

Bellport United Methodist

CHURCH LIFE

www.umcbellport.org

Summer 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"

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the place you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can,

as long as ever you can." – John Wesley

Now, how does that classic 1980s song go... O yes, "The Heat is On!" Ok, well maybe we have not had a 100 degrees scorcher yet but being someone who sweats nonstop from May to September, I am feeling the summer, and I celebrate it for you all! Now, as summer's heat exhausts, we remember a greater heat that comes from the Holy Spirit that is inside each member of Bellport UMC. As we look back over the past months, we see our faith journey. First, we were Lenten pilgrims, seeking deeper holiness. Then, we were Easter people, celebrating the new creations in us all. Now, we live in the time of Pentecost where we must live the call of Christ- now more than ever in our world. This time of year, reminds us deeply that our faith is very much an action.

On Independence Day, I drove around the Island, and I saw spectacular sights. Our country is beautiful. I was, once again, reminded of God's beautiful creation. I was, also, reminded that even as we live in such beauty, life is, often, shaken by stress, pain, and loss. As your pastor, I grieve with you in these moments, and I pray that rest and God's

peace will come upon you all when most needed. As I stood by the water, I recognized that life is both beauty and divine love, cradling the realities of life. I know May was rough for some of our families, and as we walk into a new month, let us walk together, knowing that as the summer's warmth touches our faces, the warmth of God touches our souls. Go out and just be this week. You will be transformed.

A few Sundays ago, I preached on the Great Commission, and I asked us to reflect on the word make and the word invite. Both words are reflected in Jesus' parting speech to his beloved disciples before he ascended to God. In Jesus' words, known as the Great Commission, he tells us to share our faith with the world in such a way that best uses our God given gifts and talents. However, I truly, believe that instead of making the world disciples, we should be inviting the world to be disciples. When we make someone a disciple, we are the ones trying to enact change in another. However, when we invite someone to be a disciple, we encourage them to find God and to bring about change from within themselves. I believe this is how Jesus expects us to live evangelism in our world. When we do, we offer ourselves to all we meet as caring, welcoming, and compassionate people. When we do, we do not dictate others' journey, but we help them find their first steps to God. When we do, we follow our founder John Wesley's great mantra: "Do no harm." In all things we do, let us, also, hold tight to these further words from the great founder of Methodism: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the place you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Let these words, always, direct us as we share God's good news and love with the entire world.

Tis the season for swimming and BBQs so be safe and be blessed. To those vacationing this summer, I offer traveling mercies, and to those staying home, grab a chair and enjoy the season.

Grace and Peace,

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE **AT 9:30 AM**

Join Upcoming Special Service

- September 7th Blessing of the Backpacks



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 is off for the Summer. They will resume on Thursday, September 4th. 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.



**The Handbell Choir meets on Thursdays
at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. For further
information please contact Kathleen Wells
at 860-334-8416**



Preschool News



The Preschool has been busy with end of the year festivities. We hosted David Funn our magician on Friday June 13th in the big room (aka Fellowship Hall), for a “Night of Magic”. As usual he brought his friend Neal the rabbit along for all of us to enjoy.



Preschool News (Continued)

The children in Mrs. Mancini’s classroom have been learning about the water cycle. Miss Abbielle’s preschoolers have been learning about the importance of Bees, their relationship with flowers and how they make honey. They also learned about Earth Day and the importance of not littering. Miss Paola’s toddlers have been learning about pond life, frogs, and ducks. All three classes have planted flowers: sunflowers, morning glories and dahlias. The children have learned about the parts of a plant and how plants require water to grow. The Pre-K students made summer bucket list posters, the preschool class made matching tie dye t-shirts, and the toddlers painted rainbow fish

and dragonflies. All the children created one-of-a-kind projects to celebrate Father's Day. The teachers prepared the moving up and graduation ceremonies on June 24th and 25th. The children have been hard at work practicing their songs for the ceremonies. We are looking forward to hosting the summer camp July 7th - August 1st. There will be a special theme for each week of camp, Blasting off into Summer, Commotion in the Ocean, Camping Cowboys, and Circus in the Summer. We were able to purchase a new PA system to use at our events, with the money from our Art show Fundraiser. Thank you to all who attended.

<https://www.bellportpreschool.com/>



BIRTHDAYS AND FELLOWSHIP



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

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

JULY

1	-	Joan Pryberzerski
2	-	Brynne Ballan
		Sheryl Moodt
7	-	Kathy Cullen
9	-	Lois Barton
16	-	Kristen Cuenin
17	-	Ellen Horn
19	-	Pat Schultz
22	-	Jesse Thompson
23	-	Dan Rinfret
25	-	Adam Hoag
28	-	June Potter
		Daniel Groh
29	-	Blake Lawlor

AUGUST

1	-	Eva Leggett
5	-	Sharyn Donnelly
7	-	Christopher John Nuttall
9	-	Darice Lang
16	-	Laura Rinfret
20	-	Harold Daus
25	-	Chris Gradilone
		John Gradilone

SEPTEMBER

3	-	David Harder
8	-	Isaac Gagot
		Gregory Graziano
12	-	Rachel Morse Gagot
10	-	Flo Myers
15	-	Eleanor Graziano
16	-	Bill Lang
17	-	Gordon Downs
		Zane Davis
20	-	Robin Montick
23	-	John Conway
25	-	Liz Kolasinski

Congratulations

Sebastian Felix Groh graduated on July 9th from Kathe Kollwitz Math and Science Specialty High School in Berlin, Germany where he studied physics. He plans to attend a university in Berlin.

Sebastian is the grandson of Margie K. Ludewig.

BIBLE STUDIES

****The BUMC Women's Bible Study is currently off for the Summer. Please contact Ellen Horn at 631-286-8827 if you are interested in attending our group.**

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 be off during July and August. 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

Vacation Bible Study



Come join us this summer at Magnified! Discovering the Bigness of God in the Smallest of Things!

Registration starts now!

- VBS dates are Monday, August 4th – Friday, August 8th.
- Time: 10:00 am – 1:30 pm
- Mary Immaculate Parish, 16 Browns Lane, Bellport, New York
- VBS is for young people ages 5 yrs old (completed Kindergarten) – 11 yrs old.
- Fee of \$40.00 per child. Late fee of \$45.00 after July 31st.
- We are also looking for Adults, Teens, and Pre-teens to help us.

Snacks, games, crafts and Bible Adventures plus some singing and dancing, await you as we discover the bigness of God in the smallest of things!

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT until 7/31, only \$40. Beginning August 1st, the fee will be \$45. visit the Mary Immaculate website for the application at www.miparish.net/events AUGUST 4-8; 10 am to 1:30 pm

SPRING EVENTS

Concert by the Long Island Symphonic Choral Association to Benefit L I Cares.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Long Island Symphonic Choral Association for “An Afternoon of Opera Choruses & More”
Sunday, May 4, 2025.

This was a free concert, asking for food or cash donations to benefit Long Island Cares.



MOTHER / DAUGHTER DINNER

A wonderful time was had by all who attended our Mother/Daughter Dinner on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. The tables were adorned with pots of impatiens from VanderZalm's Green House.

Pastor Matthew opened with a prayer and gave a wonderful lecture on the history of Mary Magdalen's role in the Bible.

Patty Munson entertained everyone, playing the piano, while we chatted and ate. Café Castello catered the excellent Italian food.

We had vegetarian and/or gluten free choices. We finished with cake and ice cream. Many thanks to the men who set up, served, and cleaned up. Kudos to Pastor Matthew, Ray Rinfret, Scott Munson, Rolf Beuttenmuller, Bill Morse, and Bill Lang.

FLOOD BUCKETS FOR UMCOR

Many thanks for the contributions of cleaning supplies and flood buckets that will be given to UMCOR, our Church's Relief Agency. Pastor Matthew expanded our individual spiritual growth by adding a weekly bible reading and prayer as the supplies were collected. A blessed Lenten journey.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

May 25, 2025

The Service was celebrated in Fellowship Hall.





SUMMER EVENTS

Bellport Day – Saturday, July 26, 2025

Hello all! We will have a table to set up for Bellport Day, this year! This will be an amazing opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the community and to be even more connected with our neighbors.

To do so, we need helpers to work the table on Saturday, July 26 throughout the day. Please, sign up in church or let Pastor Matthew know if you can be there.

**Movie Night – Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Fellowship Hall. Movie Title to be
announced closer to the event date. Come
with you blankets, snacks, etc.**

To all those who we meet on Bellport Day, we are going to invite them to be our guest in August for a church movie night. This will help us get to know our new friends and hang out with family. The movie is TBA, and it will be family friendly, of course. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 13 at 7pm.
#summerdays

Fall Event

Need volunteers for the **Harvest Fair**,
Saturday, September 27, 2025.

CONFERENCE, DISTRICT, AND PARISH NEWS

Information for Lay Servants

Lay Servant Ministry

Lay Servant Ministry is a United Methodist system for lay leadership development. The courses are designed to help UMC members develop their skills in leadership, communication, and caregiving and to discover their Spiritual Gifts. Basic Course is the foundation of LSM and must be taken to earn Certificates.

*Ask Pastor Matthew for Registration

Visit Long Island East District
for More Information

<http://www.liedistrict.com/>

NY Annual Conference, 2025 – Observations & Experience

Greetings, Siblings in Christ. While I had attended my first NYAC last year, I was not a voting member (I had checked the wrong box on the registration form!) and was just “learning the ropes” and immersing myself in the process. This year was quite different, with my full participation and somewhat-full understanding of what was going on.

Additionally, we started Thursday night with an event I will share momentarily. The Conference this year ran from June 5th through Sunday morning June 8th.

I had originally thought to keep a straight journal about the long weekend; however, as the Conference went on, I decided instead just to offer you all some of the things that struck me or gave me pause. They may or may not be in order, and I will be glad to answer any (unanswered) questions you might have going forward. I was there to serve and report back to all of you.

Right off the bat: if you have never heard Bishop Bickerton speak, you are missing out on one of the most powerful speakers I have ever heard. His words are always thought-provoking and spiritually challenging.

Additionally, our Conference Lay Director, Gail Douglas-Boykin, is extraordinary, passionate, and a true servant leader – the phrase that kept floating through my head when she spoke was “she is so *cool!*” We are truly gifted to have both of them.

Thursday evening was a very affirming Laity session – for the first half hour, at least.

(Clergy had had their own session a few hours earlier). The remaining time was a presentation on using Artificial Intelligence for good in the church. I must tell you – and this is an example of my own suspect thinking – that all I could think about during

this presentation was Skynet in the first two Terminator movies. But it also triggered lines of thinking about how God wants us to use our minds and hearts for God’s glory. I guess more will be revealed...

Friday morning through Saturday night was Conference business, interspersed with a lot of worship and singing! The theme of this year’s Conference was “Hope with Joy,” and the items we discussed and voted on reflected that theme. For those interested in the details, I will be glad to forward you the pre-Conference booklet in .pdf form (all 232 pages of it). If you can get past the length, it is quite interesting and well done – I mean that sincerely. I don’t think it is restricted to Conference members, and one of the things that was stressed over the weekend was transparency.

Here is a bit of “stream of consciousness” for your consideration:

- Gail D-B warned against “being so busy pouring out for others that we don’t have time to let God pour into us.”
- On a videotape of interviews with retired pastors, one talked about “what the seminary doesn’t prepare you for in ministry.” I will share about that on June 29th – it was staggering.
- In his State of the Church message on Saturday morning, the Bishop... well, he said a *lot* of powerful things, many of which I will also relay on June 29th, but I want to stress our new mission statement, found at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/umc-resources/vision-of-the-umc>. To summarize it: “Love Boldly... Serve Joyfully... Lead Courageously.”

- Other things I heard on Saturday morning: “it’s not my church, it’s God’s church;” “collaboration, cooperation, communication;” “What does it mean to be the church in 2025? *The current model isn’t working;*” and “could this be our moment, our time?”

We had some challenges. The meal plan at the hotel was a mess on Saturday. Being a stodgy old curmudgeon, I would have liked to have seen more familiarity with Roberts Rules of Order in the legislative sessions (but Pastor Matthew explained what that was about at Bible study – thank you, Pastor!). We had some younger people, but church participation by the newer generations will take some more prayerful discernment and action! I was glad I attended this year. We, as a church and as Christians, have some serious work to do...

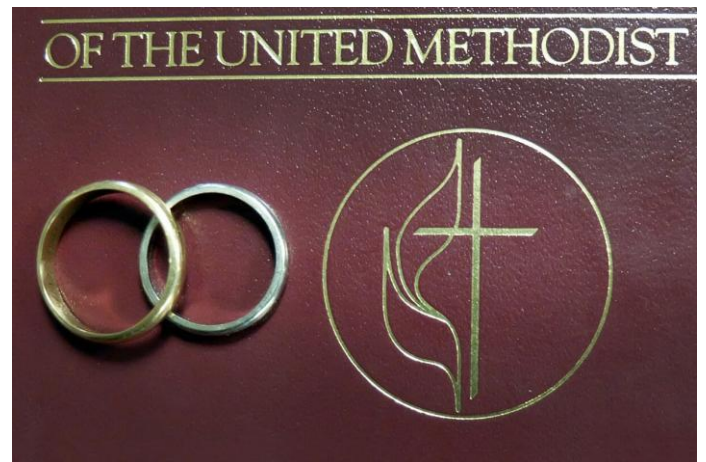
In Christ, Tom Bracken

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

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 return to meeting in person on Tuesday, July 15 at 7:30 pm at the Wesley House, first floor. "Rejoice always," Bill.



Monthly Food Collection

Outreach is resuming 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.



Dear Parishioner,

Your contributions will 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. Again, thank you for your continuing faith in the work of our church and for your generosity.

Weekly Collection Total: Spring (from March 23, 2025, to June 8, 2025): \$25,882.

Ellen L. Horn, Financial Secretary

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)**

Sympathy Prayers

To Melinda “Mindy” Smith and family on the passing of John Smith. To the Scott and Martinez families on the passing of Mary Scott. To Peter Berman and family on the passing of Barbara Berman.

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’s recovery, Lois Barton (The Bristol, Sayville), Joe Harder (Jr.), the Downs family, Doris Lundegard, Donna and Carl Catandella, Lillian Muttitt and the family, 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: Event Rental Service
- 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