

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.

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.

REMINDER: Cherub Choir, Jubilate Choir, Children’s Handbells, resume January 11, 2026!

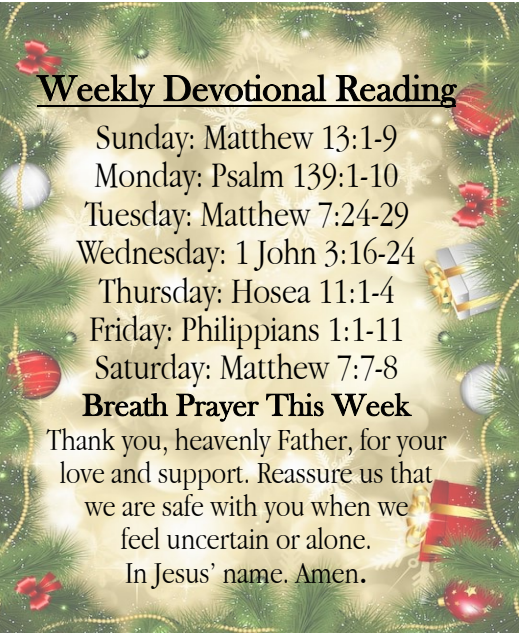
CONSIDER TEAMING UP WITH A FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS TO PROVIDE A MEAL AT THE CLARKSBURG MISSION We are responsible for providing a meal at the mission the 3rd Sunday of every month. If you are willing to help, please sign up in the Narthex.

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Matthew 13:1-9
Monday: Psalm 139:1-10
Tuesday: Matthew 7:24-29
Wednesday: 1 John 3:16-24
Thursday: Hosea 11:1-4
Friday: Philippians 1:1-11
Saturday: Matthew 7:7-8

Breath Prayer This Week

Thank you, heavenly Father, for your love and support. Reassure us that we are safe with you when we feel uncertain or alone.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.



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
Prayer Cards to indicate special concerns are located in the pew racks
Membership Directories are available in the Church Office.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

December 27, 2025

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

*HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH 220

*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 2:13-18*

MESSAGE *God with Us...in the Shadows* Rev. Sarita Robinson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UMH 230

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH 239

*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 28, 2025

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs Brett Miller

Growing in the Word

*Scripture *Matthew 2:13-23*

Today’s Message *God with Us...in the Shadows* Rick Curtis

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 28, 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.

PRELUDE
As we gather, we are mindful of our Maplewood Worship Service.
Today’s leader is Jay Larry.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: The light of Christ has come into the world.
ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
Reader: We come with songs of angels still echoing in our ears — and with the cries of the world still heavy on our hearts.
ALL: Emmanuel has drawn near! God is with us in joy and in sorrow, in light and in shadow.
Reader: So come, let us worship God!
ALL: We worship God who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

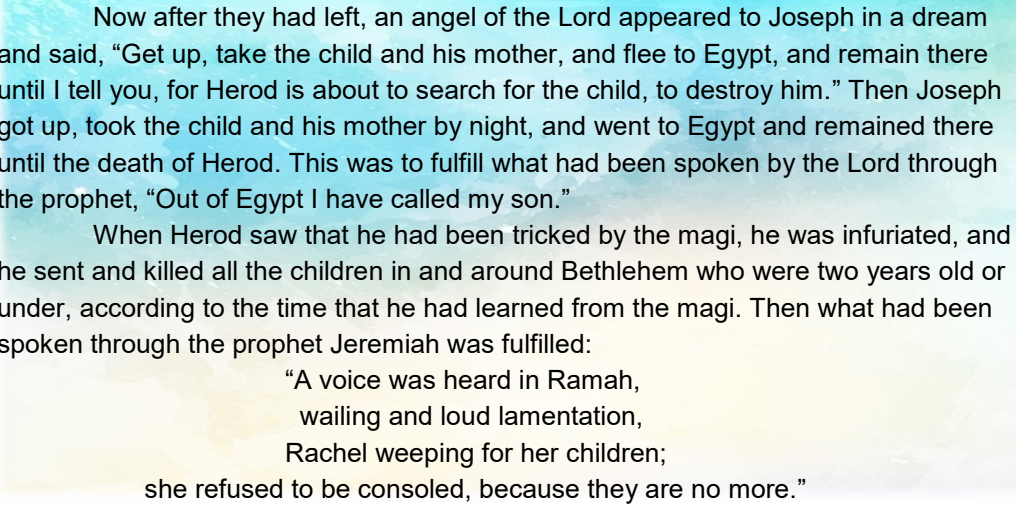
*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Holy and faithful God, we praise you that in your Son Jesus Christ you have come into our world – not as we wish it were, but as it truly is. With joy we give thanks that you have drawn near to us in love, that light has entered the darkness, and that hope has been born among us. As we gather in your presence, open our hearts to your Word, strengthen our trust in your nearness, and lead us by your light, even when the way is unclear.
ALL: In the name of Jesus our Savior, who is the Christ the 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**

*HYMNS OF WORSHIP *He Is Born* (verses 1 and 3) UMH 228
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (verses 1 and 3) UMH 224
Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy UMH 235
Love Came Down at Christmas UMH 242

WORD IN MUSIC	<i>Lully, Lulla, Lullay</i>	by Philip WJ Stopfford, words from a Traditional Carol
(10:45 Children K-5th Grade only may leave for Children's Church. Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.		
Lully, lulla, by by, lully lullay	Herod, the king in his raging	
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child	Charged he hath this day	
By by, lully lullay.	His men of might in his own sight	
O sisters too how may we do?	All young children to slay	
For to preserve this day	Lully, lulla...	
This poor youngling for whom we sing	That woe is me poor child for thee	
By by, lully lullay	And ever morn and day	
Lully, lulla...	For thy parting neither say nor sing	
	By by, lully lullay	
	Lully, lulla...	

*SCRIPTURE LESSON *Matthew 2:13-18*



Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 4) UMH 230
MESSAGE *God with Us...in the Shadows* Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh
*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* FWS 2100
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, we confess that we long for a Christmas without shadows – a faith without fear, a world without grief, a hope that costs us nothing.
ALL: We confess that we turn away from suffering we cannot fix, grow silent in the face of injustice we cannot explain, and grow weary of pain that is not our own.
Reader: We confess that we are quick to seek comfort and slow to remain present with those who weep. Forgive us when we settle for easy answers instead of faithful love.

ALL: Meet us again, O God, not with condemnation, but with your nearness. Hold us in the truth of who we are and in the greater truth of who you are. In Jesus’ name we pray.
(Silent prayer)
Reader: Hear the good news: God does not respond to our brokenness from a distance. In Jesus Christ, God enters the world as it is – marked by fear and violence, grief and loss – and remains with us. The One born in Bethlehem, the One who knew exile and danger, the One who carried suffering to the cross has spoken a word stronger than sin and death.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. You are not abandoned. You are held in God’s steadfast love.
ALL: Thanks be 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 Christmas* (Tune: THE FIRST NOEL)
 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.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

MOMENTS OF GUIDED PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Reader: Gracious and generous God, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ – for the light that has entered our darkness, for the Word made flesh who has come to dwell among us.
We thank you that you did not choose comfort over compassion, distance over love, or power without vulnerability. In Jesus, you came into a world marked by fear and violence, by longing and loss, and you made it your own.
We give you thanks that Christ is born not only into moments of joy, but into places of danger and displacement, into the cries of the innocent and the tears of the grieving. You are the God who hears those cries and who refuses to abandon the suffering of your people.
For this holy mystery — that you are with us, that you share our life, that you carry our pain, and that you promise hope even where we cannot see it — we give you thanks and praise.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light that shines in the darkness and is never overcome, we pray. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN *There’s a Song in the Air* UMH 249
*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD
*SENDING FORTH
POSTLUDE

Ministering in the Service: Rev. Dr. Dan Kimble – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Rev. Sarita Robinson – Associate Pastor; Dan Hughes, Katherine Hughes, Amelia Hughes & Benjamin Hughes, vocalists
The rose on the Altar celebrates the birth of *Makenzie May Matko*, daughter of Geri & Trevor Matko. The proud grandparents are Chris and Chrissy Signorelli. Congratulations to Angela & Tanner Gibson on the birth of their daughter, *Hazel Lee Gibson*. The proud grandparents are Burl & Patty Post.

Christian Sympathy to Art Helmick on the death of his mother, Margaret Helmick.

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!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (December 28 – January 4)		
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 resumes Jan. 11	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers resumes Jan. 11	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers TBD	Fellowship Hall
5:30 PM	Children's Handbells resumes Jan. 11	Children's Church Room
6:00–7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth	Fellowship Hall
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
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus
WEDNESDAY		
6:30 PM	Revive Recovery will not meet	Johnson Ave. Campus
THURSDAY (office closed)		
7:00 AM	Men's Prayer and Coffee	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare will not meet	Nursery
10:00 AM	Lectionary Class will not meet	Library
6:00 PM	Sweet Hour of Prayer	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Bible Study will not meet	Back of Sanctuary
FRIDAY (office closed)		
7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
8:30 AM	Sister's Bible Study will not meet	Fowler Heritage Room
SATURDAY		
6:15 PM	Saturday Evening Service	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, January 4		
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 resumes Jan. 11	Primary Chapel
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6:00-7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth	Education Building

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, Tom Price, Accompanists † Russ Francis, Treasurer
Kim Kapp, Jennifer Walker, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
Jennifer Lawson, Cherub Choir Director
Dorothy Prunty, Denny Owens, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities