

**WATCH BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ONLINE**

The service is streamed live at 10:45 AM, on Sundays, and is archived online for later viewing as well. Share this with persons you know who are out of town or unable to attend our Worship Service in person. **Visit the Church Website at** [www.bridgeportumc.org](http://www.bridgeportumc.org) and click "Watch Online".

**REVIVE RECOVERY AT JOHNSON AVENUE WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM**

Revive Recovery continues to meet each Wednesday evening at our Johnson Avenue campus. Revive Recovery is a program specifically for dealing with the troubles we face in this challenging culture and time. Revive Recovery is, in fact, for all hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Only 1 in 3 are there for substance issues. Sign up to help by preparing a light supper served at 6 PM. Sign up on bulletin board in the main entry.



**Come Join one of our Choirs!**

**Chancel Choir** - First rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7 PM on the Stage in Fellowship Hall. Text or Call Sarah Carr Parsons at 304- 669-3466.

**Adult Handbell Choir** - First rehearsal is Sunday, Sept. 15. Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings 6PM - 7PM in the balcony. Text or Call Brenda Howard at 304-871-2190.



**YOUTH**

**Seraphim Singers** - for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. First rehearsal Sun. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> on the stage in Fellowship Hall from 5:30-6:00 PM. Call or text Katherine Hughes at 646-879-8552.

**CHILDREN**

**Our children's choirs rehearsal time has moved to Sunday evenings.** Look for upcoming information for possible instrumental groups for children.

**Cherub Choir** - for children age 3 -1<sup>st</sup> grade. First rehearsal Sun. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> downstairs in Primary Chapel from 5:00-5:30 PM. Call or email Jenny Lawson 304-669-0618 or [blawson@ma.rr.com](mailto:blawson@ma.rr.com).

**Jubilate Singers** - for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. First rehearsal is Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> on the stage in Fellowship Hall from 5:00-5:30 PM. Call or text Katherine Hughes at 646-879-8552.

Weekly Devotional Reading

- Sunday: Isaiah 41:8-16
- Monday: Psalm 19:7-11
- Tuesday: Romans 12:9-21
- Wednesday: Genesis 2:15-22
- Thursday: Psalm 8:1-9
- Friday: Isaiah 55:6-11
- Saturday: Matthew 25:31-40

**Breath Prayer this Week:**

Gracious God, help us to remember those who have been kind to us and to find ways to be kind to others. Help us see your work in the actions of others. Amen.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

Adult Sunday School Classes are: Bread of Life SS/Library/9:30AM Faith, Family & Friends SS/Parlor/ 9:30AM

**YOUTH BACK-TO-SCHOOL COOKOUT - SEPTEMBER 8TH!**

We invite all youth 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade and parents to our Back-to-School cookout on Sunday, September 8th, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm! Come enjoy food, games, prizes, and a chance to connect with friends. Don't miss this evening of fellowship and fun! We will meet in the back parking lot at 5:30 PM!

**AVAILABLE SERVICES—ASK AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE**

- 8:30 Service** Childcare - infants-5 years, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel
- 10:45 Service** Childcare - infants-2 years, Nursery, hallway by back Chapel
- 10:45 Service** Childcare for 2, 3 & 4 yr. olds, Educ. Bldg. - 1st room on right
- Children's Bulletin** available on table in the back of the Sanctuary
- 10:45 Children's Church** - ages 5-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Children's Church Room
- Large Print Hymnals** at main entrance to the Sanctuary
- Extra Copies of Our Newsletter**, "Steeple Talk" available in the Narthex
- Prayer Cards** to indicate special concerns are located in the pew racks
- Membership Directories** are available in the Church Office.



**GIVE ONLINE**  
Simply scan the QR code

**SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**August 31, 2024**

**6:15 PM**

- BRINGING IN THE LIGHT
- GATHERING MUSIC Tom Price
- \*HYMN *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning* FWS 2237
- \*INVOCATION
- \*THE LORD'S PRAYER
- MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES
- ~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.
- ~ Please visit our website, [bridgeportumc.org](http://bridgeportumc.org) for regular updates.
- WORD IN MUSIC
- \*SCRIPTURE LESSON *James 1:17-27*
- MESSAGE *Listen Often – Speak Rarely* Rick Curtis
- \*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Lord, Be Glorified* FWS 2150
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- \*HYMN *Together We Serve* FWS 2175
- \*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD
- \*SENDING FORTH AND POSTLUDE

FWS-Faith We Sing Hymnal UMH-United Methodist Hymnal  
WS-Worship and Song Hymnal

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**

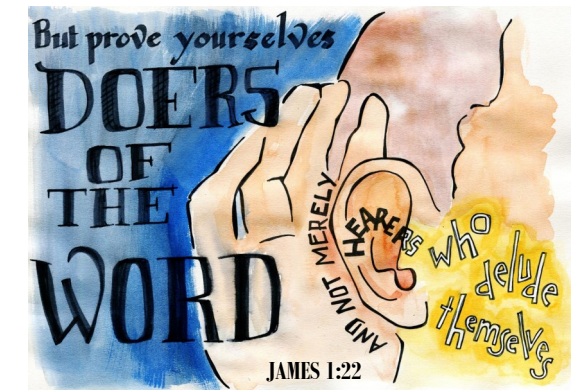
**September 1, 2024**

**9:45 AM**

- Gathering to Praise**
- \*Scripture Choruses and Songs Jim Harris
- \*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation
- Growing in the Word**
- The Word in Music
- \*Scripture *James 1:17-27*
- Today's Message *Listen Often – Speak Rarely* Rick Curtis
- 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 anew His grace.)
- Going Forth to Share and Serve**
- Ministry Stewardship and Opportunities
- \*Closing Song
- \*Benediction and Sending Forth
- \*Indicates standing as able.

**BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

251 WORTHINGTON DRIVE, BRIDGEPORT, WV  
September 1, 2024 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM



**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE VISION OF "MATTHEW 25"

We are a community of faith focused on being in ministry with and for the least, the last, the lonely, and the left out. Jesus said, "When you do it to the least of these, you do it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) 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.

PRELUDE *Two Settings of THE ASH GROVE*

by Wilbur Held and David Cherwien

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

Today's leader is Jay Larry.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP based on James 1  
Reader: We gather to worship our holy God, who does not change like shifting shadows.

**ALL: Every good and perfect gift comes from God above.**

Reader: We come with open hearts, ready to receive and respond.

**ALL: We are here not only to hear the Word, but to do what it says!**

Reader: We draw near to live out the love and grace that has been freely given to us through Jesus Christ.

**ALL: We worship God with hands ready to serve and lives ready to be transformed.**

\*INVOCATION

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF WORSHIP *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* UMH 103

MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ~ Please fill out a prayer card if desired and place it in an offering basket.
- ~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.
- ~ Please visit our website, [bridgeportumc.org](http://bridgeportumc.org) to check for regular updates.

(10:45 Children K-2nd Grade only may leave for Children's Church.

Please meet with your leader in the back of the Sanctuary.

Younger children see back of bulletin for locations of nurseries.)

\*DOXOLOGY

*Glory Be to the Father*

UMH 70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON

*James 1:17-27*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

WORD IN MUSIC *They'll Know We Are Christians* Scholtes, arr. R. Summers

MESSAGE *Beyond Words* Rev. Ben Randolph

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Take My Life, and Let It Be* UMH 399

\*CONFESSION OF SIN AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**ALL: God of justice and righteousness, your call beckons us**

**to live faithful lives,  
to turn from wickedness,  
to walk in your ways.**

**Yet we have been slow to listen,  
quick to speak,  
and abrupt in anger.**

**We have heard your word,  
but we have not been doers of your word.**

**We have not restrained our tongues.**

**We have not cared for the orphans and the widows.**

**We have allowed ourselves to be stained by the world.**

**Forgive us.**

**Implant your word of truth in our hearts,  
and cleanse us from all evil.**

**By the power of your love, have mercy upon us,  
that we might faithfully serve you. Amen.**

(Silent prayer)

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

As the forgiven people of God, let us boldly declare our faith:

**ALL: We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Father of lights, from whom every good and perfect gift comes.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Savior,**

**the perfect gift of love and grace**

**given for the redemption of the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who enlightens our hearts and minds,**

**guiding us in truth and filling us with the light of God's presence.**

**With hearts full of gratitude, we declare our faith in the one true God,**

**who is the source of all that is good, perfect, and eternal. Amen.**

MOMENTS OF GUIDED PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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

Reader: We give you all thanks and praise, O God, as we acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from you, the Father of lights. By your Word, you created us and made us the first fruits of your creation.

In the fullness of time, you gave your greatest gift of all – your Son, Jesus Christ. Through his life, sacrificial death on the cross, and glorious resurrection, you have brought us the hope of eternal life and the assurance of your unchanging love.

In your faithful love, you have given the gift of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, guides us in the truth, helps us to bridle our tongues and to care for the vulnerable, and empowers us to live out our faith with integrity and love.

**ALL: Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* UMH 664

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (ST. DENIO)* arr. by Wilbur Held

\*Indicates standing as able.

**Those participating in the Service** - Brett Miller- organist, pianist;

Chancel Choir Women

**Christian Sympathy** to Ranae Stanley on the death of her father, Bretzel Allen.

**The Rose on the Altar** celebrates the birth of Reagan, daughter Tosha Reel.

BRIDGEPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh, Senior Pastor † Rev. Ben Randolph, Associate Minister  
Rev. George Bramble, Rev. Jim Lang, Pastoral Care † Sarah Carr Parsons, Director of  
Chancel Choir † Joe Starkey, Coordinator of Discipleship and Youth Ministries  
Brett Miller, Organist † Jim Harris, Tom Price, Accompanists † Russ Francis, Treasurer  
Kim Kapp, Jennifer Walker, Administrative Staff † Polly Steele, Director of Preschool  
Becky Thornton, Director of Joyful Noise Afterschool Program  
Dan & Katherine Hughes, Seraphim Directors Katherine Hughes, Jubilate Director  
Jennifer Lawson, Cherub Choir Director  
Dorothy Prunty, Denny Owens, Cathy Hamilton, Michael Moran, Facilities

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (September 1– September 8)**

**SUNDAY**

8:30 AM Worship Service Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Bread of Life Sunday School Library  
9:30 AM Faith Family Friends SS Parlor  
9:30 AM WOW Children's 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  
6:00-7:00 PM Youth Meeting Education Building

**MONDAY Office Closed**

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

**TUESDAY**

10:00 AM Staff Meeting will not meet Fowler Heritage Room  
7:00 PM Proverbs 31 Circle Meeting Johnson Ave. Campus

**WEDNESDAY**

6:30 PM Revive Recovery Johnson Ave. Campus  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Fellowship Hall

**THURSDAY**

7:00 AM Men's Prayer and Coffee Johnson Ave. Campus  
9:00 AM PreventiCare Nursery  
10:00 AM Lectionary Class Library  
6:00 PM Sweet Hour of Prayer Meeting Johnson Ave. Campus

**FRIDAY**

7:00 AM AA Morning Meditation Johnson Ave. Campus  
8:30 AM Sister's Bible Study

**SATURDAY**

6:15 PM Saturday Evening Service Sanctuary

**SUNDAY, September 8**

8:30 AM Worship Service Sanctuary  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
9:45 AM Worship @ Johnson Ave. Johnson Ave. Campus  
9:45 AM Maplewood Worship Service Maplewood  
10:45 AM Worship Service Sanctuary  
5:30-7:00 PM Youth Picnic Back Parking Lot

**Children's Fall Sunday School begins next week!**



**Children ages 3 through Fifth Grade**

**Young Explorers: Bible Study**

**Discovering God's Love through Relationship, Experience, and Wonder**

This fall we invite children ages 3 through fifth grade to join us at 9:30 AM in the Primary Chapel! Each week, your children will explore a key Bible verse and learn through play, interactive lessons, and practical application. Together, with our team of volunteers they will discover the different aspects of God's love. We will dismiss at 10:30 AM in the Primary Chapel.