

The Flowers on the altar today are given with love from the Faith Bible Sunday School Class in honor of the upcoming wedding of Karen Chamblee and Paul Cook. Congratulations!



From Shirley C. Michael
Many thanks to all for your prayers, cards and contributions made in Memory of Ray. Your kind expressions of sympathy and friendship will remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Blessings to all.

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!



Pastor Rich's ongoing Men's Bible Study

The study meets on Monday evenings at 7 PM
He is holding the study in the Library

It is also available by Zoom
Please see Pastor Rich for more information

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



BUMC Financial Snapshot Month End

Year to Date Month End	General & Designated Fund Income	General & Designated Fund Expenses	Difference
7-31-26	\$234,032	\$314,035	(\$80,003)

The large expense driver for July was the roof repair payment of \$36,357. As you may remember, we had generous donations towards this project reserved on the Balance sheet. Thank you for your continued support!



Youth Group Announcements



Back to School Blessings!

We're asking our congregation to lift up our students in prayer for three things this week:

Safety, Confidence & courage, and Wisdom for teachers and staff
We're also always looking for adult volunteers to help with youth programming and events

MISSION TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bridgewater Youth Group — Overnight Camp!
Phoebe Needles Camp, Riner, VA, November 6-8, 2026
Intergenerational — kids and parents are welcome! \$175 per slot
Sign up and payment is due by 8/29/26.

Zoom Game Night — Starts Aug 23rd!

This year for our Zoom Check-in calls we'll have a short prayer and check-in before playing a fun 30-minute game via Zoom!
Every Sunday at 7 PM, plus prizes for winners each week! Bring a friend, the more the merrier. **First week: Aug 23: Scavenger Hunt**

For more information on any of these 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



On Next Sunday, 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

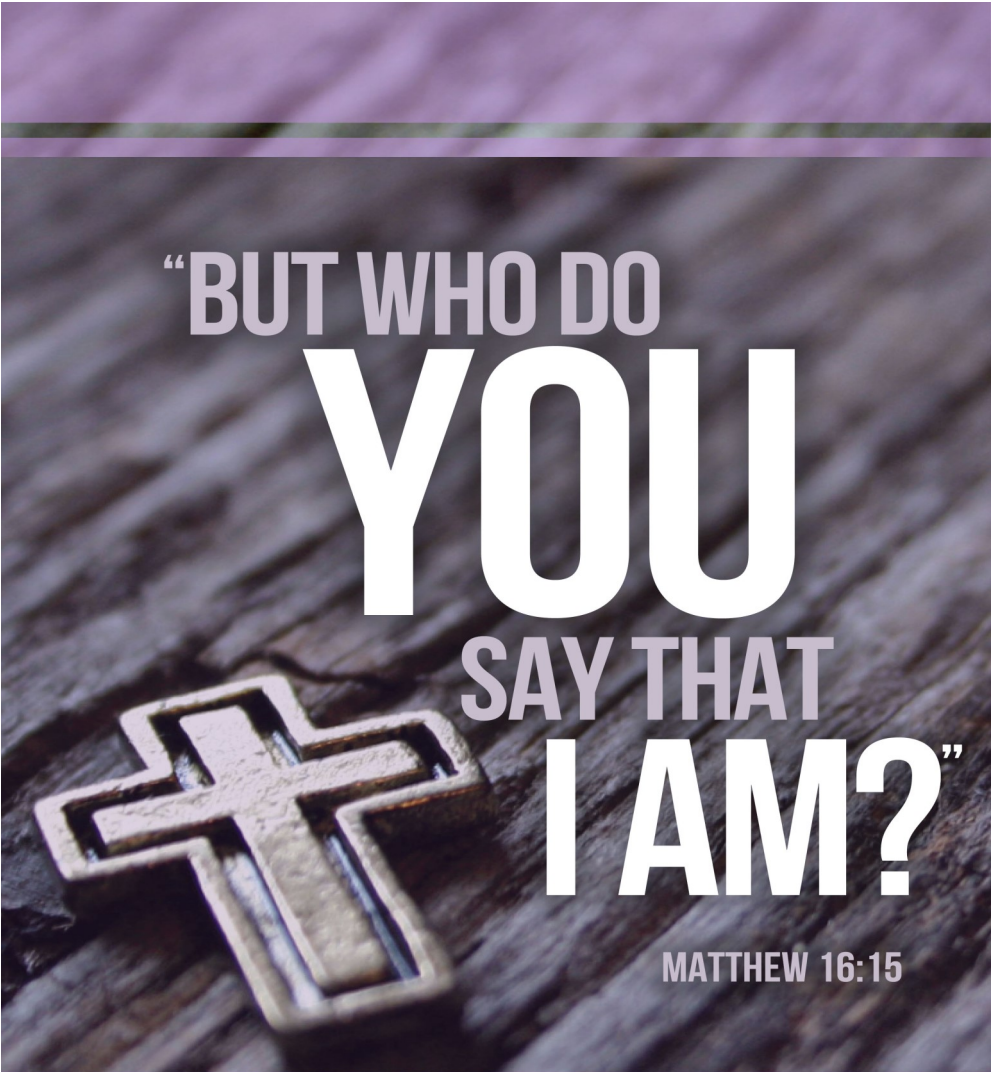
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 AM - 3 PM (Closed Friday)

Welcome to
Bridgewater
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

August 23, 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 23, 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 “Song of Hope”
A. Giamanco

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn W&S 3008
“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

*Opening Prayer

Children’s Message

Special Music “Simple Gifts”
Arr. C. Blevins
Karen Chamblee, violin

Reading Matthew 16: 13-20

Sermon “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

*Sermon Hymn UMH 171
“There’s Something About That Name”

Offertory “Cloister-Garth”
H. Brewer

*Doxology UMH 95

*Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed UMH 880

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

*Closing Hymn UMH 545
“The Church’s One Foundation”

*Benediction

Postlude “Meirionydd”
M. Balderston

In Our Prayers

Joys and Answered Prayers

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

Prayers of Sympathy for the families of

Betty Cramer
Marie Chaplin
Christopher Cramer

Current Prayer Concerns

Yvonne Flory Jerry Long
David Backer Shay Suter
Jane Wright’s mother

Ongoing Prayer Needs of our Congregation

Dick Boyd Barbara Kiracofe Sandra Stroud
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

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 wisdom and love
—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 Bridgewater and other college students , and students of
all grades, - 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 23 (4th Sun)	NEXT SUNDAY, Aug. 30 (5th Sun)
Greeters	Chuck & Sue Rexrode	Ruth Peters
Ushers	Kathi Hemmis & Johna McFarland	Paul & Johna McFarland
Reader	Dan Plecker	Joey Capuano
Audio-Visual	Sam Briggs	Scott Ridder
Acolytes	Sydney & Reese Leach	Nolan Gilkeson
Sanctuary Servers	Don & Sue Gilkeson	Laura & Tony Mancari
Bus Driver	Dwight Campbell	Dwight Campbell

OUR CALENDAR

TODAY	9 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM 4th Sunday Coffee 10 AM Worship Service 1:30 PM Worship at White Birch Communities 6 PM Wing Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:45 PM Prayer for Youth 7 PM Youth Check-in
MON	Robin out of office 7 PM Pastor Rich’s Men’s Bible Study (Library)
TUE	Robin out of office 10 AM Prayer Team (Library)
WED	7 PM Chior Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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 send Robin announcements for the Bulletin/Slides/E-Blast by
Wednesday to adminasst@bridgewaterumc.com.

Attendance and Stewardship for last Sunday

Attendance: 88 Sunday School: 36 Total Giving: \$6,718

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

