

December 2024 Newsletter

Batesville United Methodist Church

It's a special time for decorating



A group of dedicated women and men, led by Marcy Moster, worked through out the year to create the 2024 Chrismon. The tree was assembled during the Hanging of the Greens.



The Moster family lights the first Advent candle.



Many in the congregation came out for the Hanging of the Greens.

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Batesville, Indiana 47006
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batesvilleumc@gmail.com

Watch us live or check out our library at
www.batesvilleumc.org

Sunday Worship

8 a.m. Chapel Service
10 a.m. Sanctuary/Children's Time

Nursery Available

Handicap Lift at the Alley Door #5
Ramp at Door #2 at the corner of
Park Street and South Street

*“We proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.”*

The Great Thanksgiving, UMH p.10

Well here we are again, preparing for a new year in our Christian calendar, a year that begins with Advent and is quickly followed by Christmas. Unfortunately, many have often thought of the season of Advent incorrectly. They think of Advent, meaning “coming” as a season of preparation for Jesus birth and the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas. Although it is a season of preparation it is not for Jesus birth but of Jesus return and the final and complete establishment of God’s Kingdom and the fulfillment of God’s promises. It is a season that looks ahead, with hope, joy, peace and trust. However, Advent is connected to the season of Christmas. The reason for this is because as we look ahead with faith and confidence of Christ return, that faith and confidence is rooted and built upon what God has already done, the fulfillment of God’s promise to be our Savior, dying, rising and returning as we proclaim with faith in The Great Thanksgiving, celebrating Christ Holy Communion with His church and with each of us.

This pattern of looking ahead with hope and confidence while also remembering all that God has already done is something, I think most of do as we come upon the setting of another year and look ahead at the year to come. I think back at what God has been doing here at Batesville UMC, the growth we have seen in new people, the spiritual growth, the ministries of service, the growth of our youth and the building of relationship through worship, fellowship and prayer are all reasons to give thanks to God and also to look at the coming year with excitement and anticipation of what God is going to do next.

I think of you all as my family, brothers and sisters in Christ, I think of all the wonderful gifts that I have seen in you, your love and generosity to one another and to God’s church and I am excited. I am excited that we can continue on together for another year, I am excited to see what great things God is going to do, with us and for us.

May this Advent season renew your faith and anticipation of the fulfillment of God’s promises and the return of our King, Christ Jesus and may this Christmas season be a time in which we look back with grateful hearts for our Heavenly Father who has called us, loved us and saved us. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Chris



Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday: by appointment with Pastor Chris
Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

Please Note: Pastor Chris is not in the office on Fridays.

Wreaths Across America

The congregation is invited to participate in Wreaths Across America at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the church cemetery on Mulberry Street.

The Ripley County Community Foundation created an initiative to place wreaths on every veteran's grave in Ripley County. We have par-

ticipated for a few years now by purchasing and placing the wreaths at our cemetery.

To watch the video about Wreaths Across America. Use this link:

[Wreaths Across America: Our History, Tradition and Mission - Remember. Honor. Teach.](#)

Church website



Joe Roberts continues to improve the church's website. It now has an easy way to give and the services are easily accessible, Live and archived. If you have the chance, please check it out. If you have any ideas or information or pictures please send them to Joe Roberts.

Also, if you have not yet been to the church's Facebook page or Instagram, please check them out as well and click to "follow"

<https://batesvilleumc.org/>

Chancel Choir performs in Oldenburg



The Chancel Choir sang with the Greensburg United Methodist Church choir and the Holy Family Catholic Church Parish Choir on Saturday, December 7, in the Sisters of St. Francis

Chapel as part of Oldenburg's Holidays Under the Spires.

They will sing in Morris at St. Anthony's Live Nativity at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, December 13.



Scriptures

December 1 – Jeremiah 33:14-16 **Luke 21:25-36**

December 8 – Malachi 3:1-4 **Luke 3:1-6**

December 15 – Zephaniah 3:14-20 **Luke 3:7-18**

December 22 – Micah 5:2-5 **Luke 1:39-45**

December 29 – 1 Samuel 2:18-26 **Luke 2:41-52**

(**Bold indicates sermon text**)

Calendar

Bible Study – Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Sprouts – Wednesday, December 4 and December 18, at 5:30 p.m.

Buds – Wednesday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m.

Wreath Laying at BUMC Cemetery – Saturday, December 14, at 10 a.m.

Administrative Council – Monday, December 16, at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7 p.m.

Pitch-In Dinner – Sunday, December 29, after 10 a.m. service

Birthdays

December 2	Heather Musick
December 3	Kathy Newell
December 8	Nance Widdowson
December 10	Pastor Chris Renick
December 10	Kin Choi
December 14	Betty Lou Barber
December 23	Val Stutler
December 26	Linda Crowell
December 26	Deb Obermeyer
December 30	Jim Rowland

Anniversaries

December 14	Chris & Jerilyn Lowery
December 23	Bob & Sheila Smith
December 24	Craig & Connie Summers
December 27	John & Vickie Greiwe

Prayer List

Bishop Malone
Rev. In Suk Peebles (CS)
Pastor Chris & Family
Joan Moore
Family of Jane Fitzpatrick
Family of Ron Simpson
George Hillman
Craig Summers
Larry & Shirley Montgomery
Annetta Lusk
Dave Raver
Matt Marshall
Brandt Maley
Betty Lou Barber
James Rudde (Shirley Pinkerton brother)
Corrine Ferguson
Beth Brinkman
Carol McGrath
Mark McIntosh
Deb & Hoagy Wright
Steve Moore
Sesly Marshall
Shannon MacLaren
Cheryl Lowery
Kyle Hurtley
Mark Burkert
Rachael Hoff
Priscilla Elzey
Tony Drummond (Susie)
Connie Summers
Mike Hultman
Nancy Dinnen
John Lewis
Teachers and Students
Our Children and Youth
Batesville Community
Safe Passage
People in the Armed Forces

People of Ukraine
Israel Palestine Conflict
Family
Church
Community
State, Nation
Ginny and Ted Hartshorn (Chateau)
Naomi Melia (St. Andrews)



We are looking to update our prayer list. If you have any new information, please email the office or if you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please fill out an orange prayer card. You can find the prayer cards in the hymnal holders on the back of the pews.

Audio/Visual Team

Our team has been busy. We've put a lot of the work into our LiveStream service. We continue to make improvements. Our live 10 a.m. Sunday service is now available on the [Batesville United Methodist Church Facebook page](#).

Updates and improvements continue to be made on our new webpage.



Our church family decorates the Chrismon Tree, a staple of the church's Christmas decorations.

Flower volunteers

December 15	Chris & Jerilyn Lowery
December 22	Congregation
December 29	Congregation

Children's Church

December 15	Val Stutler
December 22	Val Stutler
December 29	Melissa Kramer

Liturgists

December 15	Angie Renick
December 22	Sean Fitzgerald
December 29	Bob Barber

Jacob's Well

December 15	The Synders
December 22	The Werner's
December 29	Deb & Mel Obermeyer

Share A Ride

December 15	Bob & Carolee Barber
December 22	Marc Emral and Kathy Newell
December 29	

Greeters and Ushers

December 15	- Marc Emral and Kathy Newell
December 22	- Bob & Carolee Barber
December 29	- Hoagy Wright & Gerry Werner

Four new Chairs for next Quadrennium

The new quadrennium starts with a quadruple-sized change for the four clergy orders of the INUMC. Elected in June at Annual Conference—and July for the Board of Ordained Ministry—the four new chairs are excited to be serving during a new season and are poised to steer their respective roles into an era of transformation and renewed hope.

Pastor Mike Beezley: Championing Local Pastors and Associated Members

Pastor Mike Beezley assumes the role of Chair for the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associated Members with enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility. With a background as a local pastor since 2007, Mike is aware of the unique challenges faced by this large clergy group. “I am representing the largest clergy group, with perhaps the smallest voice,” he noted. Mike succeeds Rev. Pete Ward, whose leadership and guidance have been instrumental in easing his transition into this new role. Mike looks forward to advocating for the needs of local pastors and making their voices heard.

Rev. Dr. Jill Buckler: Advocating for Deacon Health and Well-Being

Rev. Dr. Jill Buckler steps into the Chair of the Order of the Deacons, bringing her expertise from running a counseling office and a fervent commitment to clergy health. Jill succeeds Rev. Marcy Patrick, a dedicated advocate for deacons whose impactful work Jill intends to continue. Jill and her fellow chairs are united in their dedication to improving clergy well-being, a cause she is passionate about and eager to advance in her new role.



Pastor Mike Beezley, from left, Rev. Dr. Jill Buckler, Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky-Litten and Rev. Dr. Joe Johnson.

Rev. Joe Johnson: Building Community Among Elders

As the new Chair of the Order of the Elders, Rev. Joe Johnson aims to foster a stronger connection among elders. His approach will include collaborating with Church Development staff and advocating for the unique needs of elders. Joe succeeds Rev. Oscar Ramos-Gallardo, whose efforts in building bridges and representing minorities have set a high standard. Joe’s vision includes enhancing community, providing mentorship, and supporting elders as they navigate their roles.

Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky-Litten: Fostering Clergy Care and Support

Rev. Dr. Amber Karkosky-Litten takes the helm as the Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, focusing on clergy care amid rising levels of burnout and fatigue. Amber is determined to champion spiritual health and support for clergy, following in the footsteps of Rev. Tony Alstott, whose leadership she deeply values. Amber’s commitment is to sustain and uplift clergy through

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challenging times, ensuring their well-being and resilience.

The new chairs are enthusiastic about collaborating with a new bishop and embarking on their terms with a spirit of gratitude and anticipation. Rev. Dr. Karkosky-Litten reflected, "This is a unique opportunity. It is a new season of The United Methodist Church." Pastor Mike shared, "There's great hope for the future. Annual Conference was just different this year. We have come through a lot and are stronger because of it."

Having worked together in various capacities, the four new chairs are eager to deepen their collaboration. They share a mutual respect and a common vision for leading their clergy orders, emphasizing the importance of spiritual renewal, mental health, and rest. Each chair brings a wealth of experience and expertise, with Rev. Dr. Amber, Rev. Joe, and Rev. Dr. Jill having previously served on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Together, they are ready to navigate the new quadrennium with a unified focus on advancing the well-being and effectiveness of clergy, ensuring a vibrant and hopeful future for the INUMC.

*From the United Methodist Churches of Indiana website at
<https://www.inumc.org/>*

Reminder

From our webpage you can watch our Sunday Services live or anytime with the archives!

www.batesvilleumc.org

Also on Facebook@Batesville United Methodist Church.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

We are meeting in person at 6:30 p.m. currently studying Theology 101.

Discipleship Pathway

