

## 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](http://www.bridgeportumc.org) and click "Watch Online".

**REVIVE RECOVERY** meets each Wednesday at 6:30 PM at our Johnson Avenue Campus.

**BIBLE STUDY — THE BOOK OF ACTS:** Join us for our Bible study on the Book of Acts on Thursdays, at 7:00 PM in the Intermediate Chapel (Sanctuary Overflow area). We'll explore how the early church was formed, challenged, and sent into the world—and what this Spirit-led story means for the church today. Whether you are new to Bible study or looking to go deeper, you are welcome.

**IN HOLY WEEK** we walk with Jesus—from the cheers of Palm Sunday, to the intimacy of the Upper Room, to the shadow of the cross. On Easter, we stand before the empty tomb and hear again the announcement that changes everything: Christ is risen. We invite you to join us:

### † PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

March 28 at 6:15 pm  
March 29 at 8:30 am, 9:45 am (Johnson Campus), and 10:45 am

### † HOLY WEEK MIDDAY EUCHARIST

Monday–Wednesday, March 30–April 1 at 12:00 noon  
Intermediate Chapel (Sanctuary Overflow)

Pause in the midst of Holy Week for a quiet service of Scripture, brief reflection, and Holy Communion.

Each day we will follow the movement of the week—Jesus in the temple, Jesus teaching, and the shadow of betrayal—as we prepare our hearts for the cross. These simple 30-minute services will offer space for prayer, stillness, and the grace of the Table.

### † MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 2 at 7:00 pm

† **GOOD FRIDAY** - April 3  
BUMC Campus/12:00 noon  
Simpson Creek Baptist Church/6 PM

### † THE FIRST SERVICE OF EASTER - Saturday, April 4 at 6:15 pm

**EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP** - Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 am breakfast to follow

**EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION** - Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 am & 10:45 AM and 9:45 am (Johnson Campus)

## Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Exodus 3:7-14

Monday: Isaiah 40:27-31

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 4:9-13

Wednesday: Ruth 4:1-17

Thursday: Philippians 4:10-13

Friday: Psalm 91:1-16

Saturday: Luke 12:27-31

### 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

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 5<sup>th</sup>

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 5-5<sup>th</sup> 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

March 22, 2026

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Don Gardner

\*HYMN

*Abide with Me*

UMH 700

\*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](http://bridgeportumc.org) for regular updates.

WORD IN MUSIC

*The Cross of Jesus*

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON

*John 11:1-6, 17-44*

**LENTEN SERIES-ENCOUNTER: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

MESSAGE

*Unbound*

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*You Are Mine*

FWS 2218

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN *And Can It Be that I Should Gain* (vs. 1, 4, & 5) UMH 363

\*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

March 22, 2026

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

\*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

Scripture

*John 11:1-6, 17-44*

**LENTEN SERIES-ENCOUNTER: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Message

*Unbound*

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

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

March 22, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

*The Fifth Sunday in Lent*

LENTEN SERIES: ENCOUNTER:  
MEETING JESUS IN THE  
GOSPEL OF JOHN

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

PRELUDE

As we gather, we are mindful of our Maplewood Worship Service. Today's leader is Rick Curtis.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: We gather in the presence of Jesus Christ, the Lord of life.

**ALL: He is the resurrection and the life.**

Reader: Those who believe in Christ, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in him will never die.

**ALL: He is the Messiah, the Son of God, the One who came into the world to save us.**

Reader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us out of death and into life.

**ALL: Let us worship Jesus Christ, who died and lives forevermore.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Reader: Loving God, who speaks into darkness, meets us in our grief, and calls the dead to life. In a world where sorrow is real and the weight of death is heavy, we come seeking your grace, mercy, and hope. As we worship you, open our ears that we may hear the voice of Christ. Open our eyes that we may see the freedom you give. Open our hearts that we may trust in your promises.

**ALL: By the power of your Holy Spirit, renew our faith and teach us again that nothing can stand against the life you give through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name 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 of the Dance*

UMH 261

(10:45 Children K-5th Grade only may leave for Children's Church. Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.)



SCRIPTURE LESSON **John 11:1-6, 17-27**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ...

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

WORD IN MUSIC **I Surrender All** Winfield Weeden, arr. Mark Hayes

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON **John 11:28-44**

When Mary had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE **I Believe in Jesus**

**1. I believe in Jesus.  
I believe He is the Son of God.  
I believe He died and rose again.  
I believe He paid for us all.  
I believe He is here now,  
standing in our midst.  
Here with the power to heal now,  
and the grace to forgive.**

**2. I believe in You, Lord.  
I believe You are the Son of God.  
I believe You died and rose again.  
I believe You paid for us all.  
And I believe You're here now,  
standing in our midst.  
Here with the power to heal now,  
and the grace to forgive**

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**LENTEN SERIES - ENCOUNTER: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

MESSAGE **Unbound** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE **Awake, O Sleeper** UMH 551

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Based on John 11:25-27; Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Do you believe this?

**ALL: Yes, we believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.**

Reader: Trusting in the power of Christ over sin and death, I ask you: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**ALL: No! In all things, we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.**

Reader: Will death or life, angels or principalities, things present or things to come, powers, or height or depth, or anything else in all creation be able to separate you from the love of Christ?

**ALL: No! We are sure that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 **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: Gracious and life-giving God, we give you thanks for your abundant mercy and love.

**ALL: You are the God who speaks into darkness, who meets us in our grief, and who calls the dead to life.**

Reader: We thank you for Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who stands at the threshold of every tomb and calls us by name.

**ALL: We thank you that your love is stronger than death, your grace deeper than our despair, and your promises greater than our fears.**

Reader: You bring hope to the weary, freedom to the bound, and life to all who long for your grace.

**ALL: By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us, O God, instruments of your resurrection life in this world.**

Reader: Through our witness and service, may others hear the voice of Christ calling them into life.

**ALL: We offer all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN **Hymn of Promise** UMH 707

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING FORTH AND POSTLUDE

\*Indicates standing as able.

**Ministering in the Service:** Melissa Paugh – liturgist; Tom Price – pianist; Chancel Choir

**Christian Sympathy to** the Family of Nika Howard, granddaughter of Bob and Lisa Waugh and great-granddaughter of Eva Shearer.

Each year at Easter, we place lilies in our sanctuary for our Easter Services. The Worship Team will purchase enough to adorn our Sanctuary. If you would like to purchase a lily(s), in honor of or in memory of someone, please fill out the form below and mail it or drop it off at the Church Office. The price of a lily is \$12.00. The deadline for ordering a lily is **Tues., March 24**. Number of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (March 22– March 29)**

**SUNDAY**

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life SS	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
4:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Educational Building
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Children's Handbells	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Balcony
6:00–7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth	Education Building
7:00 PM	Lenten Service	Sanctuary

**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**

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, March 29**

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Confirmation Class	Education Building
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Children's Handbells	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Balcony
6:00-7:00 PM	Mid/Sr. High Youth	Education Building



Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewed devotion. But why do we observe it? How does it shape us as followers of Christ? Join us for our final special Sunday evening service as we explore the theme "Why Lent?".

March 22 – Rev. Dr. Paul Rebelo, Pastor, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church (Buckhannon)

The service begins at 7:00 pm. Come for worship, reflection, and preparation as we journey toward the cross and the hope of Easter.