

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Joy to the World

Choral Introit

Advent Grace
by Lloyd Larson

*Call to Worship - Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader

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

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

Opening Prayer

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

Our Lord, Emmanuel
by Mary McDonald

Chancel Choir

Bold print indicates words spoken in unison.

* indicates places where you may stand as able.

Rev. Helen R. Oates

Bonnie Leonhart

Chancel Choir

Fred and Cindy Moore

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"Signs and Wonders"

Pastor Helen

*Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Vs. 1 & 3

UMH 218

Offertory

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bonnie Leonhart

*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.*

*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

Shine, Jesus Shine

FWS 2173

*Benediction

*Postlude

Let There Be Peace on Earth

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*