

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.

NEW 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.

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: Psalm 51:10-12

Monday: Proverbs 15:1-9

Tuesday: 1 John 5:13-15

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 26-27

Thursday: Genesis 45:1-8

Friday: Psalm 100:1-5

Saturday: Acts 2:42-47

Breath Prayer This Week

Heavenly Father, forgive us for doubting you. Thank you for working all things for our good. 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

February 21, 2026

6:15 PM

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Jordan Groves

*HYMN

Hallelujah! What a Savior

UMH 165

*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 3:1-21

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

MESSAGE

In the Dark

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me God

UMH 480

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

O How He Loves You and Me

FWS 2108

*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

February 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 3:1-21

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

Message

In the Dark

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

February 22, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

The First 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

PRELUDES *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* arr. by Thomas Keesecker
Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. by Bob Walters

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

Today's leader is Cheryl Bramble.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: From the shadows, we come—drawn by the light that shines and is not overcome.

ALL: We come to the One who meets us in the night and calls us toward life.

Reader: We come to encounter Christ, who was lifted upon the cross. Through his Spirit, he breathes eternal life into open hearts.

ALL: We turn toward the light, trusting the mercy that leads us home.

Reader: Come, walk in the grace revealed in Jesus Christ.

ALL: We will worship the Light of the world—the One who comes to save.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Reader: Loving God, we come before you as we are – searching and longing to be made new. Meet us here. Speak to us where questions are deeper than answers. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that we may be born from above and awakened to your life.

Lift our eyes to Christ, who was lifted up to draw the world to himself. Reveal to us the love laid bare in the cross, and lead us from shadow into truth, from fear into trust, from death into life.

ALL: O God, open us to your grace, renew us in your love, and form us into people who walk in your light. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, 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**

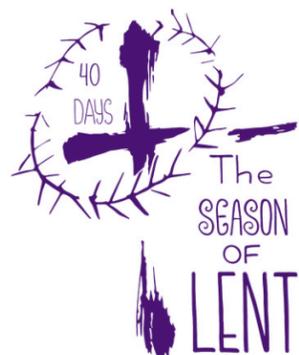
*HYMN OF WORSHIP *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* UMH 340

WORD IN MUSIC

John 3:16

B.E. Boykin

(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 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE Lord, I Lift Your Name on High FWS 2088

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

MESSAGE In the Dark Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE Breathe on Me, Breath of God UMH 420

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: God of light and truth, you shine into the darkness, and nothing is hidden from you.

ALL: Yet we confess that we often love the shadows.

Reader: You call us to be born from above, to live by your Spirit, to walk in the light of Christ.

ALL: But we cling to what is familiar. We resist what would change us. We turn away from the light that would heal us.

Reader: You revealed your love in Christ lifted up for the world.

ALL: Yet we forget your mercy, doubt your grace, and fear surrendering our lives to you.

Reader: Bring us out of darkness and into truth.

ALL: Forgive us, O God. Renew us, and awaken us to your life. By your grace, lead us from fear into trust, from hiding into honesty, from death into life. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Reader: Hear the good news: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Friends, believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 To God Be the Glory (verse 1) UMH 98

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

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: Faithful and loving God, we give you thanks for all your mighty acts of love.

We thank you for the gift of creation, for speaking light into darkness and calling all things into being.

We thank you for your covenant mercy, for choosing a people, and for the law and the prophets who called your people home.

Above all, we thank you for Jesus Christ – the Word made flesh and the perfect revelation of your love. Living among us in grace and truth, he proclaimed your kingdom and restored the broken. He was lifted up in love upon the cross. Rising in victory over sin and death, he rose in glory, ascended to reign with you, and poured out your Spirit.

For the new birth you offer, for your grace at work among us, and for the promise of life that begins now and never ends, we give you thanks.

ALL: Receive our gratitude, O God, and shape us into people who live in your light, walk in your truth, and entrust our lives to the unpredictable currents of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN Lift High the Cross UMH 159

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Prelude in C minor, Op. 8, No. 1 Henryk Pachulski

*Indicates standing as able.

Ministering in the Service: Jim Christie – liturgist; Chancel Choir; Brett Miller – pianist; Rev. Sarita Robinson

Christian Sympathy to

Suzanne Iaquinta and Family on the death of her mother, Geraldine Roth.

Herb Parsons and Family on the death of his father, Herbert Parsons, Jr.

Ryan Oliver and Family on the death of his father, Gary Oliver.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (February 22– March 1)

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
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

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
6:30 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

SUNDAY, March 1

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 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

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