

Bellport United Methodist

CHURCH LIFE

www.umcbellport.org



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 Rachel Langert. 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](mailto: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: Tom Bracken

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

Pastor Matthew's Musings

Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!

Friends, the snow is gone, the birds are chirping, buds are peeking their heads out, and the chill is disappearing. That can only mean one thing: spring has arrived! The change of winter to spring is the perfect metaphor for Easter: a world covered in dark and cold, with little sign of life, gives way to the promise of life. Not even the coldest days last forever. On this note, I welcome you to the Easter season. Like Christmas, Easter is misunderstood; it is not one day; it is a season lasting from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. So, let us remain in celebration for more than a moment.

During Lent, we spoke of the need for change in our lives as we asked some deep theological questions. These questions challenged our understandings of ourselves, God, the world, and even salvation. Our Lenten hike ended on Easter morn as we celebrated one last question, reflecting on the truth that God is love.

Our Lenten walks became easier as we remembered that we never journey alone. Now, we are on the other side of Easter, and our next task is to continue to grow, each day, into the new creations the Lord has made in us all, using those goals we had for ourselves. Now, it is time to let those buds bloom too. This will not happen overnight. Transformation is a lifelong process. United Methodists call it sanctification, the process by which the Spirit walks with us each day, making us more holy.

This grace is, once again, proof that God is always with us, no matter where life takes us. Our current task is to share with all who do not know that

they are loved, that Easter is for them. We must take love beyond Sunday to the 4 corners of the Earth.

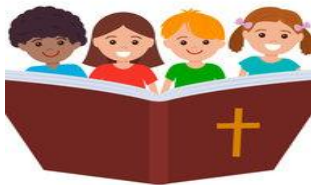
Once again, it was an immense honor to be with you during my second Holy Week as your pastor. Together, we made Holy Week special, and this year, I learned to be more patient with myself, not ending the need to be perfect, but instead to be just me. I thank everyone who helped as instrumentalists, singers, readers, and planners this season.

As I close this letter, I remind us that Easter is a way of life that brings us closer together and to God. In short, Easter is not over; it has only just begun. Blessings to you all, and I leave you with these words to that celebratory hymn that connects the resurrection of Christ directly into our very beings: "He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart. You ask me how I know he lives. He lives inside my heart."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthew Querns

Sunday School



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM.

Kids' Corner – Lori Ann Labalsamo

"... Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

The BUMC ministry to the youth and children may be modest, but it is still brimming with love and activity. Right now, our Sunday School class is learning about important people of the Bible.

So far, we have discussed Moses and Joseph and are currently studying David. Next, we will soon be learning about Deborah.

Recently, the children made wonderful cards for the homebound members of our congregation, a tradition that has gone on for quite some time at BUMC. It is important work that teaches them the value of service.

We have also had fun this season! On Easter morning, the children enthusiastically participated in our annual egg hunt, and it was a big success. The weather was a bit questionable, so our turnout was a little smaller than usual. We moved the event indoors, though, and the children who did attend found even more eggs than expected. In fact, some of the children needed two baskets to accommodate their treasures. We had a great time!

This ministry is a blessing to all who serve! We could use more help, so please feel free to reach out to either Bill Morse or me for information.

In Christ's love, Miss Lori



Church Choir

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

Preschool News



The Preschool opened February by celebrating Ground Hog Day. The children learned all about him. The toddlers sang songs, read books

and made ground hog puppets. Sadly, the ground hog saw his shadow this year and we had a big snowstorm as a result!

On Valentines Day we celebrated in high style, with everyone wearing pink and red. All three classes had a Valentine's Day party and the children exchanged valentines. Special snacks included cupcakes, and pancakes with whipped cream, strawberries, and chocolate chips. The toddlers class read the story "Happy Valentines Day Mouse" by Laura Numiroff. The children made handprint bouquets to bring home.



February was National Dental Health Month, so the Stony Brook School of Dentistry came to visit the preschool. All the children had the opportunity to learn from the dental students the importance of taking care of their teeth. Suffolk pediatric dentistry sent us toothbrushes to send home with the children. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday which is on March 2nd. Every Day there was a new fun Dr. Seuss story to enjoy.

On St Patrick's Day the leprechaun visited our school and made a big mess, putting green footprints all over the school! The preschoolers read a book entitled "How to Catch a Leprechaun." The children made pots of gold. The pre-k class went on a gold hunt and made a leprechaun trap. We did not catch the leprechaun this year, better luck next time.



Mrs. Mancini's pre-k class has been learning their sight word and an introduction to addition. They are also learning about arctic animals and hibernation.

They are reading books by Kevin Henkes and studying the artist, Pablo Picasso. Miss Abrielle's preschool class will be reading books by Eric Carle and learning about the artist Piet Mondrian whose art features primary colors and shapes. Miss Paola's toddler class will be reading books by Laura Numiroff and learning about the artist Andy Warhol.



The preschool students, teachers and assistant teachers all worked very hard to create the school's annual art show! It was a great success.





Spring Flowers

A very special thank you to everyone who purchased altar flowers for Easter. They made a glorious day even more beautiful!



BIRTHDAYS AND FELLOWSHIP



APRIL

- 1 - Keira Ballan
- 6 - Rachel Langert

26 - Emily Rinfret

MAY

- 5 - Celia Bilfinger
- 7 - Tom Bilfinger
- 9 - David Smith
- 13 - Tim Montick
- 16 - Bill Morse
- 25 - Rolf Beuttenmuller
- 30 - Mindy Smith
- 31 - Marion Harder

JUNE

- 4 - Molly Harder
- 7 - Carl Catandella
- 8 - Jessica Ryan
- 11 - Justin Schultz
- 15 - June Beuttenmuller
- 16 - Lynn Hoag
- 18 - Barbara Pannhurst
- 19 - Brody Kolasinski
- 22 - Emily Montick
- 23 - Malcom Gagot
- 29 - Jack Cuenin

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

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



Bible 101

10:00 am at 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

UMC Men's breakfast
Second Saturday of the month
June 13, 2026
9:00 A.M.

Church Gets Facelift

During the winter months, a crew diligently worked to get rid of the old peeling paint on the church steeple, and give it a new and improved look. If you were hundreds of years old, you might need a fresh coat of paint, too!



Church Lauds Prize Winner



Member William Morse was recognized for his scientific achievement at work. The Brookhaven Lab Physicist recently received the Breakthrough

Prize, one of the highest honors in science, for his research into how a subatomic particle affects the universe. Here he is at the award ceremony with his wife, Sarah.



The children of the congregation presented Bill with their own award created just for the occasion, which they dubbed the "Oscar of Science!"



UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

Sunday, May 17

The annual blessing of the animals will take place.
Bring your furry, feathered friends!



May 30, 2026, at 3:00 pm

“Lachrimae & Blue”

Come Join Jason Prisett and Ereni Sevasti for a special afternoon of music.

\$20. Suggested Donation

Saturday, June 6 at 12:00 p.m.

Cello recital with Annette Perry-Delias and her students.

Sunday, June 18 at 9:30

Special Music Sunday: A journey of faith featuring the BUMC Choir.

CONFERENCE, DISTRICT, AND PARISH NEWS



THANK YOU to everyone who submitted a pledge for 2026! Although all contributions pledged and unpledged are helpful in keeping our doors open, having some idea of our income through pledges is most helpful to the Finance Committee in planning for the year. For the year 2026 we received 25 pledges totaling \$138,080. Pledges ranged from \$5 a week to \$30,000 for the year.

We remain highly dependent on a few very generous parishioners to meet our budget. This compares with 16 pledges for 2025 totaling \$97,480. Before we celebrate the added approximate \$40,000 in additional pledged income, however, one must take into consideration the fact that about \$28,000 of that increase in pledged income for 2026 represents several families who have given regularly in the past but did not pledge until this year. Our net increase in income may therefore be about \$12,000, some from new families and some from increased pledges.

Given the very cold and snowy winter we just experienced, our snow removal costs were over \$10,000 and our fuel oil costs were in a similar range for three winter months. Pastor Matthew made an appeal from the pulpit one Sunday for contributions

towards those costs. Four families, the Trustees, United Methodist Women, and Pre-school responded, meeting about half of those costs. Our budget therefore remains tight but we are grateful for all our donors, large and small.

Thanks be to God.

Ellen Horn, Financial Secretary

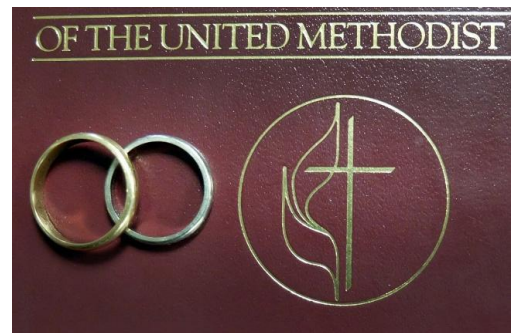
Information for Lay Servants SOCIAL JUSTICE & CHURCH

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 Gregory) - Pat Schultz (and
Jennifer Lawlor) - Trustees will oversee.

Preschool Staff (8) – Tom Bracken with Rita Temple
Event Manager (Maureen Martinez) and cleaner
(Maureen Martinez) April Conklin, Pianist (Dan
Fogel) -

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



The Trustees meet 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 in with any questions. The
Council will be meeting in person on Wednesday,
May 19, at 7:00 p.m. at 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.

Our New Satellite Church

In December, we had 8 new friends join our
church, with two more not too far away from joining
too. We now have 6 more members of our church
who have been worshipping with us weekly. With
the help of the staff at the Bristol in Holtsville, and
with Barabra Down's tenacity, we are streaming live
every Sunday morning in one of their fancy lounges.

Currently, about eight people attend
regularly. We bought them hymnals, and our
bulletins are printed for them. Though most have not
met them in person, I had the honor of dining with
them. I look forward to being there for them as their
pastor. Join me as we welcome our newest friends:
Keith, Rosemarie, Henry, Kathleen, Michael, Sue,
and of course, Barabra and June!



A Message of Thanks

Dear Church Family:

I was overwhelmed by your response on April
19th – those who set up and took down the room,
those who provided food and covered the kitchen,
and most of all by the special love you showed to
Kathleen Wells, both in her time here on earth and in
the celebration of what was a very special life. I
hope you all know how deeply I appreciate
everything that you did for her.



never kicked me out! To have had her as my companion and “spirit guide” through all these years is by the grace of a very loving and forgiving God, and you all got to see that extraordinary woman of grace and dignity in action, again and again.

I thank you for the love you have shown both of us, and I thank you for always making Kathie and me feel at home. God’s peace – Tom Bracken

“For I was in need, and you cared for me.”
Matthew 25:36b



For those who don’t know I met Kathie on Monday, April 9, 2007, as her replacement on a job in CT (she was preparing to move down to her family’s long-time house in Patchogue). During that three week of working side by side we came to know each other well and after that I started commuting down to Long Island on weekends – for seven years.

For the first 5 years we had a wonderful friendship (mainly because I had a lot of growing up to accomplish. I guess I still do!) But in early 2012 we made a commitment to each other, and I moved down here in October 2014 for good.



Kathie is one of the most spiritual people I will ever know, and she lived in a spirit of service, love and tolerance – that last one is obvious, since she



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!

We welcome 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 (631-286-4236) Volunteer once a month or more at the Thrift Shop.

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

--**Church Office:** John Hannon & Rachel Langert, 631-286-0525. They assist with special mailings, create and distribute flyers, write and publish bulletins, newsletters and slide shows for services; They prepare and publish annual reports (church conference) greet visitors and respond to office inquiries. They manage the day-to-day operations of the church, including inspections, repairs, and any requests for building use. They also function as liaisons between the Pastor and the wider community.

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 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.

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, 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, and Edward and Patricia Schultz.

Sympathy Prayers

Prayers for Tom Bracken on the passing of Kathleen Wells. Prayers for the family of Dorothy Vogel on her passing. To the Gerig family and the Pannhurst family on the passing of Joseph Gerig.

Prayers for COOP Churches

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



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

Contact the Pastor or the Office

- 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