

WATCH BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ONLINE
The service is streamed live at 10:45 AM on Sundays and archived online for later viewing. Visit our website at www.bridgeportumc.org and click “Watch Online”.

HARRISON COUNTY WINTER SHELTER — First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg will once again provide overnight shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness from December through February. The shelter is seeking community support through financial gifts, evening meals, and volunteers to help serve meals and assist guests. If you, your family, or a church group would like to help, please contact the church office for more information. Financial contributions may be made payable to BUMC with “Winter Shelter” in the memo line.

A PLACE FOR HOPE AND HEALING — Whatever you’re carrying, you don’t have to carry it alone. Revive Recovery gathers each Wednesday at our Johnson Avenue Campus for a shared meal at 6:00 PM followed by worship at 6:30 PM. Revive is a Christ-centered community for anyone dealing with life’s hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Everyone is welcome — just come as you are. Want to support this ministry?

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 Thursdays, at 7:00 PM, in the **Sanctuary Overflow** as we journey through one of the Bible’s most fascinating—and troubling—books.

COOPERATIVE PARISH SOUP COOK-OFF — Join United Methodist churches from across Harrison County for the first “Loaves & Fishes” Soup Cook-Off on Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 PM at Quiet Dell UMC (96 Trinity Road, Mt. Clare). Enjoy homemade soups, bread, desserts, and fellowship while supporting local food ministries! Vote for your favorite soup with a suggested donation of \$1 per vote. All proceeds benefit the Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish's food programs. Come hungry and support a great cause!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be part of An M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus’ call to love 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!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Matthew 4:18-22
Monday: Ezekiel 26:1-6, 17-18
Tuesday: Acts 9:1-6, 17-20
Wednesday: Job 1:13-22
Thursday: Galatians 5:16-26
Friday: Psalm 92:1-5, 12-15
Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Breath Prayer This Week

Jesus, our Lord and Commander, help us to obey your instruction to love and serve one another as you love us. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND BIBLE STUDIES

Sundays at 9:30 AM
Adult Classes
Bread of Life—Library
Faith, Family, & Friends—Parlor
Youth & Children
Youth Sunday School—Educ. Building
Young Explorers (ages 3 through Grade 5)—Primary Chapel
Nursery Care (infants through age 2)—Nursery

Children’s Church
Grades K-5—10:45
Children’s Church room
Weekly Youth Meetings
Grades 6-12—Sunday, 6:00 PM, Gym
Weekly Bible Studies
Lectionary Bible Study—Thursday, 10:00 AM, Library
Bible Study—Thursday, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary overflow
L.I.F.E. Bible Study—Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Johnson Ave.

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, Education Building—1st room on right
SUNDAY, 10:45—grades K-5, Children’s Church Room

Large Print Hymnals are available at the Sanctuary entrance.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

October 17, 2026 6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT
GATHERING MUSIC Jordan Groves, pianist
*OPENING HYMN **O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing** (verses 1–5) UMH 57
*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
LIVING THE MISSION
• 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.
STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS **Freely** Darrell Moorhead
STEWARDSHIP HYMN **Freely, Freely** (verse 1) UMH 389
SONG OF PRAISE **Blessed Assurance** Phoebe P. Knapp
*SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 21:23-32**
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE ...
Stories That Change Everything
Exploring the Parables of Jesus in Matthew
MESSAGE No... But Yes Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh
*HYMN OF RESPONSE **I Surrender All** (verses 1–4) UMH 354
PASTORAL PRAYER
*SENDING HYMN **O Jesus, I Have Promised** UMH 396
*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD
*SENDING FORTH AND POSTLUDE
Childcare is available for infants through age 5 in the Nursery in the back hallway by the Chapel.
*Indicates standing as able.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ JOHNSON AVENUE

October 18, 2026 9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise
*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation
*Scripture Choruses and Songs Jim Harris, pianist
Growing in the Word
*Scripture **1 Thessalonians 1:1–9**
Message **Speak Life!** Rick Curtis
Glorifying God Through Communion and Response
Holy Communion
(In Holy Communion, we remember God’s sacrificial love revealed in Jesus Christ and receive God’s grace anew.)
Going Forth to Share and Serve
Living the Mission
Stewardship Emphasis **Freely** Darrell Moorhead
*Closing Song
*Benediction and Sending Forth

*Indicates standing as able.

Bridgeport United Methodist Church
251 WORTHINGTON DRIVE, BRIDGEPORT, WV
October 18, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WORSHIP CELEBRATION

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). Through worship, prayer, and study, God strengthens us to go forth and serve in Matthew 25 Ministries.

PRELUDE
As we gather, we remember those worshipping at our Maplewood Worship Service. Today’s leader is Matthew Paugh.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, people of God, and lift your hearts in praise!
ALL: We gather to worship the Lord, whose love is steadfast and whose mercy never ends.
Reader: Come with your joys and your burdens, your questions and your hopes.
ALL: We come trusting that God meets us wherever we are.
Reader: Let us open our hearts to God’s presence and our lives to God’s leading.
ALL: With grateful hearts, we come to worship the living God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our ways of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today, wherever we are and however we are. Quiet the distractions of our minds and open our hearts to receive your grace, so that we may faithfully follow you in word and deed. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to see as you see and catch a glimpse of the kingdom you are bringing.
ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. 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 Fount of Every Blessing** UMH 400



WORD IN MUSIC

Hope Lingers On

Lissa Schneckenburger;
arr. Andrea Ramsey

My mother, when love is gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My father, when peace is gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on.

Chorus: I will not hate, and I will not fear in our darkest hour,
hope lingers here.

My sister, when equality’s gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My brother, with tolerance gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on. *[Chorus]*

My love, when honor is gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on.
My country, when justice is gone in our darkest hour hope lingers on. *[Chorus]*

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

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PREPARARATION

Change My Heart, O God

FWS 2152

MESSAGE

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE ...
Stories That Change Everything
Exploring the Parables of Jesus in Matthew

No... But Yes

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Lord, I Need You

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You’re the one that guides my heart.

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me. *[Chorus]*

Chorus: Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Ev’ry hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness,
O God, how I need you.

So, teach my song to rise to you
when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay. *[Chorus]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, we confess that we are often quick to speak of our faith but slow to live it. We resist your call when it challenges our comfort, and we fail to recognize your grace at work in people and places we least expect.

ALL: Forgive us for the ways we have turned away from you and closed our hearts to others. By your Holy Spirit, change our hearts, renew our minds, and give us the courage to follow where you lead. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: God’s grace is greater than our failures, and God’s mercy is not limited by our past. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. The future is open, and God calls us to walk in newness of life.

ALL: Glory to God. Amen

LIVING THE MISSION

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- 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.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Freely

Darrell Moorhead

*STEWARDSHIP HYMN

Freely, Freely (verse 1)

UMH 389

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: Faithful and gracious God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love, which has sustained your people through every generation. You called creation into being, made us in your image, and breathed into us the breath of life. When humanity turned away from you, you did not turn away from us. Through prophets and promises, through covenant and commandments, you continued to call your people into lives of faithfulness, justice, and mercy.

In the fullness of time, you came among us in Jesus Christ, who welcomed sinners, challenged the self-righteous, proclaimed your kingdom, and showed us the fullness of your love. Through his life, death, and resurrection, you have broken the power of sin and death and opened the way to new life.

We thank you that your grace continues to seek us, even when we resist your call, and that our failures need not have the final word. By your Holy Spirit, renew us in faith, strengthen us in love, and give us courage to follow you in word and deed. Send us into the world as witnesses to your mercy, instruments of your peace, and signs of your coming kingdom, until that day when you make all things new.

**ALL: All praise and glory be to you, eternal God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

UMH 396

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Ministering in the Service: Tom Price – organist/pianist; Jim Christie – liturgist (8:30); Youth Liturgists (10:45); Seraphim Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy..

To the family of Joanne “Jody” Simpson Tetrick.

To Stephanie Bean on the death of her father, Ralph Bean.

To Thomas Schoffler on the death of his stepfather, Howard Clay Ott.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (October 18– October 25)

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 will not meet	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare	Nursery
6:00 PM	United Women in Faith Board Mtg.	Fowler Heritage Room

TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM	Revive Recovery Dinner	Johnson Ave. Campus
6:30 PM	Revive Recovery Service	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY

7:00 AM	Men’s Prayer and Coffee	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare	Nursery
10:00 AM	Lectionary Bible Study	Library
7:00 PM	Bible Study will not meet	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
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SUNDAY, October 25

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	Youth Sunday School	Education Building
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
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5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh, Senior Pastor † Rev. Sarita Robinson, Associate Pastor

Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education

Dr. Dan Hughes, Director of Chancel Choir † Brett Miller, Organist

Jim Harris and Tom Price, Accompanists † Russ Francis, Treasurer

Kim Kapp and Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Scott Davis, Youth Director,

Polly Steele, Director of Preschool † Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise

Afterschool Program † Dan and Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors

Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director † Jennifer Lawson, Cherub Choir Director

Bobby Corley, Dorothy Prunty, Cathy Hamilton, and Michael Moran, Facilities