March 2026

THE BRIDGE

Lent - A Time for Prayerful Reflection

Few times in the Christian year call us to reflect on transformational change like Lent leading toward Easter. Too often we want to race to the Easter Resurrection without fully embracing the Lenten process that leads there. Lent reflects the forty days that Jesus wandered in the wilderness, tempted by Satan, in readiness for a ministry destined to end in tragedy. Few of us can relate to the level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days, yet Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality by engaging in regular discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.

Just think of what could happen if we could reflect and focus on the condition of our souls for forty days. Could we overcome obstacles that hinder our progress like Jesus did when he was tempted for forty days in the wilderness? Through prayer and fasting we could make bringing glory and honor to God a priority. each day could be an opportunity to recall and be thankful for our Lord's atoning sacrifice on the cross.

His sacrifice cost him his life, and thank God it is permanent and the results go far beyond forty days. When we spend time in prayer, we can be assured of results. This doesn't mean that prayer is not a challenge for many of us who live hurried lives. To live a prayerful life requires some form of discipline, which is why focusing on and practicing it for forty days has the potential to put us in position to have a life change that not only changes us, but affects those around us.

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***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.*

Suggestions for a prayer life during the forty days of Lent:

Begin and end your day with Prayer. your prayer can be as simple as thanking God for waking you up and giving you the strength to start a new day, or at the end of the day thanking Him for getting you through the day.

Learn how to forgive others. This is one of the greatest hindrances to prayer. There are many opportunities in relationships of all sorts to be offended, but it does not help you to harbor bad feelings in your heart. You can begin by praying for those who you find it hard to forgive.

Keep it simple and conversational. There is no lingo that you have to learn to pray. Just pray with adoration for who the Lord is to you, asking forgiveness for yourself and forgiving others, letting your specific requests be known, and praying in the name of Jesus.

I pray that your time of focusing on prayer will slow you down so that you can enjoy life and all that has been given to you through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the precious name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bob

Music Ministry

I Need Thee Every Hour

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 397
Text: *Annie S. Hawks, 1835-1918*
Music: *Robert Lowry, 1826-1899*
Tune: *NEED,* ***Meter:*** *64.64 with Refrain*

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:
I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
(Refrain)

I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
(Refrain)

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.
(Refrain)

I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
(Refrain)

Knowing God Together

Worship Service
Every Sunday at 11:00 am

In-Person and FB Live.:
https://www.facebook.com/FUMCofCB/

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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,*

***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.*

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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 **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

Broome County Office for Aging

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

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Going to Serve Others with Love in Jesus' Name

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be ordering Hyacinths this year to place on the Altar for Easter
In memory/honor of loved ones.
They will be $8.00 each Order and money due by March 22, 2026

Any questions please call the office 607-648-4339

Print this form- Complete and Return with payment to office or place in offering basket.

There will be order forms available at church also.

Thank you!!

Easter Hyacinth

I want to have _____ Hyacinth (s) paced on the altar for Easter Sunday.

In **MEMORY** of: _____

_____

In **HONOR** of: _____

Donated By: _____

Telephone: _____

The cost is **$8.00** for each plant. Please place cash or check (payable to: First United Methodist Church, Chenango Bridge) along with this order form in an **envelope** marked "**Hyacinth**", in the collection plate, or drop it off at the Church Office.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS MARCH 22, 2026

_____ I will pick up the after the 11:00 AM Easter Service.

_____ Please leave at the Church.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara @ the Church Office 607-648-4339

Welcome March!

Daylight Savings Reminder!

Remember to set clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday March 7, 2026

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

FAITH IN ACTION — A program of Broome County Council of Churches

HELP CHOW STOP HUNGER

Jail Ministry — A program of Broome County Council of Churches

Hospital Ministry — A program of Broome County Council of Churches

We are supporting CWS by sending Church World Service Blankets and Kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty).
Each blanket costs $10.00.
We would like to be able to send as many blankets as possible with your donations.
***If you would like to contribute and are sending a check, write out to* First UMC of CB with CWS Blankets in the memo line.**
Thank you for embracing your neighbors in many different ways through your gifts.
There will be a table set up on March 22 and March 29 at the church.
(Please do not take the Blanket)
Thank you for your generosity and for helping others!
****See Alvaire Michael for more information***

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