


The SPRC will sponsor the October 25 Fourth Sunday Coffee as a time to thank the Pastor and staff for their dedication and work. The congregation is invited to show their appreciation with cards, notes, small gifts

Thanks to Reach and Relate team with Rhonda's leadership for the yummy Cider and S'mores. And to Wyatt Smith and the Something Human Band for the fantastic music. Gracen with the help of David, Ethan and Ben collected $165.00 for the Pastor Discretionary Fund. We enjoyed meeting so many young people from the area!






The **UWF Salad Supper** is next Monday, October 19 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All Women are welcome!

Soup & You is back! Join us Wednesday, October 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.



Keep up with all the goings on by reading the e-Blast!




Calling all Singers!
The **Bridgewater UMC Choir** will soon be starting work on this year's **Christmas Cantata, "All Is Well"**! All are welcome! Never sang in a choir before? – no problem! Don't read music? – no problem! If you love to sing to the Lord, please join us!
The Cantata is scheduled for December 13th. Rehearsals are Wednesdays @ 7pm beginning October 7th. Questions? Contact James @ lyricbaritonejames@gmail.com



Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley, a 50-member professional choir led by Artistic Director Scott Zane Smith, presents its holiday concert, "The Pure Imagination of Christmas," December 19-20 at Lindale Mennonite Church in Linville. Performances begin at 3 p.m. both days. This one-hour concert features an inspiring collection that captures the spirit—and magic—of the holiday season. Make plans to attend and bring your family and friends. For more information, find us on Facebook at @Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley.

Important note: dumbumyouth@gmail.com is no longer valid.

It's **Operation Christmas Child** Time Again!
BUMC is collecting items for Operation Christmas Child boxes.



We are now collecting **"fun"** items. Items we need include **matchbox cars, small games, small balls, play dough, girls' hair items, dolls, coloring books, card games - whatever will fit inside a shoe box**.
A collection area is set up in the breezeway. The shopping cart is available for your donations. Larger amounts can be put under the table.
We appreciate everyone's support for this important service project.!
Johna McFarland, OCC Coordinator




Join us for Children's Church every Sunday! Children's Church is worship & Christian education for kids during part of the worship service. It is led by our amazing leaders Gracen & Rea. Children may attend worship through the Children's Message & then go to Children's Church on the first floor with our leaders. ~OR~ Children are always welcome to stay in the sanctuary with their family.

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 |
| 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

**October 18, 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

*October 18, 2026*

***UMH*** = United Methodist Hymnal (Red)
***TFWS*** = The Faith We Sing (Black)
***W&S*** = Worship & Song (Green)
** = Please stand in body or spirit*

**Ringing the Bell**

**Announcements**

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

**Prelude** "Enter with Joy"
K. Wissinger

* **Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn** UMH 156
"I Love to Tell the Story"

***Opening Prayer**

**Children's Message**

**Anthem** "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"
Arr. S. Pethel

**Reading** Acts 10:34-43

**Sermon** "How Does It Feel to Be a Prophet?"
Rev. Rich Bensinger

**Offertory** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
S. Temple
Joey Capuano, piano

***Doxology** UMH 95

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

***Closing Hymn** W&S 3158
"Go to the World"

***Closing Prayer/Benediction**

**Postlude** "Hymn to Joy"
Beethoven/Arr. E. Broughton

# In Our Prayers

**Joys and Answered Prayers**

Nora Katherine Towson was born on 10/4 to Anna and Mike Towson. Chuck and Dawn Kern are the grandparents, Garnett Suiter the great grandmother!
Thank you, God, for all your creatures, great and small
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 Family of**

Brenda Snyder, Vicky Gibson's sister

**Current Prayer Concerns**

Sandy Burke
Maggie Newman Miller
Karen Ridder
Dayton UMC
Sharon Griffeth
Rebecca Musgrave

**Ongoing Prayer Needs of our Congregation**

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

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

— For peace, justice and wisdom in our nation and in the world
— For peace to come in Iran, the Mid-East, Ukraine, Gaza, Venezuela, Cuba and around the world
— For our leaders to be filled with the Holy Spirit and for your will to be done
— For the people of our nation to turn to God and pray for guidance
— For those affected by natural disasters around the world and for those helping them
—To bring forth ideas for your kingdom, like the Blessings Box
—To bring forth hearts, minds and hands to implement them
— For people who need love, compassion, hope and forgiveness to find God's love through our actions
—For Bridgewater UMC to continue growing
—For our new members and all of us to grow in faith
—For foster parents and children in foster care
—For healing for the sick and calm for the anxious
—For peace and balance with work, family, and all of life
—For comfort, peace, and strength for all who are grieving loved ones
—For victims of abuse of all kinds, and for their abusers to change and learn
—For comfort for those dealing with illness, loss, awaiting surgery, and undergoing treatments
—For those dealing with mental illness and addiction and those who care for them
—For families in crisis or struggling with estrangement

**Serving Us in Worship**

| | TODAY, Oct. 18 (3rd Sun) | NEXT SUNDAY, Oct. 25 (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

**MON**
2 PM UWF Hope Circle (BRC Smith Room)
6:30 PM UWF Salad Supper (Fellowship Hall)
(Love Circle meet during set up & clean Up)
7 PM Pastor Rich's Men's Bible Study (Library)

**TUE**
10 AM Prayer Team (Library)
6:30 PM Basic CPR Training (Fellowship Hall)

**WED**
10 AM Women's Bible Study (New Beginnings)
12 PM Soup & You (Fellowship Hall)
6 PM Handbell Practice (Mt. Solon Commons)
7 PM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**NEXT SUNDAY**
9 AM Sunday School for all ages
9:30 AM 4th Sunday Coffee (Fellowship Hall)
10 AM Worship Service
1:30 PM Worship at White Birch Communities

**Please Note that Pastor Rich will be on vacation from Tue, the 13th through Thu, the 22nd, however he will be available if needed.**

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

**Attendance and Stewardship for last Sunday**

**Attendance: 75 Sunday School: 30 Total Giving: $4,333**

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



—For safe travels for our families and friends, for health and safety during their trips
—That this day be good and tomorrow better  (Galen Dellinger)