

Bellport United Methodist Church

185 S. Country Rd., Bellport, N.Y. 11713 631-286-0525

March 15, 2026

“What Is Preventing Us from Fully Believing?”



Welcome!

The Bellport UMC family welcomes visitors from all backgrounds. You are invited to join us for our fellowship hour following the service. For childcare, large print hymnals, or directions to our accessible access (elevator), please see any of our ushers. Our current newsletter and church brochure with upcoming events are available in the Welcoming Area and Gathering Room entrance to the Sanctuary. We hope you will feel God’s presence with us, and we invite you to join us again. We invite members and guests to sign in at the Entrance Area. Thank you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT CHURCH MEETINGS

Bible Study 101: Wednesdays, Two sessions: 10:00 and 1:00 pm

Men's Bible Study: Mondays and Fridays at 3:00 PM on Zoom.

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays of the month: 4/11/2026, 9:00 AM at the Church.

Bell Choir: Thursdays. Sanctuary. Startup Date TBD.

Choir for Worship Rehearsal: Thursdays, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

Church Council Meeting: 3/17/2026, 7:30 PM, Wesley House.

Finance Committee Meeting: 4/7/2026, 7:00 PM, Wesley House.

Trustee Meeting: 4/8/2026, 7:00 PM, Wesley House.

Staff Pastor Parish Relationship Meeting: TBD.

Worship Team & Ushers Meeting: TBD.

Outreach: TBD, Wesley House.

- **Please Sign Up for Coffee Hour** on the Sign-Up Sheet in the Gathering Area. Thank You!
- **The Thrift Shop** is now open. Hours of operation are Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed. Three-hour shifts (10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM). Donations can be placed in shed behind the Thrift Shop. For further information or to volunteer, call 631-286-0746.

All Church services, programs, and events are also posted on the Church Website: www.umcbellport.org

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

9:30 AM

Reverend Matthew Querns, Pastor

Lynn Hoag, Director of Music

Bruce Groh, Liturgist

Welcome visitors. Please sign our Guest Book!

*(All are invited to stand if comfortable doing so, where the * appears)*

GATHERING THOUGHTS

“If you’re trying to achieve, there will be roadblocks. I’ve had them; everybody has had them. But obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go around it, or work around it.” – Michael Jordan

ENTERING INTO THE PRESENCE

♪ PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

WELCOME (page 1) & ANNOUNCEMENTS (page 2)

♪ MEDITATING ON THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

♪ INTROIT

***CONGREGATIONAL CENTERING**

Leader: Wonderful God, Your wonders amaze us, and your love inspires us.

People: In reaction, we celebrate and lift You up.

Leader: Yet, obstacles often get in our way: social limits, confidence, even fear.

People: At these times, following God seems hard; some may turn away.

All: God, help us during Lent to overcome the obstacle in our path to You and Easter morning. May Your grace be proof enough for us.

♪ Gathering Hymn: (UMH) #297 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

***PASSING THE PEACE-** (UMH) #431 *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children all are we. Let us

walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

OPENING TO THE PRESENCE



Gathering Prayer *(in unison)*

God of Lent, be with us as our hike nears Holy Week. Remind us that before Easter’s celebration, we must ponder death, as it touched Jesus. In these last Sundays, obstacles may arise on our path. Lead us through life’s rocky road, so we may know you more. Let us shed the obstacles the world gives, release those we create, and have the strength to step over the rest. What is stopping us from fully believing in God? May God’s grace be enough proof for us.

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF GRACE

Ministry of Music

Fill My Cup. Lord

arr. by Stan Pethel

Moments for Children

The Lord’s Prayer

***Our Father, who art in Heaven hallowed be Your 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

CALL TO PRAYER (TFWS) #2215 “Cares Chorus”

*“I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,
And anytime, I don’t know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.”*

GOD SIGHTINGS, JOYS & CONCERNS (page 8)

PASTORAL PRAYER

***SONG OF CONTEMPLATION: (UMH) #399**

Take My Life

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST READING: Romans 5:1-11 (NRSV) Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.^[e] ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

SECOND READING: John 4:5-30, 39b (NRSV) So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ Jesus

said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.'

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *What Is Preventing Us from Believing* Reverend Matthew Querns

SERMON CHALLENGE: This week, Lent continues as the big questions grow. We want to believe, but something is holding us back. May God's grace abound!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

WORSHIPPING WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY (UMH) #94**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God, the source of all our gifts.

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts.

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

***SENDING SONG:** (UMH) #368

My Hope Is Built

(In the first verse, the word **blood** can be replaced with **love**, and the same message will emerge.)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

March 22nd's Sermon: "What Is Resurrection?" -

Ezekiel 37:7-10, John 11:33-44, 1 Corinthians 15: 12-13, 35-53

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP.

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US.

PLEASE, COME BACK ANYTIME!

CHURCH SERVICE: Sundays at 9:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

TELEPHONE: 631-286-0525

CHURCH WEBSITE & SUNDAY BULLETIN: www.umcbellport.org

CHURCH EMAIL: bellportumc@optimum.net

ZOOM MEETING LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6312860525>

DIAL BY PHONE: 16465588656 then 6312860525#

PASTOR: Rev. Matthew Querns, 845-208-1405, matthew.querns@nyac-umc.com

MUSIC: Lynn Hoag & Choir, PIANO: Dan Fogel

COFFEE HOUR: Patty & Scott Munson

USHERS: Bruce Groh, Bill Morse, and Youth

YOUTH & CHILDREN: Lori Labalsamo and Bill Morse

TECHNOLOGY: Barbara Pannhurst and Bill Lang

CHURCH FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/bellportmethodist.church.5>

PRESCHOOL: 631-286-2498, www.BellportPreschool.com

THRIFT SHOP: 631-286-0746, <https://www.facebook.com/Umcbellportfiddlersgreen>








Prayer List (Please email/contact the office or the Pastor)

Prayers: Rescue and recovery for victims of natural disasters & wars, Peace of the World, Revival of the Church, Prayers for healing and strength for the following: Kent Adee, Lois Barton (Heather Heights, Pittsford, NY), Joe Harder (Jr.), Doris Lundegard, Donna and Carl Catandella, Susan and Alan Payne, and Edward and Patricia Schultz.

Prayers for Tom Bracken on the passing of Kathleen Wells. Keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Prayers for the family of Dorothy Vogel on her passing.

Prayers for COOP Churches (Cooperative Parish): United Methodist Churches of South Shore, & UM churches/ All the churches worldwide.

		Lord's Day Attendance: 3/8/2026				
ADULTS	CHILDREN	ZOOM	FACEBOOK / YOUTUBE LIVE			TOTAL
31	4	4				39
 		Abundant Blessings for Offerings: 3/8/2026				
Devote Time	Share Talent	Current/ (Pledge, Tithes)	Loose Plate	Flower Fund	UM Men	
		\$1,261.	\$65.	\$80.		
Give Treasure	A way of life	Building Fund	Benevolence	Building Use	Total	
		\$10.		\$.	\$1,416.	

Send Offering Checks By Mail:

“Bellport United Methodist Church”

PO Box 460, Bellport, NY 11713

By ZELLE: bellportumc@optimum.net, Tel: 631-205-4050