

The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | OCTOBER 2023

Minister's Moment

Recently, I was talking to the minister at First United Methodist after a ROSM board meeting, and he told me about an interesting book that he was introduced to at a conference. He went on to tell me more about the book and that he is leading a study on it at his church. The book is called "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory" by Tod Bolsinger. I was fascinated by the premise of the book and decided to order it right away.

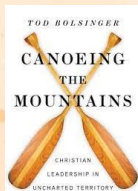
And I am glad I did! The main premise of the book is based on what happened to Lewis and Clark as they traversed the Louisiana Purchase in search of a water route for trade to the Pacific Ocean. When they got to what we now know as the Rocky Mountains, they assumed that the mountains would be like the Appalachian Mountains that they were used to. They thought that all they had to do is crest the top of the mountains and they would encounter a water route of some sort that they could put their canoes on and make their way to the Pacific Ocean. What they discovered is that when they got to the top of the mountain, there were just more mountains! There wasn't a water route in sight, and now they not only had to figure out how to continue to traverse the mountains, but also what to do with the canoes.

As we move into a new season in the life of Bridgeport Christian Church, both post-COVID and post-fire, I believe that it is important that we learn, discuss, and create new ways for us to reach out into the community, as well as do ministry together. We live in a world now where the church is no longer the center of community life. We live in a world where people are deconstructing their faith and trying to figure out who God is in new ways. We live in a world where Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights are no longer "sacred." And we have to adapt.

Starting October 12, our elders will be doing a 5-week study of the book "Canoeing the Mountains." It is my hope that this will give us a jumping-off point into discussing how we can do ministry in uncharted territory. If you have ideas for a ministry opportunity or a program idea for Bridgeport, please reach out to one of the elders. This is not something we can do alone.

It is my hope and prayer that, by working and dreaming together, we can bring life and vitality to our church and look forward to our next 175 years. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your minister.

Peace,
Ann



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NEW! Connections Cards in Worship

The Membership Committee has decided to implement a new way of ensuring that we keep up with everyone who comes to worship with us on Sunday mornings. Starting October 1, we will place "Connections Cards" next to the bulletins. We ask that each person fill out one every Sunday. The Connections Cards will allow us to make sure that we are keeping up with changes of address or phone numbers (like if you decide to go from a landline to just using cell phones), as well as allow us to make sure that we are connecting people to the ministries they want to be involved in. On the back of the card will be a place for you to list any prayer concerns that you have or to list people we need to take off the prayer list. If you have any questions, contact a member of the Membership Committee (Donna Long, Annette Hayden, Betty Martin, Ted Sloan).



Bridgeport Choir News October 2023

Starting this month, the Bridgeport Choir will share a choral anthem one Sunday each month. We will be able to do so because choir members are willing to practice at home and also come together to rehearse before worship. I am most grateful to the members of the choir for their commitment. I am sure we will all be looking forward to their music.

In the near future, we will share an online survey that will allow everyone to submit the titles of their favorite hymns and church music. Our hope is to ensure this music is included in worship—as one beloved hymn says:

*When in our music God is glorified
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried,
"Hallelujah!"*

Love,
Laura Foley



New Stairs

Bridgeport Christian Church has a brand new set of stairs thanks to the hard work of Danny Freeman.



Book club will read Washington's memoir in October

The BCC book club will read actor and activist Kerry Washington's memoir in October.

In "Thicker Than Water," Washington, the star of the TV series "Scandal," writes about her early struggles, her rise to stardom, her activism, and the shocking family secret that changed her life.

The date and location of the October meeting will be announced at a later date. For more information about the book club, or to be added to our email list, contact Ted Sloan at tsloan76@bellsouth.net.

Recovery Update

Bridgeport Christian Church Family,

The reconstruction of the damaged areas of our church building is scheduled to begin in early October. Our contractor, ServiceMaster, initially will focus on the sanctuary with the hope that we will be able to return there to worship by the middle of January while work continues on the rest of the building.

At this writing, the recovery working group is scheduled to meet soon to discuss next steps. A congregational meeting to vote on matters related to the recovery effort has been scheduled for Sunday, October 15, immediately following worship at The Evergreen; you will hear more about this in the weeks to come.

ServiceMaster recently sent us a link with images of the inside of the church building so we can see what has been done so far. To see the images, go to https://app.docusketch.com/portal/tour/Y9rBZG_6.

Click through the different parts of the church using the tool at the bottom of the screen. Note that the names they use to identify some of the spaces may not be the same as the names we use.

Thank you again for your dedication and patience, and thanks again to our friends at The Evergreen Southern Kitchen for their kindness.

Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, senior minister

Diane Dominick, chairperson, Administrative Board

JOIN US FOR A

Fall SOCIAL

You're invited! Chris and Angie Grascch invite you to join them on their Farm at 710 Sheep Pen Road on Saturday, October 7 at 5:00 pm. This year, we will have appetizers for dinner and desserts. Please let Donna Long or Angie Grascch know what tasty treats you are bringing.

To get into the Halloween spirit, Angie will have all her decorations in place. It's a fun evening with good food and friends. We hope to see everyone there!



Support Our Troops: Send Encouragement to Young Soldiers in Basic Training

Dear Bridgeport Christian Community,



I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to share an opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of some brave young people currently undergoing Basic Training in the Army. One of my daughter Shellee's best friends, James Clark, is among them. They are in need of some encouragement and support, especially since many of these soldiers have no one writing to them or sending care packages during this challenging time.

James informed me that there are several young people in his unit who do not receive any letters or care packages, and he thought it would be wonderful if we, as a church community, could come together to show our support. Their graduation day is October 26th, and I believe that sending them cards and care packages filled with words of encouragement and small tokens of appreciation would mean the world to them.

If you'd like to participate, please send your cards and care packages to the following address:



E4 Clark, James (Friends)
Delta Co., 1st Platoon Madawgs
2-60th IN REGT, 193rd IN BDE
5422 Jackson Blvd
Fort Jackson, SC 29207



Please make sure to include the word "Friends" on the packages or letters, so James knows to distribute them to the young soldiers who are in need of support. A simple letter or package filled with well wishes can make a significant difference in the lives of these young men during their time in Basic Training. Let's show them that we care and appreciate their dedication to serving our country. Thank you for your consideration and for being a part of this act of kindness. I hope you have a great day!

Warm regards,
Bonnie Hayden



Community Engagement

Frankfort will have another Let's Talk About it Conversation

October is such a beautiful time of the year. For me, it has always been a time for reflection. Focus on Race Relations will have a Let's Talk About It conversation on Monday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Paul Sawyer Public Library. The event begins at 5:30. The October topic is "Let's Talk About It: Unveiling the Past and Present Struggles of Indigenous Communities." I find these discussions enlightening and inspiring.

October 14th is the date for the 2023 Capital Pride Festival. Bridgeport has been a sponsor for the last two years. We will have a table where we will offer hugs, communion, and homemade dog biscuits. If you would like to help at our table or with some doggie biscuits, we would appreciate the assistance. If you can't help, please come out and show your support for our LGBTQ community. May we all strive to leave this world a better place.



Mary Watts



The Helping Hands Circle of Bridgeport Christian Church invites you to join us for our annual Fall Bazaar.

When: October 28, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: VFW Post 4075
104 E. Second Street
Frankfort, KY. 40601

The Helping Hands Circle's mission is to work together in faith, fundraising for our scholarship program, and working in our community through donations and a card ministry.

Vendors will offer goods such as jewelry and handcrafted items. We will also sponsor a bake sale and will have soup and sandwiches available for lunch.

If you are interested in donating to our bake sale please call or text: Diane Pratt at 502-320-3035 or Linda Wilson at 502-330-2348

The Evangelism Committee will also host a yard sale in conjunction with the Fall Bazaar. Items for donation to the yard sale may be delivered to the VFW post after 8 a.m. on October 28.



Green News

BCC Joins National Creation Care Campaign

"One Home, One Future," a multi-faith campaign for creation care, will launch Wednesday, October 4, at 7 p.m. As part of our Green Chalice Ministry, Bridgeport Christian is joining "One Home, One Future," a coalition of American faith denominations and organizations with ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow organizing the seven-year program.

Joining "One Home, One Future" gives us access to a rich array of free information, tools and guidance; seven accessible pathways for action, and connection with congregations nationwide working to care for our shared home.

The seven pathways to action are:

1. **Build Thriving Congregations:** Decide which of the campaign pathways or items from your denomination ministries (Green Chalice) are motivating and accessible.
2. **Empower Leaders and Youth:** Host a listening session to hear youth ideas for creation care, or deepen your knowledge about Climate and Faith by taking the Ambassador Training Program. (Visit blessedtomorrow.org)
3. **Engage & Strengthen Communities:** Collaborate with neighboring congregations to organize a creation care event in your community; create spaces to talk about solutions.
4. **Work Toward Justice:** Learn about climate justice; form a Creation Justice task force in your congregation to build knowledge and engagement on the topic.
5. **Restore Healthy Creation:** Plan an activity that gets your congregation involved in stewardship of nature around your house of worship or in your local community.
6. **Strengthen Resilience & Preparedness:** Download resources and make a plan for visible, cost-saving, and easy changes you and your congregation can make today.
7. **Allocate for Climate:** Identify actions you and/or your congregation can take to shift spending toward sustainable products and services or help a less fortunate neighbor or congregation to do the same.

The website OneHomeOneFuture.org/Act has more than 100 resources. As a Green Chalice Congregation, we have taken steps to implement some of these actions. We can consider many others from the list to ensure a future home for generations to come.

I invite you to visit the site and reach out to share with me, Pastor Ann, or any member of our Green Team ideas that interest and motivate you.

Upon joining "One Home, One Future," we received a banner that was installed on Sunday, September 24. The picture of the installation has been submitted to be featured in the October 4 national webinar launch. To participate in the webinar, join at OneHomeOneFuture.org. You will then receive a confirmation with a link to join the launch. Together, we are called by our faith to care for our given and shared home and to work for a healthy world in a changing climate.

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

Colossians 1:16



Calendar of Events

- 10/1 - 10:30 am In-person and online Worship
- 10/2 - 10/6 - Pastor Ann on vacation
- 10/3 - 2:00 pm Helping Hands Circle meeting
- 10/8 - 10:30 am In-person and online worship
- 10/9 - 5:30 pm Community Engagement Meeting
- 10/11 - 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting
- 10/15 - 10:30 am In-person and online Worship
Congregational meeting after worship
5:00 pm Youth Group
- 10/20 - Newsletter Submission Deadline
- 10/22 - 10:30 am In-person and online Worship
5:00 pm Youth Group
- 10/29 - 10:30 In-person and online Worship
5:00 pm Youth Group
- Date and Time TBA - Book Club



Zoom Bible Study

Our next Bible Study is called "Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say" by Adam Hamilton. Zoom Bible Study meets on Mondays at 2pm.

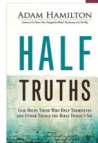
Cokesbury.com says, "They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways."

Below is the schedule for Half Truths and the Zoom link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86208001052?pwd=RzhBQURyeUE5Qnc5UVV1Wlh2ZXRpZDZ09>

Meeting ID: 862 0800 1052
Passcode: 050301



Please let Ann know if you would like to be a part of this study.

HAPPY

Birthday

OCTOBER 1 - BAILEY PEDERSON, RODNEY LONG, NORMAN ARFLACK & JAN RIDDLE

OCTOBER 3 - JUDY ZIEGLER

OCTOBER 5 - ANN SHEPHERD

OCTOBER 6 - RUTH VAN METER

OCTOBER 9 - LINDA YOUNKIN

OCTOBER 10 - KEITH MCNEIL

OCTOBER 11 - DAVID RODGERS

OCTOBER 19 - KENT DOTSON

OCTOBER 23 - ERICKA BAILEY

OCTOBER 30 - DIANA FRY



Bible Study Scriptures and Topics

Date	Scripture	Topic
Oct. 9	Deuteronomy 30:19-20a	Everything Happens for a Reason
Oct. 16	Psalms 10:14b, 17-18a; Psalm 18:6, 16; Psalm 121:1-2	God Helps Those who Help Themselves
Oct. 23	1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 46:1-2	God Won't Give You More than You Can Handle
Oct. 30	Deuteronomy 23:12-14	God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It
Nov. 6	Matthew 7:1-5	Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

Date	Greeters	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship & Wonder
10/1	Ginny Burton's Team	Annette Hayden	Larry Hayden	Jackson Campbell & Donna Long
10/8	Ginny Burton's Team	Diane Dominick	Ronda Sloan	Jackson Campbell & Laura Begin
10/15	Ginny Burton's Team	Ted Sloan	Donna Long	Jackson Campbell & Anita Bolen
10/22	Ginny Burton's Team	Brenda O'Brien	Betty Martin	Jackson Campbell & Kirk Shepherd
10/29	Ginny Burton's Team	Don Flinn	Sissy O'Brien	Jackson Campbell & Karen Averill

**Worship Service
Opportunities**

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/
bridgeportchristian](http://www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian)

YouTube - [www.youtube.com/channel/
UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg)

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.

Date	Scripture	Topic
10/1	Mark 12:26-27a; Exodus 1:8-2:10; 3:1-15	Moses and God's Name
10/8	Mark 12:28-31; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9	Hear, O Israel
10/15	Mark 3:33-35; Ruth 1:1-17; 4:13-17	The Story of Ruth
10/22	Mark 11:8-10; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150	David Anointed King
10/29	Mark 10:42-45; 1 Kings 12:1-17; 25-29	Kingdom Divided

Bridgeport Christian Church

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Phone: 502.223.1165

secretary@bridgeportchristian.org

Staff

- The Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, Pastor
- Valerie Drake, Admin. Assistant
- Laura Foley, Music Director
- Jackson Campbell, Children & Youth Coordinator



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**