

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 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

Council Chairperson: William Morse

Worship:

Membership & Evangelism:

Outreach: Carolyn Holtz

Christian Education: Lori Labalsamo and
William Morse

United Methodist Women: Sara Morse

United Methodist Men: Greg Graziano

Staff Parish Relations: Tom Bracken

Finance Chair: Carolyn Holtz

Treasurers: Barbara Pannhurst,
Pat Schultz,
Jennifer Lawlor

Financial Secretary: Ellen Horn

Fiddlers Green: Denise Gregory,
Jennifer Lawlor

Pastor Matthew's Musings

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the
year to come, whispering
'it will be happier...'" — Alfred Lord
Tennyson

Well, my friends, time has closed the book on, yet another chapter of our lives, and a new one has only just begun - a clean slate, a blank page ready to be written on. We all felt joy, losses, triumphs, and trials in 2024. One of the greatest joys that the end of the year brings is the chance for a new day, new beginnings, and new opportunities to live, to serve, and to love God. However, you feel as 2024 ends, I pray you will feel the hope of the arrived Messiah, every day. I feel this hope deep inside as we hit the six-month mark together as a family of faith. Who would have known a year ago that I would end 2024 on Long Island? God work in wonderful ways, and I cannot imagine being anywhere else. Meeting you was the greatest part of my 2024. I truly feel the Spirit of God working in us, together. Great things are coming to our church! Speaking of what is coming, every year, the idea of resolutions pops up. Now, some refuse to make them, and some see resolutions as silly. When I hear someone make a resolution, it tells me they still have hope for something more, in something new in the upcoming year. I

invite us all to think about what transformations we and our families might make this year. Whatever they may be, let us make sure God is in the forefront of all we desire. No matter how big or small a desire might be, God values them. See resolutions, not as bondage or as soon-to-be broken promise, but instead, as chances to show the world how we live hope with a God of love walking beside us. Since I am writing this on my “birthday,” it is time to go be festive. So, I leave you with this quotation from the Harry Potter series: *“There is nothing better [than] when something comes and hits you and you think, ‘YES’!* Let this joy be our response to the Epiphany of our Lord and to all the wonders that God lays before us this year. Yes, Jesus is here; let us rejoice!

Grace, Peace, and Happy New Year!

Pastor Matthew Querns

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM

Join Upcoming Special Services

- Epiphany Sunday – January 5th 9:30 am
- Ash Wednesday – March 5th 7:00 pm

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>



We are grateful for our choir! Please join them weekly for rehearsal on Thursday at 7 PM and Sunday at 9 AM.



The Handbell Choir meets on Thursdays at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary. For further information please contact Kathleen Wells at 860-334-8416



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM.

**Sunday School All Throughout the Year!
Offering lessons from the
“Gifts & Fruit of Holy Spirit”**

Many thanks to Bill Morse and Lori Labalsamo

Preschool News



The class activities at our preschool changed as quickly as the weather outside. As we went from colorful leaves to cold winter days the displays in the preschool changed reflecting all the students were learning about: fire safety, good hygiene, families, nature, nocturnal animals, and holidays. Bulletin boards were full of autumn trees, family photos, things the children were thankful for, turkeys in various disguises (to keep them off the Thanksgiving table) and December holidays.

The families contributed to holiday parties, the Thanksgiving feast, a cookie exchange and more. In December each child invited a special guest to join their holiday party and make a craft together. The children were wide eyed and happy to see the Christmas tree in the lobby. They enjoyed making ornaments to hang on the school tree. To end 2024 they enjoyed making reindeer food and then watched a holiday movie in their cozy pajamas. We thank our talented staff for the many fun memories they are creating for our preschool children!!



For information, visit us at
<https://www.bellportpreschool.com/>

MEETING IN SMALL GROUPS



Bellport United Methodist Men

Accomplishments for 2024

Bellport United Methodist Men are closing in on a full year of reawakening. Bellport UMM restarted in September of 2023 after the Covid pandemic shut things down. 2024 has been a full year for us. UMM has initiated several projects to benefit the church property and activities including:

1. Organizing a bush and tree pruning effort after getting a \$2,500 estimate from a service company.
2. Organized a cleanup and repair service day of the yard and shrubs at the Bellport UMC parsonage.
3. UMM provided a Spaghetti Father's Day Dinner for the congregation. 24 adults and 4 children enjoyed the meal.
4. Organized a December "Tom Sawyer day" to rake the leaves to the curb for pickup. This defers \$1,500 expense.
5. Supported candy making and other efforts for the December Craft Fair.
6. We worked with the September Harvest Fair to secure a food truck.

UMM provided \$150.00 to be shared with two Food Pantries.

1. St. Joseph the Worker at Roman Catholic church
2. St. Vincent de Paul at Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic church

UMM donated \$100 to Mercy Tree

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Meet on the 2nd Saturday at 9 AM in the Church Gathering Area



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

*****Help Us add yours!*****

The Women's Bible Study group helped others celebrate Christmas by making a \$500 donation to Mercy Center. Ministries Inc. Mercy Center Ministries was founded in 1983 to provide homeless women with shelter, supportive services and community resources for them and their children.

The Women's Bible Study group meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at the home of Ellen Horn, for both bible study and fellowship.

For further information contact

Ellen Horn at 631-286-8827

JANUARY

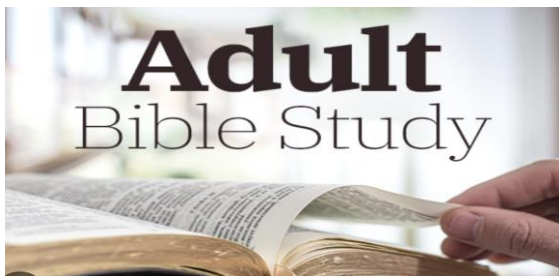
- 2 - Matthew Querns
- 3 - Erna Cuenin
Bruce Groh
- 5 - Connie Adee
- 8 - Dorothy Vogel
- 21 - Giared Hoag
- 23 - Kent Adee
- 26 - Doris Lundegard
- 27 - Lillian Muttitt
- 28 - Ann Stonebridge
- 31 - Randy Hoag
Anna Marie Vogel

FEBRUARY

- 1 - Danna Prather- Davis
- 2 - Jared Gagot
- 7 - Leah Groh
- 11 - Barbara Downs
- 12 - Steve Montick
- 13 - Rita Tempel
- 14 - Patty Munson
- 15 - Donna Catandella
- 24 - Pam Groh
Billy Ballan
- 26 - Gabriel Graziano
- 25 - Amanda Ryan
- 28 - Steve Davis
Tim Harder

MARCH

- 1 - Rowan Catandella
- 3 - Barbara Berman
- 8 - Daniel Fogel
Luke Smales
- 9 - Mary Walsh
- 10 - Carla Ballan
- 12 - Donna Gradilone
- 16 - Steve Montick Jr.
- 29 - Elyssa Hoag
Justin Hoag
- 31 - Dorothy Montick



- **MONDAYS 12:15 PM ON ZOOM**
Contact Bill Morse at 631-334-3545



Council meetings require all ministry chairs. Anyone is welcome to join with any questions to meet remotely with the church's Zoom. 7:30 pm. This is the nominal schedule. It could change if special topics come up. Third Tuesday of Jan. Mar. May Sept. Nov. "Rejoice always", Bill

Event Highlights and Thank You's

HARVEST FAIR SEPT 28, 2024

The Harvest Fair was a great success. Highlights included Live Auction (with sealed & live bidding) items from local merchants, craft vendors, home-baked goods, and entertainment.



Thank you to all who helped make our annual Christmas Bazaar a success!

- To the people who helped decorate and set up and take down chairs and tables.
- To the many parishioners who baked cookies, cakes, breads, pies and made fudge for our baked goods table, always our biggest attraction.
- To Sara Morse who almost single-handedly crafts all of the offerings on the United Methodist Women craft table, from apron, pillows, quillows, baby bibs, baby, and toddler toys and more.
- To Carolyn Holtz who arranges all the outside vendors.
- To Carolyn and Sara who arranged for lunch food for our volunteers and vendors and hot cocoa for our customers.
- To Dan Fogel who provided piano music for the afternoon.
- To Santa who dropped by despite his busy schedule.
- To everyone who came and supported our tables and those of our vendors.
 - To the youth and helpers who made chocolate, dipped pretzels, and sold wreaths for their separate fund raiser; and To the

United Methodist Women who purchased wreaths for the doors to the Sanctuary. Thank you one and all. See you at next year's Christmas Bazaar!

OUTREACH HAPPENINGS

The Mercy Center Ministries

One thousand, one hundred and ninety-two (1,192) diapers were collected for the Mercy Center Ministries. They were so appreciative of the diapers, along with the toys, clothing, wipes, sippy cups and more.

Chocolate candies made by the Youth Group were a big surprise, along with checks from the Women's Bible Study Group, the United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Men.

Warm Fuzzies

The warm fuzzies collection of hats, gloves, scarfs and socks were gratefully received by the Boys & Girls Club.

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Our Thanksgiving food collection restocked the pantries at St Vincent de Paul (Mary Immaculate RC Church) and at St Joseph the Worker RC Church. The Thanksgiving Food Collection, along with our regular monthly food contributions, helps greatly during the winter months.

Many thanks to all for your generosity!!



Monthly 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 of each month, 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

Located on the corner of North Brewster Lane & Main Street, is currently closed for the winter. The Thrift Shop will reopen in the second week of February 2025, weather permitting. The Thrift Shops’ hours of operation are Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. For further information call 631-286-0746

Thank you for your Donations! The Thrift Shop is still accepting donations. We Welcome Volunteers!

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:** Jennifer Lawlor and Denise Gregory. Volunteer once a month or more at the Thrift Shop.
- **Outreach, Harvest Fair, and Christmas Bazaar:** Carolyn Holtz (631-286-4236) Helping to help others.
- **Loveline:** Preparing food for families in our church that are experiencing a crisis.
- **Church Office:** John Hanon & Rachel Langert (631-286-0525) Assisting with special mailings, distributing flyers, folding bulletins/newsletters, or phones.
- **Building Use:** John Hannon & Rachel Langert (631-286-0525) Facilitating the comings and goings of people using our buildings for private events.



SPPRC
Staff Pastor Parish
Relations Committee

Our committee is here to support our staff and church family. Please share any positive input, concerns, and suggestions with us at any time.

Tom Bracken (631) 260-0693
tsbracken777@gmail.com

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



Prayer List for Mary Scott and family on the passing of her daughter, Josephine Pond, The family of Jean Barone. The Barton family on the passing of Mark Barton.

Prayers: Rescue and recovery for victims of natural disasters & wars, Peace of the World, Revival of the Church, Prayers for healing and strength: Rachel Langert and her father, Lois Barton (The Bristol, Sayville), Joe Harder (Jr.), Jack Antos & the family, the Downs family, Tess Mouquin, Peter & Barbara Berman (Village Walk at Patchogue), Doris Lundegard, Kristin Quatrala, Donna and Carl Catandella, the Vanderzalm family, Lillian Muttitt and the family, Dorothy Vogel and the family, Paul Herbst and Roseann Hannafey. Prayers for Young Adults including Andrew, Ethan, Amy and Seann, Shelby, Derek, Diana, Oliver, David and Samuel, and all Church affiliated people.

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

- Use of Fellowship Hall for various events
- Baptism Service
- Wedding Service
- Memorial Service
- Hospital or Home Service
- Support Group for Singles
- Support Group for LGBTQ & more.
- Support Group for Grief Recovery
- Marriage or Premarital Counseling
- Bible Study

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
- Also, you can 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 finances as well as the church mission.

Thank you for your support!

A REMINDER!



Sunday March 9, 2025. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 8th.