

## 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.

## CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

**Young Explorers: Bible Study**  
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. We will dismiss at 10:30 AM in the Primary Chapel.

## EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE YOUTH AS THEY GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 22 from 5:15 - 6:15 PM. We will meet on the porch at 5:00 PM and go caroling at 5:15 PM. After caroling the Youth will have their Christmas Party from 6:15-7:15 PM in Fellowship Hall for a joyful time of making gingerbread houses and sharing in Christmas cheer!

**PLEASE JOIN US** for a reception in honor of Sarah Carr Parsons and Ben Randolph and their many contributions to the mission and ministry of BUMC on Sunday, December 29, from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Cards are welcome.

**JOIN US FOR OUR BIBLE STUDY** on the Gospel of John. Led by Pastor Matthew, the study meets Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the back of the Sanctuary. Class will resume on Jan. 2.

**CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY**  
There are few bags of Christmas cards that need to be delivered to our shut ins. If you can help with this it would be greatly appreciated.

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**GIVE ONLINE**  
Simply scan the QR code

## Weekly Devotional Reading

Sunday: John 8:12-18

Monday: Isaiah 61:1-3

Tuesday: Psalm 139:7-12

Wednesday: Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday: Psalm 42:1-11

Friday: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Saturday: Luke 2:1-20

## Breath Prayer this Week:

Heavenly Father, may the glory and wonder of the Nativity lead us through all seasons of the year. Amen.

**THANKS** to everyone who donated to the Christmas Food Basket and Angel Tree Ministries. It is greatly appreciated.

**CHANCEL CHOIR** will resume rehearsals January 15, 2025.

## UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL GUIDES

The Upper Room is a wonderful daily guide for prayer and Bible reading. Consider cultivating your spiritual walk by using this great tool. You will find them in the literature racks at each entrance. Donation is \$1.



## 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**

**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

**Prayer Cards** to indicate special concerns are located in the pew racks

## SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

**December 21, 2024**

**6:15 PM**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

GATHERING MUSIC

Jim Harris

\*HYMN

*There's a Song in the Air*

UMH 249

\*INVOCATION

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

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

*Micah 5:2-5a*

MESSAGE

*Decorating with Micah*

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH 230

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN

*One Holy Night in Bethlehem*

FWS 2097

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING FORTH AND POSTLUDE

Child Care is available for infants – 5 years old in the Nursery in the back hallway by the Chapel

\*Indicates standing as able.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP @ JOHNSON AVENUE

**December 22, 2024**

**9:45 AM**

Gathering to Praise

\*Scripture Choruses and Songs

Jim Harris

\*Prayer of Invocation and Invitation

Growing in the Word

Advent Litany and Candle Lighting

The Word in Music

\*Scripture

*Micah 5:2-5a*

Today's Message

*Decorating with Micah*

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 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

December 22, 2024 † 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

*Christmas Medley*

arr. Linda McKechnie

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (JEFFERSON)

arr. David Cherwien

*The Little Drummer Boy*

arr. K.K. Davis

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* (NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND)  
arr. Helmut Walcha

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

Today's leader is Shawn Morgan.

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT AND THE WORD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Luke 1:46-50)

Reader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**ALL: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Reader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**ALL: Holy is God's name!**

Reader: Let us worship God.

**ALL: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer; from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

\*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

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UMH 240



ADVENT LITANY AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**ALL: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

Reader: Our Advent journey is almost complete; the Christ Child will soon be here.

**ALL: The candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy burn bright. As we light the fourth candle, we are reminded of the Love that only Christ can bring.**

(Reader lights the four purple and pink Advent candles.)

Reader: The Mighty One has done great things! Holy is God's Name! The Light of the World is coming.

**ALL: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

Reader: God's mercy endures from generation to generation for those who are in awe of God.

**ALL: The proud, the rich, the mighty no longer have power over us. The lowly are lifted up, and the hungry are satisfied.**

Reader: We light these candles in anticipation of the wondrous birth.

**ALL: We will open our hearts so that Love may have a place to dwell.**

ADVENT HYMN *In This Time of Waiting*

*In this time of waiting, we will sing of hope:  
Hope in Jesus, who alone makes whole.  
In our expectation, we will sing of hope;  
Hearts of longing, we will sing of hope.*

*In this time of waiting, we will sing of peace:  
Peace in Jesus, Savior, Prince of Peace.  
In our expectation, we will sing of peace;  
Hearts of longing, we will sing of peace.*

*In this time of waiting, we will sing with joy:  
Joy in Jesus darkness won't destroy.  
In our expectation, we will sing with joy;  
Hearts of longing, we will sing with joy.*

*In this time of waiting, we bring hearts of love;  
Peace and hope and joy bound up in love.  
In our expectation, we bring hearts of love;  
Hearts of longing, we bring hearts of love.*

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MUSICAL OFFERING *Gloria* arr. F. L. Callahan

MINISTRY STEWARDSHIP AND OPPORTUNITIES

~ Please fill out a prayer card if desired and place it in an offering basket.

~ Use the e-giving tab on the website, mail in your donation, or place it in the baskets at the entryways.

~ Please visit our website, bridgeportumc.org to check for regular updates.

(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 *Doxology for Advent* (Tune: VENI EMMANUEL)

**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.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON *Micah 5:2-5a*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD IN MUSIC *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Dan Forrest

MESSAGE *Preparing for Christmas with the Prophets:*

Decorating with Micah

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paugh

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* UMH 179

BAPTISMAL COVENANT (10:45 AM)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* UMH 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*\* "universal"

MOMENTS OF GUIDED PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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

Reader: Thank you, Scandalous God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar: in a baby.

Thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning; for setting, in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of your love; for revealing, in a particular place, your light for all nations.

Thank you for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, and the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, and the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel and hold out their hands are generously fed.

**ALL: You have kept your promises to us; you have come to our help; you will show your people your love forever; therefore, our hearts praise you, O Lord. Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* UMH 250

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *Fanfare on "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" (Helmsley)* arr. By Karl Osterland

\*Indicates standing as able.

**Those participating in the Service** - Brett Miller- organ, piano; Chancel Choir; Barbara Sullivan - piano; Brenda Howard - Director of Handbell Choir;

John Sullivan - soprano saxophone

**Flowers on the Altar** are In Memory of Michael Ann Gainer, December 28, 1943 - December 1, 2017, given by Hugh Gainer.

**Christian Sympathy** to the family of Allie Bayne.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK (December 22 – December 29)

**SUNDAY**

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread of Life Sunday School	Library
9:30 AM	Faith Family Friends SS	Parlor
9:30 AM	Young Explorers SS (Pre K3-5th)	Primary Chapel
9:30 AM	Youth Sunday School	Education Building
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00-6:15 PM	Church/Youth Christmas Caroling	Porch
6:15-7:15 PM	Mid/Sr. High Christmas Party	Fellowship Hall

**MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Fowler Heritage Room
11:00 AM	Maplewood Christmas Service	Maplewood
6:00 PM	Candlelight Service with Nativity	Sanctuary
8:30 PM	Candlelight Service w/communion	Sanctuary
11:00 PM	Candlelight with full choirs	Sanctuary

**WEDNESDAY (Office Closed)**

6:30 PM	Revive Recovery will not meet	Johnson Ave. Campus
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**THURSDAY (Office Closed)**

7:00 AM	Men's Prayer and Coffee	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:00 AM	PreventiCare	Nursery
10:00 AM	Lectionary Class will not meet	Library
6:00 PM	Sweet Hour of Prayer Meeting	Johnson Ave. Campus
7:00 PM	Bible Study will not meet	Back of Sanctuary

**FRIDAY (Office Closed)**

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

**SATURDAY**

6:15 PM	Saturday Evening Service	Sanctuary
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**SUNDAY, December 29**

8:30 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Sunday School	
9:30 AM	Reception for Sarah and Ben	Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM	Worship @ Johnson Ave.	Johnson Ave. Campus
9:45 AM	Maplewood Worship Service	Maplewood
10:45 AM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
4:30-5:30 PM	Senior High Youth Group	Education Building
6:00-7:00 PM	Middle School Youth Group	Education Building

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

Tuesday, December 24

**6:00 PM** Living Nativity with Candlelight

**8:30 PM** Holy Communion with Candlelight

**11:00 PM** Candlelight Worship with full choirs.

Nursery Care (up to 3 years old)  
available at 6:00 PM and 8:30 PM

