

The Bridge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2021

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Minister's Moment

I am SO excited to be celebrating Advent and Christmas with you all this year! Last year, since we were still worshipping virtually, we did not have the opportunity to come together and share all the wonderful things about Advent and Christmas. This year, even though our celebrations may not look the same as they have in years past, it will be a wonderful time to come together and remember the hope, love, joy, and peace that is Advent and the beauty that is Christmas!

This year, our Advent and Christmas worship will have a theme. In 2019, the hymn "Joy to the World" turned 300 years old. So, we are celebrating that with the theme "Heaven and Nature Sing!: 300 years of Joy to the World". The Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio says this about the theme, "Hymn poet Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song"—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed.

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Congregational Meeting Dec. 5

By Ted Sloan

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, Dec. 5, immediately following the worship service. Items on the agenda include BCC's 2022 budget and the slate of officers, committee chairs, and trustees for 2022.

Members are encouraged to attend to consider and vote on these important matters in the life of the church. For those who are uncomfortable attending public events at this time or who are unable to attend, an online voting process will be set up prior to the congregational meeting. Please watch your email for details.

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A Green Chalice and Open & Affirming Congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1846

Ministers Moment Continued

Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.”

Each Sunday, we will have a threshold moment, in word and song, that will focus us for worship and introduce us to the theme for that Sunday. Then, the sermon will focus on a scripture that goes along with the themes hopeful joy, loving joy, unabashed joy, and peaceful joy.

It seems like this is a good time to celebrate Joy to the World as we begin to come out of this pandemic and into newness. Let us celebrate Advent and Christmas with Joy!

Love,
Pastor Ann



By Lorrie Devers

There are a few changes with our God Squad group beginning Sunday, November 28.

Our group is going to focus/study/discuss the scripture that the sermon will be based upon on every Sunday. Pastor Ann and I will work together weekly to align topics for discussion as they pertain to the selected scripture for the upcoming Sunday’s sermon. We will meet briefly at 10:45 am in the sanctuary to examine the scripture, challenge our thoughts, and prepare our hearts and minds for worship.



The longest night of the year is December 21. It is a time during this busy season when we can come together and recognize that Christmas isn’t always joyful. It is a time when we remember those that we have lost, both in the last year and in years gone by. At the Longest Night Service (sometimes also called a Blue Christmas service), we will have readings and scriptures, and will take time to light candles and remember all those that we love and who cannot be with us this year.

Make a plan to come to the Longest Night Service on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

175th Anniversary Celebration

Bridgeport Christian Church celebrated its 175th anniversary on Nov. 7, and you can enjoy photos from the historic service.

Click on the link below to see some of the people who joined us for that special day as well as scenes from around our beautiful campus. To download photos, use the PIN 2878. If you share any photos or post photos on social media, please credit Becklynn Bleu Photography.

We are grateful to local photographer Rebecca Redding for helping us preserve the memories of our big day!

<https://becklynnbleuphotography.pixieset.com/bridgeportchristianchurch/>

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Friday, December 24, 2021

Family Christmas Eve Service
In-person
5:30 PM

Traditional Christmas Eve Service
In-person, Facebook, YouTube
9:00 PM

Ann is looking for readers for both of these services.
Please contact Ann by December 8 to be a reader.

Donations Needed for Christmas Gifts

By Annette Hayden

In honor of our 175th anniversary, our December community outreach project is helping the Missions Committee provide Christmas gifts to high school teens who have aged out of social service assistance programs. During this season of giving, let's open our hearts and wallets to give these teens a little joy.

Missions Committee members will be shopping during the first week of December. **So donations are needed as soon as possible, at least by the end of November.** Make checks payable to the church with Missions in the memo line. For questions, contact Sissy O'Brien or Donna Hedges. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Order Your Anniversary Mugs & Ornaments Today

By Annette Hayden

The commemorative 175th anniversary mugs and Christmas ornaments are on their way! Now you can have these mementos of this special time in Bridgeport Christian Church history or give them as gifts to show your love for your church.

The mugs are \$6 each, and the Christmas ornaments are \$5 each. The ornaments are gold glass with our 175th anniversary logo in black and red. Wouldn't you like this classy ornament hanging on your tree or showcased in your home?

Order your mugs and ornaments today! You can order by calling the church or emailing Paula at secretary@bridgeportchristian.org.



Project Christmas Cheer

Wednesday,
December 1
Beginning at 5 pm

By Laura Begin

Please join the Worship Committee, Membership Committee, and Regathering Committee on Wednesday, December 1, beginning at 5 pm to hand-write Christmas cards for BCC members and attendees, welcoming them to attend our holiday services.

Supplies will be provided for in-person participants and a zoom link will be made available before the meeting for those who want to participate at home and provide their own supplies.

Call or text Laura Begin at 502-744-1882 if you have any questions. Thanks!

Book Club Meeting

Book club is scheduled to meet Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. at church. We will discuss the book "Billy Summers" by Stephen King. Please note that, under BCC's current COVID-19 protocols, food is not allowed, but you may bring a drink.



"Pray It Forward" Cards Available

By Annette Hayden

Back by popular demand, the "Pray It Forward" cards are now available to give along with your act of kindness. The message on the card reads "Please accept this gift, a random act of kindness, bringing hope and joy to you today. Know that you are loved." The reverse side contains our church and contact information.

Attach a card to an unexpected gift for someone or a good deed such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, or paying for the meal of the person behind you at the drive-thru. Be creative. Let the office know about your experience with your cards so we can share it in the newsletter.

Cards are located at both entrances to the sanctuary. An act of kindness goes a long way!

Worship & Wonder

(pre-K - 1st grade)

&

Following Jesus

(2nd - 4th grades)

By Lorrie Devers

The Advent season is upon us! In both Worship and Wonder as well as Following Jesus, both groups of children will hear the stories below. These stories build on each other each week.

"During the season of Advent is it the time we all get ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, the time we are all on the way to Bethlehem."

- ◆ The Prophets Show the Way
- ◆ Mary and Joseph Show the Way
- ◆ The Shepherds Show the Way
- ◆ The Maji Show the Way
- ◆ Meeting the Christ Child

Green News

Have Yourself a Merry Green Christmas!

By Annette Hayden

With the holidays approaching, here are some things you can do to make your days merry and brighten everyone's future.

- Shop local, support local merchants and save energy.
- Visit the Franklin County Farmers "Holiday Market" on the morning of December 11 and stock up on pasture-raised meat, breads, fresh vegetables, and natural holiday decor.
- Search Green America's **National Green Pages** for hundreds of U.S. businesses that have been certified as environmentally and socially responsible.
- Look for wrapping paper with recycled content, use reusable bags, tins, scarves or fabric to wrap gifts. Avoid foil paper or anything with glitter.
- Use greeting cards made from recycled content and glitter free. Tree-Free Greetings have cards and envelopes made in the U.S.A. from 100 percent post consumer recycled paper made with wind power and printed using 100 percent solar power.
- Serve meals on reusable plates and cutlery and provide cloth napkins. This will not only decrease the amount of waste going to the landfill, it will make you and your guests feel extra special.

Climate Change Affects Week of Compassion

Submitted By Annette Hayden

From Rev. Vy Nguyen, Week of Compassion Executive Director

All of Creation is hurting. Our climate is inarguably shifting. And people of faith are among those calling for urgent action.

A few weeks ago, I was privileged to be among a group of global leaders that gathered for the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference. The 2020 gathering was cancelled due to COVID-19, and the two years since the last conference have brought one devastating disaster after another, each made more complicated by the pandemic.

Political and faith leaders alike are at a critical point of engagement to protect the earth and build stronger communities. The pandemic has pushed many of us to think deeply about our spiritual journeys. We are searching for meaning and reflecting on how we live together as a global community.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), through Week of Compassion, is working to alleviate suffering around the world. It is becoming more and more apparent that a growing climate crisis causes significant suffering for God's children. That is why, along with our ecumenical and interfaith partners, we are committed to supporting climate resilience programs. Where some of the world's most vulnerable communities already struggle to survive under the burdens of a shifting environment, our combined efforts help provide hope and stability.

While the agreements made at COP26 among global leaders signal progress and are cautiously optimistic, there is still much work to be done. The church continues to play a major role in speaking for and walking with our global communities who experience disasters on a daily basis. We are reminded, again and again, that the work of Creation is renewing and life-giving, and the church community is at work in the world.



Helping Hands Circle Members Donate \$480 to Capital City Activity Center

By Donna Long

For their Christmas project this year, HHC members dipped into their own pockets to help the Capital City Activity Center (Senior Citizen's Center.) The center is preparing 100 Thanksgiving and 100 Christmas food boxes which will be distributed to families in Franklin County. Marilyn Hughes and Donna Long shopped for the center's wish list items, filling three shopping carts. Thanks to the generosity of HHC's members, they also made a \$216 cash donation to the center for the purchase of additional food items, as needed. The total contribution made to the center by HHC members was \$480.

The Helping Hands Circle would love to have any woman join their group, as they study God's word and use His gifts in our community. The Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 PM.

You've Got Mail . . .

By Betty Martin

'Tis the season! Send your holiday greetings to your church family via our "church mail" boxes available in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Just bring your cards and drop them off in the alphabetized drawers. Once that is done, be sure to check to see if "you've got mail." Happy Advent!



Calendar of Events

- 12/1— 5 pm Christmas Card Writing
6 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting
6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 12/5—10 am In-person Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
- 12/8—6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 12/12—10 am In-person Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
- 12/13—5:30 pm Community Engagement Team on Zoom
- 12/15—6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 12/19—10 am In-person Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
- 12/21—7 pm Longest Night Service
- 12/22—6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 12/24—5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
9 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service—in-person
and streamed on Facebook Live and YouTube
- 12/25—Office Closed
- 12/26—10 am In-person Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
- 12/28—5:30 pm Book Study Group
- 12/29—6 pm Choir Rehearsal

Pastor Shepherd will be on vacation December 27-January 1.

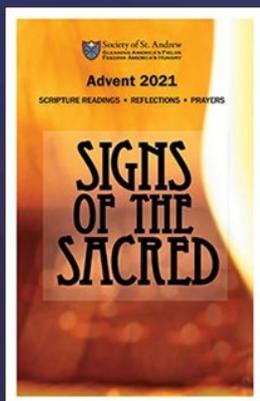


- 12/1 Steve Fry, Kenney Dunavent
12/6 Chris Yeary
12/6 Beth Alford
12/7 Leanne Barger, Chris Grasch
12/12 Elizabeth Boston
12/14 Shellee Hayden
12/14 Annastyn Alford
12/15 Ronda Sloan
12/20 Cathy Rowland
12/23 Mary Welch
12/29 Loretta Dunavent
12/30 Debbie Rodgers
12/30 John Coffey
12/30 Stephanie Craycraft

Worship Opportunities

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian>

YouTube - 11 am on Sundays
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg



The Advent Devotional Book for this year is available in the sanctuary. You may also choose to receive your devotions by email this year. You can sign up at <https://endhunger.org/advent/> on the right hand side of the page.

Thank You!

BCC Family & Friends,
I want to thank each and every one of you for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, and concerns for me. You all showed me friendship and love with your blessings during this pandemic. It meant so much to me. I appreciate it very much. I'm doing okay. The doctor is keeping a close eye on my leaking valve. It's good to know I have friends like you all.
God bless everyone.
Jan Riddle

Ways to Continue Your Giving to BCC

- Mail in your Tithes and Offerings! Mail is checked every day and deposits are made once a week. Our address is 175 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.
- Use our new locked drop box, located by the side door of BCC! Our Administrative Assistant and our Treasurer are the only ones with keys to the box.
- Give using the [Givelify](#) app or website.

Who is Bridgeport Christian ?

Founded in 1846, Bridgeport Christian strives to serve God and our community in the best way we know how. We are a certified Green Chalice Congregation and an Open & Affirming Congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Worship Service Opportunities

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian

YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg

Scriptures, Topics & Volunteers for December

| Date | Scripture | Sermon Titles | Worship Leader Elder |
|--------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Nov 28 | Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14 | Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy | Debbie Rodgers Don Morse |
| Dec 5 | Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12 | Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy | Don Morse Jeff Pratt |
| Dec 12 | Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55 | Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy | Annette Hayden Ron Kelien |
| Dec 19 | Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25 | Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy | Don Flinn Donna Long |
| Dec 26 | Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23 | Carol Sing | Sissy O'Brien Betty Martin |

Bridgeport Christian Church

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Staff

- The Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, Pastor
- Hollis Rosenstein, Dir. of Music
- Paula McQuate, Admin. Assistant
- Lorrie Devers, Dir. of Children's Worship



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**