

December 2025 Newsletter



Batesville United Methodist Church



Wreaths honor vets at our cemeteries

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be Saturday, Dec. 13. More than 2 million volunteers and supporters will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 5,200 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Ripley County Indiana volunteers will place wreaths on more than 4,300 local veterans' headstones. This includes 111 veteran headstones within our two church cemeteries.



The mission of Wreaths Across America is to: Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Please join us at 2 p.m., Dec. 13, at the church cemetery on South Mulberry Street.

To learn more, feel free to visit the Wreaths Across America website at Home - Wreaths Across America, and/or watch the video in this link -> <https://youtu.be/2Dy6PE37g2k>.

106 South Park Avenue
Batesville, Indiana 47006
(812) 934-3137
batesvilleumc@gmail.com

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

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

**“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 12 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 new Food Trucks, the unbelievably generous support for Outreach, 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 to our Heavenly Father who has called us, loved us and saved us. Merry Christmas!

PC



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.



A thank you note from Outreach

The month of November was the month of Giving Thanks. We asked our congregation to support the Outreach program for our Dec. gift cards that we give to people in need during the holiday season. We also collected food for the food pantry. Wow! As always, you showed up! As of this writing, Nov. 24, we received \$2,275.00 for Outreach and \$500 (plus multiple food items) for the food pantry. This was after our collection for cake mixes in October, which by the way, were 100% funded by your donations. When I look at the people of our church, I feel grateful. I feel hopeful. I feel the spirit working through your love for others. With a sincere heart, thank you.

Sarah Heppner

Advent begins



Hannah and Robbie Bruns participate in the first Advent celebration

A hall of famer



Rob Bruns was inducted into the Southeastern Indiana Musicians Association Hall of Fame on Nov. 15 at the Gibson Theater.

Decorating the tree



The congregation helped place the Chrismons on the tree on the first day of Advent.

Scriptures

Dec. 7 – Isaiah 11:1-10 **Matthew 3:1-12**
Dec. 14 – Isaiah 35:1-10 **Matthew 11:2-11**
Dec. 21 – Isaiah 7:10-16 **Matthew 1:18-25**
Dec. 28 – Isaiah 63:7-9 **Matthew 2:13-23**

(Bold indicates sermon text)

Jacob's Well

Dec. 7 – The Wrights
Dec. 14 – The Snyders
Dec. 21 – The Mosters
Dec. 28 – Ann Stokes & Teresa Burdette

Children's Church

Dec. 7 – Kendall Messerschmidt
Dec. 14 – No children time
Dec. 21 – Jordan Bergquist
Dec. 28 – Sarah Fitzgerald

Liturgists

Dec. 7 – Angie Renick
Dec. 14 – Bob Barber
Dec. 21 – Deb Wright
Dec. 28 – Marc Emral

Calendar

Chancel Choir – Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study – Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

BUMC Pitch-In Dinner – Sunday, Dec. 7
after 10 a.m. service.

Free Breakfast – Saturday, Dec. 13

Wreaths Across America Saturday, Dec.
13, at 2 p.m.

Youth Christmas Play and Great Christmas Cookie Extravaganza – Sunday, Dec.
14

Administrative Council – Monday, Dec.
15 at 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service –
Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Women's Ministry – Hosting movie night
“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” Sun-
day, Dec. 28 at 5 p.m.

Prayer List

Bishop Malone
Rev. In Suk Peebles (CS)
Pastor Chris & Family

Christians in China

John Roberts

Ralph Hochstetler

Bob & Sheila Smith

Cyndy Walther

George Hillman

Tony Trossman

Joan Moore

Merl Allen

Craig Summers

Brandt Maley

James Rudde (Shirley Pinkerton brother)

Mark McIntosh

Sesly Marshall

Connie Summers

Mike Hultman

Nancy Dinnen

John Lewis

Michael

Emily, Eric

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)



Teachers and Students
Our Children and Youth
Batesville Community

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.

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.

Trustees news

All the finishing touches have now been completed on the new flooring project in the basement.

It is nice to have a uniform floor that looks bright and clean. Thanks to everyone in the congregation who helped make this possible.

Moving stuff, taping up plastic, plumbing, fixing walls, painting, cleaning, removing plastic, moving stuff again, more plumbing, organizing, moving stuff one more time. You all worked together, and your prayers and attitudes made the difference.

Linda Straight



Anniversaries

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

Greeters and Ushers

Dec. 7 – Kin Choi & John Snyder
Dec. 14 – Gerry Werner & Linda Straight
Dec. 21 – Susie Rowland & Mary Kay Roberts
Dec. 28 – John & Sarah Snyder

Flower volunteers

Dec. 7 – Chris & Jerilyn Lowery
Dec. 14 – Todd & Yvonne Kramer
Dec. 21 – Joe & Mary Kay Roberts
Dec. 28 - Congregation

Birthdays

Dec. 2 - Heather Musick
Dec. 3 - Kathy Newell
Dec. 8 -Nance Widdowson
Dec. 10 - Pastor Chris Renick
Dec. 10 - Kin Choi
Dec. 18 - Cindy Turner
Dec. 23 - Val Stutler
Dec. 26 - Linda Crowell
Dec. 26 - Deb Obermeyer
Dec. 30 – Jim Rowland

Dec. 14 – Great Cookie Extravaganza

Come and celebrate the holiday season following the Youth play “If We Do It, It Will Work” performed at the 10 a.m service. Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, reindeer punch and fellowship.

Ginger Bread Fudge

Ingredients

- 12 oz. white chocolate, melted
- 1 cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp. ground nutmeg

- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 Tbsp. Red nonpareils
- 1/2 Tbsp. green nonpareils

• **Step 1** – In a large bowl, mix together white chocolate and sweetened condensed milk. Add nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger and stir until combined. Stir in almost all nonpareils (leave some to sprinkle on top) until combined.

• **Step 2** – Using a spatula, transfer fudge into a parchment-lined glass baking dish and smooth over top. Sprinkle with remaining nonpareils and let sit until firm, at least one hour. (Transfer to the fridge to speed up the process.) Cut into squares and enjoy.



Women's Ministry

Dec. 28 - Women's Ministry hosts Movie Night.

Join us for the family friendly movie “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” This hilarious, heartwarming movie, celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, is perfect viewing for all ages.

In addition, to popcorn and candy, Women's Ministry will provide hot and cold hors d'oeuvres for all to enjoy.

Jan. 25 - Special guest - Tricia Fasbinder

Join us for a special presentation about all things chocolate. Tricia Fasbinder, from Candyland Creations will share, tips, tricks and facts about chocolate. Those attending will be able to sample some special chocolates. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship, fun and food.

This year's Chrismon – Fish with Cross

The symbol of the fish, which in Greek is ichthys, was used by early Christians as a secret symbol to identify each other, especially during time of persecution. ΙΧΘΥΣ is an acronym for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior.

I - Iota or Iesous (Jesus)

X- Chi or Christos (Christ)

Θ - Theta or Theou (God)

Υ – Upsilon or Yidos (Son)

Σ – Sigma or Soter (Savior)

Many thanks to our artisans Doris Brandes, Sharon Chia, Kin Choi, Bev Giesting, Trish Hutchison, Amy Liter, Connie Miller, Marcy Moster, Kent Nettnay, Kathy Newell, Linda Straight and Nance Widdowson for their time and efforts in crafting this beautiful Chrismon!

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4:19,20



Discipleship Pathway

