



The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JULY 2023

Minister's Moment

*The Lord God's spirit is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me*

*to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,*

*to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,*

*to provide for Zion's mourners,
**to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.***

*They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the Lord to glorify himself.*

Isaiah 61:1-3, Common English Bible

Well, June was quite a month in the life of our church. On June 13, we suffered a fire in the back of the church building. No one was in the building when the fire occurred, and firefighters were there as quickly as possible to make sure that the fire was out and that the church was safe. We are so blessed because so many people and organizations have contacted us with their willingness to help in whatever way they can.

Friends, we are at the very beginning of the recovery process for our church building. There are many things that we will have to do as we move forward and do everything we can to get back into the building quickly and safely. But, as I write this today, there are three things I want to tell you.

First, it is okay to grieve. Our church building has so much history – both history in the community and personal history. What has happened is scary. We have lost things that have meaning to us from fire, smoke, and water damage, some of which we aren't even aware of yet. So, allow yourself to grieve. It is okay to cry. Hug those you love in your family and in the congregation and tell stories of memories from the building.

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Second, we must have patience. As you

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have seen from the updates we are sending out, this is not a quick or easy process that we are going through. There are a lot of moving parts and sometimes we will move quickly and sometimes we will have to wait. But, we will recover from this fire. This is not the first fire our congregation has experienced, even if it is the first fire we have experienced in this iteration of the congregation. We have been the church at Bridgeport since 1846 and we will continue to be that presence in the community.

Third, I want you all to remember that the church is not a building – the church is made up of the body of Christ. Whether we are worshipping in our sanctuary, at The Evergreen Southern Kitchen and Gathering Place, or at home on our couches, we are still the body of Christ, and we are still Bridgeport Christian Church. Our life and ministry does not end simply because we cannot be in the building. We will continue to do ministry – just in July, we have a gathering at Juniper Hill Aquatic Center with First Christian, Lawrenceburg; Vacation Bible School at the Education Annex (formerly the youth house); and an all-church picnic at Salato Wild Life Education Center (the Game Farm). We will meet on Zoom, and at The Evergreen, and at the Education Annex. We will do whatever we need to do to continue to live out the call that God has placed on us individually and as a church.

Friends, God is with us in the midst of this trial. Once again, we are reminded in Isaiah that God brings beauty from ashes, strength from fear, gladness from mourning, and peace from despair. And these are all emotions that we will feel as we recover. But God is holding us and God is caring for us and God is lifting us up.

So, hold each other in prayer. Hold our church in prayer. Hold yourself in prayer. Let yourself feel the feelings that you need to feel. And know that God is with you and that I am with you too. Reach out, no matter what you need. I am always available by phone call or text message at 502.234.1514.

God loves you and so do I.

Ann



Let's stay connected!

Complete or Update Your BCC Breeze Profile

Now more than ever, ease of communication is the key to our success. Utilizing Breeze is a great tool. It can make sure you are informed about special events, schedule changes, and meetings, and keep you in contact with your church family.

Bridgeport Christian Church's Breeze database can help you find the names of your fellow BCC members and their contact information.

BCC's Breeze page contains a schedule of events in the life of the church. The database provides a search engine that makes it easy to look up members by name. The individual member entries include spaces for basic information and vital health information in case of an emergency.

If you haven't fully filled out or updated your Breeze account, please do so today. Just go to bridgeportchristianchurch.breezechms.com and log in. If you can't log in, let Pastor Ann or Valerie know so they can help.

Fire Update

Bridgeport Christian Church is recovering from the June 13 fire and continues to hold Sunday worship services and special events. Here is what we know and what's happening at this writing:

- BioSweep, an odor removal business recommended by GuideOne Insurance, has completed the odor removal process.
- ServiceMaster of Louisville is scheduled to begin cleanup on July 3. The cleanup process is expected to take several weeks.
- Engineering consultants from In-Line Consulting & Engineering Services came to BCC on June 21 and spent several hours studying the fire damage.
- A recovery working group, led by Property Committee Chairperson Casey Hayden, formed the day after the fire to manage the recovery process and inform the congregation about steps being taken to recover from the fire while continuing regular church activities, including Sunday worship. The recovery working group consists of Diane Dominick, Casey Hayden, Larry Hayden, Jeff Pratt, Becky Ramsey, Allan Robertson, Pastor Ann Shepherd, Ted Sloan, and Tom Watts.
- BCC will hold Sunday morning worship services at The Evergreen Southern Kitchen, 400 Evergreen Road, till further notice. Shortly after the fire, the proprietors of The Evergreen generously offered the use of their facility for as long as we need it. We also received offers of assistance from several churches in Franklin County.
- Along with Sunday morning worship, BCC will hold regular and special activities as scheduled, including Vacation Bible School, book club, and an all-church picnic in July. See items elsewhere in The Bridge.
- If anyone needs to get into the church building, please contact Casey Hayden or Pastor Ann.

Please keep our beloved church in your prayers, and please continue your support of the work of the church. We will continue to serve our congregation and the community while the recovery and repairs are in progress. Thank you for your support, your patience, and your devotion to Bridgeport Christian Church.

The Recovery Working Group



BRIDGEPORT STRONG

I have never been so proud of my church and church family. We powered through Covid, and now we shall power through fire damage. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to all the folks who are working so hard on this difficult project. You all have stepped up! Thank you also to the Evergreen for sharing their space with us. Their generosity is overwhelming.

You will be receiving lots of updates in the weeks to come. I encourage everyone to continue their regular giving as we still have lots of expenses. Information will be forthcoming on money, extra building funds, etc. in the near future.



Bridgeport Strong!

Diane Dominick
Board Chair



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
POOL PARTY

SUNDAY **16** JULY 7:00-9:00 PM
Juniper Hills

Children Wonder as they Wander

It has certainly been an adventurous beginning to my service as Children's & Youth Coordinator here at Bridgeport. I am sure it has been for everyone else, too - especially the kiddos. On the first Sunday at The Evergreen, the children started this new journey outside by a barn they've probably never seen before. As the bugs crawled around and the sun shined on us, we found beauty in this new and temporary space. As we wandered through the grass in our new worship space, we wondered together - wondered how we might be the Church without a church, how we might find peace in the midst of the ashes, how we can be confident in God's love for us even when things don't go how we want them to. Folks, the children may be wandering outside during worship, but never fear - we are wondering through the beauty of how God is doing a new thing at Bridgeport Christian Church.

- Jackson Campbell, Children's & Youth Coordinator

Bridgeport Choir News

July 2023

Something I enjoy doing is writing aphorisms. The goal is to try to say something meaningful in as few words as possible. The example below, while not my shortest aphorism, has been on my mind since June 13:

*When we pray, things change.
When we don't pray, things change.
The difference: what the change will be.*

My prayer is that, though the earthly fire has been extinguished, the fire of the love of God in our hearts will grow ever stronger as we move forward into new joys and challenges together.

Love,

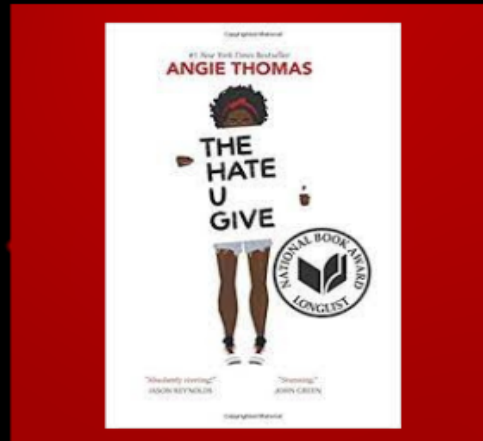
Laura Foley

BCC book club to read YA novel in July

The BCC book club will read "The Hate U Give," the 2017 debut novel by Angie Thomas, as its July book. It's the story of Starr Carter, a teenage Black girl who attends an upscale prep school. Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend at the hands of a police officer. The shooting becomes a national story. And only Starr knows the truth about what happened.

"The Hate U Give" won numerous honors, including the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature, and was adapted into a movie in 2018. It was recommended by our own Denisha Dodge-Summerour and Anita Bolen.

Book club will meet July 25, location to be announced. For more information, or to be added to the book club mailing list, contact Ted Sloan at tsloan76@bellsouth.net.



COKESBURY'S

HERO HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!



VBS will be held in the Education Annex (Formerly the Youth House)

VBS

VBS Kick off
July 16
Juniper Hills
7-9:00 pm

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!
Monday, July 17 to Thursday, July 20 * 5pm to 8pm each night. For age 4 to Grade 5.

Please register in advance at:

<https://bridgeportchristianchurch.breezechms.com/form/3b3ce726>



Celebrating 20 years of
Letting Important Friends Exist
**IT'S A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
AND YOU ARE INVITED!**

L.I.F.E. HOUSE IS 20 YEARS OLD!

SUNDAY, JULY 16

2:00-4:00

14 Fido Court, Frankfort, KY

www.lifehouse4animals.org
502.875.3436



Mark Your Calendar!

Please plan to join us for an all-church picnic on Wednesday, July 26, at the Salato Wildlife Education Center/Game Farm. We have the large shelter from 4-8 p.m. and plan to begin eating around 5. Please feel free to stop by at your convenience and join us for food and fellowship. Food and drinks will be provided.



Missions committee:

On May 17, several committee members participated in planting vegetables and flowers at the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center. We were also able to provide food for one family. If you would like to become a member of our committee, please see Sissy O'Brien or Donna Hedges. We would love to have you.



Birthdays

We know that people have accidentally been left off of the birthday list in The Bridge. Be assured this is not intentional. We are asking that everyone please send your birthdate to secretary@bridgeportchristian.org. Please include month, day, and year (any year you want) so that we can update our system, and no one gets left out.



Green News

This month's Green News will focus on the ocean. After all, the ocean is a summertime favorite for many vacationers. It's important that we understand the complexities of our oceans and their importance to life on planet Earth. The following information is provided by Blessed Tomorrow, the faith arm of ecoAmerica in partnership with Creation Justice Ministries.

Our Ocean: Changing Climate, Shifting Tides

What You Need to Know

The ocean is part of God's creation and is central to stabilizing the earth's climate. We are called to enjoy, protect, and care for the ocean as a sacred gift from God.

A healthy ocean is essential to every living thing on Earth. It covers 71% of the earth, creating 50% of the earth's oxygen and absorbing more than 25% of the carbon dioxide.

A healthy ocean is humankind's most effective ally against climate change. The ocean absorbs the majority of the excess heat generated by pollution, distributing the heat through ocean currents to help stabilize the climate.

A healthy ocean provides a lot of food and is important to our economy. Changing ocean temperatures and overfishing have impacted fish quality and populations, and the jobs and businesses connected to the sea.

Climate change harms the ocean. Increasing pollution causes acidification and warming temperatures, which harm coral reefs, increase the growth of harmful algae, and force migration of marine life, impacting entire ecosystems.

Intensifying hurricanes and sea level rise due to the warming ocean and melting glaciers [impact billions of people](#) (including 40% of Americans) and island and coastal cultures.

Pollution damages the ocean: 80% of ocean pollutants come from the land – including trash (90% are plastics), oil, pathogens in sewage, fertilizers, pesticides, toxic industrial wastes, and sediments. Runoff contaminates our coastal waters and harms marine life.

Holy scriptures teach and religious traditions remind us that life was created in the waters. Protecting and caring for the ocean is an expression of reverence for the cradle of life.

What You Need to Do

The ocean is vital for our human communities, is important for vast and interconnected ecosystems, and is integrated into our distinct faith traditions and common histories. While we may live hundreds of miles from the ocean, our life choices impact the health of the ocean and all marine life. One the most important things we can do is to talk with others about the ocean's connection to our health and the climate. You can start today.

Talk about and advocate for the ocean in your congregation and community, on social media, and in sign-on letters.

Encourage elected officials to support legislation that maintains and protects the ocean.

Invite your congregation and community to learn more using resources like this page and Creation Justice Ministries' Ocean page.

Enjoy the ocean responsibly. Clean up trash, respect wildlife and signage, and leave spaces better than you found them. Purchase fish that are sustainably caught or harvested.

Protect all our waterways for a healthier ocean. Dispose of trash properly, encourage plastic-free options, and limit single-use plastics. Limit the use of chemicals on lawns and gardens. Look for alternatives to conventional herbicides and pesticides.

Reduce your energy consumption. Save money by saving energy. When possible, purchase electric cars and heat pumps, and source electricity from solar, wind, and geothermal to transition away from burning fuels that pollute our air and water.

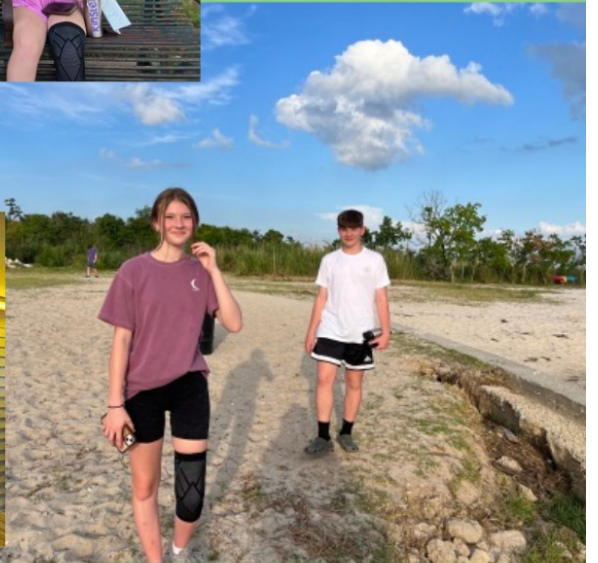
Get involved in hands-on ocean justice work at sites like Blue Theology mission stations. Visit a coastal community to learn more about care for the ocean.



We have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean.

- John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the US

Mission Trip Wrap up!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2023

- July- 2 10:30 am In-person and Online Worship
- July 3- 11:00 am Membership Meeting (Zoom)
- July 4- Office Closed
- July 9- 10:30 am In-person and Online Worship
- July 12- 7:00 pm Board Meeting (Zoom)
- July 16- 10:30 am In-person and Online Worship
7-9:00 pm VBS Pool Party at Juniper Hills
- July 17-20- 5:00 pm VBS
- July 23- 10:30 am In-person and Online Worship
- July 25- 5:30 pm Book Club
- July 26- 4-8:00 pm Picnic at Salato
- July 27- 6:00 Men's Group
- July 29- August 1- Ann at General Assembly
(August 1-8 Ann is on vacation)
- July 30- 10:30 In-person and Online Worship



| Date | Greeters | Worship Leader | Elder | Worship & Wonder |
|------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 7/2 | Ginny Burton's Team | Don Flinn | Anita Bolen | Jackson Campbell & Kirk Shepherd |
| 7/9 | Ginny Burton's Team | Sissy O'Brien | Donna Long | Jackson Campbell & Laura Begin |
| 7/16 | Ginny Burton's Team | Annette Hayden | Ronda Sloan | Jackson Campbell & Donna Long |
| 7/23 | Ginny Burton's Team | Diane Dominick | Betty Martin | VBS Sunday |
| 7/30 | Ginny Burton's Team | Ted Sloan | Jeff Pratt | Jackson Campbell & Karen Averill |

**Worship Service
Opportunities**

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian

YouTube - 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 | Scriptures | Theme |
|---------|---|---|
| July 2 | Matthew 10:40-42; Romans 6:12-23 | Freedom from Sin |
| July 9 | Zechariah 9:9-12; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 | Burdens and Rest |
| July 16 | Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Romans 8:12-25 | Hope |
| July 23 | VBS Sunday | VBS Sunday |
| July 30 | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52; Romans 8:26-39 | Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love |

Bridgeport Christian Church

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Frankfort, KY 40601

<http://bridgeportchristian.org>

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secretary@bridgeportchristian.org

pastor@bridgeportchristian.org



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**

Staff

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