



The Bridge Church of Sunbury



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Our Mission at The Bridge Church of Sunbury

Matthew 28: 16-20 - - The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We believe that our mission, as should be the mission of all bodies in Christ, lies in the Great Commission, ordained by Jesus in the book of Matthew, to go forth and make disciples and teach all persons how to obey the teachings of Jesus.

Our Vision for our Congregation

Connecting people to Jesus, to one another, and to the community.

We do this by:

- *Living out the gospel, showing God's unbounding love to all persons*
 - *Care for our families, our connections, and our communities both through prayer and service.*
 - *Grow in our own faith through self-devotion, active prayer, and living out the word*
 - *Sustain the church and its mission through shared leadership, service, and ministry.*
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What are we looking for in leadership?

We believe that, with a bit of help, we have the potential to fulfill our mission at The Bridge. Our community is one of the fastest growing and developing in the central Ohio area. The congregation feel very strongly that we want to be an active and vibrant church, and that we can start to fulfill our mission by renewing the excitement and enthusiasm in the church during worship, fellowship, and meetings. An important part of our mission would be to build relationships with younger families and support a flourishing youth program to bring our young people together through the Lord, while also working with our older population who historically have been the bedrock of the church.

The Bridge is looking for a pastor who has vision and goals and will help lead the congregation while building relationships that bring us together to feel like a family. We desire someone to help empower us to be positive and enthusiastic in sharing Jesus' love with others. We need someone who can take the strengths of our congregation and use them for great benefit in making disciples in our community. While we stand firm in our mission, how we accomplish that can be molded by a strong leader, and our church's vision for success

Declaration of Statement of Faith

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." – Psalm 119:105

At The Bridge Church of Sunbury, we celebrate a faith that is lived out with clarity, freedom, and deep personal connection to Jesus. We embrace believers' baptism by immersion, honor the God-given liberty of each person's conscience, and affirm the priesthood of every believer, meaning every baptized follower of Jesus has direct access to God and a vital role in His mission.

We also affirm the following:

The Authority of Scripture

The Bible is God's inspired, authoritative, and unfailing Word. It stands as our foundation for what we believe and how we live. Every belief, practice, and way of life is measured against the truth found in Scripture.

The Trinity

There is one true and living God who exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three persons, equal and united in perfect love. Because He is God, every person is called to trust, worship, and obey Him above all else.

Humankind

Every person is created in God's image and has inherent worth and dignity. Yet through the fall as described in the book of Genesis, humanity became sinful and spiritually separated from God. Even so, forgiveness and restoration are possible only through the saving work of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. Through repentance and faith in Jesus as Lord, anyone can be made right with God.

Regeneration

Regeneration is the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, giving believers a new heart and new identity in Christ. As we follow Jesus, the Spirit continues to shape us, empowering us to grow in godly character and live out God's truth daily.

The Church

The Church, in its broadest sense, includes all believers throughout all generations. The visible expression of the Church is found in local congregations—communities of believers who gather to worship, learn, and support one another as they follow Jesus together.

Human Destiny

Jesus Christ will one day return openly and in glory to establish His kingdom and judge every person, living and dead. Those who belong to Him will experience eternal life in God's presence, while those who reject Him will face eternal separation from God.

Evangelism

The Church is called to share the good news of salvation through Jesus with the whole world, inviting every person to experience His grace, forgiveness, and new life. The Great Commission serves as the mission of our church body.

Congregational Style

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." – Ephesians 4:3

The Bridge Church of Sunbury is a congregation that values unity, mutual respect, and shared participation in the life of the church. While we are diverse in backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, we are united in our desire to follow Christ faithfully and to serve our community with grace.

We practice a congregational style of governance, which means the church body plays a meaningful role in decision-making while entrusting day-to-day leadership to the pastor, elders, committees, and ministry teams. Major decisions, such as calling a pastor, approving the budget, or making significant facility changes, are brought before the congregation for prayerful discussion and vote. This approach fosters ownership, accountability, and transparency and reflects our belief in the priesthood of all believers.

Our congregational style emphasizes:

Collaboration: Ministry teams work together to guide programs and initiatives.

Prayerful Discernment: Decisions are made thoughtfully, with time for discussion and prayer.

Unity: Even if we see things differently, we will listen, show grace, and seek the Spirit's leading.

Respect for Our Heritage: We honor the traditions that have shaped our church while remaining open to new methods of reaching a changing community.

While we are a smaller congregation, we are deeply committed, relationally close, and eager to grow. We believe God is preparing us for a season of renewed energy and direction, and we value a pastoral leader who will partner with us in that journey.

Eyes on the future, but honoring the past...

Our heritage began over 200 years ago, when in 1814, an ordained Baptist minister from the Pennsylvania region came to the Sunbury area. He connected with other likeminded folks, rooted in the Baptist beliefs, and then started a small church together. Walnut Creek Baptist Church was one of the first churches in the area, and in 1839, the church was incorporated and changed the name to Sunbury Baptist Church. In the life of this church family, there have been 48 ministers to shepherd the congregations.



Much more recently, as Sunbury shifted from a rural village to one of the fastest-growing communities in central Ohio, the church sought fresh ways to connect with the changing needs of families, students, and young professionals. Ministries such as Upward Soccer, launched in 2009, provided new opportunities for outreach, relationship-building, and community service.

Over time, it became clear that the church's identity was evolving. The congregation desired a name that reflected both its heritage and its mission, and one that communicated connection, compassion, and purpose. After prayerful discernment, the name The Bridge Church of Sunbury was chosen to symbolize the church's heart: connecting people to Jesus, to one another, and to the community.

Today, we continue to honor our heritage while embracing the opportunities God is placing before us. We are a church with history, heart, and hope — rooted in the gospel, committed to community, and eager for the next chapter of ministry.

The Bridge has been or is currently involved with local organizations in Sunbury, as well as American Baptist Associations.

- ❖ ABC Ohio, Granville, Ohio
- ❖ ABC Marion Association
- ❖ Big Walnut Ministerial Association
- ❖ Sunbury Chamber of Commerce

Church Activities

We commit to and participate in all of the following, currently.

Wednesday Activities

Adult Bible Study
Prayer group
Youth Group and activities

Fellowship Activities

New Members Reception
Church Picnic
Tailgating (OSU games)
Fall Activities
Easter Sunrise Breakfast
Thanksgiving Dinner
Christmas Party
Church Birthday Party
All Daughters Banquet

Activities/Community Involved/Invited

Bible School
4th of July Parade
Upward Soccer
Fall Festival
Community Services
Big Walnut Friends Who Share (food pantry)
Sponsor families at Christmas through Big Walnut Schools

Learning Experiences

Leadership Conferences
Looking to expand here!

Small Groups

Extra Blessings
Family Life Group
Young at Heart
Choir

Other Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday Service
Sonrise Service (Easter)
Communion First Sunday of the Month
Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday School Classes
Christmas Eve Service

Mission and Service Opportunities

Ministers & Missionaries Offering
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Food Offering for BW Friends Who Share
Prayer Chain
Funeral Dinners
Diaper Showers for New Babies

Other Organizations that use the Church

Building

12 Step Groups
Al-Anon Meetings
Lay Ministers Program
Home School Group
Sunbury Performing Arts
4H

Support Staff and Committees and

Boards

Elders
Secretary
Custodians
Christian Education Committee
Trustees/Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Worship Arts Committee
Fellowship Committee
Multi-Media Specialist
Greeter

Demographic Information for Sunbury, Ohio

Sunbury was founded in 1816. It lies within Delaware County, the fastest growing county in Ohio. It has long been considered a small farming village, however it has more than doubled (nearly tripled) in population over the past 20 years.

There are a broad mix of families that can trace their family back to the village's origins along with new families looking for new opportunities from the city's rapid growth.

Sunbury has a wide range of small and large locally owned and operated businesses and restaurants, along with a Kroger grocery store, CVS Pharmacy and a Tanger Outlet Mall near Interstate 71. Joe St. John is our mayor.

We are served by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, BST&G Fire Department, and Delaware County Medic Station 2.

The local school district, Big Walnut, is composed of 1 High School, 1 Middle School, 1 Intermediate School, 5 Elementary Schools, and 1 Early Learning School.

Numerous social and civic organizations, for all ages and special interests, are active in the area.

Population Statistics (2023 government census statistics)	
Population	~7,335 (Ave. age is 33 years) - 59% are between the ages of 18 and 65
Gender	Male - 45% Female - 55%
Ethnicity	White - 92.9% Multiracial - 2.02% African American - 1.42% Hispanic - 1.35% Asian - .98% Other - 1.4%
Avg Household Income	\$ 103,000

Resource Stewardship

Our Commitment to Stewardship

At The Bridge Church of Sunbury, we understand that everything we have, be it our finances, our building, our land, and our ministry resources, is a gift from God entrusted to our care. We strive to steward these resources with wisdom, integrity, and purpose. Our aim is not simply to maintain what we have, but to use our resources to support ministry, serve our community, and prepare for the future God is calling us into.

We approach stewardship with gratitude for what previous generations built and with faith that God will continue to provide as we step forward into new seasons of ministry.

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits

The Bridge Church is committed to providing a compensation package that is fair, respectful, and supportive of a pastor's wellbeing. While our congregation is small in number, we understand the importance of caring well for the pastor who will shepherd our church family.

Our pastoral compensation package includes:

Salary appropriate to experience, responsibilities, and church resources

Housing allowance (if applicable)

Health insurance contribution (if applicable)

Paid vacation and personal time

Ministry expenses such as mileage, materials, and continuing education

Professional development support, including pastoral retreats, conferences, or training opportunities

We desire to work collaboratively with our next pastor to ensure financial clarity and mutual understanding. Our goal is to support the pastor's life, family, and ministry as generously as our resources allow.

A Welcoming Facility

Our church building, completed in 1999, is a beautiful and practical space designed to serve worship, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach. With a combination of sanctuary space, classrooms, gathering areas, and offices, the building is well-suited to our current needs and offers flexibility for future ministry development.

The facility is clean, well-maintained, and warm in character. Its layout encourages connection and hospitality, values that are central to our identity.

The building serves not just our own congregation but also groups within the community who use our space throughout the week. This strengthens our relationships within Sunbury and reflects our desire to be a welcoming presence.

Key Features of Our Building:

- Worship Center: Comfortable sanctuary with seating for approximately 180 people, multimedia capability, and space for musicians.
- Fellowship Hall: A large, versatile room ideal for meals, meetings, community events, and church gatherings.
- Classrooms: Multiple rooms for children, youth, and adult ministries, including nursery space.
- Kitchen: A functional kitchen used for fellowship meals and community events.
- Offices: Pastoral and administrative office space providing a comfortable working environment.
- Restrooms & Accessibility: Updated facilities with accessible entrances and pathways.

Land & Outdoor Space

The property includes:

A spacious parking lot

Grassy areas suitable for outdoor events

Space used for Upward Soccer and other activities

Room for potential future development

The outdoor spaces give us flexibility for community events, children's programs, and opportunities to host seasonal gatherings that connect with the neighborhood.