



# January 2026 Newsletter

## Batesville United Methodist Church

### Meal service continues to increase

Our next Free Community meal will be on Saturday, Jan. 17. This will be a winter picnic menu featuring fried chicken and all the fixings. We will be serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. but will need help prior to that time to get it ready. We will also need folks willing to deliver meals. Between eat-in and delivery we hope to be very busy. Look for sign-up sheets.

Our first community meal was in November and we served a spaghetti dinner. While we did not have a huge response at church, our congregation turned out and we had a great time of fellowship!

We did provide about 120 spaghetti dinners to folks at Heart House in Aurora and took food to Bread of Life in Greensburg. Nothing was wasted and people were fed.

Our first December meal was a pancake breakfast. We provided over 100 meals (eat-in and carry-out). Our second December meal was delivered to over 160 folks on Christmas Eve. We served ham, green beans, a hash brown casserole, dinner roll and pie.

A small idea is growing and we are so excited to be serving our brothers and sisters in our community. The participation and enthusiasm of our church family have been amazing.

Please continue praying for this ministry.

**Luke 4:18 Food Truck**



**More than 100 people were served breakfast in December.**

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

Watch us live or check out our library at  
[www.batesvilleumc.org](http://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

# 'God Leads' in new year

What a year 2025 was! We were blessed with new faces, started several new ministries and were able to share about \$40,000 in places that it was definitely needed!

But more recently it feels different, it feels as if the Holy Spirit is doing something different, something bigger and I know I am not the only one who feels it. Many of you have come to me with the same feeling. God is at work and great things are going to be done in this new year.

Our first message this calendar year was on Epiphany Sunday and is titled "God Leads." This will be our theme for 2026, celebrating and following where God is Leading Us! A light shining in darkness, like the Magi, God is asking us to follow, even to places we have never been and to love and serve people we do not know. We take the Good News of Jesus with us, sharing God's grace and Hope but only because God first called us and because God is Leading Us!

I am excited, and I hope you are too! I hope you are ready to embrace it, to share it and to join in, because it is going to take us all. Being led by the Spirit can be a real challenge and it requires faith, obedience, and a willingness to listen to what God is saying. God has chosen us for this for a reason and I know, if we are faithful God can use us to do great things for the Kingdom.

Grace and peace

PC



**The Sprouts and Buds joined together Dec. 14 to present "If We Do It, It Will Work" which told the Christmas story.**

# New Tai Chi Food Truck begins

We are pleased to announce the commencement of the TC4H (Tai Chi for Health) Food Truck event series, beginning Tuesday, January 20. This will be held every Tuesday and is open to all members of our church and friends.



trigrams and five steps, which are the basics of Tai Chi Chuan. These are called Tai chi 13 Forms.

The eight Trigrams are:

- (1) Ward Off
- (2) Roll Back
- (3) Push
- (4) Press

## Schedule of Events:

- **Door open: 5:30 p.m.**
- **Instructional lesson: 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.**

Whether you're looking to learn, connect, or enjoy great fellowship, this weekly gathering is the perfect opportunity. All are welcome – bring your friends and family! Farmers too!

The instructional lesson will provide balancing exercises, followed by the Chrismon activity at 6:30 p.m., which will continue the spirit of fellowship and engagement.

We look forward to seeing you there! Kin will be the driver of this Food Truck!

## Description of the BUMC TC4H:

Tai Chi, by itself, is a philosophy rooted from Taoism, emphasizing the balance of Ying (negative) and Yang (positive), for examples: light and darkness, still and moving, left and right, forward and backward.

Tai Chi Chuan (TCC), "Chuan" = Fist, is a form of martial arts using the balance aspects of Tai Chi in its movement. In standard Mandarin, TCC is called Tai Ji Quan (TJQ).

In the first few months, we will learn the eight

- (5) Grab
- (6) Split
- (7) Elbow
- (8) Shoulder

The 5 steps are:

- (1) Left
- (2) Right
- (3) Forward
- (4) Backward
- (5) Center

The TC4H will focus on the health aspects of the form rather than the martial arts aspects of the form. When a person is aware of the balance of the body, it is less likely the person will fall down. Tai Chi balance is a great way for fall prevention.

## 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 1 p.m.

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



# Cookie Extravaganza



Thank you to all that participated in the Cookie Extravaganza. It was indeed very extravagant. Hundreds of cookies were enjoyed and shared after the amazing Youth Group play "If We Do It, It Will Work." Visitation Food Truck delivered cookies and visited with some of our church family members that were not able to attend the event. Be ready to share your favorite cookies again.



## Scriptures

Jan. 4 – Isaiah 60:1-6 **Matthew 2:1-12**

Jan. 11 – Isaiah 42:1-9 **Matthew 3:13-17**

Jan. 18 – Isaiah 49:1-7 **John 1:29-42**

Jan. 25 – Isaiah 9:1-4 **Matthew 4:12-23**

(**Bold indicates sermon text**)

## Calendar

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

**Bible Study** – Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**Free Dinner** – Saturday, Jan. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Administrative Council** – Monday, Jan. 19, at 6 p.m.

**TC4H** – Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 5:45 p.m.

**Buds** – Wednesdays, Jan. 7, and Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.

**Sprouts** – Wednesday, Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m.

**Women's Ministry** – Sunday, Jan. 25. at 5 p.m.

## Jacob's Well

Jan. 11 – John & Priscilla Christie

Jan. 18 – The Snyder's

Jan. 25 – Pastor Chris & Angie Renick

# Prayer List

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

**Les Smith**

**Lisa Haessig**

**Christians in China**

**Chris Lowery**

**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

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)



Teachers and Students  
Our Children and Youth

## 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.

## **Birthdays**

Jan. 1 - Pete Nolan  
Jan. 4 - Hoagy Wright  
Jan. 13 - Sheila Smith  
Jan. 13 - Dennis Stutler  
Jan. 14 - Angie Renick  
Jan. 14 - Grace Saner  
Jan. 15 - Ryan Messerschmidt  
Jan. 19 - Chris Lowery  
Jan. 23 - Linda Straight  
Jan. 24 - Marcy Moster  
Jan. 24 - Jacob Musick  
Jan. 27 - Karen Oesterling  
Jan. 29 - Xiang Guo  
Jan. 30 - Carolee Barber  
Jan. 30 - William Newell  
Jan. 31 - Teresa Burdette

## **Anniversaries**

Jan. 7 – Larry & Marge Hooten

## **Flower volunteers**

Jan. 11 – Hoagy & Deb Wright  
Jan. 18 – Bob & Carolee Barber  
Jan. 25 – Ralph & Judi Craig

## **Children's Church**

Jan. 11 – Jordan Bergquist  
Jan. 18 – Kendall Messerschmidt  
Jan. 25 – Sesly Marshall

## **Liturgists**

Jan. 11 – Jerilyn Lowery  
Jan. 18 – Angie Renick  
Jan. 25 – Sean Fitzgerald

## **Greeters and Ushers**

Jan. 11 - Sean Fitzgerald & Sara Snyder  
Jan. 18 - Sesly Marshall & Gerry Werner  
Jan. 25 - Susie Rowland & Mary Kay Roberts

## **Church Website**

Joe 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/>

### **Reminder**

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

[www.batesvilleumc.org](http://www.batesvilleumc.org)

Also on Facebook@Batesville United Methodist Church.



## More crocheted octopi needed



Two hospitals are requesting more crocheted octopi. Contact Wilma Flory, 812-932-6000 if you need pattern, yarn, or proper stuffing. Also call if you wish to learn how to crochet one.

**Wilma Flory**

## Upcoming Women's Ministry Events

**Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.**

Special guest Tricia Fasbinder

Join us for a special presentation by Tricia Fasbinder from Candyland Creations about all things chocolate.



She will share tips, tricks and facts about chocolate. Those attending will be able to sample some special chocolate treats. Join us for the fellowship, fun and food.

**Feb. 22 at 5 p.m.**

Celebrate Chinese New Year with Sharon Chia  
Sharon will teach us how to create decorative



paper shapes and figures using the ancient art of origami. We'll share more traditions as we usher in the Year of the

Horse. Wear a red outfit for good fortune, as we enjoy Chinese foods.

Call Kathy Newell for more info, questions.



## Church hosts New Horizons

BUMC hosted a group from New Horizons for a cookie baking and decorating event in December. All the participants had a wonderful time. They left with stacks of delicious cookies to share. More activities are being planned for 2026 as we partner with this organization. Those interested in helping welcome New Horizon clients to our church please reach out to Kathy Newell at 812-212-5891.

## Movie Night

More than 30 members of the congregation shared cheers and tears, as we enjoyed "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Hosted by the Women's Ministry, in addition to the traditional movie foods of popcorn and candy, we enjoyed BBQ sandwiches and snacks.

## Outreach helps those with blessed help

In this month of December, you, as a church, gave out 100 \$30 Kroger gift cards to anyone you wanted to bless.

Also this month, Outreach is donating \$500 to Totes for Tots and Teens, which provides comfort, dignity, and support to children during some of the most difficult times of their lives. Supplies for foster care, school supplies and emergency conditions (kits) helping children across 16 South-eastern Indiana counties including Ripley and Franklin. To learn more about this organization, visit <https://www.projectt3.org/>.

We are also donating \$500 to Operation Freedom, which pays off families' debts In Pakistan, freeing them from being indentured servants

from brick-making factories. There are over 4.5 million trapped as indentured servants to a debt they can never repay. To learn more about this organization please visit <https://www.slavefreebricks.com/>.

As always I learn about organizations and people in need from all of you. Continue to reach out if you have thoughts on how we can continue to support people in our community, country and world. Your generosity and love never cease to amaze me.

May we all feel the peace, hope and joy that our Savior brings this holiday season,

**Sarah Heppner**



**This year's Chrismons were passed out to the youth.**



**The youth received their Christmas presents after the Dec. 21 service.**

## Discipleship Pathway

