

WATCH BRIDGEPORT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH ONLINE

The service is streamed live at 10:45 AM on Sundays and archived online for later viewing. **Visit our website at** www.bridgeportumc.org and click “Watch Online”.

REVIVE There will be no regular Revive dinner or worship service on Wednesday, September 23. Instead, join us beginning at 5:30 PM as we participate in the Bridgeport Homecoming Parade festivities. The parade begins at 6:00 PM. Revive will be handing out popcorn at the Johnson Avenue Campus. The United Methodist Men will also be offering Wonder Bubble Lemonade at the Main Campus and Slush and Slice at the Johnson Avenue Campus as we welcome our community along the parade route.

NIGERIA MISSION UPDATE — Join the Proverbs 31 Circle of United Women in Faith on Monday, October 5, at 6:30 PM at the Johnson Avenue Campus to hear from Rev. Raphael Ogbole about the ministry in Nigeria supported through our recent Coins of Caring offering. Through your generosity, \$2,361 was given to provide food assistance for 170 widows and their families and to help 30 additional widows begin efforts toward greater self-sufficiency. Come hear how these gifts are making a difference. Additional gifts may be made through September 27. Please make checks payable to Bridgeport UMC and write “Raphael Ogbole” in the memo line.

YOUTH GATHERINGS BEGIN THIS SUNDAY! All youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join us **Sunday, September 20, at 6:00 PM in the Education Building** for our first regular youth gathering with our new Director of Youth Ministries, Scott Davis. Come for an evening of fun, fellowship, and growing together in faith. We’re excited for what God has in store for our youth ministry this year!

FALL INTO FUN — Save the Date! Join us **Sunday, October 11**, from 4:00–6:00 PM for Fall into Fun, a free, family-friendly afternoon for all ages here at BUMC! We’ll have inflatables, games, pizza, s’mores, fall treats, and more. Whether you come with children, grandchildren, friends, or on your own, everyone is welcome. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT BUMC? Join us **Sunday, September 27, at 5:30 PM** in the Main Campus Fellowship Hall for an informal Membership Gathering with a light dinner. We’ll talk about what membership means, how it works, and next steps for anyone interested in formally joining BUMC.

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 John 3:18-24

Monday: 1 Samuel 16:6-12

Tuesday: Acts 2:42-47

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Thursday: Job 2:7-13

Friday: 2 Chronicles 35:20-27

Saturday: Exodus 4:1-5, 10-11

Breath Prayer This Week

Dear God, help us to embrace the opportunities you provide to serve you. Thank you for being with us always. Amen.

Learn more and RSVP at bridgeportumc.org/membership or contact the church office at 304-842-6284 or info@bridgeportumc.org.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SERVICE Join the Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish for a World Communion Sunday Service here at Bridgeport UMC on Sunday, October 4, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome as we gather with United Methodists from across the area to worship and celebrate our unity in Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND
BIBLE STUDIES

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Adult Classes

Bread of Life—Library

Faith, Family, & Friends—Parlor

Youth & Children

Youth Sunday School—Educ. Building

Young Explorers (ages 3 through

Grade 5)—Primary Chapel

Nursery Care (infants through age 2)—

Nursery

Children’s Church

Grades K-5—10:45

Children’s Church room

Weekly Bible Studies

Lectionary Bible Study—Thursday,

10:00 AM, Library

Bible Study—Thursday, 7:00 PM,

Sanctuary overflow

L.I.F.E. Bible Study—Tuesday,

7:30 PM, Johnson Ave.

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

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

September 19, 2026

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Jim Harris, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS

He Is Exalted
Jesus Name Above All Names

FWS 2070

FWS 2071

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

MESSAGE

“The Answer In Question Form”

Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

O How He Loves You and Me

FWS 2108

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

UMH 163

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Childcare is available for infants through age 5 in the Nursery in the back hallway by the Chapel.

*Indicates standing as able.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ JOHNSON AVENUE

September 20, 2026

9:45 AM

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris, pianist

Growing in the Word

*Scripture

Philippians 1:21-30

Message

“The Answer In Question Form”

Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey

Glorifying God Through Communion and Response

Holy Communion

(In Holy Communion, we remember God’s sacrificial love revealed in Jesus Christ and receive God’s 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

September 20, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



“The Answer In Question Form”

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

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). Through worship, prayer, and study, God strengthens us to go forth and serve in Matthew 25 Ministries.

PRELUDE

As we gather, we remember those worshiping at our Maplewood Worship Service.

Today’s leader is Jay Larry.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 105)

Reader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,

ALL: Make known God’s deeds among all people!

Reader: Sing praises to the Lord and tell of God’s wonderful works!

ALL: Glory in God’s holy name and seek the Lord always.

Reader: Indeed, we gather to seek the Lord’s strength and presence.

ALL: Let us worship the Lord and give thanks for all that God has done!

*INVOCATION

*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

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

UMH 158

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord

David J. Evans,

arr. Richard Sephard

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;

Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *He Is Exalted* FWS 2070

*SCRIPTURE LESSON *Philippians 1:21-30*

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *“The Answer In Question Form”* Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey

Outline: 1. What is the _____ in your life?

2. Where is the _____ of the Gospel evident in your life?

3. What _____ have you made for _____?

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know* UMH 163

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed* UMH 881

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. * “universal”

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Reader: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our sins and create in us clean hearts.

People: Forgive us, O Lord, for our failure to center our lives upon Jesus Christ. Forgive us for placing our opinions and agendas above the Gospel. We miss the mark often and excuse ourselves frequently. We acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Renew a right spirit within us, and mold us into who You call us to be. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Reader: Hear the good news: God hears the prayer of a contrite heart and offers forgiveness and new life. In Christ’s name, we are forgiven.

People: Praise and glory be to our loving and merciful God. Amen.



LIVING THE MISSION

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*DOXOLOGY *Old 100th* 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!

ALL: Let us give thanks to Christ, who gathers us in love and calls us to live in His name.

Reader: Jesus, You have shown us the way to live, speak, and act.

ALL: Give us the courage we need to follow.

Reader: You give us the Good News as a gift that leads to life.

ALL: Jesus, by Your death we are born to new life, and You call us to offer that life to all people.

Reader: We give You thanks for the promise of eternal life for those who follow You.

ALL: Jesus, because You live, we shall also live.

Reader: Lord Jesus, in Your mercy, heal us, in Your love, give us strength.

ALL: In Your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, and show us the way to offer the same to all people, looking toward the day when we will stand before You face to face. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN *We Are Called* FWS 2172

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

*POSTLUDE

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Tom Price – organist/pianist; Rev. Sarita Robinson – Associate Pastor; Chancel Choir

*Indicates standing as able.

Christian Sympathy to Pat Gruber on the death of her husband, Charles Gruber.

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 and Tom Price, Accompanists † Russ Francis, Treasurer

Kim Kapp and Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Scott Davis, Youth Director,

Polly Steele, Director of Preschool † Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise

Afterschool Program † Dan and Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors

Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director † Jennifer Lawson, Cherub Choir Director

Bobby Corley, Dorothy Prunty, Cathy Hamilton, and Michael Moran, Facilities

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM † Fridays, Closed

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (September 20 – September 27)		
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	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	Education Building
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 Rec. Dinner will not meet	Johnson Ave. Campus
6:30 PM	Revive Recovery Ser. will not meet	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Reh. will not meet	Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY		
7:00 AM	Men’s Prayer and Coffee	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare	Nursery
10:00 AM	Lectionary Bible Study	Library
7:00 PM	Bible Study will not meet	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, September 27		
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	Youth Sunday School	Education Building
9:30 AM	Young Explorers SS (Pre K3-5th)	Primary Chapel
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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
5:30 PM	Membership Gathering	Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Education Building

Children & Youth Music Ministries

All Children and Youth are invited to join our choirs and handbells tonight, Sunday, September 20!

Cherub Choir (ages 3–1st grade): 5:00 PM, Primary Chapel
Contact: Jenny Lawson–304-669-0618

Jubilate Singers (2nd–5th grade): 5:00 PM, Children’s Church Room,
Contact: Katherine Hughes – 646-879-8552

Seraphim Singers (6th–12th grade): 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall Stage
Contact: Katherine Hughes–646-879-8552

Children’s Handbells (2nd - 5th grade): 5:30 PM, Children’s Church Room
Contact: Jenny Murray–304-293-7993