

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”.

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!

ADVENT THURSDAYS: A SERVICE OF REFLECTION & COMMUNION
December 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 this Thursday for *In the Stillness: A Reflective Service of Word, Prayer, and Communion*.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER AT EL REY – Monday, December 22, 6 PM Young adults (2025 high school grads and older) are invited to meet at El Rey (by Clarksburg Walmart) for dinner sponsored by the United Methodist Men. Join us to celebrate Christmas and fellowship together! Interested but not sure if you are considered a young adult? Come anyway! RSVP by December 18 to Jennifer Kniceley Sprouse at 304-906-9007 (call or text).

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY
If you would like to pickup a bag of Christmas cards and deliver them to a shut in this week, it would be a wonderful way to make someone’s day.

SEEKING ACOLYTES FOR THE 10:45 SUNDAY SERVICE Young people in 5th grade and up, we’d love to have your help in the worship service to light the altar candles at the beginning of the service and to carry the light of Christ back out at the end. Whether you have participated before or you are new to it, contact Jennifer Kniceley Sprouse at 304-906-9007 (text or call) and we will update our list with your continued willingness to help or as a new recruit.

CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY MINISTRY FOOD BASKET
Drop off for the basket will be Monday, December 22 from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY! Monday, December 22 • 4:30–5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All middle and high school youth are invited to a fun and festive Youth Christmas Party! We’ll celebrate with pizza, a gingerbread house competition, games, Christmas

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-10
Monday: Judges 6:11-27
Tuesday: Genesis 1:25-31
Wednesday: John 14:1-6
Thursday: Philippians 4:4-7
Friday: Matthew 16:13-20
Saturday: Luke 2:15-20

Breath Prayer This Week
Dear God, thank you for looking past our flaws and fitting us into your kingdom. Amen.

music, and Karaoke! Whether you regularly attend youth group or haven’t been in a while — you are invited! Bring a friend or two and come kick off Christmas week with fun. See you there!

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 PM, Quiet Dell UMC, sponsored by the Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish. A Blue Christmas service offers a quiet, reflective space for those experiencing grief, stress, or heaviness during the holiday season. Rev. Sarita Robinson will be the speaker.

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

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 13, 2025 6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT
GATHERING MUSIC Jordan Groves, pianist
*HYMN ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** UMH 196
*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 Sarah Carr Parsons
*SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 11:2-11***
MESSAGE ***God with Us...in Our Doubts*** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh
*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***It Came upon the Midnight Clear*** UMH 218
PASTORAL PRAYER
*CLOSING HYMN ***Joy to the World*** UMH 246
*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 14, 2025 9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise
*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation
*Scripture Choruses and Songs Tom Price
Advent Litany and Candle Lighting
Growing in the Word
*Scripture ***Matthew 11:2-11***
Today’s Message ***God with Us...in Our Doubts*** 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



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FIRST TIME USERS, [SIGN UP](#)
FOR AN ACCOUNT OR
[GIVE ANONYMOUSLY.](#)
ESTABLISHED USERS [LOGIN.](#)
[THOUGHTFULLY GIVE.](#)

Bridgeport United Methodist Church

December 14, 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 ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** (10:45 AM) arr. by Larry Sue
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (PUER NOBIS) arr. by David Cherwien

"O Emmanuel" from O Antiphon Sequence by Cecilia McDowall

PRELUDE ***Prepare the Way*** (BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN) arr. by James Mansfield

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Rejoice! The Lord is near!
ALL: We come with faith and with uncertainty, with longing and with joy.
Reader: God meets us in every step we take toward the Light—so bring your questions and your hope.

ALL: Let us worship Emmanuel, God-with-us.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: God of Advent hope, you come to us in the light of joy and in the shadows of doubt. Where we are confident, strengthen us; where we are uncertain, meet us with grace. As we worship you this day, shine your light upon our path, stir our hearts to trust your promise, and fill us with the peace that comes from your presence.
ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, for you are Emmanuel—God with us—now and always. 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 ***Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*** UMH 203

ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING
Reader: Today we light the third candle of Advent – a sign of joy in a world still waiting. John the Baptist longed for God’s promises to unfold, and even his questions could not diminish the hope that Emmanuel was bringing into the world.
ALL: We wait with joy, even when answers seem far off. We trust that Emmanuel is near and at work among us.

Reader: This candle reminds us that God’s joy can reach us in seasons of clarity and in seasons of doubt, for Emmanuel’s light is stronger than any shadow we carry.

ALL: We welcome the joy Christ brings and the courage it gives to keep going in faith. (Light two purple candles and the pink candle.)

Reader: May this growing light guide our steps and awaken our hearts to the presence of the One who comes.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus. Shine your joy into our waiting, and prepare us for your coming. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN
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.

1. 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]

2. 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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10:45 AM

Reading
Reading
Reading
Congregational Carol
Reading
Song of Praise
Reading
Song of Response

“Love Draws Near”
“God-with-Us Begins Right Here”
“Step by Step”
Angels from the Realms of Glory
“Emmanuel Has Come”
“Shout with Joy”
“In a Manger Bare”
“He Came Down”

UMH 220
Mark Patterson
West African Carol; arr. Marty Haugen



Those participating in “God with Us...in a Manger”

Children's Handbells: Teagan Barr, Katelyn Gregg, Brycen Kimble, Oliver Murray, Emma Wilkinson, Avia Wriker

Angels: Gwendolyn Bush, Evelyn Cadorette, Imogen Garner, Lauren Hill, Sophia Jenkins, Olivia Jenkins, Jax McConnell, Rhett Messenger, Lucy Moore, Lochlan Oliver, Isaiah Paugh, Jaelynne Sisk, Sophie Stanley, Hayden Stanley

Jubilate Singers Nativity Characters: Teagan Barr, Braxton Fogg, Brycen Kimble, Kennedy McConnell, Slate Messenger, Oliver Murray, Archer Tomes, Wes Tomes, Emma Wilkinson, Avia Wriker

Seraphim Singers: Bianca Hicks, Bramer Hicks, Benjamin Hughes, Reagan Fitzpatrick, Kaitlyn Kimble, Audra Murray, Ella Sherrell, Grace Sherrell, Payton Tomes, Mollie Wilkinson, Daniel Yearego

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Reader: God of Light and Truth, we have celebrated the joy of your coming among us. Now, by your Spirit, open our hearts to hear the witness of Scripture – where even those closest to you wrestled with uncertainty.

ALL: Shine your grace on us as we listen, that we may recognize Emmanuel in our midst. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 11:2-11**
Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC **There Is Healing in the Name of the Lord** Ken Dosso
(10:45 Children K-5th Grade only may leave for Children’s Church.
Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.)

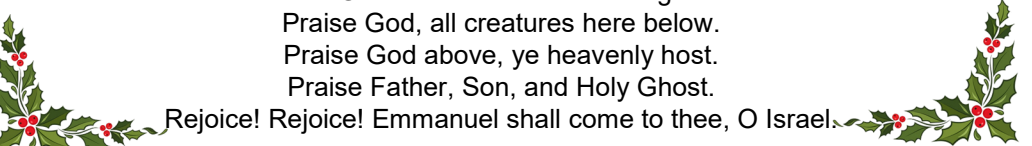
MESSAGE **God with Us...in Our Doubts** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE **It Came upon the Midnight Clear** UMH 218

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **A Statement of Faith** UMH 883

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.



SONG OF PRAYER (10:45) **Peace, Peace with Silent Night**
Rick and Sylvia Powell; arr. Fred Bock

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Reader: Gracious God, we thank you for the joy that greets us in this season and for the steady love that holds us when joy feels far away. We praise you for Christ, your gift to the world — the One who meets our questions with mercy and our uncertainties with compassion. Thank you for the light that shines in every darkness and for your presence that never lets us go.

ALL: Receive our gratitude, our lives, and our praise, for you are Emmanuel, God-with-us, and in you we find hope that endures. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN **Joy to the World** UMH 246

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE **O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee** (VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
arr. by Paul Manz

Ministering in the Service: Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir;
Cheryl Bramble – liturgist; Rev. Sarita Robinson – Associate Pastor;
Tom Price (10:45 AM) - pianist; Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45); Children’s Handbell Choir (10:45); Seraphim Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Diane Scott on the death of her husband Barry Scott.
Bud Coffindaffer on the death of his sister, Betty Hershman.

Christmas Caroling — All Ages Welcome! Sunday, December 21 • Gather at 5:45 PM. Join us for a joyful evening of Christmas caroling as we share the light and love of Christ with some of our shut-ins and elderly members who would be blessed to hear familiar carols and see friendly faces this time of year. We'll meet at **5:45 PM** by the porch entrance or in the Parlor, and we'll head out together at **6:00 PM**. The van will be available for youth, but please hear this clearly: **this is not just a youth event — all ages are welcome and encouraged to come!** Singles, families, kids, teens, grandparents, and everyone in between — your presence and your voice (in any key!) will make the night richer. No experience needed. No solos required. Just bring your Christmas spirit, a warm coat, and a willingness to share joy. After caroling, we'll return to church for warm drinks, fellowship, and our first-ever “Silent Bite, Holy Bite” Charcuterie Challenge. Come help us make this a beautiful time of care, community, and Christmas joy!



“Silent Bite, Holy Bite” Charcuterie Challenge! Sunday, December 21 • 7:00 PM
Join us after Christmas caroling for a festive evening of food, laughter, and holiday cheer as we host our first-ever “Silent Bite, Holy Bite” Charcuterie Challenge! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for warm drinks, good company, and a beautiful charcuterie board (so no one will go hungry!). But more importantly, we invite you to bring a board of your own — fancy or simple, sweet or savory, store-bought or homemade, elegant or delightfully chaotic. Bring any kind of board you dream up. The goal is fun, not perfection. Lighthearted judging categories will include: Most Festive Board, Most Creative Theme, Best Use of Store-Bought Snacks, Youth Favorite, and “Mary, Did You Know... You Could Make a Board Like That?” (presented to the board that surprises, delights, or gently startles us into wondering how such a thing came to be.) Whether you bring a culinary masterpiece, something assembled in the Kroger parking lot, or nothing at all— you’re invited to eat, laugh, and celebrate together. Not caroling? No worries! All are welcome — boards or no boards, carols or no carols. Come enjoy a new BUMC Christmas tradition in the making and spend a joyful, memorable evening with your church family!

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 14 – December 21)		
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/Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Children's Handbells will not meet	Balcony
4:30 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Seraphim Singers will not meet	Sanctuary
6:00–7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth will not meet	Education Building
MONDAY		
7:00 AM	Angel Tree Drop Off deadline	
9:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation Preventicare	Johnson Ave. Campus 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	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 21		
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	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
5:45 PM	Christmas Caroling	BUMC Porch
6:00-7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth will not meet	Education Building
7:00 PM	Charcuterie Challenge	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service	Quiet Dell UMC

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!

