



Bridgeport Community Church
 3821 State Street, P.O. Box 541 Bridgeport,
 Michigan 48722-0541
 Phone 989-777-1840
 e-mail - bccommchurch@att.net

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN

March 2026, Volume 69 No. 3



40 Days of Witness: A Lenten Challenge

Lent is a sacred season of reflection, repentance, and renewal—often marked by giving something up to make room for God. This year, we invite you to prayerfully add something to your Lenten journey: **40 Days of Witness**.

Alongside fasting or other spiritual disciplines, consider intentionally speaking about Christ and gently sharing your own testimony. Witness need not be bold or complicated; it can be a quiet conversation, an offer to pray, or a simple word about how God has been at work in your life.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, may we listen for God's leading, pray for courage and compassion, and allow His love to be made known through us during these 40 days.



PALM SUNDAY
March 29th at 9:45 a.m.

We will wave palms and welcome Jesus

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Sock donation to the Saginaw Rescue Mission

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3rd at noon

We will gather in the Chapel and remember the Passion of our Lord

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5th at 9:45 a.m. Easter Worship

*Climax of our Year where we celebrate Christ conquering death and the empty tomb
 After service-Fellowship time
 And Easter egg Hunt*



MAUNDY
Thursday

Join us for a meaningful and reflective **Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM** as we gather to remember the night Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples. Maundy Thursday invites us into a sacred space of humility, love, and gratitude as we reflect on Christ's commandment to love one another and His example of servant-hearted faith.

During the service, we will partake in **Holy Communion**, sharing in the bread and the cup as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and the new covenant established through His love. This special time of worship will include Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection as we prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross and the hope of Easter morning.

As part of our observance, we will also be collecting **new, unopened socks** to support our neighbors through the Saginaw Rescue Mission. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus knelt to wash His disciples' feet—an act of profound humility and servant love. In that same spirit, this simple gift becomes a modern expression of Christ's example. Just as He tended to the most basic and humble needs of His followers, we too are invited to serve with compassion, meeting practical needs as a reflection of His grace.

We invite you and your family to join us for this powerful evening of worship and service. Come prepared to remember, to reflect, and to respond—both at the Lord's Table and through acts of humble generosity. We look forward to sharing this sacred time together.



Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18th) through Easter (April 5th)

James 4:7-10 NRSV

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Pastor's Post - March 2026

By Pastor Rob Ashmall

We are now on our journey of Lent for 2026. Yet there are some that may still be unsure of what Lent is intended for. While I could get very Theological in this line of discussion and talk about the journey of preparation as we approach the death and resurrection of Jesus, I think it is much more important to get down to the root of it. Lent, as the 40 days leading up to Easter, is a season to focus on our relationship with Jesus. It is a time to evaluate where our weaknesses are that cause us to sin and to turn away from that sin. It is a time to get closer to Jesus by focusing more on Him.

With this in mind, some people choose something in their lives that they are going to give up during Lent. Others will choose to do something new or something old more regularly, like reading their Bible more, spending more time in prayer, or a million other things. There are others still who will spend the season of Lent ensuring that they speak to others about Jesus every day.

Regardless of the activity or activities you choose to do or not do, I hope you will remember and focus on the basics of our faith. Jesus came, lived a sinless life among us, died and was resurrected all so we would have the opportunity to be forgiven for our sins through Him. He came and did this out of love for us. There can be no stronger showing of love than what Jesus did for each of us. He did this willingly for each of us. When we think of that and the depth of that love, what we do during Lent seems so small and insignificant in comparison. Yet Jesus is not expecting us to earn His salvation, as He gives it freely to all who would accept.

So, during this season of Lent, I hope that you will spend a little more time each day focusing on Jesus with His love for you and His love for others. I hope that during this season of Lent you will be struck with the Joy of the Lord that will propel you into sharing the love of Jesus with others. May the season of Lent be a blessing to you all.

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN

Is published monthly, except July & August, by Bridgeport Community Church, a congregation in which people of many Christian denominations work and worship together in faith and fellowship, with the welfare of the entire community in mind. Our Community Church seeks to fulfill the prayer of Jesus Christ, "that they may all be one".

BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY CHURCH

3821 State Street, P.O. Box 541

Bridgeport, MI 48722-0541

Phone 989-777-1840

E-mail beccommchurch@att.net

Pastor Rob Ashmall	989-714-0194
George Kross, Moderator	989-737-0573
Tammy Black, Clerk	989-777-3153
Barbara Sietsema, Treasurer	989-777-7346
Troy Kiel, Minister of Music	989-798-0458
Wesley Baranic, Secretary	989-777-1840
Rachael Cain, Prayer Chain (e-mail)	rachael.l.cain@gmail.com



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 3	Amillea Wallace
Mar 2	Joseph Jesselaitis
Mar 5	Cheyrl Stump
Mar 6	Diane Booth
Mar 7	Elivea Ackerman
Mar 12	Brenda Dawe
Mar 12	Kellie Fassezke
Mar 13	Tammy Black
Mar 15	Nathan Williams
Mar 18	Beverly Jesselaitis
Mar 19	Kay Kay
Mar 20	Hayden Damsen
Mar 20	David Dobson
Mar 21	Nancy Scherping
Mar 22	Troy Kiel
Mar 22	Evelyn Parks (99)
Mar 26	Pat Bhirdo
Mar 30	Sadie Albrecht

Anniversaries

Mar 1	Jeff & Rachel Cain (40)
Mar 9	Kay & Don Kay (75)
Mar 27	Linda & Lee Albrecht (50)
Mar 29	Pam & Robert Ashley (30)



Help Us Share Easter Joy with Local Families

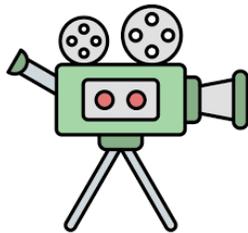
This Easter season, our Food Pantry is preparing special Easter baskets to bring joy and encouragement to families in our community. Each basket will include festive treats and essential items to help make the holiday a little brighter for those in need.

We are asking for donations of candy, small toys, non-perishable food, personal amenities, and other Easter basket items. Financial contributions are also greatly appreciated and will help us purchase additional supplies to ensure every family is served.

We also need **volunteers to help assemble the baskets on Wednesday, April 1st at 4:00 PM. Basket pickup for families will take place on Thursday, April 2nd from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

Your generosity—whether through donations or your time—makes a meaningful difference. Together, we can help make Easter special for everyone in our community.

For more information or to get involved, please contact the Food Pantry. Thank you for continued support. - Wesley



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEDIA MINISTRY

For many years, Dan Williams has faithfully ensured that our worship services are recorded and shared with those who cannot be with us in person. Dan is continuing his father's legacy of service, and we are deeply grateful for his dedication to this important ministry. As we work to modernize and improve our recording and streaming capabilities, we are seeking additional volunteers to assist. Help is especially needed on occasions when Dan would like to take a well-deserved day off or fully participate in worship. If you have an interest in technology—or are simply willing to learn—we would love to have you join this growing ministry. **Training will be provided.** Please consider lending your time and talents to help us share our worship with all.



WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?

We are seeking passionate and dedicated Sunday School Teachers to join our team. The ideal candidates will be responsible for teaching and guiding our children in their spiritual growth and development. The Sunday School Teacher's responsibilities include sharing about God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit while helping the current generation learn in a fun environment. Please reach out to Pastor Rob by calling or texting his cell, 989-714-0194, emailing him at coffeeandteawithrob@hotmail.com, by calling the church office and leaving a message, or just talking to him on Sunday morning. God is calling and the children need us to teach them the basics of our faith. Will you answer the call?



RESCUE MISSION HOPE TOTES

Once again this year we will be filling Purple Tote Bags with personal hygiene products for people at the Rescue Mission for Easter. If you wish to take part filling a bag, a supply of bags and a list of needed items are available in Fellowship Hall.



THANK YOU FROM FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee extends our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported this year's Annual Valentine's Dinner. Thanks to your participation, the evening was a wonderful success and very well attended. We are pleased to share that \$667 was raised, which will go toward new supplies to help us continue our work and future fellowship activities.

This special event would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers who cooked, baked, set up, and cleaned up, as well as the committees and boards who generously donated baskets. Your time, talent, and generosity made the evening truly special. We are grateful for such a supportive church family and already look forward to celebrating together again next year! – *Fellowship Committee*



Easter Egg Hunt

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!

Spring is just around the corner, and we're excited to begin preparations for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! This fun-filled event brings together families and friends for a joyful celebration, and we need your help to make it extra sweet.

We are currently collecting individually wrapped candy to fill hundreds of Easter eggs for the big day. Chocolates, jelly beans, small wrapped treats, and other nut-free candies are all greatly appreciated. Please ensure all donations are individually packaged for safety and easy distribution.

Donations can be dropped off at the office now through April 1st. Every bag of candy helps us create a memorable experience for the children in our community. **If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation instead,** we're happy to do the shopping for you! Please **contact Brenda Dawe** for details.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a hopping success. We can't wait to celebrate together!



OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP, THROUGH JANUARY 2026

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income	26,276.62	25,559.00
Expenses	27,620.54	24,340.97



SPECIAL OCCASION - SPECIAL EVENT

If you would like to honor a friend or loved one on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary, or other special time, you may "sponsor" an after-worship coffee hour. We brew the coffee and provide foam cups and plates. You bring the food and arrange it according to your good taste and assist in cleanup. Who will you honor? Contact the Fellowship committee to make arrangements.



YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE: GROWING IN FAITH AND FUN!

Our youth group continues to grow together in faith as we study the Gospel of Mark. This month, we've been diving deeper into the book of Mark, exploring who Jesus is through His teachings, miracles, and the powerful example of His servant-hearted leadership. Mark's fast-paced account reminds us that following Christ means action — living out our faith with boldness, compassion, and trust in God.

Through discussion, prayer, and fellowship, our students are asking thoughtful questions and discovering what it truly means to be Disciples of Christ in their everyday lives. It has been encouraging to see their hearts open to God's Word and to one another.

In addition to our time in Scripture, we recently enjoyed an amazing ski trip together! It was a day filled with laughter, encouragement, a few tumbles on the slopes, and lots of memories made. Beyond the fun, the trip gave us meaningful time to strengthen friendships and build community. We're so thankful for the opportunity to connect outside our regular meeting space and see our students support and cheer each other on — both on and off the mountain.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our youth ministry. We are excited to see how God continues to work in the lives of our students as we keep learning, growing, and serving together!



HELP KEEP OUR PRAYER LIST CURRENT

When you, your loved one or friend is sick or recovers please let us know. We would like to keep our prayer list up to date. Rachael Cain is in charge of the bulletin prayer requests and prayer chain. You can e-mail her at rachael.l.cain@gmail.com and she will make sure you, your friend or loved one is on or taken off the list for prayer.

