

FEBRUARY 2025
Volume 11—Issue 2



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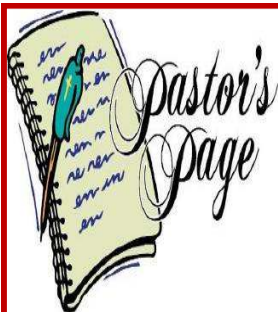
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The Story of St. Valentine



Happy Valentine's Day!

Or good riddance to Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day may be one of the most controversial mainstream holidays. One person plans an extravagant romantic trip to Paris, while another yells at their co-workers for smiling on a day they would rather forget.

It routinely lands in the top 4 holidays for candy sales and greeting cards. I remember making a "Valentine Card Box" at school for everyone in the class to drop their valentines to me in. There were some rules to follow: It had to be **red**, it had to have **hearts** on it, and it should be at least the size of a tissue box (the bigger ones of the day). I looked forward to receiving those cards, some with hearts, some with superheroes, some homemade, and others store-bought. I always ensured I selected the best one to put in the teacher's box because I thought my teacher was the best!

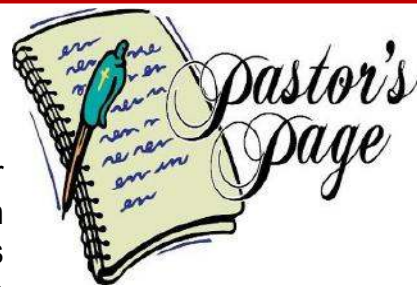
But what is the history and true meaning behind Valentine's Day? Where did it come from? Here is the history of that wonderful day when we celebrate love. Around 265 A.D. the Roman Emperor, Claudius, made a law that young men would not marry. He believed that they would fight with more abandon in war if they did not have a wife and family to worry about back home.

This resulted in a culture that became more and more degraded. Polygamy ran rampant and marriage was abandoned for illegitimate relationships. For young Christian couples desiring to marry this was a difficult time. They wanted to honor God's covenant marriage bond, but Roman law forbade it. They had to choose to follow God or Rome. They already knew of the time when Peter had a similar incident in Jerusalem and told the council, "We should listen to God rather than men." This is where the true history behind St. Valentine made a difference for them.

St. Valentine secretly married and ministered to couples in discrete locations so the Roman soldiers would not find out. He gave his life to help unite men and women in godly marriages and keep them from sinful lifestyles.

(continued on page 2)

("The Story of St. Valentine" Pastor's Page cont'd.)



He did this for years, all hidden from the eye of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Unfortunately, it was discovered that he was marrying Christian couples. The Roman government under Claudius demanded that he recant his beliefs and become a loyal Roman citizen, but Valentine stood strong on God's word about marriage. The Roman courts sentenced Valentine to death and it was carried out in the Roman Coliseum.

"Valentine stood for something much bigger than himself. He gave his life to give couples a Christian marriage, teach them about Christ, and help them live in a culture that lifted sin and rejected Christ's teachings."

Before he died, he sent letters out to his friends, many of which he had the chance to marry secretly, and asked them to pray for him and all the Christians in Rome. He urged them to keep their marriages sacred and focused on Christ. He closed each letter with these words, "Remember your Valentine." He was killed on the 14th of February in 270 A.D. This is why we celebrate "Valentine's Day" each year.

Those who know the true history of Valentine and his faithfulness to Christ by his teaching on marriage, which is not as trivial as it has become today.

Valentine stood for something much bigger than himself. He gave his life to give couples a Christian marriage, teach them about Christ, and help them live in a culture that elevated sin and rejected Christ.

As servants in God's ministry, we are doing the same thing. It is the life of each person we work with and teach about Christ. Although we may not always be administering their weddings, we get the incredible opportunity to tell them about Christ and help them win against sin.

Can that be our aim this Valentine's Day and throughout the year? It is much more important than just giving a box of chocolates and a card. (That's important but strengthening marriages is more important.)



Thanks for being a part of this incredible church, and I challenge you to tell those around you, your kids, and grandkids the story of St. Valentine this year. And please, give them those little chalky boxed hearts, chocolate, and cards too! Have a great Valentine's Day!

Remembering Valentine's heart for Marriage and Christian love,

Pastor Mark

February

Calendar of Events



Sunday School & Christian Education—9am

Sunday Worship & Praise—10am

Sunday Son-Seekers Adult Class—11am

Food Pantry—10am to 1pm (Wed. & Fri.)

Praise Team—Varies

God's Fire Youth—6:15pm (Wednesdays)

Sunday, Feb. 2nd—Worship, Praise & Holy Communion Service—10am

Monday, Feb. 3rd—Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Tuesday, Feb. 4th—Staff Meeting—10am

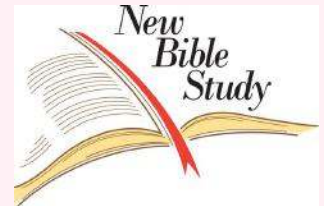
Our Unshakeable Hope Bible Study—1pm

Thursday, Feb. 6th—Missions Committee Meeting—10am

Activities/Events Committee Meeting—7pm

Revelation Bible Study—7pm

Saturday, Feb. 8th—Methodist Men's Breakfast Fellowship—8am in Seaford



Sunday, Feb. 9th—"Souper Bowl Sunday"—10am

Tuesday, Feb. 11th—Staff Meeting—10am

Our Unshakeable Hope Bible Study—1pm

SPRC Meeting—7pm

Thursday, Feb. 13th—Revelation Bible Study—7pm

Friday, Feb. 14th—VALENTINE'S DAY

(Deadline for Boxed Lunch & Soup Orders)

Sunday, Feb. 16th—Praise & Worship Service—10am

Monday, Feb. 17th—PRESIDENTS DAY (Church Office is Closed)

Kitchen Prep for Methodist Women—10am

Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Tuesday, Feb. 18th—Kitchen Prep for Methodist Women—1pm

Our Unshakeable Hope Bible Study—1pm

Wednesday, Feb. 19th—Boxed Lunches & Soup Sale Pick-Up—8:30am to 1pm

Thursday, Feb. 20th—Revelation Bible Study—7pm

Friday, Feb. 21st—Deadline for Camp Staff Applications

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser—5pm to 7:30pm

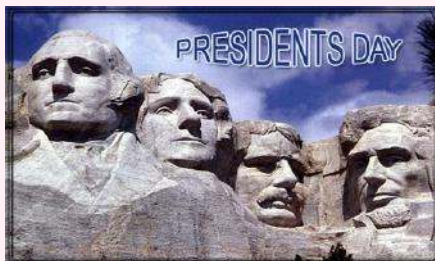
Sunday, Feb. 23rd—"Bring a Friend Sunday"

Tuesday, Feb. 25th—Staff Meeting—10am

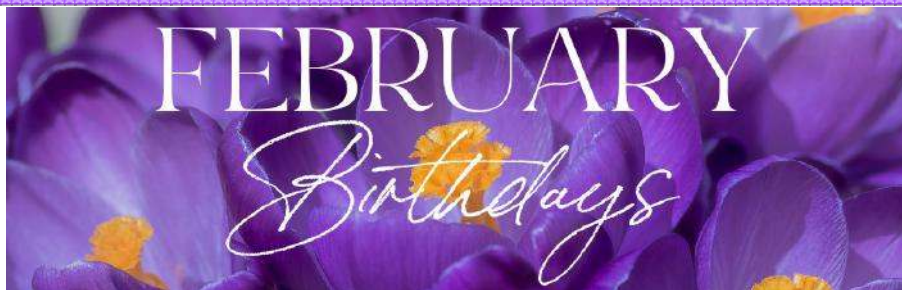
Our Unshakeable Hope Bible Study—1pm

Thursday, Feb. 27th—Revelation Bible Study—7pm

Friday, Feb. 28th—Orders for Chocolate Easter Eggs Begin

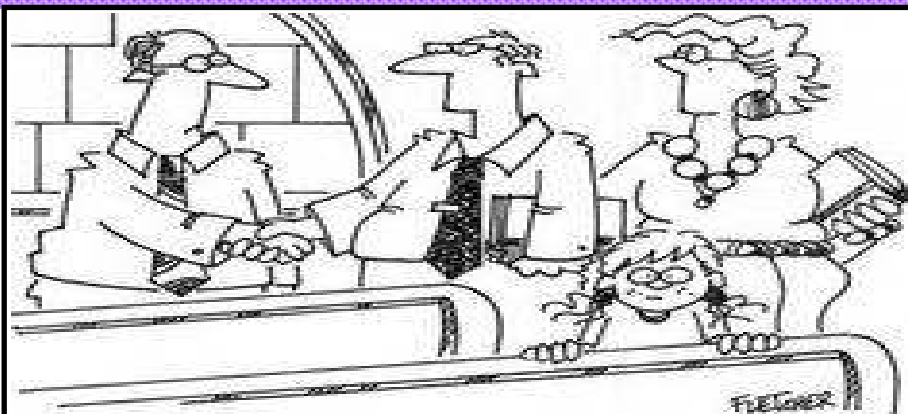


1—Jenny Keim
 2—Jill Jackson
 6—Dennis Egner
 8—Marie Robinson
 10—Mark Bell
 Dick Rosengren
 13—Nick Adams
 17—Jim Johnson
 20—Krystal McCoy
 Tammy Williamson



22—Austin Dean
 Sarah Ramey
 25—Sherry Holmes
 Wyatt Schrock

If you have a birthday this month and have not been listed, please contact Debbie in the Church Office so you can be included in our birthday listing. Thank You.



"We're looking for a church with a vibrant, active congregation . . . that we can quietly observe from the back pew."



UNION METHODIST MEN**Saturday, February 8th****8:00 AM**

The men's monthly breakfast fellowship will take place at
the Golden Eagle Diner in Seaford.

See you there!

Both of the Methodist Women and Methodist Men groups are open to everyone. The women typically meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall (*Sept.—May*). The men meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8am for a breakfast fellowship in Seaford (*Sept.—May*).

We invite everyone to be a part of these two important groups of Union Church that support and strengthen our church ministries as well as many other community projects and causes. Come see what we're all about!

Union Methodist Women



February is a very busy month for our women's ministry. Your help is greatly appreciated with the following planned activities:

~~~~~

**Monday, Feb. 3rd—Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm**

**Monday, Feb. 17th—Kitchen Prep for Soup Sale—10am**

**Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 18th—Kitchen Prep for Soup Sale—1pm**

**Wednesday, Feb. 19th—Boxed Lunch & Soup Sale—8:30am until 12:30pm**

**Thursday, Feb. 20th—NO Meeting**

*Women  
in  
Ministry*



# Union Methodist Church

2 N. Laws St. • Bridgeville, DE 19933 • (302) 337-7409 • uumchurch@comcast.net

## SOUP & SANDWICH SALE



Wednesday, February 19, 2025

11am to 1pm *[pick-up only]*

### ORDER FORM

Deadline to order is Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

Order forms and payment may be dropped off or mailed in to the church office.  
Checks should be made payable to "UMC" and clearly designated "SOUP".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUP:** *(cold, sold separately)*

**Pint (\$10 ea.)**

**Quart (\$18 ea.)**

Tomato Basil

# \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Corn Chowder

# \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable Beef

# \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_



**BOXED LUNCH: (\$10 ea.)** - *Indicate below your choice of soup and sandwich (includes a sweet treat).*

*Circle your selections:*

**Sandwich:** Ham & Swiss Cheese or Turkey & American Cheese

**Soups:** Tomato Basil or Chicken Corn Chowder or Vegetable Beef

**Condiments:** Mustard Mayonnaise Lettuce Tomato

*(Packaged separately)*

Order Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

It's That Time of Year Again!

# Chocolate Easter Eggs



Once again our God's Fire Youth will be selling Chocolate Eggs to raise funds for their outreach events and summer overnight trip. Order forms are available at the church office. Orders and payment may be turned in at the church office. If placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, be sure to clearly designate your payment. Choose between peanut butter, butter cream, or coconut—Cost—\$6 per egg. See details below.

## God's Fire Easter Egg Sale

*Each egg comes decorated and packaged in a gift box with grass. Limited supply – order early!*

Customer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (home)

| <u>Flavor</u>                         | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Peanut Butter ( <i>purple grass</i> ) | _____           | \$6.00/egg   | _____        |
| Butter Cream ( <i>yellow grass</i> )  | _____           | \$6.00/egg   | _____        |
| Coconut ( <i>pink grass</i> )         | _____           | \$6.00/egg   | _____        |

Total Eggs Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ \*Total Paid \_\_\_\_\_

(Warning: the eggs are not made in a nut-free environment; cross contamination may occur.)

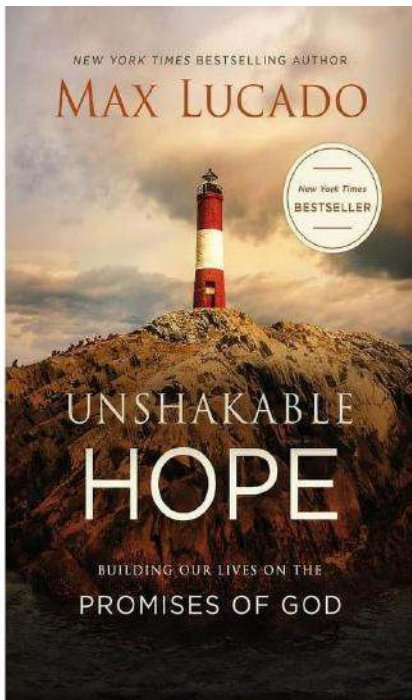
**\*Payment in full MUST be received with this order form - No Exceptions.**

\*\*Order Deadline: Sunday, March 23, 2025 \*\*Return forms to any God's Fire Member or to the church office.

**\*\*Pick up times: Monday (4/7) thru Friday (4/11) (9am-3pm)**

**\*\*Make checks payable to UMC God's Fire Youth (Easter is April 20, 2025)**





## "Our Unshakeable Hope"

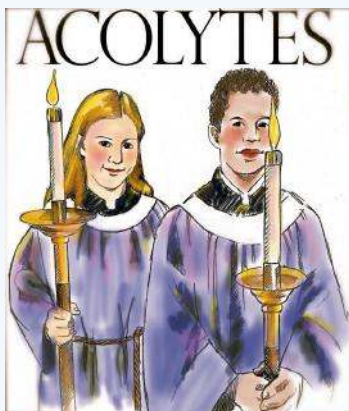
(*NEW Bible Study*)

**Begins Tuesday, Feb. 4th  
1pm to 2:30pm**

This 12-week study, led by Bob & Sally Vankeuren is based on the book by Max Lucado and will focus on God's promises for every situation in our lives.

This study is open to everyone.

Contact Bob or Sally at 302-536-1288 or call the church office if you would like to attend.




### ACOLYTE MINISTRY

We are seeking children and youth (*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade or higher*) to light and extinguish the altar candles during a worship service.

A new schedule has been posted in the hallway by Pastor Mark's office for available Sunday dates for our Acolytes to sign up for.

If you are currently not an acolyte, but are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact Debi Adams, Pastor Mark, or call the church office.



**MARCH 5, 2025**

# Ash

## WEDNESDAY

### WORSHIP SERVICE





## BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY!

*February 23, 2025*

*Invitation cards are an easy way to invite a friend or neighbor to attend church with you that*

*morning. Invitation cards are available in the narthex and at the church office.*

*Coffee & refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall immediately following the service that morning.*

### HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

**A FRIEND INVITED ME - 86%**

**ORGANIZED VISITATION - 6%**

**PASTOR INVITE - 6%**

**ADVERTISING - 2%**

**PEOPLE BRING PEOPLE!**



*The invitation cards above are available in the narthex to use in inviting someone to come to church on Bring-A-Friend Sunday.*

### Ways to invite a friend to church . . .

—You can call, text, email, share a Facebook event page or talk to them. Hand them an invite card. In person is best!

—Go the extra mile and take them out to lunch afterward to answer questions they have or simply to hang out with them and to thank them for accepting your invitation to join you at church.

—Be sure when you bring them to church, introduce them to people. Especially to your pastor; he'll love to meet your friend.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

| Class                                    | Time  | Teachers                   | Classroom       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Pre-K – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade            | 9 AM  | Joan Hastings              | Room #201       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grades | 9 AM  | Joanne Jones               | Room #205       |
| Jr. & Sr. High School                    | 9 AM  | Pastor Mark & MaryAnn Bell | Room #205       |
| Parenting                                | 9 AM  | Rita Hovermale             | Room #202       |
| Ladies                                   | 9 AM  | Pam Tull / Polly Mervine   | Conference Room |
| Discovery [Adults]                       | 9 AM  | Roger Hovermale            | Room #206       |
| "Son-Seekers" [Adults]                   | 11 AM | John Clawson               | Conference Room |

*Joan Hastings*

*Sunday School/Christian Education*

*Sunday School*  
learning to live the life

### The Month of FEBRUARY—Community Food Pantry

#### "Peanut Butter & Jelly" Month!



Donations of any type of peanut butter and/or jam, jelly, or preserves are needed to help keep our Food Pantry stocked. Donations may be dropped off directly to the Food Pantry when they are open (*Wednesdays & Fridays from 10am to 1pm*). **Thank you!**



**Update your  
contact info!**

We need your help to maintain an accurate directory for our church family. If you have had any changes to your contact information (*address, phone, e-mail, etc.*), please notify Debbie in the church office so the directory can be updated.

Thank You.

We are in need of nursery volunteers for the winter months. If you are available to help occasionally, please contact Tiffany Schutt at:  
**tiff.snyder89@gmail.com.**







# MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



## Missionaries Lance & Laura Ostman

*Ministering to the Higaunon people of North Central Mindanao, Philippines since 1983.*

### Current Prayer Requests:

- Current translation work of the Old Testament in to the Higaunon language is ongoing. Job 30 is near completion and will be ready for proofing by the end of January.
- Safety in travel as they return to the Philippines at the end of January and plan and participate in the many outreach events planned during their next extended stay.

## CHILDREN'S



Volunteers are needed for the winter quarter to give a brief 5 minute message or challenge to the children during the Sunday morning message.

Please contact Jenny Keim at [jennk@iniusa.org](mailto:jennk@iniusa.org) or call the church office to find out what dates remain available.

Consider being a part of this important ministry to the children.

## Bible studies & small groups

Small group studies are important to the spiritual health of a church. They help to increase our awareness of God's Word, create a "team" atmosphere, develops self-motivation, helps us to investigate issues, listen to viewpoints other than our own, and get to know others in our church family even better.

It is our goal to have several small group studies in 2025. If you are interested in leading a small group study (*approximately 6-8 weeks*), or have a particular subject you would be interested in being part of a small group study on, please contact Pastor Mark.



# *Snapshots* from the Church Council



- ⇒ Approved the nomination of Allison Dean to serve on the SPRC. Term will conclude end of year 2026.
- ⇒ Approved SPRC request to post for a **possible** second ministry position.
- ⇒ Approved God's Fire request to hold a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on February 21<sup>st</sup> to benefit the Fisher of Men Foundation.
- ⇒ Reviewed design for new digital sign.
- ⇒ Reviewed plans for *Bring-A-Friend* Sunday scheduled for February 23rd.
- ⇒ Pastor Bell announced that a *Living Last Supper* drama will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17th.



February 2, 2025



[www.unioninbridgeville.com](http://www.unioninbridgeville.com)

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH APPLE PAY;  
GOOGLE PAY; PAYPAL; OR CREDIT CARD  
(a 2.5% SERVICE CHARGE WILL APPLY.)

**ONLINE GIVING** is available through the Union Church website for the following:

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tithes & Offerings  | Local & Foreign Missions      |
| Memorial Gifts      | Food Pantry & Needy Fund      |
| Renovation Projects | Love Gifts                    |
| Building Fund       | Disaster Relief               |
| Designated Giving   | Special Needs                 |
| Other . . .         | Fellowship Hall Refurbishment |



## **UPCOMING MEETINGS in FEBRUARY**

**Monday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner – 6pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Staff Meeting—10am**

**Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Missions Committee Meeting – 10am**

**- Activities/Events Committee Meeting – 7pm**

**Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – Methodist Men's Breakfast Fellowship – 8am**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Staff Meeting—10am**

**– SPRC Meeting – 7pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>—Staff Meeting is **Cancelled****

**Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>—Methodist Women's Meeting is **Cancelled****

**Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>—Staff Meeting—10am**



## **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Buying Guide**

**January** – small stuffed animals/dolls *(Barbies or dolls similar in size to Barbies)*

**February** – toothbrushes: toothbrush covers

**March** – Matchbox cars and small vehicles



## **OUR UNSHAKEABLE HOPE BIBLE STUDY**

*(in the Conference Room)*

**Tuesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – 1pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – 1pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – 1pm**

**Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – 1pm**



## **THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

*(in the Conference Room)*

**Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> —7pm**

**Thursday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> —7pm**

**Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> —7pm**

**Thursday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> —7pm**



*Hosted by the God's Fire Youth*

**Friday, February 21, 2025**

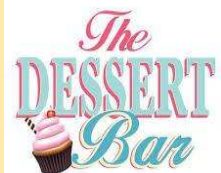
**5pm to 7:30pm**

**Cost—\$10 [Adults]  
\$5 [Children age 5—10]  
No Cost [Children under 5]**

Tickets are required and are available at the church office or from our God's Fire Youth.

***Menu: Dinner includes spaghetti, marinara sauce, meat sauce, garden salad, garlic bread, and beverage***

A Dessert Bar featuring a selection of homemade desserts will also be available by separate donation for those that want to enjoy a "sweet ending" to their meal.



The Retreat Center on Fisherman's Island recently burned to the ground and was a total loss. The Island is the site our God's Fire Youth use for their overnight activities in the summer. Funds raised will be given to the Fisher of Men Foundation for the rebuilding efforts that have already begun. Our youth have enjoyed overnight activities at this location and plan to visit there again this year.





# "Souper Bowl" Sunday



February 9, 2025

**Wear your favorite football jersey (any team) to church this Sunday morning.**

At the conclusion of the worship service, our God's Fire Youth will also be taking a special offering using "soup bowls" for their ministry outreach for the Fisher of Men Foundation.

The Retreat Center on Fisherman's Island burned down recently and rebuilding efforts have begun.

Our youth have enjoyed overnight activities at this location and plan to visit there again this year.



*[Note: Our youth will also be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>.]*



## Empty Boxes are needed

We are in need of boxes to use in packaging up large orders for the Boxed Lunch & Soup Sale in February as well as the Chocolate Easter Egg orders in April.

If you have medium size boxes you no longer need, please drop them off at the room across from church kitchen.

Thank you.

## A Message from the Trustees

Please be sure to turn lights off and lower the thermostat to 65° when finished using rooms at the church (*except for the Choir Room and the Sanctuary*).

This will be helpful in lowering our utility and heating costs. Thank you.



## GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP

### HOPE AND HEALING AFTER THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE.

GriefShare is a biblically-based bereavement support group for anyone suffering the loss of a loved one. Few people understand how painful and isolating grief can be. At GriefShare you'll find a comforting place among others who have also experienced a loss.

The program provides a weekly video, support sessions and workbook activities. Topics covered in meetings range from: Your Grief Journey, Sadness, Loneliness, Fear and Anxiety, Anger, Regrets, Grief, Relationships, Questions for God, Hope, Resilience, and many more . .

Meetings are held at St. John's UMC (300 N. Pine St., Seaford) - park in the Conwell Street parking lot using the "West Entrance". Meetings are held in the Wesley Lounge on Sundays from 3pm to 4:30pm.

#### 2025 Meeting Schedule:

March 2nd—Loss of Spouse Session

March 9th—Start of Griefshare

March 16th, 23rd, and 30th—Meetings

April 6th, 13th, 27th—Meetings

May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th—Meetings

June 1st, 8th—Meetings



For more information about GriefShare visit: [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org), or contact Linda Robertson or Tammy Williamson. A GriefShare brochure with additional information about the program is posted in the hallway near the Church Office.

### **We need YOUR help to make our online church directory as accurate and updated as possible.**

If you are currently not in the church directory, please contact the church office. We would love to have all of our Union church family included. If you are listed in the directory, but have not submitted a photo. Contact the Church Office or Pam Tull and we'll be happy to take your photo or you may choose to select a favorite photo you already have (*your photo will be returned to you*). Having a complete pictorial directory is helpful to us all to learn names and recognize others within our church family.

Do you have the **CHURCH DIRECTORY** on your phone? It's easy to do. Go to the App Store or Google play and search Instant Church Directory. From there select Union UMC. You will need to enter your email — it must match the one on file with the church. Follow the instructions. You will receive a confirmation email for security purposes. If you have any problems, please contact the church office for assistance. **If you have had any changes to your contact information, keep us informed so the directory can be kept up-to-date. You do not need to be a Union church member to be included in the online directory. Contact Debbie in the church office at 302-337-7409 if you have any questions.**



Online Church  
**DIRECTORY**

On Sunday, January 26th we had opportunity to recognize and welcome our newest members from the last quarter of 2024. They have jumped right in and are a wonderful addition to our church family.



*(Pictured from right to left)*

**Dennis Egner**

**Donna Egner**

**Mary Kipp**

**Dick Rosengren**

**Debbie Rosengren**

**Donna Shindle**

**Bob Vankeuren**

**Sally Vankeuren**

## TIME TO THINK SUMMER CAMP!

Camp scholarship applications are now available for any of our Union youth attending a faith-based camp this summer other than our Union summer camp program.



Completed applications are due back by April 1st.

*If you have any questions, contact the church office at 302-337-7409 or e-mail [uumchurch@comcast.net](mailto:uumchurch@comcast.net). Application forms are available in the church office or contact Debbie to have one sent to you.*

*(Note: Camp scholarships are estimated to be awarded up to 50% of camp costs, but are not guaranteed. Amount of scholarship is based on funds available and the number of youth applying.)*





## UNION METHODIST CHURCH

### **2025 Leadership & Committee Listing**



#### **CHURCH COUNCIL:**

Church Council Chairperson.....Rita Hovermale [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Church Council Vice Chairperson....Robin Daugherty [1<sup>st</sup> term-1yr.]  
 Church Council Secretary.....Margaret Workman [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Church Treasurer.....Pete Stephens [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Finance .....Jim Adelsperger [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Hands Ministries.....Kathy Carlisle [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.] & Vacant  
 Head Ministries.....Jenny Keim [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.] & Dionne Keeler [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Heart Ministries.....Jean Wilson [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.] & Joanne Jones [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Lay Leader .....John Clawson [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Methodist Men.....Vacant  
 Methodist Women.....Debbie Vogelsang [1<sup>st</sup> term -1yr.]  
 SPRC .....Jeff Allen [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Sunday School .....Joan Hastings [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Trustees .....Jerry Jones [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Youth Representative.....Logan Jackson [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]  
 Worship Committee.....Debi Adams [1<sup>st</sup> term -1yr.]  
 Activities & Community Events .....Joan Hastings [1<sup>st</sup> term -2yr.]

#### **ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY EVENTS:** Chair – Joan Hastings

thru 2025 Aaron Jackson, Jill Jackson, Hunter Murray

thru 2026 Martha Callaway

thru 2027 Chris & Stephani Adams, Jeff Allen, Bob & Linda Burket, Marianne Chituck, Janet Snyder

**FINANCE:** Jim Adelsperger – Chair (*Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader; Jerry Jones - Trustee Chair; Pete Stephens-Treasurer; Sherry Holmes-Finance Secretary; Jeff Allen-SPRC Chair*)

thru 2025 Richard Carlisle, Garry Killmon, Melissa Mitchell

thru 2026 Jim Adelsperger, Roger Hovermale

thru 2027 Mike Breeding, Linda Pluznick, Debbie Vogelsang

#### **HANDS MINISTRIES:** Chair - Kathy Carlisle

*Hands Ministries has oversight of: Military Support, College Students, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Community Food Pantry, Teen Challenge, Home of Hope*

#### **HEAD MINISTRIES:** Co-chairs - Jenny Keim and Dionne Keeler

*Head Ministries has oversight of: Easter Egg Hunt, God's Fire, Nursery, Church Library*

#### **HEART MINISTRIES:** Co-chairs - Jean Wilson and Joanne Jones

*Heart Ministries has oversight of: Card Ministry, Casserole Committee, Christmas Food Baskets and Mitten Tree, Hospitality Cart, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry, Music Ministries, and Sports Teams.*

#### **LAY LEADER:** John Clawson

**NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP:** Chair: Rev. Mark Bell (Ex Officio: Lay Leader - John Clawson)thru 2025 Joan Hastingsthru 2026 Roger Hovermale, Jay Repa, Cameron Satchellthru 2027 John Clawson, Grant Parker, Renee Parker**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC):** Jeff Allen - Chair (Ex Officio: John Clawson-Lay Leader)thru 2025 Joan Hastings, Thane Keim, Debbie Shortthru 2026 Jeff Allen, Allison Dean, Tammy Williamsonthru 2027 Linda Burket, Larry Grantham, Roger Hovermale**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Coordinator: Joan Hastings**TRUSTEES:** Jerry Jones – Chair [Trustee Oversight: Security & Endowment]thru 2025 Chris Keeler, Dave Mitchell, Hunter Murraythru 2026 Aaron Jackson, Renee Parker, Larry Snyderthru 2027 Bob Burket, Marty Holmes, Walt Pluznick**WORSHIP:** Debi Adams – Coordinator

Debi Adams, Stephani Adams, Bev Breeding, John Clawson, Sherry Holmes, Joanne Jones, Mary Noel, Marie Robinson, Robbin Twilley, Pam Tull, Tammy Williamson, Jean Wilson

[Communion Stewards: Chris &amp; Stephani Adams, Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Marty &amp; Sherry Holmes]

[Greeter/Usher Coordinators: Jane Clifton and Sherry Holmes]

**YOUTH COUNCIL:** Logan Jackson, Jordyn Matos, Melissa Mitchell, Tiffany Short, Pam Tull**Sub-Committees/Ministries:****Audio/Video:** Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Grant Parker, Karl Reighard**Bylaws:** John Clawson, Roger Hovermale, Aaron Jackson, Debbie Vogelsang**Church History:** Joan Hastings, Jerry & Joanne Jones, Debbie Vogelsang**College Outreach:** Debi Adams and Crystal Brock**Endowment [Trustee Oversight]:** Jerry Jones (Trustee Chair); Pete Stephens (Treasurer); Jim Adelsperger (Finance Chair); Jim Johnson (Member-at-large)**Facebook Page:** Brad Schutt**Food Pantry Oversight:** Pastor Mark Bell, Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang**Kitchen:** Jane Clifton, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Jerry Jones, Mary Noel, Jean Wilson, Margaret Workman**Lay Shepherds:** Leaders: Martha Callaway & Marie Robinson; Shepherds: Chris & Stephani Adams, John Clawson, Joan Hastings, Garry Killmon, Pam Tull, Debbie Vogelsang**Librarian:** Paula Kowalski**Marketing/Advertising:** Jeff Allen, Joan Hastings, Rita Hovermale, Debbie Vogelsang**Military & Veterans:** Roger Hovermale; Marty Holmes, and Jerry Parker**Missions:** Pastor Mark Bell, MaryAnn Bell, Linda Robertson, Joan Hastings, Debbie Vogelsang**Prayer Team:** Rev. Martha Callaway [Coordinator], Rev. Marie Robinson, John Clawson, Walt & Linda Pluznick, Pam Tull**Projection Team:** Aaron Jackson, Logan Jackson, Hunter Murray, Grant Parker, Trevor Schrock**Security Team [Trustee Oversight]:** Keith Brock, Tyler Brock, Bob Burket, John Clawson, Dennis Egner, Walt Pluznick, Larry Snyder**Theology:** Pastor Mark Bell, John Clawson, Marie Robinson, Martha Callaway**Visitors/New Members:** Rita Hovermale, Robbin Twilley, Debbie Vogelsang

# What's Happening



## January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 11 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 12 Recognition of Church Leadership & Committees
- 14 Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 28 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

## February

- 6 Missions Committee Meeting, 10am
- 6 Activities/Events Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 17 PRESIDENTS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 19 Soup & Sandwich Boxed Lunch Sale
- 23 Bring-A-Friend Sunday
- 28 Easter Egg Sales Begin

## March

- 5 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 25 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

## April

- 3 - 6 Egg Making
- 7 - 11 Egg Pick-Up
- 8 SPRC Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 12 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 17 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- 19 Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
- 20 Easter Worship, Sunrise 6:30am, 10am
- 21 Easter Monday (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 27 Recognition of New Members, 10am

## May

- 10 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 Mother's Day Celebration
- 13 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 15 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 18 Baccalaureate Service, 10am
- 25 Sunday School Ends
- 25 Recognition of Graduates & Children/Youth Sunday
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 27 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

## June

- 1 Summer Worship Service hours at 9am begin
- 9-13 Summer Camp Staff Training
- 10 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 15 Father's Day Celebration
- 16-20 Summer Camp Week #1
- 23-27 Summer Camp Week #2

- Communion Service - First Sunday of each Month
- Sunday School - 9am (*Sept. - May*)
- Sunday Worship Service - 9am (*June - August*)  
10am (*Sept. - May*)
- God's Fire Youth Group - Wednesdays 6:30pm
- Food Pantry - Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-1pm



# What's Happening



2025

## July

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7-11 Summer Camp Week #3
- 8 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 14-18 Summer Camp Week #4
- 22 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 27 Recognition of New Members, 10am
- 28 – 8/1 Summer Camp Week #5
- 28 – 8/1 FCA Day Camp

## August

- 4-8 Summer Camp Week #6
- 11-15 Summer Camp Week #7
- 12 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 18-22 Summer Camp Week #8
- 24 All-Church Breakfast, 8am
- 24 Summer Camp Sunday

## September

*Month of September – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*

- 1 LABOR DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 7 Sunday School resumes at 9am
- 7 Fall Worship hours resume at 10am
- 9 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 18 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 23 Church Council Meeting, 7pm

## October

*Month of October – Camp Scholarships Coin Drive*

- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 10 – 11 Apple Scrapple Festival
- 11 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 COLUMBUS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 14 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 26 Recognition of New Members, 10am

## November

- 1 Mitten Tree Collection Begins
- 2 All Saints Day Service
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 11 VETERANS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 20 Finance Committee Meeting, 6pm
- 25 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 28 (*Church Office is Closed*)
- 30 Hanging of the Greens Service (*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*)

## December

- 5 Blue Christmas Holiday Service, 7pm
- 9 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 9 – 20 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Mitten Tree
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 Bridgeville Christmas Parade
- 18 Methodist Women's Christmas Lunch, 11:30am
- 20 Mitten Tree Delivery Day, 8:30am
- 20 Wreaths Across America, Noon
- 20 Caroling-in-the-Courtyard/Live Nativity, 6pm
- 21 Christmas Program, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Silent Communion, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7pm
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (*Church Office is Closed*)

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <p><u>Communion Service</u> - First Sunday of each Month</p> <p><u>Sunday School</u> – 9am (<i>Sept. – May</i>)</p> <p><u>Sunday Worship Service</u> – 9am (<i>June - August</i>)<br/>10am (<i>Sept. – May</i>)</p> <p><u>God's Fire Youth Group</u> – Wednesdays 6:30pm</p> <p><u>Food Pantry</u> – Wednesdays &amp; Fridays 10am–1pm</p> |
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LOVE IS IN THE AIR, AND WE'RE SPREADING THE JOY  
WITH A HEARTWARMING AFTERNOON OF TEA, TREATS, AND FUN!

## SWEETHEART TEA PARTY




**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
@ 11am**

Join us for a family-friendly Valentine's Tea Party where your family can come together to celebrate the season of love. Enjoy tea, crafts, and delicious snacks, all while making wonderful memories with your loved ones.


REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
CALL 302-337-7401 EXT. 101  
OR ONLINE:  
[DELAWARELIBRARIES.LIBCAL.COM](http://DELAWARELIBRARIES.LIBCAL.COM)

Bridgeville Library  
600 S. Cannon St.  
Bridgeville, DE



## Bridgeville Public Library

600 S. Cannon St.  
Bridgeville, DE 19933



## The FRIENDS of the BRIDGEVILLE LIBRARY


If you haven't joined or wish to renew your membership with the Friends, visit the library or go to the Friends section on our website for the membership form. Consider attending our monthly meeting on **Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am**

Our Friends group helps with programming, fundraising, volunteering, and more. We would love your support!

Bridgeville Public Library 600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE

The Friends of the Bridgeville Library invite you to

## Warm Winter SOUPS



HELD AT BRIDGEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
600 S. CANNON ST. BRIDGEVILLE, DE

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup>  
6-8PM**

Join us for hearty soups, breads, and desserts.

A Friends of the Bridgeville Library event, FREE and OPEN to the public.  
Join us for our next meeting on February 24th @ 10:30am.

## "Library Learners League" Homeschool Group

Join Ms. Hilary for an educational experience to be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 11am-12pm. Each month will have different topic geared for school-aged children.

**Thursday, February 6th**

DASEF Presents...

### What is Inertia?

The Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation will have an exciting program with fun demonstrations to help you understand Newton's Law.

**Registration is required.**  
Parents-Please sign up your child/children online: [delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/bridgeville](http://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/bridgeville) or call 302-337-7401 ext. 101.

We will have a dedicated area tailored for the younger learners (ages 6 & under), if you would find it more beneficial.

Bridgeville Public Library  
600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE


Public Library

# BLACK HISTORY

Cultural Celebration

**Friday, Feb 21  
6:00 pm**

All are encouraged to attend our celebration of culture featuring: music, food, and vendors



CULTURE & ARTS

Bridgeville Public Library  
600 S. Cannon St.  
Bridgeville, DE 19933





Free  
No registration required

Bridgeville Library's

## Saturday Story Book Brunch

**Saturday, February 8th  
@ 10am  
for ALL ages**

Join Ms. Hilary for stories, songs, and rhymes about Love and Friendship followed by a fun brunch!

600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE



## Bridgeville Public Library Teen/Tween Program

### STEAM Team Showcase

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30-2:30pm or 3:00-4:00pm**



**Ages 10-17**  
Join our team for "STEAM Team Showcase" and engage in science-driven activities that are fun and educational. In February, you will be creating 3D designs with Tinkercad. Bring your friends!

We prefer registration to ensure we have enough materials.

Please call 302-337-7401 ext. 101 or go online:  
[delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/bridgeville](http://delawarelibraries.libcal.com/calendar/bridgeville)

600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE

Bridgeville Library 600 South Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE 19933

## Your Bridge to the World

A culinary and literary adventure



Join us on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm as we discuss the book selection "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See, and enjoy a variety of Chinese inspired cuisine.



Registration required: Call 302-337-7401 ext. 101 or go to [bridgevilliblibrary.com/calendar/events](http://bridgevilliblibrary.com/calendar/events)

Available on the Libby app

JOIN US AS WE IMPROVE OUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IN 2025

## CHAIR FITNESS CLASS



**Every MONDAY @ 9:30am**  
**from February 10<sup>th</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**FREE and open to the public**

Instructor Bree Rudy, ISSA Group Exercise Instructor, will conduct a 45 minute class for adults only. Bring your own light weights, if desired. All levels of expertise are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy sneakers. Bring water and a smile!



Bridgeville Public Library  
600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE

**FREE Gaming**  
ALL MODERN CONSOLES AVAILABLE

Play all your favorite games on all of your favorite consoles and make friends at the Bridgeville Public Library with Small Town Gaming

**Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**10am-2pm**

600 SOUTH CANNON STREET BRIDGEVILLE, DE 19933

Bridgeville Public Library

## READ TO THE L.E.A.P. DOGS



**Oliver**  
**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**and Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

Bring your child to the library on the **second and fourth Tuesday of every month @ 11am** to read to one of the sweet dogs. The goal of the Literacy Education Assistance Pups is to improve the literacy skills of children and grow their enthusiasm for reading.

600 S. Cannon St.  
Bridgeville, DE

Keep an eye out for Bridgeville Library's 2025 programming!



We'll be promoting mental and physical health with help from Ananda Yoga, Courageous Hearts, and so many more, we're looking forward to a year of progress!



Bridgeville Public Library 302-337-7401  
600 S. Cannon St., Bridgeville, DE 19933



## Story Book Corner

with **Ms. Hilary**

**Tuesdays at 10am** ages 3-5  
First Tuesday of the month will be held at Seaford Chick-Fil-A

**Wednesdays at 9am**  
ages 0-2

Join us for stories, songs and rhymes!

**February theme**  
**Love & Friendship**



600 South Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE

Bridgeville Library's **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 6pm**

Join us for a Black History and Culture night with your family. For the first celebration of the weekend, we will have crafts, snacks, and fun activities. Check out our events for Friday and Saturday on our FB page and website. Registration is required for this event. Call 302-337-7401 ext. 101 or online: [delawarelibraries.libcal.com](http://delawarelibraries.libcal.com)

600 S. Cannon St. Bridgeville, DE

**ANIME CLUB**  
Teens & Tweens  
Ages 10-17

Do you love discussing your favorite Anime and Manga series, and discovering new ones? Then our Anime & Manga Club is the place for you!

**JOIN MS. HILARY AT THE LIBRARY**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4PM**

**You will:**

- Watch anime together, vote on what to watch next!
- Dive into the stories and discuss characters, plot twists, and everything in between.

**ALL ANIME WILL BE RATED FOR AGES 14 AND UNDER.**

Bridgeville Public Library  
600 S. Cannon St.  
Bridgeville, DE



## Union Methodist Church

2 N. Laws St.  
Bridgeville, DE 19933  
302-337-7409

**"Building Bridges Together"**  
Using Our Head, Hands & Heart for Jesus

Email: [uumchurch@comcast.net](mailto:uumchurch@comcast.net)

Website: [www.Unioninbridgeville.com](http://www.Unioninbridgeville.com)



*Items for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to the church office  
no later than the 25th of the month to ensure they will be included.*

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT UNION CHURCH

*Help is needed in the following areas—contact the church office  
for additional information.*

Event/Activity Planning

Methodist Men & Women

Nursery Volunteers

Sunday School Helpers

Offering Counters

Greeters and Ushers

Special Music/Instrumentals

Acolytes

Children's Chat Volunteers



### SUNDAY

**Christian Education Classes for ALL Ages-9am**

**Morning Worship & Praise—10am**

**Son-Seekers Adult Class—11am**



**God's Fire Youth Group**

**Wednesdays at 6:15pm**

*Rev. Mark Bell*



**Monday—Friday**

**9:00am to 3:00pm**

Debbie Vogelsang  
Office Administrator

**E-Mail:**

[uumchurch@comcast.net](mailto:uumchurch@comcast.net)

**Office: (302) 337-7409**