



BUMC's **Backpack Ministry** is gearing up for another year of service, and we need your help! This ministry has a direct impact on the lives of children in our local schools. Weekly we shop, pack, & deliver nearly 50 bags of groceries to students in need. We need monetary and food donations, as well as needing new volunteers to join our team! Please prayerfully consider a contribution to help sustain this ministry. To donate, make checks payable to Bridgewater United Women in Faith with 'Backpack Program' listed on the memo. Food items needed are listed in the e-Blast. For more information, please contact Jessi or Stephanie Higgs



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

Women's Bible Study
"The Women of the Bible Speak: the Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today" by Shannon Bream.
Wednesday mornings from 10–11 AM
New Beginnings Classroom



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.

Please excuse any oddities with the bulletin; I'm learning to do it on different programs as Microsoft is discontinuing the program we have been using. Thank you. -Robin

Important note: Please remove dumbumyouth@gmail.com address from your contact lists. This is no longer a valid email.

It's **Operation Christmas Child** Time Again!

BUMC is collecting items for Operation Christmas Child boxes.

We are now collecting hygiene items. We need **toothbrushes, toothbrush holders, washcloths, and boys' and girls' socks.** We are no longer collecting bars of soap or soap boxes.



We also still need some school supplies: **35 boxes of colored pencils, 54 pairs of scissors, 58 rulers, 36 pencil sharpeners, and 33 sheets of stickers.**

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

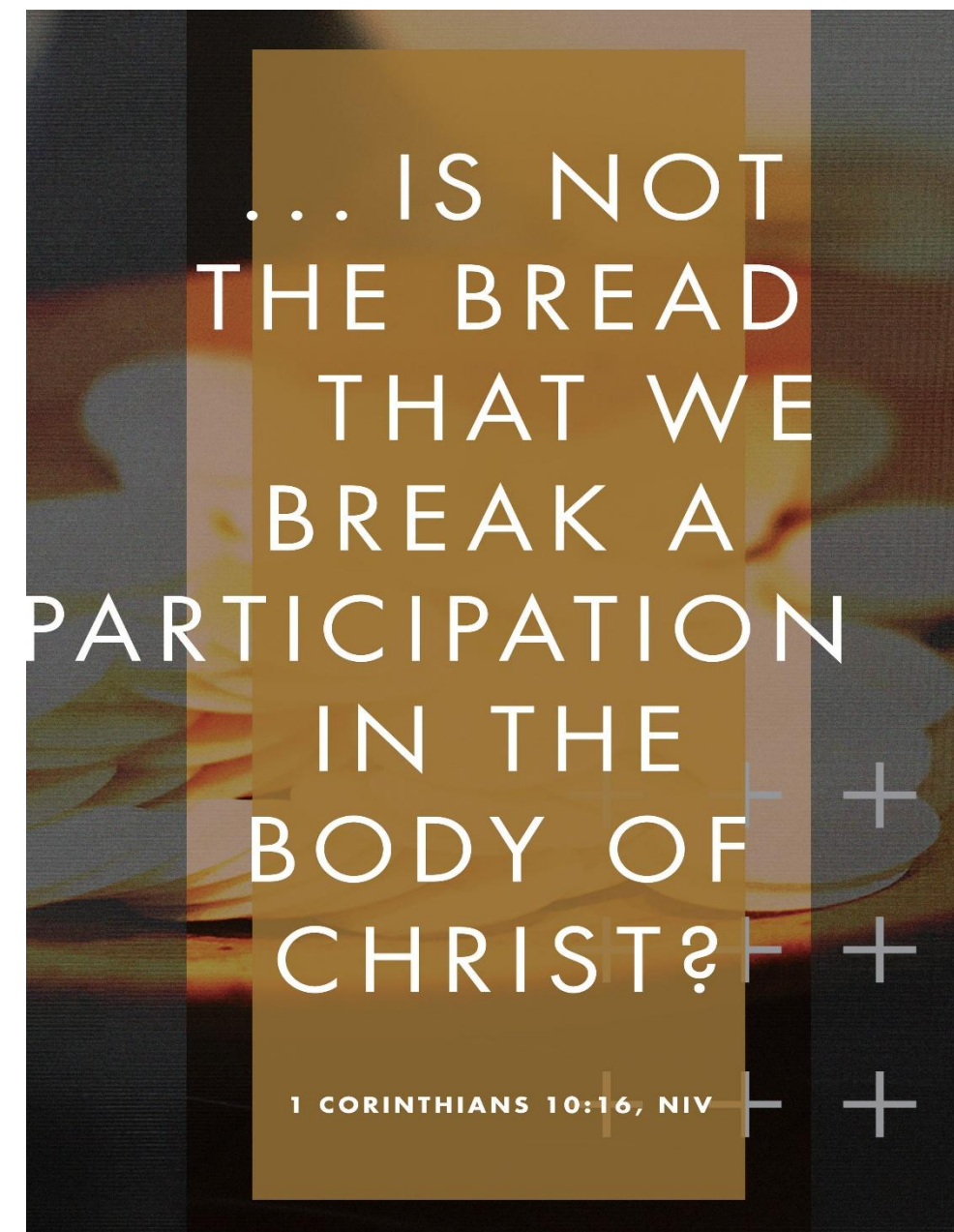
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 AM - 3 PM (Closed Friday)

Welcome to **Bridgewater** UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

October 4, 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 4, 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, Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Prelude “Interlude”
R. Elmore

* Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn “One Bread, One Body” UMH 620

*Opening Prayer

Children’s Message

Readings 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
Revelation 7:9-10

Sermon “We Who Are Many”
Rev. Rich Bensinger

Offertory “10,000 Reasons”
Arr. L. Larson

*Doxology UMH 95

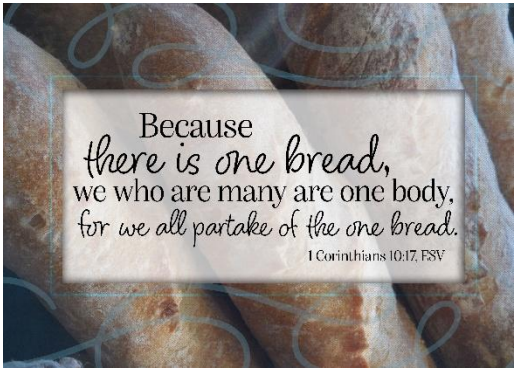
Prayers of the People

Communion Liturgy

*Closing Hymn W&S 3149, v 1, 2, 3, 5
“A Place at the Table”

*Closing Prayer/Benediction

Postlude “Prelude in Classic Style”
G Young



In Our Prayers

Joys and Answered Prayers

Leslie and Kayla Siegel, the Harpers and others are home from traveling
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

Bonney Mays of Stanley VA

Current Prayer Concerns

Beth Miller Annette and Sony Tongue
Jerry Long Edwards UMC
Alison Cichocki Beverly Smith
Michelle Evans Suzanne Woroniak Kennedy
Donna Robert Mills
Lucia Gajda Dwanna Oldson and her family
Bettye Newman Crystal Curry
Dennis Huffer Jeff Waggy
Pastor Rich Bensinger Sharon Griffeth
BUMC Children and Youth

Ongoing Prayer Needs of our Congregation

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

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

Serving Us in Worship

	TODAY, Oct. 4 (1st Sun)	NEXT SUNDAY, Oct. 11 (2nd Sun)
Greeters	Gloria Roller & Kathi Hemmis	Paul & Johna McFarland
Ushers	Mark Kipps & Claude Martell	Taylor Family
Reader	Sam Oduro & Philipa Effah	Ed Craun
Audio-Visual	Tony Mancari	Marc Craun
Acolytes	David Kipps	Taylor Family
Sanctuary Servers	Laura & Tony Mancari	Chuck & Sue Rexrode
Bus Driver	Dwight Campbell	Fontaine Canada

OUR CALENDAR

TODAY	World Communion Sunday 9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship Service 6 PM Wing Fellowship Meal(Fellowship Hall)
MON	6:30 PM Bridgewater Ruritans (Fellowship Hall) 7 PM Pastor Rich’s Men’s Bible Study (Library)
TUE	10 AM Prayer Team (Library) 6:30 PM Valley R. C. Flying Club (New Beginnings)
WED	10 AM Women’s Bible Study (New Beginnings) 6 PM Handbell Practice (Mt. Solon Commons) 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
NEXT SUNDAY	9 AM Sunday School for all ages 10 AM Worship Service 6 PM Cider, S’mores, & More (Out Front)

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: 22 Total Giving: \$4,258

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 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
- 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)