

THE COMPASS

December 2026

BRADDOCK STREET United Methodist Church

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Christmas Eve Services with Candelight Communion

5:00 PM Contemporary
(Prelude by the Praise Band at 4:45 PM)

8:00 PM Traditional
(Prelude by members of the Music Ministries at 7:45 PM)

December 13 8:45 & 11:15 AM Christmas Cantata
December 20 8:45 AM Children's Musical
(December 20 - No 10:00 AM service)
December 20 11:15 AM Orchestra playing during worship service



Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 6
12:30-2:30pm
Fellowship Hall



There will be a soup meal and Advent projects for the whole family.

Giving Tree Wrapping Party

December 11th
6 PM - Fellowship Hall



Wrapping Paper needed (New or partially used) Drop off at the church office

Bring the whole family to wrap gifts for nursing home residents

Please bring scissors and tape

ADVENT CELEBRATION - CIRCLE OF LIGHTS

Sunday, December 6
12:30 – 2:30 PM
Fellowship Hall



Join us on Sunday, December 6th from 12:30 - 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the beginning of Advent. We will enjoy a soup meal together. Then there will be the following projects and crafts.This is a free, family-friendly, cross generational event celebrating the Season of Advent. We can't wait to see you there!

HOPE - Make “Blessing Bags” to distribute to those in need.

PEACE - Make Advent wreaths to take home.

JOY - Participate in painting a banner to be used at Youth Sunday.

LOVE - Make Christmas cards for homebound members.

GIVING TREE WRAPPING PARTY

Friday, December 11
6 PM - Fellowship Hall



The Giving Tree was well supported again this year, THANK YOU. We are able to assist many children from Frederick County Social Services, Winchester Social Services, Bright Futures, and Building Bridges. Braddock Street is unique since The Giving Tree remembers and supports nursing home and assist living residents as well by supporting Operation Remember. All of the children and elderly will have reasons to smile this Christmas.

We aren’t finished quite yet. The wrapping party is December 11th at 6 PM. At this time we will wrap hundreds of gifts for the elderly. This is a family friendly event so come one, come all. We request that you bring scissors and tape. We are also collecting new or partially used wrapping paper. Please contact Betty Sue Unger with any questions. Bettysue@operationremember.org

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 December 13th 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 20 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 13 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 20 at the 8:45 AM worship service.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Minister of Music
George Amos
george@braddockstreeetumc.org

Music Ministry Dates to Remember

December 13 8:45 & 11:15 AM: Christmas Cantata at the Traditional Worship Services

December 13 4:00 PM: Rehearsal for the Braddock Street Orchestra

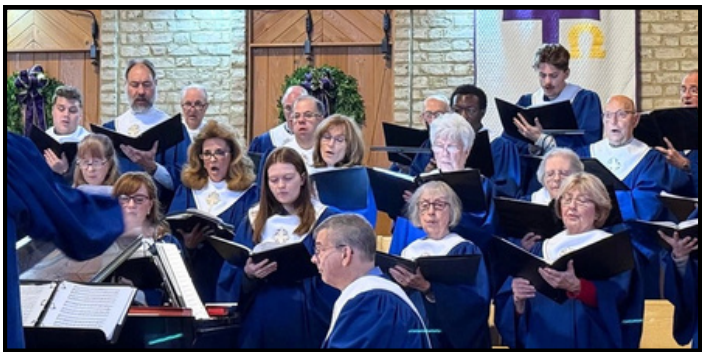
December 19 10:00 AM: Rehearsal for the Braddock Street Orchestra

December 20 8:45 AM: Children's Choir Musical

December 20 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)





SUNDAY MORNING KIDS' CHURCH

Each Sunday, kids start in the 10:00 AM worship service. Immediately following the Children's Moment, they walk to their classrooms with their teachers. Parents pick up their children from their classrooms.

3 yr - 1st grade: Room 206

2nd - 5th grade: Room 201

Parents sign up to be helpers and leaders each week at the kid's connection table by Room 201.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Director of Children's Ministries

Patty Singhass

patty@braddockstreetumc.org



December 6 - **Kids Church and nursery, regular schedule** (Joseph's story, Mary's story)

Friday, December 11 - 5:30 PM Mountain Movers meet in room 201, then will travel to the Wrapping Party.
6:00 PM **Giving Tree Wrapping Party** in the Fellowship Hall.

December 13 - **Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration** in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Message at the 10 AM service. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday with crafts, games, music and fun! Parents, please note that kids' pick up will be in the Fellowship Hall.

December 20 - 8:45 AM Children's Choir sings in the **Christmas Musical**
No Kids Church, **No 10 AM worship service**, nursery open 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

December 24 - 5:00 PM **Christmas Eve Contemporary Service** (nursery closed)
8:00 PM **Christmas Eve Traditional Service** (nursery closed)

December 27 - **10:30 AM - ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY** - No Kids Church or Nursery

January 3 - **Epiphany**, Kids Church and nursery, regular schedule















YOUTH MINISTRY

Director of Youth Ministries
Kristin Beall
kristin@braddockstreetumc.org



December Youth Calendar

Sunday, December 6 Family Advent Celebration - Fellowship Hall 12:30 PM. Youth help with centers & dessert.
Friday, December 11 Wrapping Party in Fellowship Hall 6-8pm
Sunday, December 13 Christmas Caroling and Party 3pm-7:45pm (Meet Sanctuary circle by 3pm!- bring a wrapped new pair of fun socks with a sweet for gift exchange)
Sunday, December 20 Army of the One 6-8pm
Sunday, December 27 NO Blast

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday Small Group Bible Study and Confirmation classes will be held on December 6th and 13th , but not on December 20th or 27th . Bel Canto practices to be determined by George Amos

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ARMY OF THE ONE



Sunday, December 20
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 are welcome!

This is a special evening and our program will run until 8pm! Note the time adjustment. If your family needs to pick up early, let me know. It's better to come to some of it than to miss it all, but the end is powerful. Want to come help as an adult? Love to have you, just let me know! Contact Kristin with any questions or concerns. RSVP for food and supply count: Kristin@braddockstreetumc.org (540) 327-1233





BLAST doing mission crafts of College Care Cards, Envelope Campaign, cake walk numbers and WATTS placemats.





BLAST leadership team checking out Conference Retreat

BUILDING BRIDGES AT BRADDOCK

Director of Latino Ministries
Margie Hernandez
margie@braddockstreetumc.org



Several important updates from BBB…

As I am writing this, I am reflecting on the terrible news of the presence of ICE on the streets of Winchester. Several people were detained and cars significantly damaged in the process. The greatest devastation is the separation of families that is occurring daily in our nation, a nation of immigrants and a nation that has always stood for the possibility in the “American dream”.

Our BBB program continues to grow and show kindness, gentleness and love to our neighbor. Our social principles call us to stand with our immigrant communities realizing that this world is the creation of our GOD and that nowhere did God create borders to be used as a premise for cruelty and exclusivity.

We are presently helping four families that have been separated. There are several from our congregation that drop off food on a weekly basis to these families, that check in with them, that help them navigate an immigration system that makes absolutely no sense and assist in transportation needs. Suddenly left without the breadwinner in the family these singles parents, most with little work experience, need to find a job, pay the rent, pay the utilities, try to find their loved ones, and so much more. Siblings, this is not happening to people far from us. This is happening to our neighbors. We are thankful for CCAP, the Rescue Mission, Highland Pantry, Family Promise, and FaithWorks for tirelessly working with us. Unfortunately, these organizations must serve the entire community and often are limited in their funds. We have started a fund for our immigrant families. I am asking you to prayerfully consider donating towards our BBB Community Relief fund, every little bit counts.

If you, or someone you know, is asking how to help, contact our ministry at Building Bridges. Help is needed to deliver food, take friends to appointments, donate food to CCAP and Highland Pantries, and donate financially to our BBB Community Relief Fund.

Please help us help the least of these that is Christ among us.

Contact Margie Hernandez
margie@braddockstreetumc.org



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Missions Chair
Dave Brewster
dabrews@gmail.com



This year's Christmas Eve offering is going to support Helping Children Worldwide and Blue Ridge Care (formally Blue Ridge Hospice). Helping Children Worldwide is the organization that oversees our mission efforts in Sierra Leone.

It's not too soon to think about going to Sierra Leone in 2027. Planning is already underway for our January team traveling to Sierra Leone as part of our Maternal and Child Health Mission Training Project. This team will help equip and empower midwives with life-saving obstetric and newborn care skills. We are also planning two additional teams:

July 18–31, 2027 This team typically includes a medical component focused on noncommunicable diseases, along with a Teachers Learning Collaborative that brings Sierra Leonean and U.S. based teachers together for professional development.

October 17–31, 2027 Volunteer Optometrists Serving Humanity is planning to host an optometry screening clinic at Mercy Hospital.

We also expect to launch a Social Work Learning Collaborative this summer. Tentative dates will be announced soon. If there are social workers in your church who may be interested, please let us know. We would be glad to share more information. And for anyone wondering, "I'm not a teacher, social worker, or medical professional, can I still go to Sierra Leone?" The answer is yes! We are eager to engage people of every gift, passion, and profession in supporting our allies in Sierra Leone.

If you are interested, please contact David Brewster (dabrews@gmail.com or 540-539-3453).



If you are interested in becoming involved in the life of Braddock Street Church, please consider becoming involved in our Monday Night Dinners. While you are always welcome to enjoy the fellowship and meal at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall; the teams are frequently in need of a substitute on any given Monday. Please consider becoming a substitute. Megan Pugh keeps track of scheduling, so when an opening becomes available, she will reach out to someone on the Substitute List. Megan's contact information is: mpugh08@gmail.com or 540-533-8120.

LAY LEADER REFLECTION





Lay Leader
Susan Chesley

The four weeks of Advent is a time of expectation, when we prepare our homes and our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, which means "coming." Advent is a season of hope, a time to nurture and embody peace, and to experience joy in anticipation for the love that is made incarnate with the birth of Jesus.

As your hands and hearts prepare for Christmas, keep the flames of hope, peace, joy, and love alive through your attention to tiny details and moments in which you see the movement of our beloved Creator at work in the world. Everything will make sense in relation to this purpose. If baking cookies brings you joy, bake away. If sitting quietly on a park bench gives you peace, then enjoy Sabbath time as often as possible. Take long walks in quiet places, visit friends and family, worship in community each Sunday. Read, sing, pray, and most importantly, serve others as a gift to the divine love cradle under the stars.

Whatever you find that helps you achieve the purpose of Advent, give yourself to those activities, joyfully and with abiding hope. Wake up each day with this purpose in your heart and on your mind. Purpose has a way of transforming the way we live our lives. Allow the purpose of Advent to transform you.

PEACE, LOVE, AND MAYHEM A HUGE SUCCESS!

Peace, Love, and Mayhem: A Murder Mystery was a huge success thanks largely to Anne Brewster, who crafted a deliciously sinister scenario, and the many "suspects" who brought humor, delight, suspicion, and whimsy to the evening. An even bigger thanks to the 40+ folks who attended the fellowship event. While there was no admission charge, donations filled the baskets. After expenses for food and drink were subtracted, the event raised $350. This money will be donated to Faithworks, which has merged with Family Promise, in support of its efforts to provide shelter for families in need. The Bank of Clarke Foundation is matching dollar for dollar all donations made to Faithworks through the end of the year. Please consider using this opportunity to double your donation to Faithworks.

United Women in Faith



More information on this opportunity to sooth your soul will be provided in the January Compass. Mark your calendars and stayed tuned!

BRADDOCK STREET UMC WELCOMES WATTS
JANUARY 2–9, 2027



Braddock Street United Methodist Church will once again open its doors to the Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS) from January 2–9, 2027. WATTS is a low-barrier homeless shelter serving Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, and Shenandoah Counties. According to the Western Continuum of Care, 88% of people experiencing homelessness in our region are from our region. They are our neighbors, former classmates, coworkers, friends, and fellow church members.

WATTS was founded by local churches after a man tragically froze to death on the streets of Winchester. Today, WATTS provides more than a warm place to sleep. Through its shelter programs and year-round support services, WATTS helps guests obtain identification, access medical care and rehabilitation, find employment, and work toward permanent housing.

We need your help to make our week a success! Volunteers are needed to provide warm meals, breakfast, hot showers, and, most importantly, a welcoming environment filled with kindness and compassion. Whether you can help for one evening or one morning, your time makes a difference.

Donations are also appreciated. Needed items include new boxer briefs, white undershirts, travel-size toiletries, Lysol sanitizing spray, and Clorox wipes. Donations may be left in the Mission Room (Room 134). Financial contributions can be made payable to BSUMC, with WATTS in the memo line, to help purchase food, supplies, and other necessities.

Please consider volunteering and helping us show our neighbors that they are not forgotten. Together, we can provide more than shelter. We can provide warmth, dignity, hope, and a path forward.
Sign up by scanning the QR code below or on braddockstreetumc.org/watts
For more information, contact Robyn Miller at 540-514-7218 or execdirector@watts-homelessshelter.org.

WATTS

Robyn Miller
Executive Director, WATTS
P.O. Box 2936, Winchester, VA 22604
540-514-7218
www.watts-homelessshelter.org

Sign up by scanning
the QR code or by visiting
braddockstreetumc.org/watts



BACKPACK MINISTRY

Thank you for all the generous donations at the beginning of the school year. Currently, we have 97 children that we support at Redbud Run Elementary.

Our shelves are currently in need of **vegetables and macaroni and cheese.** Donations can be left in the Mission Room or office.

Don't forget that you can order from Amazon and donations will be delivered directly to church. You can find the link on church website by selecting Missions.

IT'S A WRAP! TIPS FOR A GREEN HOLIDAY

BRADDOCK ST. UMC
Social Justice Initiative
EARTH CARE TEAM

According to the Ecology Center, Americans use 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper annually, more than half of it during the Christmas holidays. And at least half of this paper ends up in the landfill because it cannot be recycled. The cost to the environment is steep – Over 16 million pounds of CO2 emitted, almost 17,000 barrels of oil, and the annual electric use of over 1000 homes consumed.

How can you be a steward of the environment without being a Grinch? Look for package certification, such as the recycled paper logo or the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification. Look for labels like recycled content, 100 percent paper, or biodegradable. But beware of greenwashing or false claims of eco-friendliness.

The simpler, the better. Avoid wrapping with metallic finishes and glitter. Skip the plastic ribbons and bows. Remove tape and ribbons and flatten the paper when recycling paper that CAN be recycled. Make your own wrapping paper using plain kraft paper. You can make it festive by adding natural elements like pine sprigs. Use reusable non-paper wrappers like dishtowels or scarves.

If you can't recycle, repurpose. Use old wrapping paper for other craft projects, drawer liners, or creating tags for next year's gifts.

Avoid the need to wrap. Gift experiences, services, donations to charitable organizations, or digital gift cards make wonderful gifts!

A monthly tip brought to you by the BSUMC Social Justice Initiative Earth Care Team

YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS MATTER

A Financial invitation to help you church end the year strong: currently we find ourselves nearly $50,000 behind budget. I pray you will join me, your Senior Pastor, in reviewing your yearly generosity and giving some extra gifts to help your church now.

Throughout this year, your generosity has fueled our mission, whether through feeding neighbors, welcoming newcomers, or walking alongside those in need. As the year closes, we invite you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift that will help us carry that work into the new year with strength and hope. Every gift, no matter the size, is a tangible expression of faith, and together we can keep making Christ's love known in our community.

-Pastor Jason





BRADDOCK STREET
United Methodist Church

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