

February 2026



THE BRIDGE

Bearer of Light

How many desperate people cross your path each day? People who are one step away from certain destruction. People, whose very life direction, can be changed by the Light of God in and through your interaction with them.

Every day can be crammed full of tasks, errands, deadlines, demands, and activities. We go through each twenty-four hours from the minute our feet hit the floor until we crawl into bed each night in a hurried state. Yet it is in those quiet moments before sleep that we may hear God ask, “Did you make a difference today? Is someone closer to the Light because you told him or her what I have done in your life? Did you recognize that “intruder” or “interruption” as a divine appointment from me instead of an inconvenience? Does what you did today really matter?”

Sadly, most days, we have to confess that we often miss opportunities to participate in eternal business because we are so focused on earthly business. Our agenda becomes our god and time management our idol. We could have been a “bearer of light” to the frustrated cashier at the grocery store instead of brushing her aside because we were in a hurry to do something we thought was more important.

We could have blessed the friend who called, needing an encouraging word, instead of preaching an unsolicited sermon in the name of compassion. We could have taken a few more minutes to listen when the elderly gentleman struck up a conversation with us at the gas pump instead of walking away, leaving him just as lonely as when we met.

Jesus would have done things differently. With every breath, He was aware of the hurting and wounded, pursuing the broken people instead of avoiding them. Jesus carefully and deliberately invested every moment of His time on earth. And there has never been a life that made such a difference or mattered so much.

We are never more like God than when we are reaching out in love to meet a need, comfort a broken heart, encourage a weary soul, or challenge the darkness with the Light of Christ. On our journey each and every day, look for those desperate ones who need you to be a bearer of light.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bob



***Our Mission** is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

***Our vision** for doing that is to be people who know God through faith in Jesus Christ, grow in our experience and understanding of God, and go to live our lives guided by the Holy Spirit in love and service to others so they also may become disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



MUSIC MINISTRY

O Word of God Incarnate

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 598

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

Music: Gesangbuch, Meiningen; harm. by Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Tune: MUNICH, Meter: 76.76 D

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

The church from you, our Savior,
received the gift divine,
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.

It is the sacred vessel
where gems of truth are stored;
it is the heaven-drawn picture
of Christ, the living Word.

The Scripture is a banner
before God's host unfurled;
it is a shining beacon
above the darkling world.
It is the chart and compass
that o'er life's surging tide,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
to you, O Christ, will guide.

O make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of purest gold,
to bear before the nations
your true light as of old.

O teach your wandering pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.

KNOWING GOD TOGETHER



Worship Service
Sunday at 11:00 am

In-Person and online
FB Live.:

<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCofCB/>



Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 11:00 am
in the Choir Room

See Lois Bales for more information



Ash Wednesday 2026

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 pm Service

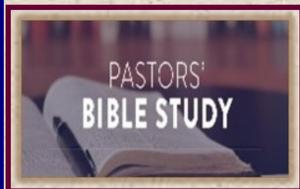


GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



YOUTH Sunday School: Class will be at 10:00-10:45am in the *Knitting For The Lord Room (B2)* on Sunday mornings for all youth. Please email Robin Stolarcyk @ rstolarcyk1@yahoo.com

ADULT Sunday School: The Christian Fellowship Class meets on Sundays from 9:30-10:30am in Room B6. Everyone is invited to attend when they can for learning and fellowship. Please call Tom James 607 648-7934 for more information



Pastor's Study & Prayer Group: Sundays @12:15 pm **in the Disciple Room (B4)** Contact Pastor Bob at 910-260-0551 or 607-648-4326 or rclark@nccumc.org Everyone is welcome!!

Knitting for the Lord: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7pm in the Knitting for The Lord room (B2). Please contact Sue Alcott at 607-648-6340, or Jill Lyon if interested in joining or if knitted items are needed, **NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



Rachel Circle: Meets @10:00am (on the 3rd Tuesday of month) the Disciple Room (B4) **ALL LADIES WELCOME TO ATTEND** For questions call office 607-648-4339 or Jill Lyon

Men's Small Group: This group meets every Wednesday from 2:30-4:00pm In the KFL room- Contact Pastor Bob at 910-260-0551 or 607-648-4326 or rclark@nccumc.org.if interested in joining.



Ladies Small Group: This group meets on Wed. from 2:30-4:00pm in the Library—(When scheduled) Email Robin Stolarcyk @ rstolarcyk1@yahoo.com for more information.



GOING TO SERVE OTHERS WITH LOVE IN JESUS' NAME

Feeding and Clothing Outreach Ministry.

Outreach Ministries of the Southern Tier @ St. Cyril's Church on Clinton Street in Binghamton (formerly at St. Pats) Make some sandwiches, pack some food, help unload the CHOW truck! They are open Mon.Wed,Thurs.Fri. 10:30-12:30 and are in NEED of volunteers on any of those days. The ministry is providing food to an average of 100 families a day! They also provide bagged lunches. In addition, they also have a clothing ministry and assistance is always welcome. Thank you, David Carter.



Quality Steam Cleaning Fund Raiser for First UMC of Chenango Bridge

10% of all work done will be donated to the church. Coupon is available from the church office or from the website. You may also let Quality Steam Cleaning know that it is for our church fundraiser. For all questions and appointments please contact Quality Steam Cleaning: (607) 754-3462 or qualitysteamcln@aol.com.

We are collecting food for The Local Food Bank

Every 4th Sunday of the month *Please bring your non- perishable food items to the church No glass please*



Whitney Ave Rescue Mission

We are providing a **Cooked Meal** to Men and Women in need **Every 4th MONDAY of each month** Please call Donna and Tom James @607-648-7934 If interested to help with this worthy Mission

Chenango Bridge Senior Center

*MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
10 AM—2 PM*

A variety of activities will be offered including:

- ♥ Lunch (*Lunch reservations are needed one day in advance by 12pm*)
- ♥ Tai Chi, Bingocize
- ♥ Chair Yoga and other Health and Wellness activities
- ♥ Crafts, cards, games and chat groups

Come Explore all the possibilities!

For more information or to make a reservation call Vet @ 607-663-0406

First United Methodist Church of Chenango Bridge

740 River Road, Binghamton NY



GOING TO SERVE OTHERS WITH LOVE IN JESUS' NAME

SOUP - SALAD & CONVERSATION

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month
from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

First United Methodist Church of Chenango Bridge
740 River Rd., Binghamton, NY - In Fellowship Hall

Everyone is Welcome!

Donations gladly accepted



New Online Giving Information

First UMC of Chenango Bridge
is now able to accept Online Offerings

To better support all ministries of our church;

Please consider primary giving to the General Fund

Any questions -please call Christian Harris 607-427-5993

Thank You!

(hold ctrl button on keyboard and right click with mouse)

on Link Here>>>> <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXY4/home>

OR

Scan QR Code with cell phone>>>>

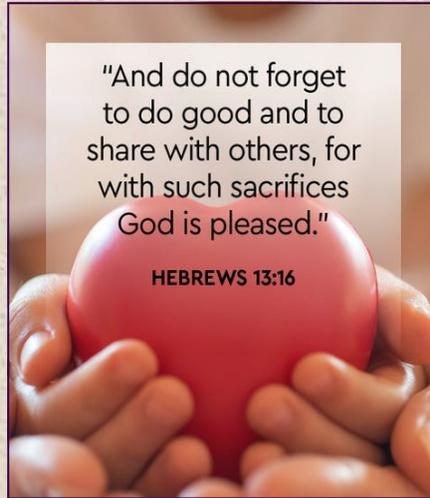


ONLINE GIVING

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

GOING TO SERVE OTHERS WITH LOVE IN JESUS' NAME

Several Beautifully Knitted items from Knitting for the Lord Group were donated to Fairview UMC in January They were hung for anyone in the community who needed them!



Every Donation Makes A Difference

Over 125 POUNDS of food items were donated, gathered and taken to CHOW in December!
Thank you to all who donated!

Broome County Council of Churches

Volunteers are always needed!

The Broome County Council of Churches is a volunteer driven nonprofit organization. Without our volunteers our programs could not provide the assistance that they do. **All are in need of volunteers—do you have some time? Where would you like to volunteer?**

Faith in Action Volunteers helps adults 60 and over maintain quality of life and independence.

The CHOW program provides needed food and healthy lifestyle assistance.

The Jail Ministry gives support to those incarcerated and their families and reentry assistance to those just released from jail.

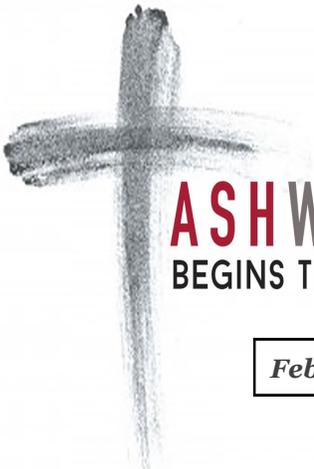
The Hospital Ministry gives support to the patients and families of those who are hospitalized.

Some of these programs require no more than a bit of your time, a short orientation, and a drivers license or a strong back. Others, such as the Jail and Hospital Ministries, require specialized training which is provided.

For more information about the various programs and for volunteer applications you can go on line at www.broomecouncil.net or call 607-724-9130.

***You make a living by what you get,
but you make a life by what you give.-
Winston Churchill***





ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

February 18, 2026



What is Lent?

The season of Lent is a 40 day period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. It is the season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. During Lent, we reflect on the sacrifices of Jesus through our prayers; we serve others by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting and abstinence. Also, we recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

A Valentine From God

For God so loved the world,
That He gave
his only
Begotten
Son
That whosoever
Believeth in Him
Should not perish,
But have everlasting life.

John 3:16

llerrah.com

HAPPY Valentine's DAY

THREE THINGS WILL LAST FOREVER
— FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE —
AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS **Love**

1 Corinthians 13:13



Home bound members that may like to hear from their church family:

Mary Williams - Elizabeth Church Manor
863 Upper Front St.
Binghamton N.Y. 13905

Ron Quackenbush
1944 Colesville Road
Harpursville NY 13787

Donald Prentice- Willow Point Nursing Home
3700 Old Vestal Rd
Vestal, NY,13850

If you know of anyone that would like to be added to this list please email the church office at chenbridgeumc@outlook.com

or call -607-648-4339

Pastor:
Robert J. Clark
(607) 648-4326 cell:(910)-260-0551
Email: rclark@nccumc.org

Office Hours
Mon.- Wed.-Thurs. 8:00 am —1:00 pm
(607) 648-4339
Email: chenbridgeumc@outlook.com
www.ChenangoBridgeUMC.org