

WATCH BRIDGEPORT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH ONLINE

The service is streamed live at 10:45 AM, on Sundays, and is archived online for later viewing as well. Share this with persons you know who are out of town or unable to attend our Worship Service in person. **Visit the Church Website at** www.bridgeportumc.org and click “Watch Online”.

REVIVE RECOVERY meets each Wednesday at 6:30 PM at our Johnson Avenue Campus.

ANGEL TREE CHILDREN If you adopted a child this year, please drop your items off by Dec. 15 in the Narthex if dropping off Sunday. If dropping off any other weekday, please bring to office. Thanks!

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM: A NOT-SO-SILENT NIGHT!

Everyone is invited—individuals, families, and all ages—**TONIGHT**, Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 PM for our interactive walk-through of the Nativity story! With playful storytelling, audience participation, favorite carols, and fun surprises, this will be an evening filled with laughter, wonder, and worship. We’ll end in the Fellowship Hall with hot chocolate and cookies. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus in a creative and memorable way!

ADVENT THURSDAYS: A SERVICE OF REFLECTION & COMMUNION

December 11, and 18 – 7:00 PM in the Intermediate Chapel (Sanctuary Overflow) In the busyness of December, Christ invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and watch for his coming. Join us on the three Thursdays of Advent for *In the Stillness: A Reflective Service of Word, Prayer, and Communion*. Each week, we will gather for a quiet, unhurried time of Scripture, prayer, song, and Holy Communion as we make room in our hearts for God-with-Us — the One who comes to us in the manger, in the mystery, and in the meal. Come as you are. Come and find rest.

ALL YOUTH AND CHILDREN (Pre K 3-12th grade)

“God with Us...in a Manger!”

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 7, 4:30-6:00 PM

DRESS REHEARSAL ALL ATTEND

Sunday, Dec. 14 **“God with Us...in a Manger!”** presented at the 10:45 AM Worship Service.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to send cards to persons in our congregation, there is a list on the back table. Please bring them back by December 10 and someone from our church will deliver them.

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-7

Monday: Colossians 4:2-6

Tuesday: Matthew 14:22-33

Wednesday: Mark 9:14-29

Thursday: James 4:6-10

Friday: John 14:15-27

Saturday: Matthew 18:1-5

Breath Prayer This Week

Dear Jesus, thank you for reminding us to trust and follow the path you set for us. Amen.

CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY MINISTRY FOOD BASKET

is an opportunity to help members of our community by providing a complete Christmas Adopt a Family Basket for one of the many families in need. Look for the display in the Narthex detailing the household size and the items needed. Drop off for the basket will be Monday, December 22 from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND BIBLE STUDIES

Adult Sunday School Classes:

Bread of Life SS/Library/9:30AM

Faith, Family, Friends/Parlor/9:30 AM

Youth SS/Education Building/9:30 AM

Young Explorers SS/ages 3-5th grade/

Primary Chapel/9:30 AM

Nursery Care/Infant-2 year old/

Nursery/9:30 AM

Children’s Church Ages 5 thru 5th grade/10:45 AM/Children’s Church room, back of Sanctuary

Lectionary Bible Study/Thursdays/ Library/10:00 AM

Bible Study/Sanctuary

overflow/Thursdays/7:00 PM

L.I.F.E. Bible Study/Johnson Ave.

Campus/Tuesdays/ 7:30 PM

AVAILABLE SERVICES—ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE

6:15 PM SATURDAY EVENINGS, infants

through age 5, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel

8:30 Service Childcare - infants-5 years, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel

10:45 Service Childcare - infants-2 years, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel

10:45 Service Childcare for 2, 3 & 4 yr.

olds, Educ. Bldg. - 1st room on right

10:45 Children’s Church - ages 5-5th grade, Children’s Church Room

Large Print Hymnals at main entrance to the Sanctuary

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 6, 2025

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Renee Warner, pianist

*HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.

~ Please visit our website, bridgeportumc.org for regular updates.

WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

MESSAGE

God with Us...in Our Preparing

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN

All Earth Is Waiting

UMH 210

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH AND POSTLUDE

Child Care is available for infants – 5 years old in the Nursery in the back hallway by the Chapel

*Indicates standing as able.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ JOHNSON AVENUE

December 7, 2025

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris

Advent Litany and Candle Lighting

Growing in the Word

*Scripture

Matthew 3:1-12

Today’s Message

God with Us...in Our Preparing

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

Glorifying God Through Communion and Response

Holy Communion

(This sacrament or “Holy Covenant” is a way of visibly remembering God’s Sacrificial Love given in Christ Jesus and receiving his grace anew.)

Going Forth to Share and Serve

Ministry Stewardship and Opportunities

*Closing Song

*Benediction and Sending Forth

*Indicates standing as able.

TITHES &
OFFERINGS



SIMPLY
SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO GIVE

FIRST TIME USERS, **SIGN UP**
FOR AN ACCOUNT OR
GIVE ANONYMOUSLY.
ESTABLISHED USERS **LOGIN**.
THOUGHTFULLY **GIVE**.

Bridgeport United Methodist Church

December 7, 2025 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM



WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE VISION OF “MATTHEW 25”

We are a community of faith focused on being in ministry with and for the least, the last, the lonely, and the left out. Jesus said, “When you do it to the least of these, you do it unto me” (Matthew 25:40). This is our primary work. Please join us as we strengthen ourselves for the task in worship, prayer, and study and then go forth to serve in Matthew 25 Ministries.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDES

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel
Shepherd’s Pipe Carol
I Saw Three Ships

arranged Walter Blanton
Rutter, arr. John Schooley
arranged Luther Henderson

As we gather, we are mindful of our Maplewood Worship Service.
Today’s leader is Rick Curtis.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

ALL: We come to ready our hearts for Christ’s coming.

Reader: Turn from all that leads us away from God; turn toward the One whose kingdom draws near.

ALL: God is with us in our preparing – calling us to repentance, renewal, and hope.

Reader: The Lord comes with fire and with Spirit.

ALL: We welcome the One who cleanses, restores, and makes us new.
Come, Lord Jesus. Prepare your way in us.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Reader: God of the wilderness and the way, you call us to prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming. Clear out what is cluttered, soften what is stubborn, and awaken in us the hope of your kingdom.

By your Spirit, turn us toward the light of Christ and make us ready to welcome the One who comes with fire, with mercy, and with new life.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Prepare your way in us. Amen.

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*HYMN OF WORSHIP

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader: In the wilderness, John the Baptist cried out: “Prepare the way of the Lord!” Preparation is holy work — clearing the clutter, making room for grace, opening our hearts.

ALL: In our preparing, God is with us. Christ comes to level the mountains and straighten the paths of our lives.

Reader: Today we light the Candle of Peace. Not a quiet peace that ignores the world’s need, but the peace that comes from turning toward God and making space for Christ to reign.

ALL: Prepare us, Lord. Make smooth what is rough and make ready what is restless.

Reader: We light this candle as a sign that *God is with us... in our preparing*. (Light the first and second candles.)

ALL: Prince of Peace, prepare our hearts for your coming. Amen.

Refrain:
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait.
Truly our hope is in You.
Truly our hope is in You.

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines
on all who look to You in the dark.
Emmanuel, come, come light our hearts.
[Refrain]

O Joy above, all other loves,
in You we find, more than enough.
We come as we are; O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts [Refrain]

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WORD IN MUSIC **Lord, Speak to Me** Richard Shephard; Frances Havergal, alt.
(10:45 Children K-5th Grade only may leave for Children’s Church.
Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.)

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought us, let me seek your wayward children, lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand and show your ways in word and deed.

O teach me Lord, that I may teach, the precious things that you impart,
and send my words that they may reach the hidden depths of ev’ry heart.

O use me Lord, use even me, though still a child my gifts I bring;
until thy blessed face I see in heav’nly light, my God and King.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 3:1-12**
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PRAYER **Breathe on Me, Breath of God** (verse 3) UMH 420

MESSAGE **God with Us...in Our Preparing** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE **Blessed Be the God of Israel** UMH 209

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON
ALL: God of the wilderness and the way, we confess that our lives are not always ready for your kingdom. Forgive us, cleanse us, and prepare your way in us, that we may welcome Christ with repentant and hopeful hearts.
Silent prayer.

Reader: Hear the good news: In Christ, God comes near with mercy and with grace. All who turn to the Lord are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God, whose love prepares the way for us.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ~ Please fill out a prayer card if desired and place it in an offering basket.
- ~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.
- ~ Please visit our website, bridgeportumc.org to check for regular updates.

*DOXOLOGY **Doxology for Advent** (Tune: VENI EMMANUEL)

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Responses UMH 17 & 18



BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arranged by Charles Evans

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Prepare your way in our hearts and send us out in hope, ready For the coming of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN **Heralds of Christ** UMH 567

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE **Glory to God** Handel, arr. Chuck Seipp

Ministering in the Service: Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir;
Tom Price – liturgist; Rev. Sarita Robinson – Associate Pastor; Handbells -
Jennifer Murray and Orian Post; West Virginia Brass Quintet: Matthew Barabas,
trumpet; Matt Diehl, trumpet; Andy Scott, horn; Brian Plitnik, trombone; Logan
Lindsey, tuba

Flowers on the Altar are given in memory of their parents, Brud and Janice
Murray and Fred and Betty Conley, by Roger and Mary Ann Murray.

Christian Sympathy to Debbie Nicholson on the death of her father,
James "Jim" Marks.

You are invited to come and see the
Children’s Christmas Presentation
“God with us...in a Manger”
Sunday, December 14th at the 10:45 AM
Worship Service



Growing in Grace in 2026

As followers of Christ, we are called to “serve one another with whatever gift each has received” (1 Pet. 4:10). This season, we celebrate how God’s grace is growing through the ministries of Bridgeport United Methodist Church — in worship, discipleship, mission, and service. Commitment Cards have been mailed out, and additional cards are available in the Narthex and pew racks so everyone can participate as they feel led. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment for 2026 and return your Commitment Card by placing it in the offering basket, mailing it to the church, or completing it online at bridgeportumc.org. Together, we are *Growing in Grace* — rooted in Christ, bearing fruit for the world!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24

6:00 PM Living Nativity with Candlelight
8:30 PM Holy Communion with Candlelight
11:00 PM Candlelight Worship with full choirs.
Nursery Care (up to 3 years old)
available at 6:00 PM and 8:30 PM

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (December 7 – December 14)		
SUNDAY		
8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
9:30 AM	Young Explorers SS (Pre K3-5th)	Primary Chapel
9:30 AM	Youth Sunday School	Education Building
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Children’s Handbells	Balcony
4:30 PM	Cherub Choir	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Jubilate Singers	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00–7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth will not meet	Education Building
6:00 PM	Journey to Bethlehem Service	Sanctuary
MONDAY		
7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery
TUESDAY		
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting will not meet	Fowler Heritage Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men’s Meeting	Johnson Ave. Campus
6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus
WEDNESDAY		
6:30 PM	Revive Recovery	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY		
7:00 AM	Men’s Prayer and Coffee	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare	Nursery
10:00 AM	Lectionary Class	Library
6:00 PM	Sweet Hour of Prayer	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Advent Service	Back of Sanctuary
FRIDAY		
7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
8:30 AM	Sister’s Bible Study	Fowler Heritage Room
SATURDAY		
6:15 PM	Saturday Evening Service	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, December 14		
8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service/Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Children’s Handbells will not meet	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth will not meet	Education Building

Each year at Christmas we place poinsettias on the altar and in the sanctuary. The Worship Team will purchase enough to adorn our Sanctuary and the remaining monies will go to support hunger ministries within our area. If you would like to place a poinsettia(s) in memory of or in honor of someone special to you, you can place an order by filling out an envelope found in the Narthex and placing it in the offering basket. Deadline to place your order is **Dec. 9. Price is \$12.00.** Make Checks payable to BUMC.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____