



It's **Operation Christmas Child** Time Again! BUMC will begin collecting items for Operation Christmas Child boxes this month. Since it's back to school time, there are loads of good deals on school supplies right now, so we'll start again with collecting school supplies. While you're shopping for your students, please consider buying some extra of these supplies so we may include them in our Christmas boxes. We're collecting: pencils, black ink pens, rulers, small note pads, markers, colored pencils, square erasers, glue sticks, stickers, small scissors, post it notes. A collection area will be set up in the breezeway. We are planning activities to help us raise the money for shipping - more info coming soon!

The **Nurture Committee** will have the first **Soup and You** on **September 16th**, so mark your calendars now.



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN



2026 SPIRITUAL RETREAT

September 18 - September 19, 2026

- Check in begins at 3:00 PM on Friday, September 18
- Concludes at 3:00 PM on Saturday, September 19

Retreat Theme: B1, Inspire!
Men of Faith, Sharing their Faith

- **Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown will be our keynote speaker**
- Topics include discipleship, mentoring, and prayer life
- All men of the VA Conference and beyond are invited
- Breakout sessions, fellowship time, and gospel singing
- All registrations include dinner, breakfast and lunch
- \$150 registration with overnight lodging
- \$65 registration without overnight lodging
- Registration deadline is 9/11/26 - click link or QR code

www.vaumc.org/ummretreat



Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center
712 Massanetta Springs Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22801



REGISTER



Youth Group Announcements



Interest Inquiry: Youth Ministry Fall Retreat

Would any families with teens like to go to Massanetta Springs for a weekend of connection, faith, and intergenerational community on September 25-27?

Cost: \$175 per person; Deadline to register: 9/4/26. If interested or need more details, please Contact Jomo

INFO LINK: <https://endhunger.org/get-involved/overnight-camps/>

For more information please see the e-Blast

Don't forget! Every Sunday
Zoom Prayer @ 6:45 PM, & Youth Check in @ 7 PM
Blessings, Jomo (240) 328-5847 dumbumyouth@gmail.com



We are so excited for back to school season.

Today is the blessing of the backpacks.

On August 30th after the sermon, our children's ministry will be having a back to school brunch. There will be more information coming soon!

Join us for Children's Church every Sunday!

Contact Gracen
Email: gracenkelley123@gmail.com
Call or Text: 804-867-6143

We welcome prayer requests

Please share your prayer request with us on the Prayer Request Card found in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be one of our prayer chain partners, please contact the church office at 540-828-0890.

Bridgewater UMC Church Staff

540-828-0890 office@bridgewaterumc.com

Senior Pastor	Rich Bensinger SeniorPastor@BridgewaterUMC.com
Admin Assistant	Robin Siegel AdminAsst@BridgewaterUMC.com
Bookkeeper	Drew Davis Bookkeeper@BridgewaterUMC.com
Children's Ministries	Gracen Kelley gracenkelley123@gmail.com
Youth Ministries	Jomo Johnson dumbumyouth@gmail.com
Custodian	Edward Stoops ejstoops@aol.com
Director of Music	Wyatt Smith MusicDirector@BridgewaterUMC.com
Choir Director	James Kiser ChoirDirector@BridgewaterUMC.com
Handbell Choir Dir	Ramona Evans ramonaevans1@gmail.com
Organist	Drew Davis davisas248@gmail.com
Children's Church & Nursery	Gracen Kelley, Reanna Ahnen, Malachi Benjamin

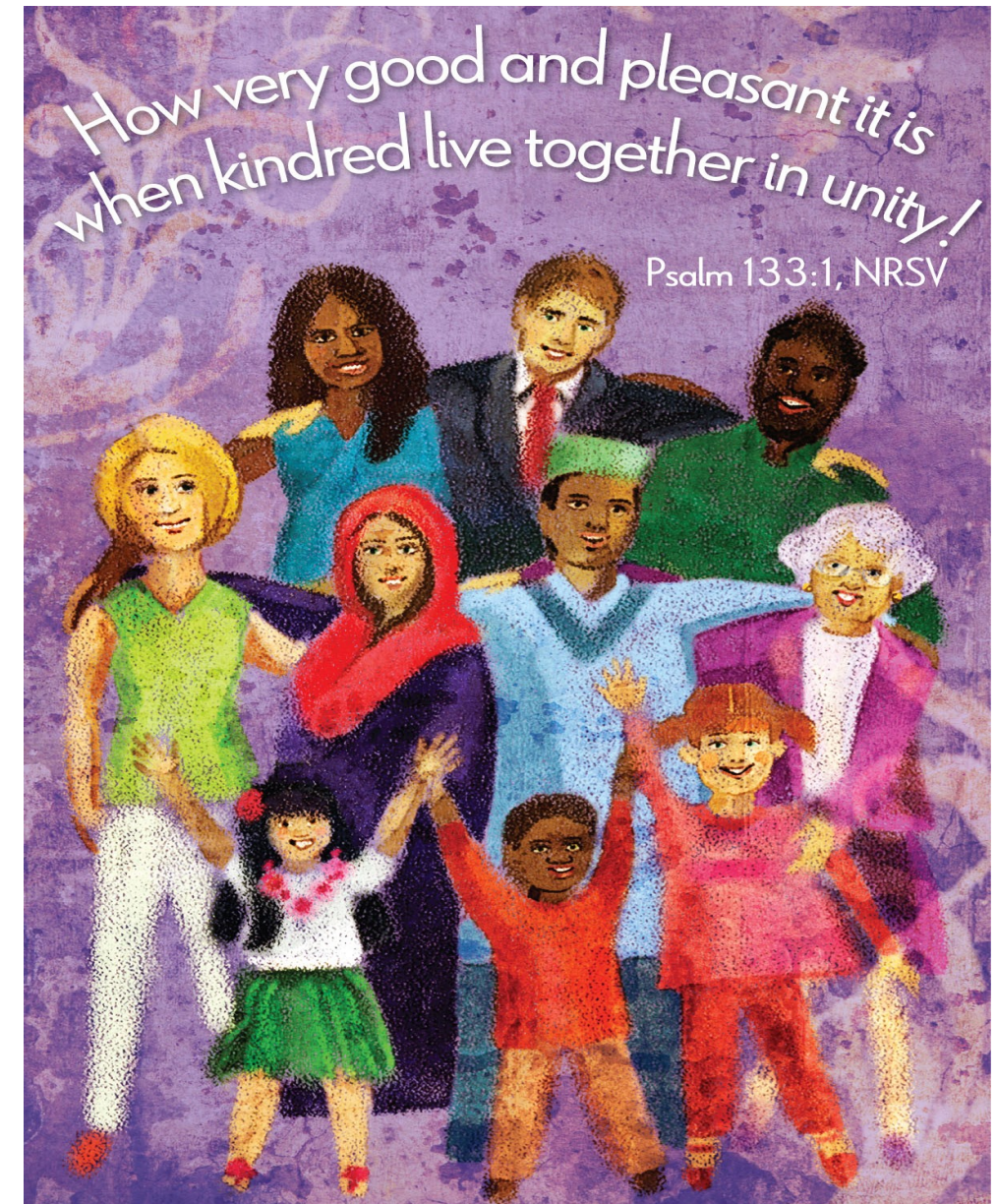
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 AM - 3 PM (Closed Friday)

Welcome to
Bridgewater
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



219 N. Main Street Bridgewater, VA 22812
540-828-0890 www.bridgewaterumc.com

August 16, 2026



Greetings from the congregation of Bridgewater UMC! We are certainly blessed to have you worship with us. We pray that you will feel welcomed and loved. Do you need assistance today? Please speak with any of our worship leaders or ushers. If you have questions during the week about the church, please call **Pastor Rich Bensinger** at 703-402-0287.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 16, 2026

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Red)

TFWS = The Faith We Sing (Black)

W&S = Worship & Song (Green)

* = Please stand in body or spirit

Ring the Bell

Announcements

Candle Lighting "Glory Be to the Father" (Gloria Patri) UMH 70

Prelude "Here I Am Lord"
D. Schutte/Arr. D. H. Pettit

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn UMH 121
"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Sermon "All Receive Mercy Here"

Offertory "Festival Prelude on Thaxted"
D. H. Pettit

*Doxology UMH 95

Blessing of the Backpacks

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn TFWS 2175
"Together We Serve"

*Benediction

Postlude "Air on the G String"
Bach/Arr. W. Beeler



In Our Prayers

Joys and Answered Prayers

Laura Mancari and James Kiser had successful foot procedures. Thank you, God, for the love of Jesus, for our church, our families, and our friends We give thanks for God's grace and mercy

Current Prayer Concerns

Kevin & Marie Menard Yvonne Flory
Camille Young Betty Cramer
Jerry Long David Backer

Ongoing Prayer Needs of our Congregation

Grace Fishback Dorothy Lion Nancy Thomas
Betty Foley Shirley Creekbaum Marcia & Gary
Dorice Graham Kim Miller Tyeryar
Rodney Hildebrand Mitzi Puffenbarger Donald & Ginger
Deidra Hill Joanne Simpkins Usry
Judy Hulvey Bonnie & Tom Snook Doris Waters
Barbara Kiracofe Sandra Stroud

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...

- For those affected by the earthquakes in Columbia, Japan and Venezuela , and the fires around the world, and for those helping
- For those affected by disease outbreaks—Ebola, measles, and Cyclosporiasis
- For protection for all Houses of Worship of all faiths
- Peace in our lives, our families, with our neighbors, and throughout the world
- For peace in Iran, Mid-East, Ukraine, Gaza, Venezuela, Cuba, and around the world
- For our nation to step back from greed, injustice, fear, hatred
- For our government leaders to act with love
- For wisdom for all our leaders, especially our President
- For protection for our government officials, & for our President
- For your will, not our will, to be done
- For those who cannot read
- For those who are struggling with financial problems
- Help us be servants to each other, our neighbors, & world
- Help us become better people & Christians; and grow in faith
- That our families will become closer to God; for clarity in seeing God's will
- For all students preparing to go back to school
- For Bridgewater and other college students - for a good start to the semester
- For safe travels for our families
- For strength, health, & healing for those who are sick
- For victims of abuse of all kinds, and for their abusers to change and learn
- For comfort for those dealing with illness, loss, those awaiting surgery, & having treatments
- For those dealing with mental illness and addiction and those who care for them
- For families in crisis or struggling with estrangement
- That this day be good and tomorrow better

Serving Us in Worship

	TODAY, Aug 16 (3rd Sun)	NEXT SUNDAY, Aug. 23 (4th Sun)
Greeters	Jim & Judy Tongue	Chuck & Sue Rexrode
Ushers	Don & Jason Gilkeson	Kathi Hemmis & Johna McFarland
Reader	Shadrach Baako-Amponsah	Dan Plecker
Audio-Visual	Mark Kipps	Sam Briggs
Acolytes	Nolan Gilkeson	Sydney & Reese Leach
Sanctuary Servers	Kathi Hemmis	Don & Sue Gilkeson
Bus Driver	Chuck Rexrode	Dwight Campbell

OUR CALENDAR

TODAY	9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship Service Blessing of the Backpacks 6:45 PM Prayer for Youth 7 PM Youth Check-in
MON	7 PM Pastor Rich's Men's Bible Study (Library)
TUE	10 AM Prayer Team (Library) 6:30 PM SPRC Meeting (New Beginnings)
NEXT SUNDAY	9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship Service— 6:45 PM Prayer for Youth 7 PM Youth Check-in

Please note that Pastor Rich will be out of town from Tuesday through Friday this week.



Please send Robin announcements for the Bulletin/Slides/E-Blast by Wednesday to adminasst@bridgewaterumc.com.

Attendance and Stewardship for last Sunday
Attendance: 99 Sunday School: 30 Total Giving: \$8,379
We welcome you, and as an act of hospitality, we offer several ways for you to participate in giving. Please find the most comfortable way for you. ♦Offering Plate is passed during Sunday Worship Services ♦Drop off or mail a check to the church at BUMC, 219 North Main St., Bridgewater VA 22812 ♦Online Giving at BUMC Web Page www.BridgewaterUMC.com/give ♦App for Giving @ Tithely.com Download the app, find BUMC, and give! ♦Secure, locked communication box outside at Green Street entrance in which you can leave papers for the church

