

Bellport United Methodist

CHURCH LIFE

www.umcbellport.org

Fall 2025



Church Life, a newsletter for the Bellport United Methodist Church membership and friends, is produced four times each year under the administration of Rev. Matthew Querns, Pastor, and Editor John Hannon. If you wish to have your name removed from this mailing list, please call, or write to the church office. Church Life is also available in PDF on our website.

Bellport United Methodist Church
185 South Country Road, Bellport NY 11713
Mail to (PO Box 460, Bellport, NY 11713)

Contacts:

Church Office: (631)286-0525

Office Coordinators: John Hannon & Rachel Langert (*Monday ~ Thursday, 9 AM~ 1 PM*)

Thrift Shop: (631)286-0746

Church-Website: www.UMCBellport.org

Email-Address: BellportUMC@optimum.net

Preschool Director: Paola Owen

Preschool Secretary: Bridget Borghardt

Preschool Program: (631)286-2498

Preschool Website

www.BellportPreschool.com

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Querns, Pastor

Cell: 845-208-1405, email:

matthew.querns@nyac-umc.com

Minister: All the Members

Conference Lay Delegate: William Morse

Lay Servants: Tom Bracken, Bruce Groh,
Danna Prather Davis,
William Morse, Scott Munson

“Pastor Matthew’s Musings

“Let it go! Let it go! Can’t hold back anymore!” –
Queen Elsa– *Frozen*

Friends, the chill has arrived! I find myself waking up further under my covers each morning. As life turns into fall, we are reminded of the passage of time and the journey of life. As the great teacher taught in Ecclesiastes: *“There is a time for every season under heaven.”* When it comes to autumn, it truly is my favorite season. I love all the colors, the flavors, the smells, the festivals, the leaf piles, and the shiver of the wind. Beyond all that, there is yet another powerful message autumn reveals- the importance of letting go. *“Let it go! Let it go!”* Haha, do not worry. I am not about to sing. I am, however, inviting us to pray about what we need to let go of. Like trees that shed their leaves, so they might grow stronger in the new year, we too have parts of our lives that we need to let go, so we too can grow strong in the new year. Perhaps we need to let go of worry, stress, fear, someone holding us back or something ruling our lives. Letting go can be hard. We fear living without the very thing that holds us back. Yet, like the great oak that sheds its leaves in the fall and even bows down in the winter, it rises again in the spring and so will we.

As I continue my second autumn in Bellport/Long Island, I hear these words in my head- God is an amazing artist. As I drive the backroads, the winding trails, and the small towns, I see it at every turn. Being from the Midwest, I have experienced nice falls, but falls in NY are incredible. As I wrap up my thoughts, I want to remind us of the point that I made in my sermon, this past Sunday.

We are tired. We are all tired. Humanity is tired. We are tired at work, at home, and yes, at church. Even as we live life, we must never forget God's command to rest- not request, but her command. We do not rest because we are weak or because we are lazy. We rest because it is healing and rejuvenating for our minds, bodies, and souls. We cannot function, heal, or even live without rest. We cannot stop and enjoy the blessings of life as God did after creation without rest. We cannot work and live ourselves to death. That is why God gave us the Sabbath- a holy time to rest and to come to God. Thus, in a world that command us to work, work, work, I give you the permission from God to also rest, rest, rest. Every day at 1:00, if I am able, I take a nap- although the phone is always on if you need me ☺. Still, as we move into a new season of life, let us all take some time to practice a stronger Sabbath life, a better rest. We will be amazed at just how life changes for us when we do. So, now, I close with these words of beauty, as I sit outside in God's creation of beauty: *"A world without Sabbath would be like [a person] without a smile, like summer without flowers, and like a homestead without a garden."*

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthew Querns



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM.

Sunday School All Throughout the Year!

Offering lessons from the
"Parables of Jesus"

For further information contact Bill Morse or
Lori Labalsamo



Church Choir

**The Choir meets on
Thursdays, from 7:00 to 8:30, in the
sanctuary. Please come and join us in
offering our gift of music ministry.**

Preschool News



Summer camp was a sweet success this year. Campers participated in weekly themes: Blasting Off to Summer, Commotion in the Ocean, Camping Cowboys, and Circus. Everyone enjoyed ice pops on the playground and made fun crafts to take home. Many of the summer children returned for the fall session. We are all looking forward to next summer.

The Preschool is off to a phenomenal start this September. The students are an exuberant bunch and are busy making new friends. The children are learning to recognize letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. All the classes are learning about fire safety, in preparation for our first fire drill of the year. They are also learning about germs and staying healthy.

Apples are harvested in September, and they are a big theme at the beginning of our school year. The toddlers have done apple stamping and made an apple tree craft. The Preschool class has cut open an apple to examine and learn about all its parts. They

had an apple snack, talked about the different ways to eat an apple, and made an apple chart. They learned about color mixing with a fun craft using shaving cream. The Pre-K children have been doing apple experiments and creating a graph to illustrate which apples they like best. They also are learning about manners and being good friends. They have begun and name tracing. Pre-K students will complete and share 'All about Me' posters. They will have the opportunity to fill a bag of five items from home to share with their class.

Our "Meet the Teacher" event was scheduled for the evening of September 22nd. We looked forward to picture days on September 29th & 30th. We are also looking forward to Halloween with kids in costume and classroom celebrations. Every child will decorate a pumpkin to take home with them. With the upcoming change of season there will be lessons all about what happens to trees in autumn. Of course, in November there will be our annual turkey crafts and learning about being thankful.

BIRTHDAYS AND FELLOWSHIP



**God bless you with a Healthy and
Happy B-day & the Year!**

*****Help Us Adding Yours! *****

OCTOBER

4 - John Hannon
7 - Ashley Conklin

9 - Margie Ludewig
10 - Alex Frabizio
24 - Tom Bracken
28 - Michael Scalice
29 - Dave Winslow
30 - Jennifer Lawlor

NOVEMBER

17 - Nancy Winslow
18 - Nina Catandella
19 - Nathan Nuttal
22 - Linda Vogel
28 - Rachel Caim

DECEMBER

10 - Sue Payne
18 - Scott Munson
25 - Carolyn Holtz
31 - Sara Morse

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

**Mondays and Fridays at 3:00 pm on
Zoom. For further information contact
Bill Morse at 631-344-3859 or Bill Lang at
214-514-3260**

Bible 101

**Will resume on September 10th.
Wednesday, 10:00 am to 11:30 am and
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Wesley House and
Zoom.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6312860525>

**For further information contact Pastor
Matthew at 845-208-1405 or email him at
matthew.querns@nyac-umc.com**

SUMMER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Bellport Day – Saturday, July 26, 2025

It was a very successful day. Gave away 150 movie tickets and 200 bags of popcorn. A few people even completed prayer cards. Many thanks to those who volunteered to work the table. Thank you Pastor Matthew and Lynn Hoag for working the table and making popcorn!!

Movie Night – Wednesday, August 13, 2025

It was a wonderful event. The movie was Disney's "Lilo and Stich" (Live Action). We had an audience of 50 people. Due to the impending weather, everyone camped out in Fellowship Hall and enjoyed the evening.

FALL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The **Harvest Fair and Auction** was Saturday, September 27, 2025. It was a beautiful day. As always, the baked goods and Mums sold well. We had some new, along with the returning vendors, who enjoyed the festivities. The Auction, UMW Table, and Rolf Beuttenmuller's wood puzzles added to the income for our Church. A total of \$2,664. was raised for the Church.

The best fun was the "Dunk the Pastor"! Many thanks to Pastor Matthew Querns and Pastor Elliot Conrad (From Christ Episcopal Church in Bellport), along with Scott Munson and Malcom Gargot, for being such great sports in getting dunked!! Thank you Dan Fogel and Annette Perry's Cello Group for the musical entertainment. Many thanks to all who baked, set up and put away. Especially "Andrew" and "Matthew" who were a such great help!

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



DST ends Sunday, November 2, 2025. Set your clocks back by 2:00 am.

Candy Making Workshop

November 23, 2025

Right after Coffee Fellowship

Thanksgiving Food Collection

November 23, 2025

Christmas Bazaar

December 6, 2025, 10:00am
(Setup: December 5, 2025, 3:00pm.
Volunteers needed)

"Warm Fuzzies Collection" (gloves, scarves, etc)

December 7, 2025

Mercy Center Collection

December 14, 2025

**CONFERENCE, DISTRICT, AND
PARISH NEWS**

**Bellport United Methodist Church
Church Conference
October 4, 2025
Minutes of the meeting**

Led by Reverend Ric Hanse

Pastor Matthew Querns, Bill Morse, Carolyn Holtz,
Bruce Groh, Barbara Pannhurst
Scott Munson, Tom Bracken, Sara Morse, Joan
Prybyzski, Rita Tempel

“The conference opened with a prayer by Pastor Matthew.

Each member introduced themselves.

District Superintendent Ric Hanse offered his cell phone 860-306-9771. Anyone can call or text him with any LI East District office issues.

Ric spoke about: Why do we have Church Conference? He likes them. They give us time to get together and spend time with each other. I love to “check under the hood” not in a stressful way. Remembering the “Why” of the UMC, our UMC mission is beautiful, “How” of the UMC by loving boldly, serving joyfully, leading courageously and to commit to resist evil and injustice in whatever form they present.

Ric will help Pastor work on a ministry protocol. Sometimes we get busy surviving that we forget the “Why”. He will help start a ministry plan so our church can “come alive”. Lastly, the long talk about what is called the “uncomfortable Truth” with LI West DS and LI East DS. You can’t win an argument with a racist, etc. but you can interrupt them with a question, a thoughtful question, we will be doing more work on that.

Reports:

Safe Sanctuary Policy- same as last year

Sexual ethics and boundaries Training completed by Pastor and DS

Ric added that we love our Pastor, he has a beautiful presence, he is thoughtful and a Joy. Pastor Matthew joined the district committee of ministry.

Pastor Compensation, a motion was made to accept the report as written by Tom Bracken, seconded by Ric Hanse all in favor.

Ric asked us to care for our Pastor, to make sure he takes spiritual renewal time and takes care of himself. All LI East clergy took a retreat at Quinipet to nurture their faith. He is working on doing a Laity retreat.

Parsonage: Scott Munson reported that the Parsonage had a few challenges with an appliance that needed to be replaced and cesspool issues that caused backflow into the basement. Ric thanked Scott for all the work done.

Ric asked about the great things we are doing.

Carolyn reported that the Thrift Shop is doing well, we get a lot of local people coming in (but we have had fewer Hispanic lately). And our Harvest Fair was outside this year with Pastor doing a dunk tank. Also, we will have a Christmas Bazaar with craft vendors and entertainment.

Rita reported Preschool had challenges during COVID but receiving several grants was helpful. We lost our UPK contract with the school system, but we bounced back from that.

Pastor Matthew reported that he will host Christmas at the Parsonage.

During Lent we did devotional Flood Buckets. On Bellport Day we reached out to 100 people and invited them to come to a family Movie Night, and Blessing of the backpacks at the start of school.

Scott reported that we did a lot of work on the church steeple. Rita hired an inspector,

and the exterior was painted then the interior was supported, he says that our church will never close because we have property to sell if needed.

Trustee nominations: A vote was taken to elect two new trustees. A motion was made to receive the nominations as presented, unanimously approved. A motion was made to destroy the ballots, all in favor.

Budget: A preliminary budget was submitted, a final budget will be sent in January.

Building Use:

Scott reported that the very old furnace and chimney in the Wesley house will be cleaned and relined.

Groups that use our space: The Boy Scouts (not chartered by the church), Yoga, Meditation, Dance school, 12 step, Cello, Walk to Emmaus and Fellowship Hall rentals (we turn down sweet sixteen party and other denominations that don't abide by our rules) Bequests: none this year. We are expecting one from the Bartons and a large one from the Weiss Family.

Scott mentioned that our apportionments are unfair. Ric shared that the NYAC passed a zero percent budget increase this year but with churches closing we lose some of our apportionment base so each church has to pay a little more. NYAC will probably have to lower their budget next year.

Rita asked about churches closing on Long Island. Ric shared that a couple churches closed in LI west but in LI east they are becoming blended cooperative parishes or merged churches with part time pastors.

Scott made a motion to close the conference at 2:30, seconded by Rita.

Rev. Ric Hanse offered a closing prayer."

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Pannhurst

Information for Lay Servants

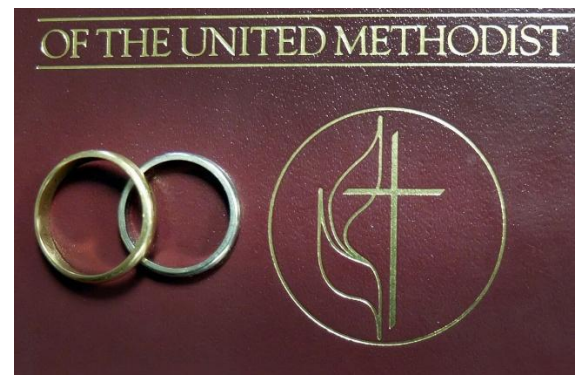
SOCIAL JUSTICE & CHURCH

All United Methodist Churches including Bellport UMC stand against any hate crimes. For any assistance, contact

One of the UMC Lay Advocates:

FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON, ESQ. LAW OFFICES
OF FREDERICK K. BREWINGTON 556 Peninsula
Boulevard Hempstead, New York 11550 (516)
489-6959 e-mail: fred@brewingtonlaw.com

www.brewingtonlaw.com



A congregation's trustees cannot prevent their pastor from using church facilities to perform a same-sex wedding, The United Methodist Church's top court ruled in Decision 1516. The ruling was one of two decisions released by the Judicial Council on April 29. Photo by Kathleen Barry, UM News.

S/PPR (Staff/Pastor Parish Relations)

Our committee is here to support our staff and church family. We have paired a committee member with our staff. You can come to the S/PPR members below.

Pastor Matthew - Celia Bilfinger, Tom Bracken
Church Office (John Hannon and Rachel Langert) -
Sheryl Moodt- Cleaners (Maureen Martinez) - Pat
Schultz

Thrift Shop (Denise) - Pat Schultz (and Jennifer
Lawlor) Sexton (Mike Scalise) - Trustees will
oversee.

Preschool Staff (8) – Tom Bracken with Rita Temple

Event Manager (Maureen Martinez) and Cleaner (Maureen Martinez) - April Conklin, Pianist (Dan) -
To Learn more about S/PPRC's Leadership and Responsibilities, you may visit the link.

https://asburyofandrews.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Pastor_Staff-Parish-Relations-Committee-Job-Description.pdf



Trustee Meets on the Second Wednesday of Each Month. For further information, Contact Scott Munson.



Church Council Meeting

Council meeting requires all ministry chairs, and Anyone is welcome to join with any questions. The Council will be meeting in person on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm at the Wesley House.



Monthly Food Collection

Outreach is designating the First Sunday of the Month Food Collection. Non-perishable food and personal care products will be collected and delivered to the St Joseph the Worker's food pantry for distribution to those in need.

On the first Sunday, please put your donations

on the altar. Items brought in on other Sundays can be put in the gray tub in the hall between the Sanctuary and the stairs.



THE FIDDLER'S GREEN THRIFT SHOP

THE CORNER OF BREWSTER & MAIN

Open Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

10am to 4pm – Call 631-286-0746

Thank you for your Donations!

Welcomes Volunteers!

**For further information,
contact Jennifer Lawlor**



Ministry Opportunities: If you are interested in taking part in any of the following ministries, please contact the person listed.

-- **Hospitality:** Coffee Fellowship: June Beuttenmuller (631-286-2045) Currently there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering area as well.

-- **Thrift Shop:** Carolyn Holtz (631-286-). Volunteer once a month or more at the Thrift Shop.

-- **Outreach:** Carolyn Holtz
(631-286-4236) Helping to help others.

--**Church Office:** John Hanon & Rachel Langert (631-286-0525) Assisting with special mailings, distributing flyers, preparing bulletins/newsletters. Answer the Office phone.

--**Building Use:** John Hannon & Rachel Langert (631-286-0525) Facilitating the comings and goings of people using our buildings for private events.



Your contributions enable us to continue our mission, including our Sunday worship services and music programs, Christian education, support and guidance for our youth, small group study classes, pastoral visitation, and counseling, and to provide space for our wonderful pre-school program and ministry to the community through the Thrift Shop. Your gifts also help provide benevolences of many kinds, missionary support, and, of course, payment of our utility and insurance costs. Thank you for your continuing faith in the work of our church and for your generosity.

Weekly Collection Total: Summer (from June 15, 2025, to September 7, 2025): \$42,732.

THE WAYS TO GENEROSITY

The Easy Way to Send Your Offering is by Setting Up Online Payment To

- Bellport United Methodist Church, PO Box 460. Bellport NY 11713
- ZELLE:bellportumc@optimum.net, Tel: 631-205-4050
- You can also mail your offerings and donations to the church.

😊 Your offerings will support all the churches and missions locally and worldwide by United Methodist Church Denomination. We will continue to pray for your personal finance as well as the church mission. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH VIRTUAL CONNECTION



- **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6312860525>

Meeting ID: 631 286 0525 (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 631 286 0525# & Password: 11713

- **Facebook Live Stream**

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



**THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE
AVAILABLE UPON YOUR REQUEST**

Contact the Pastor or the Office

Sympathy & Condolence:

**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 (The Bristol, Sayville), Joe Harder (Jr.), Doris Lundegard, Donna and Carl Catandella, Dorothy Vogel and the family.

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

- Fellowship Hall: Usage for family events
- Baptism Service
- Wedding Service
- Memorial Service
- Hospital or Home Service
- Support Group for LGBTQ & more.
- Support Group for Grief Recovery
- Marriage or Premarital Counseling
- Bible Study