



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

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

'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.



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

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

- (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 – Isiah 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

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.

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

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.

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.



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.

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.slavefree-bricks.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 Chrismsons were passed out to the youth.



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

Discipleship Pathway

