WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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*HYMN OF PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

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CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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.

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*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

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Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
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For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

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Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

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Moments of Silent Prayer

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THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

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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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. Amen.

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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

- *Visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*** UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
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Large Print Hymnals at the Sanctuary entrance.

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

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*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

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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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
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true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
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O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
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And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
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Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

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Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care † Rev. Jim Lang, Education
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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- *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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

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Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
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Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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because You died and rose again.

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it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

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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

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Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Wednesday: John 20:11-18
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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Lectionary Bible Study -Thursday - Library/10:00 AM
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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
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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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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, Birdie Lipscomb, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors † Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
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9:30 AM	Faith, Family, Friends SS	Parlor
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
- *Please visit our website at bridgeportumc.org for ministry updates, events, and opportunities to connect.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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

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Praise God 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.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*SENDING FORTH

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TUESDAY

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

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
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BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

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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
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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

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Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
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Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
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Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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

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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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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.*
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
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Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Youth Group Meeting	Gym

MONDAY

7:00 AM	AA Morning Meditation	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	Preventicare	Nursery

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10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
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November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

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GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

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and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King.

© 1996 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Words and Music by Billy J. Foote

MESSAGE **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**

Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

Not That Kind of King Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE ***All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine*** UMH 166

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

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 God, all creatures here below.
Praise God 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: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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 ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

Ministering in the Service: Rick Curtis – liturgist; Brett Miller – organist/pianist; Chancel Choir; Elementary Handbells (10:45); Cherub Choir (10:45); Jubilate Singers (10:45)

Christian Sympathy to Gregory Moore on the death of his father, Robert, Moore.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (November 8 – November 15)

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
5:00-7:00 PM	2nd Sunday Family Game Night	Fellowship Hall
5:00 PM	Cherub Choir will not meet	Primary Chapel
5:00 PM	Jubilate Singers will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Elementary Handbells will not meet	Children's Church Room
5:30 PM	Seraphim Singers	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	Fowler Heritage Room
10:30 AM	Esther Ruth Circle Meeting	Children's Church Room
6:00 PM	BUM Men's Meeting	Pastors Conf. Room
6:00 AM	Finance Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
7:30 PM	L.I.F.E.	Johnson Ave. Campus

WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)

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 15

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
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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, Birdie Lipscomb, 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
Bobby Corley, Facilities Coordinator, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

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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!

SECOND SUNDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT THIS SUNDAY, November 8 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall Ready, set, GAME ON! Don't miss our Second Sundays Family Game Night **THIS SUNDAY EVENING!** We're bringing out the giant games, board games, and plenty of fun for all ages! Enjoy hot dogs, snacks, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game and a favorite snack to share if you'd like, but all you really need to bring is yourself! Whether you're 3 or 93, there's something for everyone. Come for the whole evening or just drop in. Bring your family, invite a friend or neighbor, and join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12! Are you ready for fun, friends, faith, and making a difference? Come be a part of an M25 Generation, a generation putting faith into action and living out Jesus' call to love and serve others! Join us every **Sunday from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Gym**. Bring your friends, come as you are, and get ready for a great time. You belong here!

FREELY: "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!

Coffee, Conversation, and Community: Looking for a place to connect? Join us in the Parlor on **Sunday, November 8**, anytime **between 9:45 and 10:30 AM** for coffee, light refreshments, and conversation! Come meet members of the Faith, Family, and Friends Sunday School Class and learn more about this opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get connected, we'd love to meet you!

Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*INVOCATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIVING THE MISSION
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THE WORD IN MUSIC

*SCRIPTURE LESSON — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell

WORD IN MUSIC (8:30) ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** Bianco da Siena; trans. Richard F. Littledale; Hilary Tadman-Robins

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine in my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he becomes the place
Where the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.
Come down, O Love divine.

SCRIPTURE LESSON ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC (10:45) ***Come Down, O Love Divine***

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 PRAISE ***You Are My King*** (Amazing Love) W&S 3023

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I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
that You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
it's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

You are my King; You are my King.
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Stories That Change Everything

EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON

Reader: Merciful God, you invite us into your kingdom of grace, yet we do not always respond to your call.

ALL: We are quick to judge and slow to welcome.

Reader: We seek our own way rather than follow yours, desire power and recognition, and forget that Jesus calls us to lives of humble service.

ALL: Forgive us, Lord, for the ways we have failed to love as you love. Renew our hearts by your Holy Spirit, and teach us to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

Reader: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, God offers us forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

ALL: Glory to God! Amen.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (8:30)

HYMN (8:30) ***God Claims You*** FWS 2249

Refrain: Avery, Avery, God claims you ...

LIVING THE MISSION

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Reader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks that your love is greater than our expectations and your mercy reaches farther than we can imagine. In Jesus Christ, you have revealed the wonder of your kingdom: a kingdom where the humble are lifted up, the forgotten are remembered, and the last are welcomed as the first. Above all, we thank you for the victory of your love, revealed in the cross and proclaimed in the resurrection. Send us forth in the joy of your salvation, confident in your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

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*SENDING HYMN ***Go, Make of All Disciples*** UMH 571

*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE ***Festival Postlude on LANCASHIRE*** (We Come as Guests Invited) Gilbert M. Martin

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SATURDAY

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Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Monday: Genesis 25:19-26
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 9:20-27
Wednesday: John 20:11-18
Thursday: 2 Kings 6:1-7
Friday: 1 Peter 3:8-12
Saturday: Proverbs 13:11-23

Breath Prayer This Week

God of clarity, when we are lost, lead us to call out for your direction, and give us patience as we await your response. 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.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 7, 2026 **6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC — Tom Price, pianist

*OPENING HYMNS — ***Gather Us In*** (verses 1, 2, and 4) — FWS 2236

*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 22:1–14***

MESSAGE — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — ***You Are My King (Amazing Love)*** — inside of bulletin

PASTORAL PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN — ***Go Ye, Go Ye into the World*** — FWS 2239

*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 8, 2026 **9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

*Scripture Choruses and Songs — Jim Harris

Growing in the Word

*Scripture — ***Matthew 22:1–14***

Message — **The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like ...**
Stories That Change Everything
EXPLORING THE PARABLES OF JESUS IN MATTHEW
Not That Kind of King — 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 8, 2026 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM
TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDES — ***The Call*** (R.V.W. – In Gratitude) — by Alec Wyton
Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here (CAREY) — arr. by Charles Callahan
Gather Us In — arr. by David Lask

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

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

INTROIT (10:45) — ***This Is My Father's World*** — Franklin L. Sheppard; arr. Sharon Wilson

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Reader: Come, for God has prepared a place for us at the table!
ALL: We come with grateful hearts to celebrate God's grace!
Reader: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ, our humble and risen King!
ALL: Let us rejoice in his love and follow in his ways!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Reader: Gracious and loving God, you invite us into your kingdom and welcome us to the feast of your grace. Open our hearts to your presence and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Clothe us with compassion, humility, and love, that we may follow the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. As we worship you today, shape us more fully into the people you call us to be, so that all that we say and do may bring glory and honor to you.
ALL: In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God, 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 Thankful People, Come*** — UMH 694

SONGS OF PRAISE (10:45) — ***Thankful Am I*** — Elaine Lockwood; arr. Timothy Edmonds
Count Your Blessings — Johnson Oatman; Edwin O. Excell