

BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Steeple Talk

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS 2024

Worship and Bible Study Opportunities

Bread of Life Sunday School Class • Library • Sundays at 9:30 AM • Rev. Jim Lang

Faith, Family and Friends Class • Parlor • Sundays at 9:30 AM • Rev. Ben Randolph and Christa Randolph

Lectionary Bible Study • Library • Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 AM • Rev. Jim Lang, Rev. George Bramble

Sisters Bible Study • Fowler Heritage Room • Fridays from 8:30-9:30 AM • Monica Garner

WONDERS OF WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHOIRS

Theme: COME HEAR AND SEE UNDER THE STORY TELLING TREE

Parables - Seeds, Rocks, Lost & Found, Holy Spirit

Wonders of Worship, children (age 3 – 5th grade) meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 every week. We will gather around the STORYTELLING TREE and HEAR parables, stories which Jesus told.

We will SEE artwork in our church Sanctuary, carvings in the choir loft and the stained-glass windows, which will help us to grow in faith.



APRIL Verse to Ponder: **Matthew 13:16**

"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."

PARABLES / SCRIPTURES FOR APRIL - Seeds and Rocks

April 14 The Sower and the Seed: Mark 4:3-9

April 21 The House Built on the Rock: Matthew 7:24-27

April 28 The Mustard Seed: Matthew 17:20

CHOIR RECOGNITION (Breakfast, Awards, Sing for worship.)

MAY Verse to Ponder: **Luke 19:10**

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."

PARABLES / SCRIPTURES FOR MAY - Lost & Found, Holy Spirit

May 5 Lost Coin: Luke 15:8-10

May 12 Lost Lamb: Matt. 18:12-14

May 19 PENTECOST

May 26 Final Class before Summer. Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32

Mark your calendars. Vacation Bible School 2024

will be held on Sunday through Tuesday, July 21, 22, and 23 from 6:00-8:00 pm each evening. Our theme will be

"Trading Places: Where Jesus Makes a World of Difference."

Make plans for your children ages 3 and up to join us!

Look for more details - including opportunities for you to serve - soon!



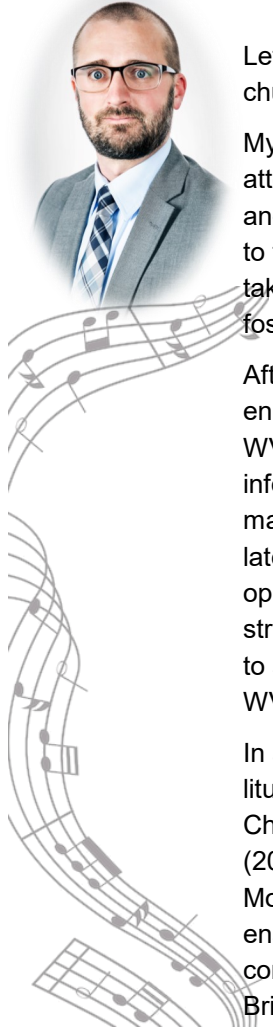
Church camp for all ages!



This year we are highlighting the wonderful spiritual growth opportunities available for all ages through our United Methodist camping center at Spring Heights. Please consider signing up for one of these.

The church can provide some scholarship help for those who attend. Go to springheights.org for complete information and to register!

Welcome to our new organist...Brett Miller!



Let me start with how thrilled and privileged I am to be joining the staff of Bridgeport UMC. This church has a long tradition of quality music and I look forward to helping carry that forward!

My name is Brett Miller and I have lived in Buckhannon since I moved there from Lancaster, PA to attend West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2002. I graduated in 2006 with dual degrees in religion and music performance (clarinet). It was also at Wesleyan where I had three special opportunities: to take up organ with Dr. Melody Meadows; to sing in choirs conducted by Dr. Larry Parsons; and to take a choral conducting class taught by Sarah Carr Parsons. All these experiences (and people) fostered a love of sacred and choral music which continues to this day.

After a minor post-graduation existential career crisis, I took a job at the Wesleyan library in 2007, enrolled in library school at a certain regionally unpopular university in western Pennsylvania (ask a WVU football fan if you aren't sure which one), and graduated with a master's degree in library and information science in 2011. My specialization was in archives, preservation, and records management and I was named Wesleyan's first official archivist in its history upon graduation. I was later named the director of the Wesleyan library in 2017. After four years, I was offered an opportunity to move into the private sector as the Director of Research at Orion Strategies, a strategic communications and government relations firm based out of Buckhannon. I also continue to serve as the Methodist archivist of the West Virginia Annual Conference, based out of WV Wesleyan.

In addition to my day jobs, I've been fortunate to have opportunities to foster my love of worship, liturgy, and music. I spent almost eight years (2008-2015) as the organist of First Presbyterian Church in Buckhannon before joining the staff at First UMC, Clarksburg for another seven years (2016-2024; first as organist and then as music director). I also serve as the Dean of the Monogahela Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and continue to sing with various choral ensembles throughout the region. I'm really pleased to be "back on the bench" in a strong singing congregation and I'm excited for the opportunity to find creative ways to enhance worship here at Bridgeport. Thanks, all, for your warm welcome so far and I look forward to getting to know more of



United Women in Faith - Collecting Rummage Sale Items!

Donations: We are accepting donations May 1-May 29. Please leave your items inside the gymnasium doors between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday. PLEASE, clean and working items only. If you won't use it, don't donate it. NO tires, electronics, paint, used socks, under garments.

~Volunteers - We need anyone willing to donate a few hours sorting donations through the month of May and need help putting out the sale items, cashiers and baggers. Contact Cheryl Bramble at nfldteach@aol.com or 304-969-9492 if you would be able to help in any way!

Collection

GRADUATION RECOGNITION We are recognizing the **Class of 2024** on May 19th during our 10:45 AM Worship Service. If you know of a senior who has not received a letter from the church, please call the Church Office at 304.842.6284. Please email or drop off your senior photo and information as soon as possible.



With Thanks... for the generosity and faithfulness of the congregation in supporting the share/apportionment covenant and how thankful I am to serve with all of you in the name of Jesus.

–Neil Leftwich, Northern District Area Superintendent.