OCTOBER 2025

Volume 11—Issue 10



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FAITHFUL LIVING IN A BUSY WORLD

Wow! What an amazing month September has been. Summer camp closed out with a special service. What a bless-

ing the camp staff and leaders were this summer in our campers' lives! We were able to have loads of fun, talk about issues that touch their lives, and introduce Jesus to them, some for the first time.

We started our Mid-week Recharge; Wiggle Worship resumed in newly renovated classrooms (a special thanks for all those involved in that project) and new members were welcomed. That is the short list of the activities we saw in September!

As time rolls on, the leaves start falling, and the weather gets a little cooler, we thank the Lord and wonder at His grace towards us here at Union. It is always wonderful and little bit amazing at how quickly things seem to move in our church's life. Yet we know that God oversees it all.

October is shaping up to be another wonderful ministry filled month and we hope that whether it is in Children's ministry, or mission projects, Youth Group, Mid-week Recharge, Women's Day, Fall Harvest, and of course Sunday worship service, that you will be a part of it all.

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors the seasons of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at Union, but just because we are busy, we do not need to be burdened. Jesus has taught us many wonderful things, and one of my favorite teachings is found in *Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)*:

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(continued on page 2)

a life of joyful work.

(Pastor's Page "Faithful Living in a Busy World" continued)

Some may lean toward a tendency to think this meant Jesus wanted us to take it easy, or to live a life of leisure. We may have wondered why that never seemed to manifest itself!

Of course, that is not what Jesus is saying at all. Jesus is telling us that if we ground the work we do in God, whether for the church, or our families, and even our community, we will find not a life of ease but

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to faithful living. That faithful living includes not only going to church and being involved in the life of Union but also recognizing that our children, our homes, our lives, belong first to God, and all we are is God's.

Faithful living includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw his grace shining through. Jesus reminds us in this passage from Matthew that there will indeed be work to do but you do not need to be overwhelmed by it because Jesus is with us every step of the way. As much as we desire to lead lives of faith for Jesus, we know Jesus will always be faithful to us. In all things may Christ be preeminent and foremost in our daily life!



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

Servant of the Living God,
Pastor Mark







WEDNESDAYS

Praise Team Practice—5pm Mid-Week Recharge—6pm to 7:30pm

SUNDAYS

Worship & Praise Service—10am Children's Wiggle Worship—10:15am

Holy Communion—1st Sunday of the Month



Month of October—Coin Drive for Camp Scholarships Friday, 10/3—Kid's Zone @ WHS Homecoming—4pm to 7pm



Sunday, 10/5—World Communion Sunday Monday, 10/6—Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm

Tuesday, 10/7—Staff Meeting

Friday, 10/10—Apple-Scrapple Festival—4pm to 11pm

Saturday, 10/11—Apple– Scrapple Festival—8am to Close

Monday, 10/13—COLUMBUS DAY (Church office is closed)

Thursday, 10/16—Methodist Women's Fellowship Meeting—1pm

Saturday, 10/18—Women's Day Event—Noon to 3pm

Monday, 10/20—Methodist Women Serving the Kiwanis Dinner—6pm



SPRC Meeting—7pm

Saturday, 10/25—Fall Harvest Party—Noon to 2pm







Saturday, October 25th Noon to 2pm

Join in our annual Harvest Party! Enjoy lunch, games, crafts, our

Harvest Hall Walk and more will be provided! Children are encouraged to wear a costume!





This event is for youth ages 2-12 and their parents/guardians. Please RSVP using the link in the email blasts or call the church office at 302-337-7409 by Friday, October 17th!

Our new children's "wiggle worship" time held during the morning worship service is open for children in Kindergarten up through 4th Grade.

Check it out!





1st Sunday—Richard & Kathy Carlisle
2nd Sunday—Bob & Theresa Poston
3rd Sunday—Margaret Workman
4th Sunday—Melissa Mitchell
5th Sunday—Ellen Krone



Sub—Tom Gelety

Special
Thanks to all
our hosts!



The Finance Committee is beginning their work drafting the 2026 Budget.

A Budget Request Form is available at the Church Office (on the door) if you see a need to <u>increase or decrease</u> your ministry budget for 2026.

Call the church office if you need more information about your current 2025 budget amount.

All budget request forms must be turned in to the church office <u>no later</u> than Sunday, Nov. 2nd.



The Methodist Women's group will resume monthly meetings on Thursday, October 16h at 1pm

Ladies are asked to bring peanut butter and jelly (any kind) to contribute to the Christmas food baskets.

We'll also handle last minute details for the October Women's Day event planned for Oct. 18th.

Don't forget to register!

All are welcome.



METHODIST MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

NO October Fellowship!
Next Fellowship will be
Saturday—November 8th
8:00 AM

Join us at the Golden Eagle Diner in Seaford for breakfast as we continue our Methodist Men's fellowships in November.

All are Welcome — bring a friend!



When making a donation, over-and-above your regular tithes and offering, towards our goal of having a Family Ministries Coordinator, be sure to clearly designate "Ministries Coordinator" on your envelope or check.

You can also designate your donation through: www.unioninbridgeville.com / GIVE / Ministries Coordinator.

We are looking forward to seeing how we can grow our church, especially our children and family ministries at Union.

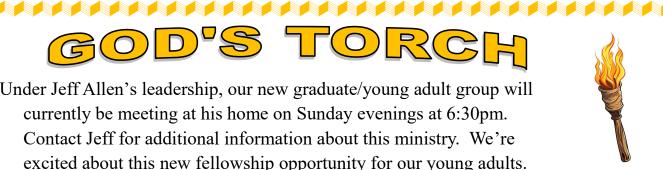


We are seeking to fill two officer positions within our Methodist Women's group: President and Vice President.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers as they play an important role within our church. The Lord might be leading YOU to fill one of these positions for the next year.

Contact Debbie in the church office for additional information if you are interested.

Under Jeff Allen's leadership, our new graduate/young adult group will currently be meeting at his home on Sunday evenings at 6:30pm. Contact Jeff for additional information about this ministry. We're excited about this new fellowship opportunity for our young adults.















Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 7:30pm as we fellowship mid-week to "Recharge". [Session #1 thru Oct. 22nd]

Session #2 is planned for: November 5th, 12th, & 19th. We'll have a short break for Thanksgiving and resume on December 3rd, and conclude with a Family Fun Night for all on December 10th.



Session #3: Jan. 7th—Feb. 11th.

Session #4: March 4th—April 15th



Each Recharge gathering will begin at 6pm with dinner. At 6:30pm, adults will choose to participate in a Bible Study or a variety of workshops/activities. The children will receive biblical instruction through storytelling, arts and crafts, and music. The evening ends with a brief devotion and prayer concluding by 7:30pm.









Friday, October 3rd 4pm to 7pm

Union Church is once again sponsoring the Kids Zone at the Woodbridge High School homecoming football game. Help is needed to staff this event and supervise the games.

If you are able to help with this important outreach to our community, please call the church office at 302-337-7409.



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Bags of individually wrapped candy are also needed. If you are able to donate any, please drop off to the kitchen or church office.

Thank you.





Food Needs!

Give back to those in need by donating these needed items:

- Fruit Cups
 - Single-Serve Snacks
 - Granola BarsSandwich Bread
 - Lunch Meat & Cheese
 - Pasta
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Rice
 - Canned Veggies
 - Canned Fruit
 - Canned Beans
 - Canned Soup
 - Cereal



703 E King St. Seaford, DE 19973

There are many opportunities to help our neighbors and to serve as a volunteer at Love Inc.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call the Love Inc Connection Center at 302-629-7050.



APPLE-SCRAPPLE FESTIVAL

October 10 & 11, 2025



Entertainment Stage - Enjoy our entertainment stage Friday night and Saturday with quality entertainment hosted by the Parker Group! Check out the schedule for more information.

FRIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

4:00 PM FESTIVAL OPENS: Friday night is the Opening

Ceremony, Little Miss, Food Court, Carnival, and

Entertainment Stage only!

5:00 PM Crossroad Worship Collective

6:00 PM OPENING CEREMONY

6:15 – 8:15 PM Little Miss Apple Scrapple Pageant

8:30 – 10:00 PM FRIDAY NIGHT STREET DANCE featuing

Shane Beard and the Barn Burners

SATURDAY ENTERTAINMENT

9:00 AM FESTIVAL OPENS with Full Array of

Crafters and Vendors

9:00 AM DJ John

9:15-9:45 AM Lifeway Worship

10:00—11:30 AM The Flipside Band

Noon - 1:30 PM Best Kept Soul

2:00 – 2:45 PM MAYORAL SCRAPPLE SLING

3:00 – 4:30 PM Swiftly Taylor

6:30—8:00 PM Barren Creek Band

8:00-9:30 PM DJ Mix

FESTIVAL PARKING

FRIDAY (10/10)—the streets are open for parking. In the evening, there is the Food Court, Carnival, and Friday night entertainment only.

SATURDAY (10/11)—DELDOT and the Fire & Police Departments will direct traffic to the parking lots. Free bus shuttle service is available on Saturday only.



CONTEST SCHEDULE

Saturday, Oct. 4th

All things APPLE with this festival baking contest (register by Oct. 1st.)



Thursday, Oct. 9th

The Bridgeville Kiwanis Club Apple-Scrapple Home Decorating Contest judging takes place. Winners are announced on Friday evening at the stage.

4:00—9:00 PM—Hometown Carnival Night

Friday, October 10th

4:00 PM—Festival Officially Opens; 4:00—6:00 PM—RAPA Sampling

6:00 PM—OPENING CEREMONY

6:15 PM —Little Miss Apple Scrapple Pageant

7:00 PM—Kid's Apple Toss



Saturday, October 12th

9:00 AM—Festival Opens

9:00 AM—2:00 PM—Car Show; Kid's Zone

1:00 PM—Ladies Skillet Toss @ Union Methodist Church Field

2:00 PM—Mayoral Scrapple Sling—Local and State representatives compete for the coveted Scrapple Sling trophy! Event takes place at the stage area.

VENDOR & TRADE SHOW

Lots and lots of vendors, both individuals and businesses, will be showcasing their services and wares among the streets of downtown Bridgeville.

Health & Safety Fair — Organizations such as Division of Family Services, MADD, Department of Public Health, Alzheimer's Association, and many more displays and information at the Fire Hall.





FAIR

- <u>Senior Center Craft Show</u> (outside) Tables and tables of goodies! Something for everyone!!
- Trade Show—The show, held on Walnut & Laws Streets, begins bright and early at 9 am on Saturday and runs until around 5 pm.
- <u>Little Red School House Craft Show</u>—Great selection of homemade crafts inside of the Woodbridge Middle School located on Laws Street.





Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

I Timothy 5:17

The month of October is designated specifically to show appreciation to Pastors, though that is something the

should be done continually throughout the year.

It also serves as a good reminder to pray for our servant-leaders during the month, and continually. Godly men and women stand in need of prayer every single day. Pastors are on the front-line and an easy target for the enemy.

Pray the Holy Spirit will empower Pastor Mark to boldly proclaim God's Word, to not get weary or discouraged, to have a clear vision and goals for ministry, to seek God's will for the church and himself, protected from temptation and evil, and be refreshed from God's continual blessings. May we be an encouragement to both him and MaryAnn as they labor in the ministry and let them know we lift them up in prayer and appreciate them both.

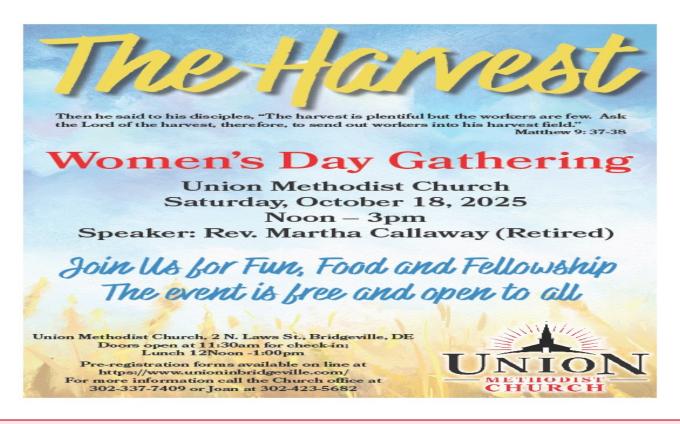


UNION CHURCH CARES FOR CHILDREN

Under the direction of Jean Wilson and the many volunteers on her committee, the Mitten Tree & Food Basket ministries will begin once again in November.

Start thinking ahead and looking for special sales on items boys and girls request at Christmas time. A mitten for each boy and girl in the Woodbridge School District in need of Christmas assistance will be hung on the Mitten Tree in the narthex along with additional information about them including their age, clothing sizes and items on their "wish list".

Requested items for the Food Baskets are: Peanut Butter, Jelly/Jams, Macaroni & Cheese, Stuffing Mix, Gravy, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Cereals, Chicken Noodle or Vegetable Beef Soups, Crackers, Pudding) Packs, Applesauce, Fruit Cups, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, etc.



The event is free and open to all. We'll begin with registration at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall, lunch is from noon until 1:00 pm, we will then move to the Sanctuary for uplifting music and a few games. The message will be based on Matthew 9: 37 – 38. We all know that God is not the only one looking for "harvesters." After the message we will return to the Fellowship Hall for dessert and a time of fellowship. Pre-registration is important for planning and purchasing food and supplies. Forms can be found on our website or e-mailed to you by calling the church office at 302-337-7409. We are looking forward to this time of spiritual uplifting, fellowship and encouragement for each other, and hearing God's Word.

"The Harvest" REGISTRATION FORM - WOMEN'S DAY

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 18, 2025 / 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Name:		
Address:		
E-Mail & Phone:		
Phone:		10 mm 4 mm
	Will you need childcare: Yes / No List Child's Name & Age:	How many children:
	Any Allergies (food/medical):	



1—James Adams
Mike Breeding
Debbie Vogelsang

5-Marty Weaver

10—Bob Poston

15—Tiffany Short

19—Dionne Keeler Barb Stephens

20-Josh Retzlaff

26—Jean Wilson

31—Wilmer T. Wilson

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

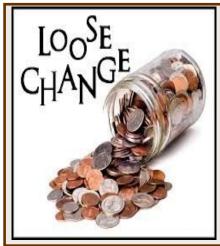


We are seeking children and youth (2nd Grade or higher) to light and extinguish the altar candles during a worship service.

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 Joan Hastings, Pastor Mark, or call the church office.



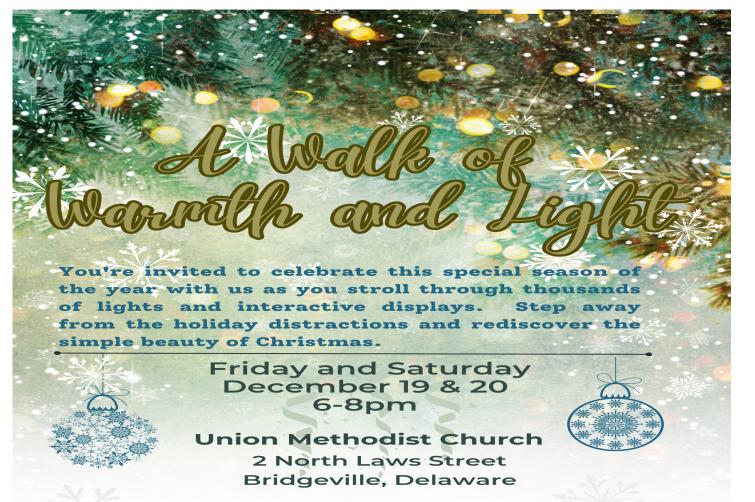


Coins For Campers!

Our annual coin drive for camp scholarships takes place during the months of September and October.

Please consider donating your loose change (we accept paper too!) each Sunday to enable our youth to attend Christian-based camps next Summer of 2026.

Glass jars will be located at both entrances of the Sanctuary to place your loose change in. Thank you!



www.unioninbridgeville.com

Snapshots from the Church Council



- Midweek Recharge is off to a great start.
- God's Torch, our new graduate/young adult group is meeting with 7-10 young adults.
- SPRC continues to work on the new ministry position approved by the church.
- Approved three Bylaws changes to be brought forward at the annual Business Meeting in November.
- Trustees continue discussion about the disposition of the Church Mouse property.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Buying Guide

<u>January</u> – small stuffed animals/dolls (Barbies or dolls similar in size to Barbies)

February – toothbrushes: toothbrush covers

March - Matchbox cars and small toy vehicles

April – yoyos; pick-up sticks; jaxs; small puzzles

May - crayons; colored pencils

June - small coloring books/activity books

July - decks of playing cards; small toys; wash cloths

August –soft pencil cases; pencils; pencil sharpeners

September – hair brushes/combs; hair accessories

October - donations for postage

(Donated items may be placed in the designated box located in the narthex.)

Thank you for supporting this ministry of Union Church!!!



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 he 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 <u>CHURCH DIRECTORY</u> 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.



Union Church Supports Missions Around the World . .

Lance & Laura Ostman [Mindinao, Philippines]

David & Dottie LaCompte [The Caucasus, Armenia]

Treasures of the Nation Children's Center

[Kyiv, Ukraine]

Amadeus & Masha DeKastle
[Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan]



Town of Bridgeville Upcoming Events

Town Clean Up/Bulk Trash Pick-Up Day—Oct. 2nd



33nd Annual Apple-Scrapple Festival
—Oct. 10th—11th

Downtown Trunk-or-Treat/Trick-or-Treat—Oct. 31st







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 Family Ministries Coordinator

Renovation Projects Mitten Tree Ministry

Building Fund Disaster Relief

Designated Giving Special Needs

Capital Improvements Other . . .



This page contains photos of several upstairs classrooms being used for the "Wiggle Worship" time on Sunday mornings and children's classes at the Mid-Week Recharge gatherings on Wednesday evenings.

They've been given a "refresh" in preparation for the children.

Special thanks to Robbin Twilley, Joanne Jones, and Jerry Jones for their hard work cleaning, organizing, and sprucing up the rooms. Well done!























REDEMPTION CITY

3RD ANNUAL REDEMPTION CITY "UGLY SWEATER" 5K RUN/WALK



Wednesday Bible Study @ Bridgeville Senior Center

Pastor Mark and MaryAnn do a wonderful job ministering to the seniors with a weekly bible study time on Wednesdays at the Bridgeville Senior Center. Pictured above is Pastor Mark leading the devotions prior to serving communion that morning. The seniors have expressed their gratitude for this opportunity and have had nothing but positive feedback to share.



SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 2nd—All Saints Day
Holy Communion
Daylight Savings Time
Nov. 9th—Veterans Day Service
Nov. 16th—Dedication of Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes
Nov. 23rd—Thanksgiving Service
Annual Business Meeting
Nov. 30th—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Hanging of the Greens Service



Shout out to **Vanguard Power Washing** for their hard work last month power washing our church steeple along with several other areas of the church near the front entrance.

They did a very nice job and were great to work with.

What's Happening



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 UNION DAY & Church Picnic
- 9 SPRC Meeting, 6pm
 - Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 10 Mid-Week Recharge Kick-off
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Mtg., 8am
- 18 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 23 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 24 "See You at the Pole"

October

- Month of October Camp Scholarships Coin Drive
- 3 Kid's Zone @ WHS Homecoming—4pm
- 5 World Communion Sunday
- 10 11 Apple Scrapple Festival
- 13 COLUMBUS DAY (Church Office is Closed)
- 16 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 18 Women's Day Event—Noon—3pm
- 21 SPRC Meeting—7pm
- 23 "Walk of Warmth & Light"

Planning Meeting—6:30pm

25 Harvest Party—Noon—2pm





November

- 1 Mitten Tree Collection Begins
- 2 All Saints Day Service
- 8 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 10 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 11 VETERANS DAY (Church Office is Closed)
- 11 SPRC Meeting, 6pm
 - Worship Committee Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- 20 Methodist Women's Meeting, 1pm
- 23 Annual Business Meeting
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Office is Closed)
- 28 (Church Office is Closed)
- 30 Hanging of the Greens Service (1st Sunday of Advent)

December

- 5 Blue Christmas Holiday Service, 7pm
- 9 20 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Mitten Tree
- 13 Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8am
- 13 Bridgeville Christmas Parade
- 16 SPRC Meeting, 7pm
- 18 Methodist Women's Christmas Lunch, 11:30am
- 19 "Walk of Warmth & Light" 6pm to 8pm
- 20 Mitten Tree Delivery Day, 8:30am
- 20 Wreaths Across America, Noon
- 20 "Walk of Warmth & Light" 6pm to 8pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Silent Communion, 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7pm
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (Church Office is Closed)

Communion Service - First Sunday of each Month

Sunday Worship & Praise Service - 10am

Children's "Wiggle Worship" - 10am [Sunday]

Mid-Week Recharge – Wednesdays 6pm

Union Methodist Church

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

"Building Bridges Together"

Using Our Head, Heart & Hands for Jesus

Email: uumchurch@comcast.net

Website: 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 Mid-Week Recharge Help Kids Zone Help Walk of Warmth & Light Christmas Event Greeters and Ushers
Special Music/Instrumentals
Wiggle Worship Helpers
Acolytes



Mid-Week Recharge Gathering

Wednesdays—6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Sunday Worship Service Hours

Praise & Worship Service—10:00 am Children's "Wiggle Worship"—10:00 am



Pastor Mark Bell





Monday—Friday

[Limited Office availability on Wednesdays]

9:00am to 3:00pm

Debbie Vogelsang Office Manager

E-Mail:

uumchurch@comcast.net

Office: (302) 337-7409