed in, dropped off at the office, or made online at <https://bsumc.churchtrac.com/give>. Contact Rachel BeDell with any questions at rachel@braddockstreetumc.org.



STAFF DIRECTORY

Lead Pastor: Jason Duley

jason@braddockstreetumc.org

Associate Pastor: Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings

ahnna@braddockstreetumc.org

Minister of Music: George Amos

george@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries: Patty Singhass

patty@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Youth Ministry: Kristin Beall

kristin@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Latino Ministries: Margie Hernandez

margie@braddockstreetumc.org

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 Clouser

bevordoug@yahoo.com



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

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