



Inside this issue:

<i>January Events</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	3
<i>Christmas Shoebox List</i>	4
<i>Methodist Men & Women</i>	5
<i>Feed the Troops</i>	5
<i>Mid-Week Recharge</i>	6
<i>January Birthdays</i>	8
<i>Soup & Sandwich Sale</i>	8
<i>Walk of Warmth & Light</i>	10
<i>Committees & Leadership</i>	12
<i>What's Happenings—2026</i>	14
<i>Ministry Opportunities</i>	15

Special Points of Interest:

- God's Torch
- Christmas Thank You's
- Used Hymnal Giveaway
- What's Happening
- Union Mission Outreaches
- Happy New Year
- LOVE, INC.
- Acolyte Ministry
- Online Giving
- Online Church Directory
- Worship Schedule
- Wiggle Worship Leaders



Six Reasons Why You Need to Attend Church in Person

By Bob Russell

Since the Covid lockdown, many churchgoers no longer attend worship services regularly, alleging it is easier and less time-consuming to stay home and watch an online service. When confronted, some suggest they have grown beyond the need for in-person worship at a local congregation, claiming they get as much fulfillment when viewing a service online. Others rationalize that they may even watch two or three different sermons on a Sunday morning.

Hebrews 10:24-25 commands, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

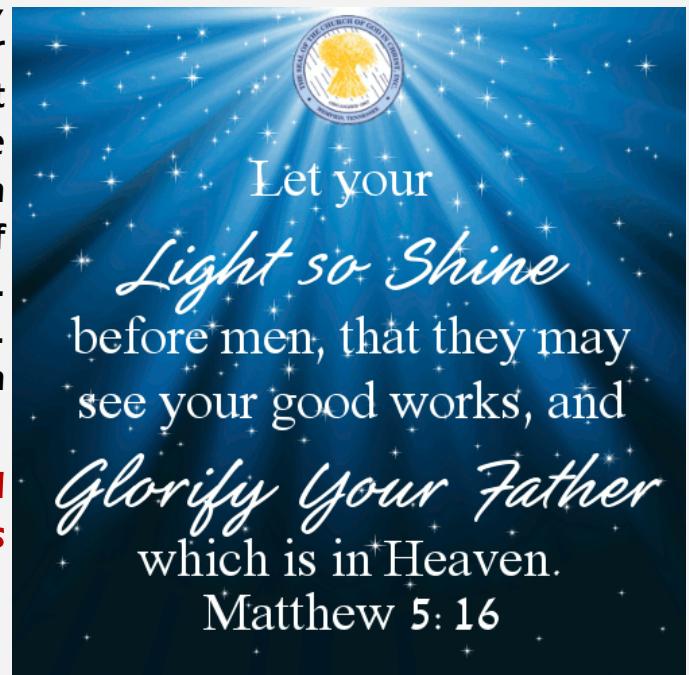
Admittedly, some contemporary worship services are designed in such a way that it is easier to be a spectator rather than participate in the worship. Regardless of the worship style, here are six reasons why Christ-followers should attend worship in person:

- 1. It edifies you.** You may complain that the music is not your favorite or the sermon leaves you bored, but the Word of God is read, communion is served, Christ is exalted...and the offering is collected! Occasionally, you may leave the dinner table disappointed that the meal was not tasty, but somehow your digestive system still assimilates the food, nourishing your body. The same is true when you regularly attend worship and are fed the Word of God in person.

(continued on page 2)

"Six Reasons Why You Need to Attend Church in Person" (continued)

2. **It provides an opportunity to serve others.** When you attend church, you learn about the needs of Christian brothers and sisters and are motivated to minister to them and pray for them. It is not all about you.
3. **It quietly testifies to the lost.** When your neighbors see you drive out the driveway headed for church, they know where you are going. When the golfer drives by the church building on Sunday morning and sees the cars in the parking lot, he is reminded of where he should be. Church attendance slowly and quietly testifies to the world which side you are on.
4. **It provides a natural evangelistic opportunity.** When you attend worship regularly, you have a natural venue to invite lost people to join you and learn about Christ. It is amazing how much more edifying a church service becomes when someone who does not know the Lord sits by your side.
5. **It encourages other believers.** A young college student was struggling with doubt. He was so troubled he decided to go to a local church on Sunday morning to see if he could rediscover the faith that had previously served as the foundation for his life. That morning, in an old traditional church service, his faith was renewed, and he left that day recommitted to Christ. The student later testified that his inspiration did not come from the singing or the preaching. But during the pastoral prayer, he opened his eyes and glanced around. Two rows behind him and across the aisle was a much-respected science professor with his head bowed in intense prayer. The young man thought to himself, "If that teacher with all his brilliance can believe, so can I." Maybe the college professor left disappointed that he did not get much out of the service that day. Yet the fact that he took the time to meet with other believers was a source of encouragement to a young student... whether or not the professor realized it. Just attending church spurs others on toward love and good deeds.
6. **One final reason we need to attend church regularly: God commands it. Enough said!**



**WEDNESDAYS**

Praise Team Practice—5pm
Mid-Week Recharge—6pm to 7:30pm

SUNDAYS

Ladies Sunday School—9am
Worship & Praise Service—10am
Children's Wiggle Worship—10:15am
Adult Sunday School—11am

Holy Communion—1st Sunday of the Month

Thursday, 1/1—NEW YEARS DAY—Church Office is Closed

Sunday, 1/4—Morning Worship & Holy Communion—10am

Monday, 1/5—Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Saturday, 1/10—Methodist Men's Breakfast Fellowship in Seaford—8am

Sunday, 1/11—Recognition of Church Leaders & Committees—10am

Tuesday, 1/13—Worship Committee Meeting—6:30pm

Saturday, 1/17—Methodist Women's Lunch Fellowship—11:30am

Monday, 1/19—Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Tuesday, 1/20—Endowment Committee Meeting—10:30am

SPRC Meeting—7pm

Sunday, 1/25—Recognition of New Members—10am

Tuesday, 1/27—Church Council Meeting—7pm



A Modern Day Ruth! – Volunteer Spotlight – Bonnie Kendall

Shout out to Bonnie Kendall for her time volunteering for the Society of St. Andrew recently with their gleaning projects. Each year they take time to glean fields and gather remaining food items left behind after the farmers have completed their harvest.

Pictured above is Bonnie in the fields harvesting turnips with two other volunteers on a brisk winter morning. Approximately 965 pounds of healthy and delicious turnips were collected and distributed to 8 different feeding agencies. The turnips are then given out to many families in need of food assistance at this time of year.

If you might be interested in helping next year or would like more information, please contact Bonnie or call the church office.





Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Buying Guide

January – small stuffed animals/dolls (*Barbies or dolls similar in size to Barbies*)

February – toothbrush covers/holders; plastic soap holders

March – washcloths, hair accessories (*combs, brushes, ties, etc.*)

April – Barbie-like dolls, Matchbox-like cars

May – coloring books; activity books

June – tennis/small playground balls, plastic reusable drinking cups

July – travel-size games, small puzzles

August – crayons, colored pencils

September – “wow” items (slinky, small lego sets, small toys, etc.)

October – donations towards the shipping costs



We give special thanks and appreciation for the many that have volunteered their time and helped in so many ways with the following ministries of Union Church taking place during the month of December: *Decorating the Sanctuary; the Mitten Tree Ministry; Christmas Food Boxes; Chrismon Trees; Poinsettias; “Walk of Warmth & Light” Event; Advent Readers & Candle Lighting; Special Music; Mitten Tree Shoppers, Wrappers, and Delivery Volunteers; Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes; Love Gifts to our Pastor; “Feed the Troops” Desserts; “Wreaths Across America”; Blue Holiday and Christmas Eve Services, and much more.*

We love and appreciate our Bridgeville Community and Union Church Family and Friends for helping to make this Christmas a special time of year as we celebrated the birth of our Savior.





**The Methodist Women's group
will meet for lunch on
Saturday, Jan. 10th
11:30am**

Join us at the Stargate Diner in Seaford for lunch and fellowship as we look ahead to what's in store for 2026.

Call the church office and let us know if you will be able to join with us.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

Saturday
Jan. 10th
8:00 AM

Join us at the
Golden Eagle Diner
in Seaford.
All are Welcome
— bring a friend!

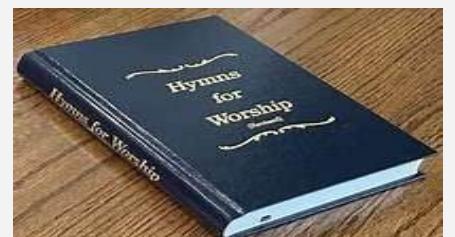


FEED THE TROOPS 2025



USED HYMNALS

Union has dozens of hymnals that are no longer needed or are in use but may be of great use in another place of worship. Feel free to take the hymnals if you, or someone you know, could make use of them. The hymnals are free and are currently located in the vestibule when you enter the Sanctuary from Laws Street.



GOD'S TORCH



Under Jeff Allen's leadership, our new graduate/young adult group will currently be meeting monthly at his home. Contact Jeff for additional information about this ministry. We're excited about this new fellowship opportunity for our young adults.



MID-WEEK



Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7:30pm for Session #3 as we fellowship mid-week to "Recharge".

Session #3 is planned for 5 weeks: *January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and Feb. 4th.*



We'll conclude Session #3 with an All-Church Family Night on Feb. 11th.

Session #4: March 4th—April 15th



Each Recharge gathering will **begin at 6pm with dinner**. At 6:30pm, adults will choose to participate in a Bible Study or a variety of workshops/activities. The children will receive biblical instruction through storytelling, arts and crafts, and music. The evening ends with a brief devotion and prayer concluding by 7:30pm.



Our new children's "wiggle worship" time held during the morning worship service is open for children in Kindergarten up through 4th Grade. **Check it out!**

1st Sunday—Rick Orwig

2nd Sunday—Jill Jackson

3rd Sunday—Crystal Brock

4th Sunday—Melissa Mitchell



MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



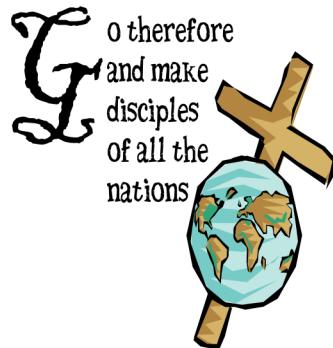
Lance & Laura Ostman *[Mindinao, Philippines]*

Mercy Projects—David & Dottie LaCompte
[The Caucasus, Armenia]

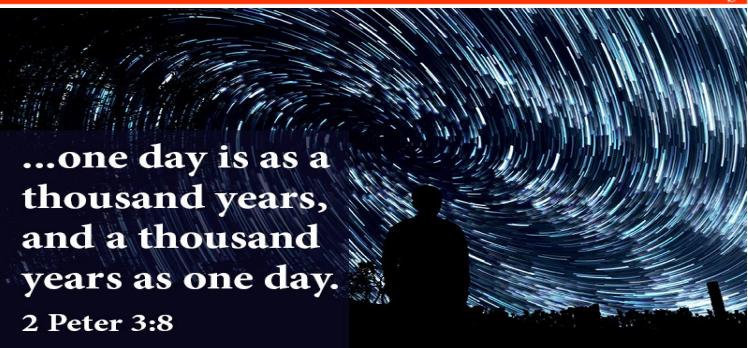
Mercy Projects—Treasures of the Nation Children's Center
[Kyiv, Ukraine]

Amadeus & Masha DeKastle *[Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan]*
[Prayer Support only]

Union Church Supports
Missions Around the World!

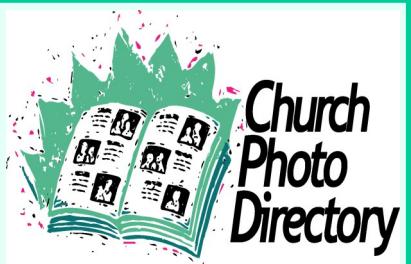


We welcome your interest in missions. Contact the church office if you would like to be a part of the Missions Committee as we provide oversight to our mission endeavors and consider future mission projects for support.



DID YOU KNOW . . . that Union Church maintains an online photo directory?

The online directory is handy to keep on your cell phone and allows you to call or text directly from the directory. Call the church office for information on how to download the app to your cell phone or to your home computer.



5—Jane Clifton; Logan Jackson

8—David Mitchell

9—Rick Orwig

10—Shirley Ray

12—Brooke Taylor

16—Susan Callaway

19—Blake Allen

20—Anita Craft

21—Josh Dittman

Marty Holmes

22—Donna Shindle

Tiffany Schutt

27—Tyler Evans

31—Kathy Carlisle



If you have a birthday and have not been listed, please contact Debbie in the Church Office so you can be included in our birthday listing. Thank You.

Watching church on a livestream is like watching a fireplace on a screen. You see it but you don't feel the warmth Go to church.



HOMEMADE SOUP & SANDWICH SALE

Wednesday, February 25, 2026



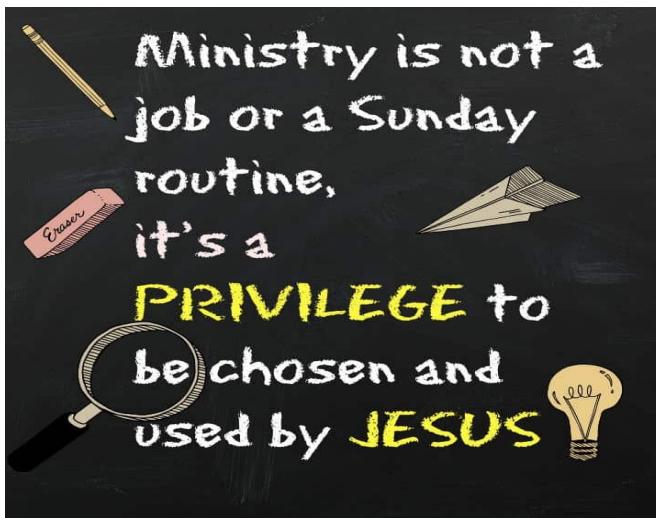
We will once again be offering boxed lunches and homemade soups for sale in February. Order forms will be available at the end of January to place your order.



Boxed Lunch: Sandwich (Ham & Swiss or Turkey & Cheese); Homemade Soup (Tomato Basil, Chicken Corn Chowder, Turkey Chili or Vegetable Beef); and a Sweet Treat.

Additional soup is also available for sale in pint and quart size containers.





~~Acolyte~~ Ministry

We are seeking children and youth (2nd Grade or higher) to light and extinguish the altar candles during a worship service.

If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact Debi Adam or call the church office.

Love INC of Mid-Delmarva

Food Needs!

Give back to those in need by donating these needed items:



- Fruit Cups
- Single-Serve Snacks
- Granola Bars
- Sandwich Bread
- Lunch Meat & Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Soup
- Cereal

love in the name of Christ

703 E King St.
Seaford, DE 19973

There are many opportunities to help our neighbors and to serve as a volunteer at Love Inc. For more information about volunteer opportunities, call the Love Inc Connection Center at 302-629-7050.

Online Giving

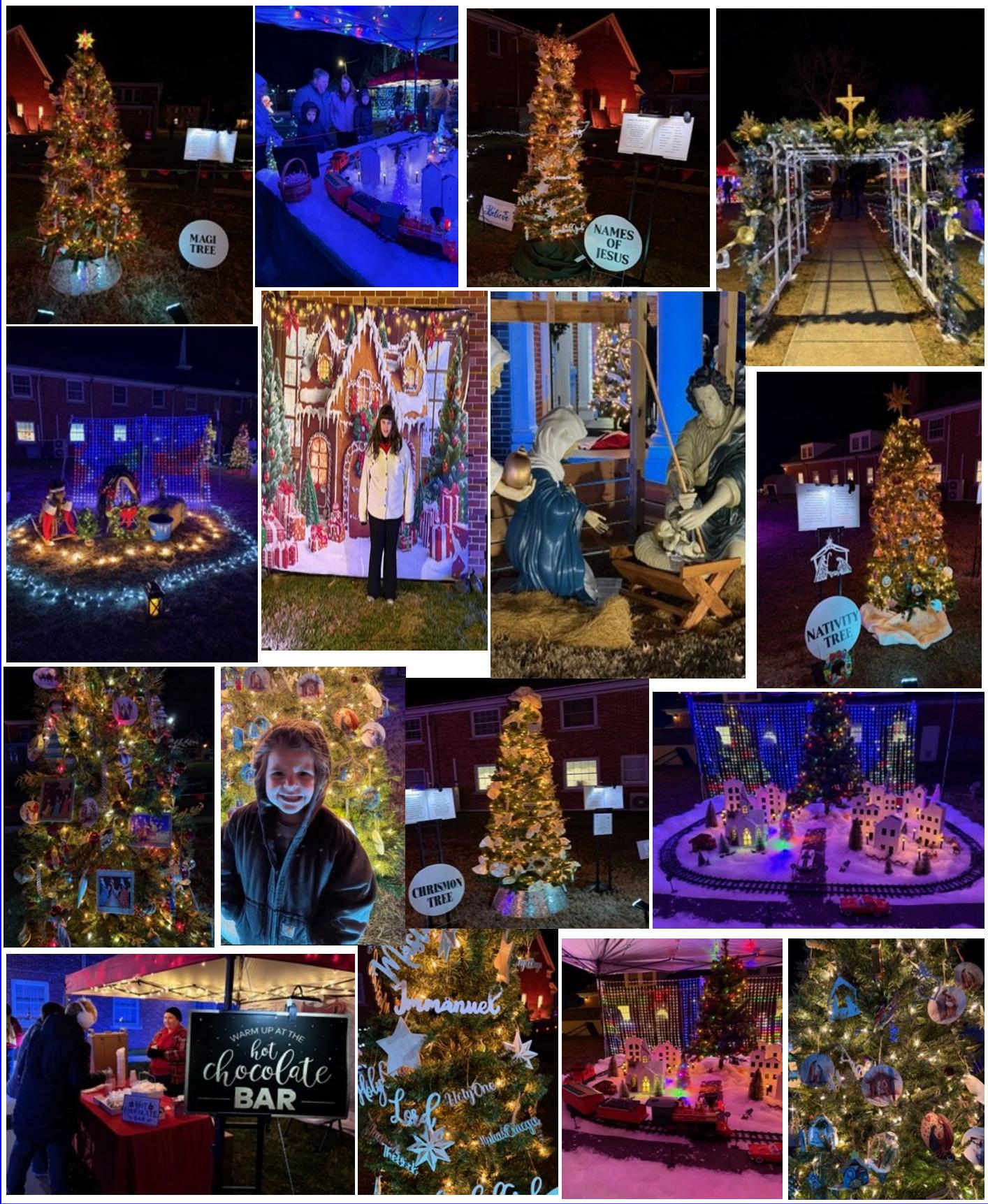
ONLINE GIVING THROUGH APPLE PAY; GOOGLE PAY; PAYPAL; OR CREDIT CARD (a 2.5% SERVICE CHARGE WILL APPLY.)

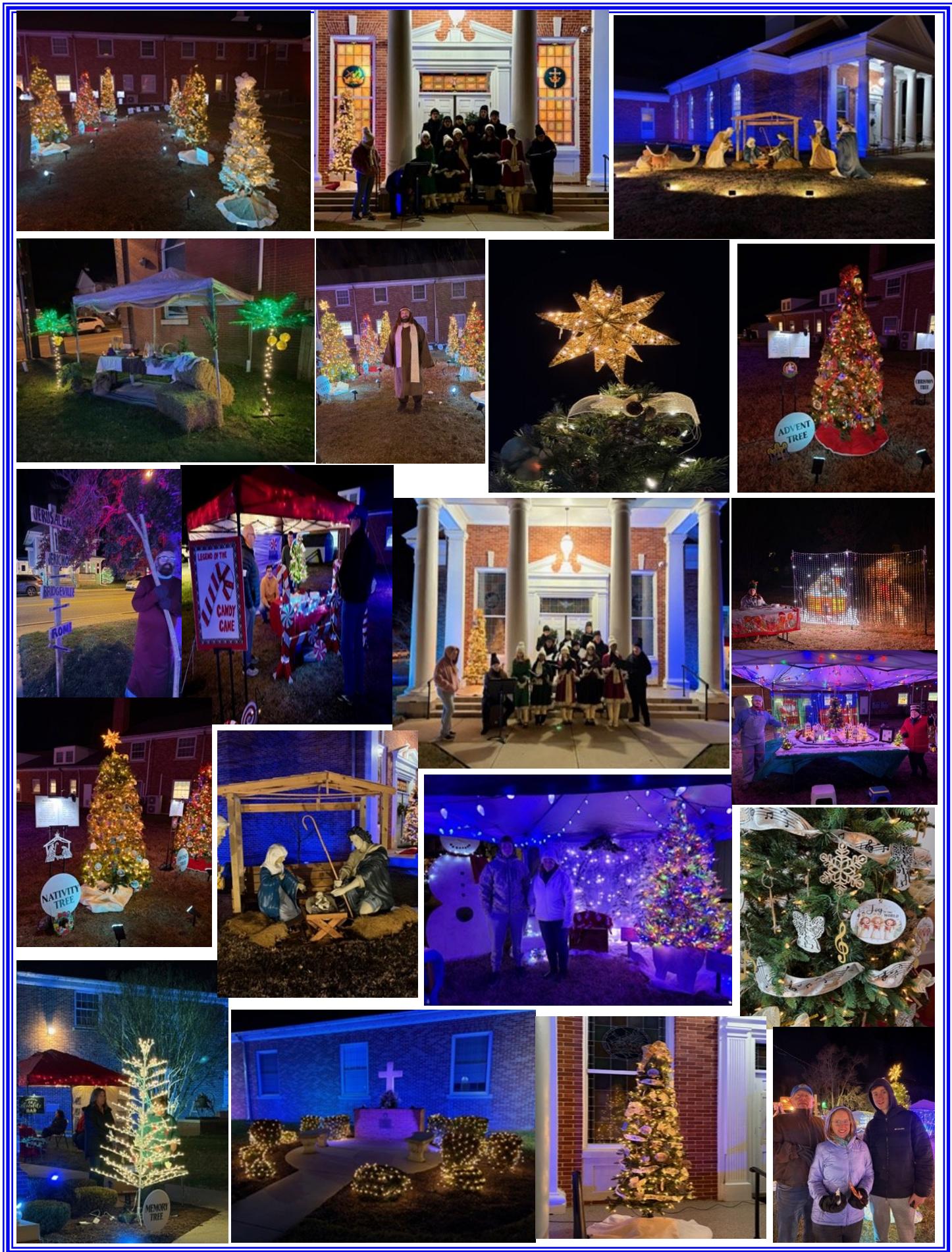
ONLINE GIVING is available through the Union Church website for the following:

Tithes & Offerings	Local & Foreign Missions
Memorial Gifts	Family Ministries Coordinator
Renovation Projects	Mitten Tree Ministry
Building Fund	Disaster Relief
Designated Giving	Special Needs
Capital Improvements	Other . . .

www.unioninbridgeville.com

"A Walk of Warmth & Light"







2026 Leadership & Committee Listing



CHURCH COUNCIL:

Church Council Chair.....Rita Hovermale [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Church Council Vice Chair.....Robin Daugherty [*1st term*-2yr.]
 Church Council Secretary.....Margaret Workman [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Church Treasurer.....Pete Stephens [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 FinanceJim Adelsperger [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Hands Ministries.....Vacant
 Head Ministries.....Dionne Keeler [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Heart Ministries.....Joanne Jones [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Lay LeaderJohn Clawson [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Methodist Men.....Larry Snyder
 Methodist Women..... Vacant
 SPRC Jeff Allen [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 Trustees Jerry Jones [*1st term* -3yrs.]
 WorshipDebi Adams [*1st term* -2yrs.]
 Christian Education (*Children/Youth*).....Vacant

ENDOWMENT: Robin Daugherty – Chair

Jerry Jones - Trustee Chair (1-3 yr. term)
 Jim Adelsperger – Finance Chair (1-3 yr. term)
 Pete Stephens – At-Large Representative (3 yr. term)
 Robin Daugherty – At-Large Representative (3 yr. term)
 Polly Mervine – At-Large Representative (3 yr. term)

FINANCE: Jim Adelsperger – Chair (*Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader; Jerry Jones - Trustee Chair; Pete Stephens-Treasurer; Sherry Holmes-Finance Secretary; Jeff Allen-SPRC Chair*)

thru 2026 Jim Adelsperger, Roger Hovermale
thru 2027 Mike Breeding, Linda Pluznick, Debbie Vogelsang
thru 2028 Garry Killmon, Melissa Mitchell

HANDS MINISTRIES: Chair – Vacant

Hands Ministries has oversight of: Military Support, College Students, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hospitality Cart, Sports Teams

HEAD MINISTRIES: Chair - Dionne Keeler

Head Ministries has oversight of: Easter Egg Hunt, God's Fire, Nursery, Church Library, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

HEART MINISTRIES: Chair - Joanne Jones

Heart Ministries has oversight of: Card Ministry, Kitchen/Casserole Committee, Christmas Food Baskets and Mitten Tree, Music Ministries

LAY LEADER: John Clawson [*Larry Grantham – Assistant Lay Leader*]

NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP: Chair: Vacant (*Ex Officio: Lay Leader - John Clawson*)

thru 2026 Roger Hovermale, Cameron Satchell

thru 2027 John Clawson, Grant Parker, Renee Parker

thru 2028 Larry Snyder

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC): Jeff Allen - Chair (*Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader*)

thru 2026 Jeff Allen, Trever Schrock, Tammy Williamson

thru 2027 Larry Grantham, Hunter Murray, Roger Hovermale

thru 2028 Keith Brock, Larry Snyder, Debbie Short

TRUSTEES: Jerry Jones – Chair

thru 2026 Aaron Jackson, Renee Parker, Larry Snyder

thru 2027 Marty Holmes, Walt Pluznick

thru 2028 Chris Keeler, Hunter Murray, Jerry Jones

WORSHIP: Debi Adams – Coordinator

Debi Adams, Libby Adams, Stephani Adams, Bev Breeding, Crystal Brock, John Clawson, Jane Clifton, Sherry Holmes, Joanne Jones, Mary Noel, Marie Robinson, Robbin Twilley, Pam Tull, Tammy Williamson

[*Communion Stewards: Chris & Stephani Adams, Keith & Crystal Brock, Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Marty & Sherry Holmes*]; [*Greeter/Usher Coordinators: Jane Clifton and Sherry Holmes*]

YOUTH COUNCIL: Logan Jackson, Jordyn Matos, Melissa Mitchell, Tiffany Short, Pam Tull

Sub-Committees & Ministries:

Audio/Video: Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Grant Parker, Karl Reighard

Bylaws: John Clawson, Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Debbie Vogelsang

Church History: Joan Hastings, Jerry & Joanne Jones, Debbie Vogelsang

College Outreach: Debi Adams and Crystal Brock

Decorating & Design: Margaret Workman, Polly Mervine, Rita Hovermale

Endowment [*Trustee Oversight:* ; Robin Daugherty (Chairperson); Jerry Jones (Trustee Chair); Pete Stephens (Treasurer); Jim Adelsperger (Finance Chair)]

Facebook Page/Social Media: Brad Schutt

God's Torch: Jeff Allen

Kitchen: Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Jerry Jones, Mary Noel, Jean Wilson, Margaret Workman

Librarian: Paula Kowalski

Marketing/Advertising: Jeff Allen, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang

Military & Veterans: Roger Hovermale; Marty Holmes

Missions (Local & Foreign): Joan Hastings, Debbie Vogelsang

Prayer Team: Rev. Martha Callaway [Coordinator], Rev. Marie Robinson, John Clawson, Walt & Linda Pluznick, Pam Tull

Projection Team: Aaron Jackson, Logan Jackson, Hunter Murray, Grant Parker, Trever Schrock

Security Team [*Trustee Oversight:* Keith Brock, Tyler Brock, John Clawson, Dennis Egner, Russ Little, Walt Pluznick, Larry Snyder

Theology: John Clawson, Marie Robinson, Martha Callaway

Visitors/New Members: Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang

What's Happening



January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 10 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 Recognition of Church Leadership & Committees
- 17 Methodist Women's Lunch Meeting, Noon
- 20 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 27 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

February

- 14 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 15 Easter Egg Sales Begin
- 16 PRESIDENTS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 17 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 19 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 25 Soup & Sandwich Boxed Lunch Sale

March

- 14 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 17 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 19 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 19-21 Egg Making
- 23-27 Egg Pick-Up
- 24 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 29 Palm Sunday

April

- 2 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- 4 Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
- 5 Easter Worship, Sunrise 6:30am, 10am
- 6 Easter Monday (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 11 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 21 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am

May

- 9 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 10 Mother's Day Celebration
- 16 Methodist Women's Luncheon Meeting, 11am
- 17 Baccalaureate Service, 10am
- 19 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 24 Recognition of Graduates & Children/Youth Sunday
- 25 MEMORIAL DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 26 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

June

- 7 Camp Staff Dedication Sunday
- 8 Summer Camp Staff Training
- 15-19 Summer Camp Week #1
- 16 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 21 Father's Day Celebration
- 22-26 Summer Camp Week #2

- Communion Service - First Sunday of each Month
- Sunday Worship Service - 10am
- Wednesday Mid-Week Recharge Gatherings - 6pm
- God's Fire Youth Group - Wednesdays 6pm
- God's Torch Young Adults Group - Monthly

What's Happening

2026

July

- 3 (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 6-10 Summer Camp Week #3
- 21 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 13-17 Summer Camp Week #4
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 28 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 20-24 Summer Camp Week #5

August

- 3-7 Summer Camp Week #6
- 10-14 Summer Camp Week #7
- 17-21 Summer Camp Week #8
- 18 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 23 All-Church Breakfast, 8am
- 23 Summer Camp Sunday

September

- Month of September – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*
- 7 LABOR DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 11 PATRIOT DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 12 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 15 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 17 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 22 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

October

- Month of October – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*
- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 9 – 10 Apple Scrapple Festival
- 12 COLUMBUS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 15 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 20 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 25 Recognition of New Members, 10am

November

- 1 Mitten Tree Collection Begins
- 1 All Saints Day Service
- 11 VETERANS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 12 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 14 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 17 SPRC Meeting, 6pm
- 17 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 19 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 22 Thanksgiving Service
- 22 Annual Business Meeting
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 27 (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 29 Hanging of the Greens Service (*1st Sunday of Advent*)

December

- 4 Blue Christmas Holiday Service, 7pm
- 12 Wreaths Across America, Noon
- 15 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 8 – 19 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Mitten Tree
- 12 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 12 Bridgeville Christmas Parade
- 17 Methodist Women's Christmas Lunch, 11am
- 18 – 19 "Walk of Warmth & Light", 6pm-8pm
- 19 Mitten Tree Delivery Day, 8:30am
- 24 Christmas Eve Silent Communion, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7pm
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)

- Communion Service - First Sunday of each Month
- Sunday Worship Service – 10am
- Wednesday Mid-Week Recharge Gatherings – 6pm
- God's Fire Youth Group – Wednesdays 6pm
- God's Torch Young Adults Group – Monthly

Union Methodist Church

2 N. Laws St.
Bridgeville, DE 19933
302-337-7409

“Building Bridges Together”
Using Our Head, Heart & Hands for Jesus

Email: uumchurch@comcast.net

Website: www.Unioninbridgeville.com



Items for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than the 25th of the month to ensure they will be included.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT UNION CHURCH**

Help is needed in the following areas—contact the church office for additional information.

Event/Activity Planning

Methodist Men & Women

Nursery Volunteers

Mid-Week Recharge Help

Christian Education (Youth/Children) Chairperson

Communion Servers

Greeters and Ushers

Special Music/Instrumentals

Hands Ministries Chairperson

Acolytes

**Sunday Worship Service Hours**

Ladies Sunday School—9:00 am

Praise & Worship Service—10:00 am

Children’s “Wiggle Worship”—10:00 am

“Son-Seekers” Adult Class—11:00 am



Monday—Friday

[Limited Office availability on Wednesdays]

9:00am to 3:00pm

Debbie Vogelsang
Office Manager

E-Mail:
uumchurch@comcast.net
Office: (302) 337-7409

**Mid-Week Recharge Gathering**

Wednesdays—6:00 pm to 7:30 pm