

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.

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.

SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES Sundays, March 8, 15, 22 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

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 at 12:00 noon

† **THE FIRST SERVICE OF EASTER** - Saturday, April 4 at 6:15 pm
EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP - Sunday, April 5 at 7:00 am
EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION - Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 am & 10:45 AM and 9:45 am (Johnson Campus)

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Hebrews 12:1-13

Monday: Proverbs 3:1-12

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7-12

Wednesday: Psalm 8:1-9

Thursday: Isaiah 30:19-22

Friday: Psalm 27:1-14

Saturday: Acts 2:42-47

Breath Prayer This Week

Loving God, give us a desire to seek you. Bring us ever closer to you as we study your word and do your will. 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

March 7, 2026

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Tom Price

*HYMN

My Life Is in You, Lord

FWS 2032

*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

John 5:1-9a

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

MESSAGE

Stuck

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH 351

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

FWS 2151

*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 8, 2026

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

Scripture

John 5:1-9a

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

Message

Stuck

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

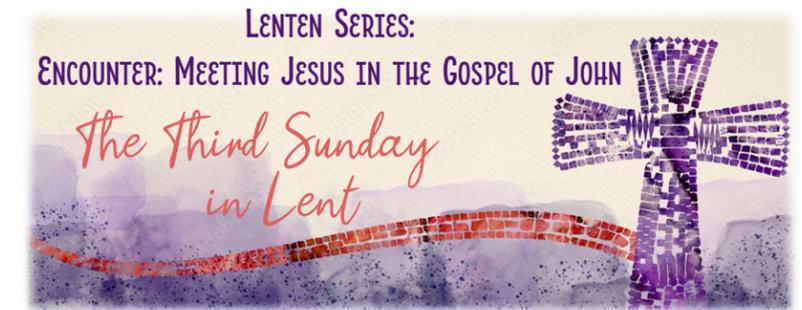


SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE

FIRST TIME USERS, SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT OR GIVE ANONYMOUSLY. ESTABLISHED USERS LOGIN. THOUGHTFULLY GIVE.

Bridgeport United Methodist Church

March 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM



LENTEN SERIES:

ENCOUNTER: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Third Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDES

Longing and Belonging

Mark Patterson

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

arr. by Michael Larkin

As we gather, we are mindful of our Maplewood Worship Service.

Today's leader is Jack Merinar.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45)

I Am the Church

Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: We come as we are – weary, waiting, and sometimes stuck.

ALL: We come to the One who sees us and calls us by name.

Reader: We gather at the edge of hope – longing for healing.

ALL: We gather before the One who is our life.

Reader: Jesus speaks into our brokenness. When he speaks, new life begins.

ALL: Let us worship the Lord of life who makes us whole.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Reader: Lord of life, you come near to the weary and the overlooked. You see us in our waiting. You know how long we have carried what weighs us down.

When we are tempted to settle for less than your promise, remind us that you are the source of life. When we feel alone, draw near. When we feel unable to move, speak your living word.

As we worship, prepare our hearts. Make us attentive to your voice and ready to receive the grace you freely give.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, the One who makes us whole.

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

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH 351

WORD IN MUSIC **Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands** Margaret Cropper;
arr. Sue Ellen Page
Lyrics –UMH 273

(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 5:1-9a**
After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The ill man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE **O Lord, You're Beautiful** FWS 2064

LENTEN SERIES - ENCOUNTER: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
MESSAGE **Stuck** Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE **Healer of Our Every Ill** FWS 2213

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful Savior, you ask us, "Do you want to be made well?" and we are not always sure how to answer.

ALL: We confess that we have grown accustomed to our mats. We have settled at the edge of the pool. We have told ourselves, "As soon as..." and postponed the life you offer now.

Reader: We confess that we have trusted systems more than your mercy, resigned ourselves to old wounds, and named ourselves by our failures. When you call us to rise, we sometimes cling to what is familiar. When you speak new life, we hesitate.

ALL: Forgive us for settling for less than your wholeness. Forgive us for believing that this is all we will ever be. Speak again, Lord Jesus. Call us by your grace. Lift us by your mercy, and make us whole. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Reader: Hear the good news. Jesus does not wait for the water to stir. He moves toward us in mercy and speaks life. In Jesus Christ, we are made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE **It Is Well with My Soul** Horatio G. Spafford;
Philip P. Bliss; arr. by John Ness Beck
Lyrics UMH 377

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 God, we thank you that you do not wait for us to reach you. You come near.

We praise you that your grace is not earned, your mercy is not rationed, and your love is not limited to the strongest or the first in line.

We thank you for Jesus Christ, the Giver of life, who moved toward us in mercy, who bore our brokenness in his body on the cross, and who rose from the tomb so that death would not have the final word. By his resurrection, you have spoken life into a world of stalled hopes. By his mercy, you lift us from shame and make us whole.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, breathe courage into our weary hearts, loosen the grip of fear, and empower us to stand and walk in newness of life.

ALL: Make us a people who trust your voice, who carry the signs of your healing, and who walk in the freedom you give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN **I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me** FWS 2151

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE **Lord of Hosts Extolled on High** Lani Smith

*Indicates standing as able.

Ministering in the Service: Tom Price – liturgist; Brett Miller – pianist; Chancel Choir; Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45); Children's Handbell Choir (10:45); Barbara Sullivan – pianist (10:45); Kaitlin Exline – flutist (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Coulter and Vicki Bracken on the death of his mother.

Lenten Services
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 three special Sunday evening services as we explore the theme "Why Lent?":
March 8 – Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh
March 15 – Rev. Melissa Paugh
March 22 – Rev. Dr. Paul Rebelo, Pastor, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church (Buckhannon)
Each service begins at 7:00 pm. Come for worship, reflection, and preparation as we journey toward the cross and the hope of Easter.

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 8– March 15)

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 will not meet	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
7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:00 PM	Proverbs 31 Circle Meeting	Johnson Ave. Campus

TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
6:00 PM	United Methodist Men Mtg	Johnson Ave. Campus
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 will not meet	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 15

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
4:30 PM	Confirmation Class will not meet	Education Building
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Children's Handbells will not meet	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 Worship Service	Sanctuary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!