

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King;
His love endures forever!
For He is good, He is above all things;
His love endures forever!
Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
His love endures forever!
For the life that’s been reborn,
His love endures forever!
Sing praise, sing praise;
Sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus: Forever God is faithful;
Forever God is strong;
Forever God is with us;
Forever, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun,
His love endures forever.
And by the grace of God, we will carry on;
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise;
Sing praise, sing praise. [Chorus]

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At 10:45, children in grades K-5 are invited to Children’s Church during the Hymn of Praise. Nursery care and classroom locations are listed in the bulletin announcements.

MESSAGE

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

STORIES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING: *EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW*

Treachery in the Vineyard Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Gracious and loving God, you have entrusted us with the abundance of your creation and called us to bear the fruits of your kingdom.

ALL: Yet too often, we forget that all we have belongs to you.

Reader: We cling to your gifts as though they were ours alone.

ALL: We seek our own way and resist your voice when it challenges us.

Reader: You call us to lives of love and compassion, but we turn away from those in need.

ALL: You call us to lives of justice and mercy, but we settle for comfort and convenience.

Reader: You call us to bear good fruit, but too often our lives yield little of what you desire.

ALL: Forgive us, O God. Break through our stubbornness, open our hearts to your grace, and renew us by your Spirit, that our lives may bear the fruits of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Even when we turn away from God, God’s love never gives up on us. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers us forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

LIVING THE MISSION

Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.

Prayer cards are available and may be placed in an offering basket.

You may give online, mail your donation to the church, or place your offering in a basket at the entryway.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

UMH 95

MOMENTS OF GUIDED PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for your steadfast love endures forever. You created the heavens and the earth and filled your world with the abundance of your goodness. You made us in your image and entrusted your creation to our care, calling us to lives of justice, mercy, and love.

When your people were enslaved, you led them into freedom. You established your covenant with them, gave them your commandments, and sent your prophets to call them back to faithfulness.

Though your people repeatedly turned away, your love never failed.

Though your messengers were rejected, you did not abandon the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal your Kingdom and restore your creation. He came proclaiming good news to the poor, healing the broken, welcoming the outcast, and calling all people into the abundance of your grace.

Though he was rejected and crucified, you raised him from the dead. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone, and through his resurrection you have opened the way to forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life.

ALL: For your faithfulness that never fails, your mercy that never ends, and your love that overcomes even death, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Lord of the Dance

UMH 261

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Festival Postlude on “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

(WESTMINSTER ABBEY) George Towers

Ministering in the Service: Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Amelia Hughes – soloist, Rev. Sarita Robinson – Associate Pastor

Stewardship Note:

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
Yes! We’re the church together!

In thinking of the blessings that I have “freely received” at the Bridgeport United Methodist Church, this song comes to mind. I think first of the gift of this wonderful building from Michael Late Benedum. But then, I think of the blessings my daughters received when listening to Dwight Fowler tell stories about Mr. Benedum’s vision for this church, the people and the town of Bridgeport.

We have been members of BUMC for more than 40 years. Inside these walls, our daughters were Baptized, grew up through the Preschool, Sunday School, Choirs, Children’s Church, VBS and Youth Fellowship because this Church Family found these programs important.

We have “freely received” music of encouragement, and from the pulpit – the promise of the Gift of God’s Grace, and the vision that He has for us. I have “received” wisdom from our elders, as well as from our tiny children. I have “received” friendship, support, encouragement, lessons and a sense of belonging, both here and afar.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (October 25 - November 1)		
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
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym
MONDAY		
7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery
TUESDAY		
10:00 AM	Staff 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	Bible Study	Sanctuary Overflow
FRIDAY (Office Closed)		
7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Sister’s Bible Study	Fowler Heritage Room
SATURDAY		
6:15 PM	Saturday Evening Service	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, November 1		
8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor WILL NOT MEET
9:30 AM	Young Explorers SS (Pre K3-5th)	Primary Chapel
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells	Children’s Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

I get to watch the Scriptures in action as our congregation quietly assists through faithful giving, presence, Bible study, prayers and service – and support worship and mission in our own community, and across the world with programs such as UMCOR.

Just as God asks us to be good stewards of all He has given us, we are also asked to be good stewards -- caretakers of our Church and Church Family.

The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple,
The church is not a resting place, the church is the people!

Gratefully,
Jenny Lawson

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. 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.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY — JUDGES – Heroes and villains. Faith and failure. Violence and grace. And a time when “everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” Join us on Thursday, at 7:00 PM, in the Sanctuary Overflow as we journey through one of the Bible’s most fascinating –and troubling—books.

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT! Sunday, November 8, from 5:00–7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Let the games begin! Join us for our next Second Sundays gathering: a fun evening of games, food, laughter, and fellowship for all ages! Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share. We'll provide hot dogs, drinks, and plenty of games, including giant games and special activities for preschoolers and younger children. Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone! Come for the whole evening or drop in anytime. Invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome, and you don't need to bring anything to join the fun!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus’ call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: “Freely you have received; freely give.” — Matthew 10:8 God’s generosity invites our grateful response. Please prayerfully consider your 2027 commitment to Bridgeport UMC’s ministries and mission. We will dedicate our commitments during worship next weekend, October 31–November 1. Return cards by mail, in the offering baskets, or online at bridgeportumc.org. Additional cards are available at the back of the Sanctuary; ask an usher for assistance.

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Exodus 2:1-10

Monday: Isaiah 43:1-7

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-10

Wednesday: Psalm 86:1-12

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 16:12-27

Friday: Genesis 12:1-8

Saturday: Ephesians 4:20-24

Breath Prayer This Week

Dear Lord, fill us with your peace.

Shelter us in your presence and protect us. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND BIBLE STUDIES Sunday at 9:30 AM

Adult Classes

Bread of Life - Library

Faith, Family, Friends – Parlor

Youth and Children

Youth SS/Education Building

Young Explorers (ages 3-5th grade) -

Primary Chapel

Nursery Care (infants through -2)-

Nursery

Children’s Church

Grades K-5 -10:45 AM - Children’s

Church room, back of Sanctuary

Weekly Bible Studies

Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday -

Library/10:00 AM

Bible Study - Sanctuary overflow -

Thursdays -7:00 PM

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

Campus -Tuesday - 7:30 PM

CHILDCARE & OTHER ASSISTANCE—ASK AN USHER

Saturday, 6:15 PM infants through

age 5, Nursery, hallway by back

Chapel

Sunday, 8:30 – infants through age 5,

Nursery, hallway by back Chapel

Sunday, 10:45 - infants through age

2, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel

Sunday, 10:45 – ages 3-4, Educ.

Bldg. - 1st room on right

Sunday, 10:45 – grades K-5,

Children’s Church Room

Large Print Hymnals at the

Sanctuary entrance.

Prayer Cards are located in the pew

racks

Membership Directories are

available in the Church Office.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

October 24, 2026

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Tom Price, pianist

*HYMNS

*He Has Made Me Glad
Sanctuary*

FWS 2270

FWS 2164

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 21:33-46

MESSAGE

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

STORIES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING:

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Treachery in the Vineyard Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord of the Dance

UMH 261

*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

October 25, 2026

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture

Matthew 21:33-46

Message

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

STORIES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING:

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Treachery in the Vineyard 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.

Bridgeport United Methodist Church

251 Worthington Drive † Bridgeport, WV

October 25, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES

How Firm a Foundation (FOUNDATION) arr. by Robert A. Hobby

My Hope Is Built (THE SOLID ROCK) arr. by Raymond H. Haan

Variations on “How Firm a Foundation” (FOUNDATION) by Janet Linker

As we gather, we are mindful of our Maplewood Worship Service.

Today’s leader is the Proverbs 31 Circle.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 118)

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

ALL: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

Reader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

ALL: This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!

Reader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

ALL: God’s steadfast love endures forever!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH 89

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.