

# The WORD

December 2025

Volume 56 Issue 12



Westville United Methodist Church

**Communion  
December 7, 2025**

**“Reach up, Reach in, Reach out  
Reach up to God, Reach in to know  
God, Reach out in Love”**

**Sunday Morning Schedule:**

**Sunday School 9:15 am –**

**Worship in the Sanctuary 10:15am**

**Drive In Service Radio Station 91.3**

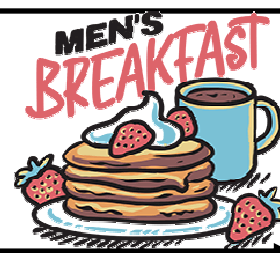


**Community Meal**

**Free Community Meal Dec. 17th  
5-6:30pm, Ham Dinner  
A message from Pastor at 6:30pm**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Dec. 20, 2025 9 am**



**Candle Light  
Service 11 pm**



**JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!!!**

**THE WORD** is a publication of Westville United Methodist Church at 154 Main St.,  
P.O. Box 619; Westville, IN 46391 (219) 785-2314

**\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9-noon /Tues.—Thurs. am**

**Our Web Address is [www.westvilleumc.org](http://www.westvilleumc.org)**

In order to go green The Word will be e-mailed to you. Be sure to e-mail your address to Jane at  
[secretarywumc@csinet.net](mailto:secretarywumc@csinet.net)

***Printed copies will continue to be available at the church for those who do not have e-mail.***



## ✠ From the Pastor's Desk – December ✠

(Westville United Methodist Church Newsletter)

### 📖 Scripture for the Season

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

— Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

### 🎄 Advent Reflection

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are reminded that Christmas is more than lights, gifts, and gatherings—it is the celebration of God's greatest gift: **Jesus Christ**. In a world filled with uncertainty, His coming assures us of hope, peace, and joy that cannot be shaken.

December is a time of reflection. We look back on the year—its blessings and its challenges—and we look forward to what God will do in the year ahead. The question for us as disciples is this:

### How will we finish this year faithfully?

Will we end 2025 with hearts surrendered to Christ, living out His love in tangible ways?

### 🙏 A Prayer for December

*Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings light into our darkness and hope into our despair. As we celebrate His birth, renew our hearts and minds so that we may live as faithful followers. Help us to love others as You have loved us, and to share the good news of Christ with joy and boldness. In His holy name we pray. Amen.*

### 🎯 Year-End Challenge: Finish Strong!

Before the clock strikes midnight on December 31, take time to:

- ✓ **Reflect** – Write down three ways you have seen God's faithfulness this year.
- ✓ **Reconnect** – Reach out to someone who needs encouragement or reconciliation.
- ✓ **Renew** – Commit to one spiritual discipline (prayer, Scripture reading, service) to begin the new year with Christ at the center.

**May this Advent season draw us closer to Him and to one another. Let us finish strong—not just as church members, but as disciples who live and love like Jesus.**

Grace and peace,

**Pastor Toby**



## **Blessings Corner ~ Celebrating the Blessings of our Pastor Toby**

WUMC celebrated our Pastor Toby through special music, a day off, with Jan presenting the message, and a fun To Tell the Truth game with several members of the congregation playing Pastor Toby impersonators. The Pastor Impersonators were: #1-Father, Husband, Full-time employee of Cleveland Cliffs Toby, #2- Cheerleader Toby, #3-Tech Worship Leader Toby, #4-Puppeteer Toby, # 6 -Shepherd Toby, #7- Seminary Student Toby, #8 Dog Lover Toby, and #9 Preacher Toby. The purpose of the game was to demonstrate the many roles that Pastor Toby has while ministering our church. Jan's message, the tributes given, and the game were meant to thank our pastor for making us a better and more faithful church. He is a blessing that enables us to be a blessing to our community!

## **Get a Blessing ~ Be a Blessing ~ Get a Blessing**

Thirteen Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to Westville families, so that they could celebrate with a traditional Thanksgiving feast!

Thank you WUMC congregation and NW Health for all the donations that made this project possible. Thank you to Jane for organizing!



**BLESSINGS  
FROM  
GOD**



### Giving for the Holiday Season



If you would like to order a Poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary, the cost is \$17.00 per flower. You may give your flower in memory or in honor of someone. Please mark you check or money in the offering plate for the flower and let me know who it is in memory or in honor of. Due by Dec. 7th

Our church has committed to donating to the community Christmas baskets sponsored by Westville Tri Kappa. We are looking for 70 jars of spaghetti sauce and 70 packages of spaghetti pasta **by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Also we will be collection hats, mittens for kids for the Christmas baskets by Dec. 7th

As a church we also want to support a local organization. Talking with the coordinator for the NEST Community Shelter they are in need of pillows and have asked for 80 standard size pillows. Currently Kohl's is running a sale of their "Big One" pillow at \$4.00 a pillow. Please deliver y our pillow donation to the church by the end of December.

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Free Community Meal – Ham Dinner 5-6:30pm**

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast 9am**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Candle Light Christmas Eve Service 11 pm**

**Join us in local missions!****Items needed for the Food Pantry:**

- 12/7 Cleaning products: laundry soap, dish soap, mopping products
- 12/14 Pastas, noodles, macaroni, sauces, Pasta sauces
- 12/21 Canned fruits and vegetables, soup
- 12/28 Crackers, Cereal, Canned Meat, Hamburger Helper

**TIME & LOCATION****Food Pantry Information:**

The American Legion is now working in cooperation with the WMC Food Pantry ministry. Please drop off donations of the above mentioned items at the Legion. **For those receiving donations, items may be picked up at the American Legion on Thursdays from 4:30—5:30.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

INFORMATION FOR THE WORD IS DUE BY Dec. 22nd IN ORDER TO BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BY Dec. 23rd AT THE LATEST. CAN BE EMAILED TO [secretarywumc@csinet.net](mailto:secretarywumc@csinet.net)



**Family Life Center is available for rental for parties and celebrations.  
Contact the church office at 219-785-2314 for more information.**

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**Save your pop cans and bring them to the church. The money earned from the can collection supports the Heifer Project.**





## Staying Current—Even the Offering Plate Got a Tech Upgrade!

We know not everyone carries a checkbook these days, and sometimes you want to give even if you can't be with us in person. To make it easier and more convenient, our church, starting November 1, 2025 will now accept donations through **PayPal**. Just scan the QR code in your Sunday bulletin or in the monthly newsletter in order to be able to give right from your phone or computer.

This is a great option for those who:

- Prefer digital payments over cash or checks
- Want to continue supporting the church while away

Like the ease of giving on the go

Of course, we will still happily accept cash and checks – this just adds another simple way to give and stay connected.

Never underestimate the blessing of your giving. Your offering helps make so much possible – not only keeping our building safe, welcoming, and up to date, but also supports our many ministries and outreach programs that extend God's love into our community. Scripture reminds us that giving is a biblical act of worship and a way to return thanks for all God has done. If you ever have any questions regarding your offering or need some help with this new choice, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will do my best to assist you in any way.

Jan Buchanan, Finance Chair



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**Trustee/Church Council Nov. 17, 2025****Trustee:**

Furnace Filters and Smoke Detector Batteries have all been changed. Furnace in Brick room needed repair. A Urinal was also repaired in the bathroom.

**Church Council:** Devotion was read by Kay

**Education:** Amanda stated that Chris Ton elementary teacher who sponsors the "Make a Difference Club" is interested in putting together a giving basket for local community families. The basket would include a pan, cake mix and DIY crafts for kids to put together. We will make arrangements to deliver these during the Christmas season. Cindy is looking for new curriculum for Sunday school class for kids. Amanda is working on some songs for the kids to sing in worship.

**Worship:** Pastor Toby is working on a series for the Advent season, "God With Us" We are still looking for a worship leader for music and etc. Kay is also looking for the music CD's for the cantata.

**Outreach** – Kathie Long is applying for a grant that is being offered through the conference. The funds would be used for helping families in need. We are looking at offering groceries monthly to families. Care & Share is up to 38 bags a week

**Resale Shop:** Open house Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-6:30pm

The Food pantry and the Benevolence fund received \$5000. Each from the resale shop.

**Financial Reports:** All was good

**SPRC:** Pastor is signing up for a Pension Plan through the UMC. Our commitment to that is 4% of his salary. Pastor shared his evaluation for himself. We will complete our evaluation and it will be turned into the district by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**New Business:** Our church will support the community Christmas baskets with 70 jars of spaghetti sauce and 70 packages of noodles that need to be delivered to the church by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. We will also supply hats and mittens for the Christmas baskets.

If people would like to give a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone they should let Jane know and pay \$17.00 per flower

We will also support the NEST Community Shelter with 80 standard size pillows they are currently on sale at Kohl's for \$4.00. We will ask the Resale Shop for a financial donation to go with the pillows.

We also want to remember those who work in our church at the Christmas season.

We should explain the QR Code for giving.

Meeting adjourned and the pastor evaluation was completed.

Health and Healing

Kelly Murphy	Kristi – Health Journey
Pete Buckmaster	Jerry Adrian
Sheryl Elliott	Lee Bently
Jayne Richards	Rita White
Bob & Sheila McCaughey	Nash & Family
Richard Lee	Donna Bunch
Hemi Ostroski	Lucas Bradshaw
Tina Dickinson	Diane Toomire
Tom & Joanne Green	Chris Wise
Colleen Parker	Donald Barrie Godwin
Kim Guill	Rylee Jackson
Jerry McCall	Kerry Cole
JoAnn McClane	Dixie
Wes	Bob Duttlinger
Amir Dupuis	Ramey Salyer
Samera Mohammed	Christopher Watson
Nancy Spudic	Dave & Sylvia
Frank Bagwell	

\*Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression

\*Unspoken Prayers \*\*Families \*\*Youth \*\*First Responders

\*\*Law Enforcement

Those suffering with addiction, poverty, &/or depression

\*Unspoken Prayers \*\*Families \*\*Youth \*\*First Responders

\*\*Law Enforcement

The Care Corner,

Adele Lundahl

All Military Personnel  
All Victims of War

Guidance & Protection

Quinn Bacon Preston Wilson  
Aaron Hale



**HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?**

**HE**  
*(cares for you)*

**PRAYER CHAIN**

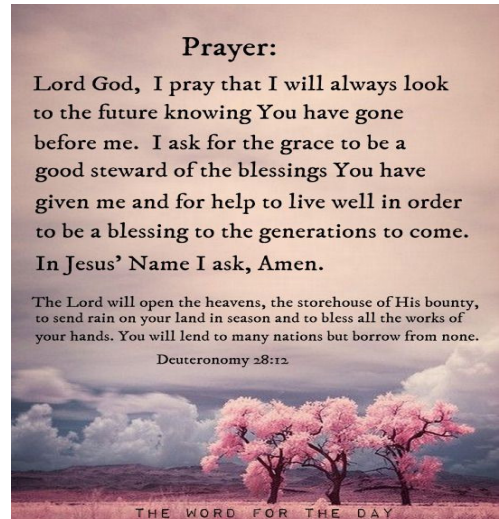
If you have a special need for prayer, the prayer chain can be activated by calling church Secretary Jane Bachman (785-2314)

**Prayer:**

Lord God, I pray that I will always look to the future knowing You have gone before me. I ask for the grace to be a good steward of the blessings You have given me and for help to live well in order to be a blessing to the generations to come. In Jesus' Name I ask, Amen.

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the works of your hands. You will lend to many nations but borrow from none.

Deuteronomy 28:12



Pastor Toby Guill maybe reached @ **219-850-3768**

Or email at **toby.guill@inumc.org**

\*\*\*\*\* **Church Office Hours** \*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 9am—noon, Tues-Thurs am**

**My hours vary, please call 219-898-3077**



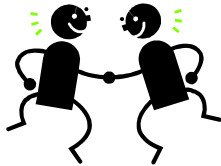
## Dec. Wedding Anniversary's

Nick & Layn Hill	1-Dec
Bob & Sheila McCaughey	20-Dec
Ray & Cheryl White	23-Dec



## Dec. Dates of Joining

12/29/2002	Leslie Daugherty
12/29/2002	Sue Daugherty
12/28/2003	Mary DeGarmo
12/28/2003	Russ GeGarmo
12/24/2000	Herb Lennartz
12/24/2000	Linda Lennartz
12/20/1981	Kay Tetzloff
12/17/2017	David McKee
12/17/2017	Sunny McKee



## WELCOME STATEMENT

"With open hearts, open minds and open doors; we welcome people of all races, nationalities theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect".

## Nov. Giving

Date	Worship SS	
11/2/2025	59	18 \$2,577.01
11/9/2025	50	15 \$1,605.01
11/16/2025	61	20 \$3,196.00
11/23/2025	50	13 \$2,783.01

## Dec. Birthdays

Amy McMahon	2-Dec
Ron Elliott	3-Dec
Elora Bachman	5-Dec
Brenda Vann	5-Dec
Aaron Hale	9-Dec
Sam Elliston	10-Dec
Doug Adkins	12-Dec
Jane Bachman	13-Dec
Cori Warnock	13-Dec
Toby Guill	14-Dec
Kristi Dabbert	16-Dec
Jon Emery	17-Dec
Holly Martin	18-Dec
Peggy VanMeter	18-Dec
Cathy Murphy	19-Dec
Carol Wyels	23-Dec
Karen Jerde	29-Dec
Warren Howard	31-Dec
Rod McLane	31-Dec



**Westville United Methodist Church**

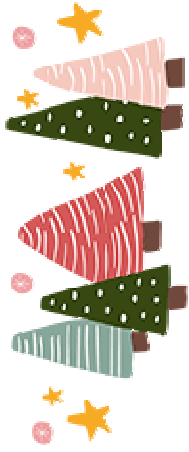
Give as the Lord calls you to give:  
be as generous to God as God has been  
to you!

*Thank you for being Faithful Givers*

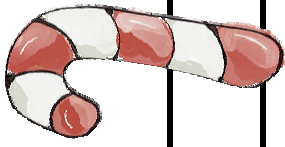
Your tithes and offerings maybe



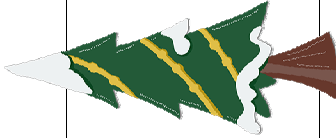


mailed to :

WUMC P O Box 619, Westville, In 46391



# December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>1</b>	 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b> RESALE SHOP 9-12	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lions Club Mtg 4pm Resale Shop 1-4pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Community Christmas Baskets
<b>7</b> Community Christmas Baskets	<b>8</b> Community Christmas Baskets	<b>9</b> Resale Shop 9-12	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Resale Shop 1-4 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Resale Shop 9-12
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> FLC Rented	<b>16</b> Resale Shop 9—12	<b>17</b> <u>Free Community Meal</u> <u>5-6:30pm—Ham Dinner</u>	<b>18</b> Resale Shop 1-4pm	 <b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Men's Breakfast Resale Shop 9-12
<b>21</b> FLC Rented	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Resale Shop 9-12	<b>24</b> Candle Light Service 11pm	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Resale Shop 9-noon
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Resale Shop 9-12	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan 1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Resale Shop 9-12 noon