

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025

Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Helen R. Oates
Prelude	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Bonnie Leonhart
Choral Introit	<i>Advent Grace</i> by Lloyd Larson	Chancel Choir
*Call to Worship - Lighting of the Advent Wreath Reader		Fred and Cindy Moore
Congregation:	With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment (Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath)	
*Hymn	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	UMH 242
Opening Prayer		Fred Moore
In a time of chaos, your Son, Jesus spoke words of peace. As the Prince of Peace, usher in your peace in the midst of mass shootings like in Rhode Island, on an Australian beach and in personal homes. Lord, people are doing battle with the Evil One. We pray that your peace and joy will win out. Amen.		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 7:10-16	Fred Moore
Words for the Young At Heart		
Joys and Concerns		
Morning Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer		
Anthem	<i>Our Lord, Emmanuel</i> by Mary McDonald	Chancel Choir

Bold print indicates words spoken in unison.
* indicates places where you may stand as able.

*Gospel Lesson	Matthew 1:18-25	
Sermon	“Signs and Wonders”	Pastor Helen
*Hymn	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Vs. 1 & 3</i>	UMH 218
Offertory	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Bonnie Leonhart
<i>Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of Stout Memorial. Those joining us online can take time to give as well. Giving can be done on our website at www.stoutmemorial.org/give.</i>		
*Doxology	UMH 94	
*Prayer of Dedication		
We bring these gifts before you, O God, and dedicate them to your glory. Take our offerings and multiply as you did the fish and loaves so that there is enough to fulfill our ministry as church in this place. And help us to be faithful during the chaos moments of our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.		
*Hymn	<i>Shine, Jesus Shine</i>	FWS 2173
*Benediction		
*Postlude	<i>Let There Be Peace on Earth</i>	Bonnie Leonhart

UMH—United Methodist Hymnal (*red hymnal*)
FWS—The Faith We Sing (*black hymnal*)

Congregational Appreciation

The Altar Guild is thankful for all who have given flowers in honor or in memory of those in their lives. Thank you for making our church look extra special for Christmas.

If you would like to help place flowers on the Altar, consider a donation to the flower fund. The altar guild would like to invite you to sponsor the altar flowers. Each vase costs \$25. When you sponsor the altar flowers, you may do so in memory or in honor of someone or a special event or anniversary. Go to stoutmemorial.org/altarflowers for more information.

The Stout Memorial Altar Flower ministry needs smiling faces to deliver Sunday flowers. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome desk in the Gathering space along with directions for delivery. Presenting flowers helps to create smiles.

Our Mission:

We exist to see all people find Hope, Healing, and Wholeness through Jesus Christ.

from Bishop's book Advent in Four Words

"She challenges us to recognize love not only as sentiment but as action—love that risks, love that forgives, love that seeks out the forgotten and the outsider. In a world where love is often conditional, she helps us see the radical, redeeming love of God that is freely given, calling us to respond with lives shaped by compassion, justice, and presence". page 4

"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still."

- Corrie ten Boom



How

STOUT MEMORIAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3329 Broad Street | Parkersburg | West Virginia | 26104
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December 21, 2025— Traditional Worship 10:45 AM

Ministers

The congregation

Pastor

Helen R. Oates

Ministers through Music

Terri Bush ~ *Choir Director*

Bonnie Leonhart ~ *Organist*

Ministers Through Service

Andrew Mommessin ~ *Sound Coordinator*

Sarah Sisson—*Communications Director*

Danny Stemple—*IT Specialist*