

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*

Stout Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.stoutmemorial.org



Thank you for sharing Poinsettias and Christmas Cactuses with the church family this year.

Remember you can take yours home or give to another after tonight's service.



Christmas Eve Service

Stout Memorial United Methodist

December 24, 2025—11:00 p.m.

Behold! The Light has come into the World!

Welcome	Pastor Helen Oates
Prelude	Bonnie Leonhart
*Call to Worship—Lighting of the Christ Candle	Debby Matheny

Reader:
Congregation: We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.
(Lighting the center, Christ candle)

Bill Smith

*Hymn	<i>The First Noel Vs. 1 & 2</i>	UMH 245
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Opening Prayer
Light of the World: you gave us the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path. Yet we confess that we shut our eyes to the light. We admit that we do not want to see the gift you have given us. We are often dazzled by the glitter and tinsel the world has made of Christ’s birth. We ask that your Spirit be lit within us, that we might share your gifts of peace and justice with all people. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Debby Matheny

Anthem	<i>Come, Jesus, Heavenly Light</i>	Chancel Choir
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Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 9:2,6-7	Debby Matheny
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A Carol Sing pick out your favorite Christmas Carol between UMH 216—251

*Gospel Lesson	John 1:1-5
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A Gift Box

The Nativity Story

Meditation	“It’s a Choice—Believe!”	Pastor Helen
Special Music	<i>Come You Unfaithful</i> by Boggs and Nichols	Roger & Terri Bush

Service of Holy Communion—God’s Gift to Us

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ’s Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world, rejoicing, ready to share your love with people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Candle Lighting Service**

(To prevent dripping wax, please hold lit candles upright and tip the unlit candle into the flame.. Ushers will come to the altar to receive the light and then share the light.)

***Affirmation of Light**

1 John 1:5

Pastor: And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you: God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

People: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

*Hymn	<i>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</i>	UMH 239
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***Benediction**

*Postlude	Bonnie Leonhart
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(As you leave the sanctuary, you will have a place to put candles and your trash. Please keep your ornament as a visible reminder that every time a bell rings, you are reminded of God’s gift to you in Jesus and that you receive him with joy.)