*SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 25:14–30***

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. 'But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN OF PREPARATION ***Take My Life***

***Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.***
***Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.***
***Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.***
***Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.***

***Take my voice, and let me sing always only for my King.***
***Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.***
***Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold***
***Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as You choose***

***Chorus: Here am I, all of me. Take my life; it's all for Thee.***

***Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.***
***Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.***
***Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store.***
***Take myself, and I will be ever only all for Thee. [Chorus]***

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Words & Music by Chris Tomlin, Frances Ridley Havergal, Henri Abraham Cesar Malan , & Louie Giglio

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
**Stories That Change Everything**
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
***Safe and Sound*** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***Together We Serve*** FWS 2175

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you have called us to lives of love, generosity, and faithful service.

**ALL: Yet too often, we have allowed fear to shape our decisions and comfort to limit our compassion. We have guarded what we possess while overlooking the needs of our neighbors.**

Reader: We have sometimes become so concerned with preserving what is familiar that we have lost sight of the purposes for which you have called us.

**ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the opportunities we have neglected and the love we have failed to share. Renew our hearts, deepen our trust, and help us to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Moments of Silent Prayer*

Reader: Hear the good news: Our worth is not measured by what we accomplish, but by the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. In Christ, we are met with mercy, forgiven of our sins, and given grace to begin again. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**ALL: Glory to God! Amen.**

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.*

*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

**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**.

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: God of steadfast love, we give you thanks for your goodness throughout the ages. You called creation into being and declared it good. You formed a people to be a blessing to the nations, and through the prophets you called them to lives of justice and mercy. In Jesus Christ, you came among us, welcomed the stranger, fed the hungry, and gave yourself for the life of the world. Through his resurrection, you opened the way to new life, and through your Holy Spirit, you continue to guide and sustain your Church.

For every gift of grace, every life transformed, and every opportunity to share your love, we give you thanks. May all that you have entrusted to our care bear fruit in lives of compassion, generosity, and faithful discipleship, until your kingdom comes in fullness.

**ALL: 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 ***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*** FWS 2153

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

**Ministering in the Service:** Jim Christie – liturgist (8:30); Youth Liturgists (10:45); Tom Price – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Seraphim Singers; Rev. Sarita Robinson




## STEWARDSHIP 2027

"Freely you have received; freely give" (Matt. 10:8). Thank you to everyone who has already made a financial commitment to support the ministries of Bridgeport UMC in 2027! If you haven't yet returned your commitment card, it's not too late. Cards are available in the pews and church office and may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office. Together, we continue to share freely the gifts we have received!

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 15 – November 22)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SUNDAY** | | |
| 8:30 AM | Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| 9:30 AM | Bread of Life Sunday School | Library |
| 9:30 AM | Coffee, Conversation & Community | 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 | Sanctuary |
| 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 will not meet | 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 | 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 |
| 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 22** | | |
| 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 |
| 9:45 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 |
| 7:00 PM | Greater Ckb. Coop Parish Service | Fellowship Hall |

## COMING THIS ADVENT – A THRILL OF HOPE: SONGS IN THE NIGHT

In a world longing for hope, the promise of Christmas reminds us that God's light shines even in the darkest night. This Advent, join us for *A Thrill of Hope: Songs in the Night*, a worship series exploring the promises of Scripture and the hope we celebrate in the coming of Christ. The series begins **November 28–29**. Invite a friend and join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas!

**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** Join us every Wednesday at our Johnson Avenue Campus! Whether you're seeking recovery, encouragement, or a supportive community, there's a place for you. **Dinner begins at 6:00 PM**, followed by **worship at 6:30 PM**. Come as you are and experience hope, healing, and fellowship!

**THANKSGIVING "ADOPT A FAMILY" FOOD BASKETS:** Thank you for sharing God's love with families in our community! Through your generosity, we can help ensure that our neighbors have the opportunity to enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal. If you have adopted a family, please bring your completed food basket to the church on **Monday, November 23, between 9:30 and 11:00 AM.**

**SHEPHERD'S CORNER COLLECTION WEEKEND – NOVEMBER 21–22:** Next weekend, we invite you to help support our neighbors in need through our monthly Shepherd's Corner collection. Donations of nonperishable food items (such as peanut butter, pasta, and pasta sauce), cleaning supplies, paper products, and personal hygiene items are appreciated. Donations may be placed in the collection basket in the Narthex or delivered directly to Shepherd's Corner at 119 Pennsylvania Avenue. Thank you for helping us make a difference right here in Harrison County!

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM – SAVE THE DATE!** Experience the Christmas story in a fun and engaging way at this year's Journey to Bethlehem! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 PM**, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to make the journey with you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the hope, joy, and love of the Advent season. More details coming soon!

**UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS:** All youth are invited to join us on Sunday evenings from **6:00–7:30 PM in the Gym** for fellowship, fun, and growing together in faith!
**November 15 – Gratitude:** Exploring thankfulness and living with gratitude (Colossians 3:12).
**November 22 – Friendsgiving:** Pizza with Friends!
**November 29 – Ugly Christmas Sweater Night:** Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater as we kick off the Advent season! (Matthew 1:18–25). Bring a friend and join us!

## Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Philippians 2:3-11
Monday: James 1:5-8
Tuesday: Psalm 111:1-10
Wednesday: Job 37:1-13
Thursday: Deuteronomy 4:12-19
Friday: Acts 16:22-30
Saturday: Judges 3:12, 15-16, 18-21, 26-27, 30

## Breath Prayer This Week

Dear God, thank you for the Living Water that gives life, allowing us to serve you and tell others about you. 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 age 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, Education Building – 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

**November 14, 2026** **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT
GATHERING MUSIC — Renee Warner, pianist
*OPENING HYMNS — ***Together We Serve*** — FWS 2175
*INVOCATION
*THE LORD'S PRAYER
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.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC
*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 25:14-30***
MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
**Stories That Change Everything**
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
***Safe and Sound*** — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh
*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***Take My Life, and Let It Be*** — UMH 399
PASTORAL PRAYER
*SENDING HYMN — ***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*** — FWS 2153
*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD
*SENDING FORTH
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

**November 15, 2026** **9:45 AM**

**Gathering to Praise**
*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation
*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris
**Growing in the Word**
*Scripture — ***Matthew 25:14-30***
Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
**Stories That Change Everything**
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
***Safe and Sound*** — 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**
Living the Mission
*Closing Song
*Benediction and Sending Forth
*Indicates standing as able.

# Bridgeport United Methodist Church

251 Worthington Drive † Bridgeport, WV
November 15, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FIFTH 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.

PRELUDE

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: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.
**ALL: All that we have and all that we are belong to God.**
Reader: God has entrusted us with gifts of grace, mercy, and love.
**ALL: May our lives bear fruit for God's kingdom.**
Reader: Come, let us worship the Lord who lavishes us with grace!
**ALL: With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves in service to God!**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Holy God, you know the hopes we bring into this place and the burdens we have carried through the week. Meet us here with your peace. Quiet our anxieties, open our hearts, and help us to hear your word, even when it challenges our assumptions. By the power of your Holy Spirit, deepen our trust in Jesus Christ, strengthen our love for one another, and prepare us to serve you with faithfulness and joy.
**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 — ***Lord, You Give the Great Commission*** (verses 1, 2, 4, and 5) — UMH 584

WORD IN MUSIC — ***Jubilate Deo*** — W. A. Mozart, arr. Alan Bullard

Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo.
O be joyful, O be joyful, O be joyful in the Lord.

*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.*