

The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JANUARY | 2023

Minister's Moment

Happy New Year! I cannot believe how quickly 2022 has gone. And I think we had a good year as a church. We have had a great year where we have put ourselves out there in new ways to show Frankfort who we are and what we believe. And, even though attendance numbers are not where they were in 2020, we are doing better than many other churches. Most mainline churches only saw about 30% of their pre-pandemic attendance returned to the pews. We are worshipping with more than 50 every Sunday, which is greater than half. Also, we are reaching people out in the world through our worship services streaming on Facebook and YouTube.

2023 is a new year with new possibilities ahead of us. I believe that we will continue to grow in ways that we have never expected. As long as we continue to listen to the voice of God and hear where God is calling us, we will continue to grow and shine the light of Jesus into the world around us.

As we enter this new year, I want to call on each of you to pray and talk to God about ways you can help Bridgeport to grow. I would also love to see everyone inviting people to come and join us in worship. It takes about seven "asks" for someone to consider coming with you to church.

Bridgeport is an amazing church, and I am blessed to be your pastor. Thank you for your faith, your perseverance, and your love for the kingdom of God. Let us continue to grow and become stronger in our faith and our love for the community and the world.

Love,
Ann

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Membership Committee Meeting:

Membership committee will meet on Zoom Thursday, January 5, at 6:00pm. If you want to join us, contact Donna Long and she will get the Zoom information for you.



Upcoming Retreats

The Kentucky Regional Men's Chorus Retreat will be January 27-29 in Covington, KY, where it will be hosted by Madison Avenue Christian Church. For additional information, contact Donna Long.

The Women's Retreat will be February 3-5 at Knobs Haven in Loretto, KY. Lisa Maas will be the spiritual leader. If you are interested in attending, contact Betty Martin.

The Women's Choral Retreat will be February 24-26 at Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington, KY. Contact Donna Long for additional information.



• "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."
— Michelle Obama

MLK Jr. Youth Event

for 6th to 12th graders
Sunday, January 15th from
3:00-5:00 pm at Transylvania
University William T. Young
Student Center

The keynote speaker is Devine Carama, director of One Lexington and a member of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

If you have questions about the event, contact Mike McColl at mjmfcc@gmail.com

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Green Chalice Gathering

The Green Chalice Gathering is Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Clergy and lay leaders of established or emerging Green Churches are welcome to join in this informative and spirited conversation. We will hear stories from Green Chalice congregations in Indiana, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. Together, we will hear stories and offer support and prayer for one another as we begin 2023.

[Zoom link and Registration](#)

Green Chalice Covenant

As children of God and followers of Christ Jesus, we covenant to:

Worship God with all creation and pray for the healing of the earth.

Study the climate crisis and engage in others climate solutions.

Repent and forgive for the harm we have inflicted on the earth that sustains life.

Advocate for eco-justice public policies and witness by living sustainable lifestyles .

Rest in God's good creation and invite others to delight in nature.



Holiday Hoopla Success!

The members of the Helping Hands Circle would like to thank all those who worked to assure The Holiday Hoopla on December 11th was a success! The fundraiser for the Circle raised \$1758.00!! Special thanks to Betty Martin; the Membership Committee; choir director Laura Foley for the participation of the choir and solo musicians; and to Betty Martin, Ron Kelien, Ted and Ronda Sloan for being major contributors to the silent and live auction.

So many did so much from contributing baked goods for the Bake Sale, contributing to the silent auction, fixing food, serving food, washing dishes, and sharing their talents in the program. Also, special thanks to our budding auctioneer, Jeff Pratt! We are blown away by the generosity of the members of Bridgeport Christian Church! We are looking forward to the New Year and using those funds for our special projects!





Bridgeport Choir News

January 2023

I remember growing up thinking how amazing the world was going to be in the year 2000. Flying cars! Moonbases! Math-homework-solving robots! Now, it's 2023 and the world seems about as "amazing" now as it was then. Perhaps less so. It astounds me to think that we are nearly one quarter century, into the twenty-first century, and I'm still pumping gas and doing my own math.

Sure—we have some new technology, and some of it is quite handy. On the other hand, as useful as technology can be, it is not a substitute for things like hugs, friendly conversation, singing a hymn together, or a good meal. This is why it makes me sad to see people (including me) holding our phones in our hands more than we hold the hands of our children, our families, our friends—the gentle hands of those we love. When we spend our time looking down at our phones, we are missing the opportunity to notice the sky, the trees, cute dogs, sweet babies, and—most of all—each other.

When we look up at the choir loft, we can see the Bridgeport Choir is a wonderful place to connect. Instead of phones, we hold music in our hands (and hearts). And we look up from the music to share our voices, to see each other, and to pour out the love of God that can dance in our hearts through song.

As a new year begins, my prayer is that we will put down our phones and pick up our relationships. May we see not only what the world offers to our eyes, but the possibilities before us.

Love,

Laura Foley



TOGETHER FRANKFORT

5:30 P.M. JANUARY 5

**Paul Sawyer Public Library
River Room
Frankfort, KY**

Keynote Speaker: Teri Carter of Lawrenceburg. Teri writes about family, rural life, and politics for the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Kentucky Lantern, the Lexington Herald-Leader, The (Louisville) Courier-Journal and The Daily Yonder.
Everyone is invited.



Chi Rho/CYF News

After taking a break for the Christmas Season, I am looking forward to meeting with the Middle School/High School Youth starting January 15th. There are several Regional Events we are looking at attending this winter and spring. The first is the MLK Jr. Youth Gathering on Sunday, January 15 at Transylvania University. The event starts at 3 p.m. and lasts until 5 p.m. We will leave church around 2 p.m. All those attending will need to have a Youth Participation Form completed before departure. I am also encouraging everyone attending to bring a friend.

Camp Dates for Camp Wakon' Da-Ho have also been released.

March 17-19 – Youth Retreat Weekend for 6th-12th grades

June 5-10 – CYF 1 (grades 9-12)

June 26-July 1 – CYF 2 (grades 9-12)

July 3-8 – Chi Rho 1 (grades 6-8)

July 10-15 – Chi Rho 2 (grades 6-8)

Please look at your calendars and consider attending a camp this summer. I hope you have enjoyed the Holidays and I am looking forward to seeing you.

Peace,

Anita Bolen

Chi Rho/CYF leader.



Missions

Acts 20:35. "...It is more blessed to give than to receive."

On December 15, a number of us visited the Thomson-Hood veterans center to share Christmas presents, visits and singing with our veterans. This annual trip is such a blessing not only to them, but to each of us.

Thank you, Tom Quisenberry and Michelle Ewing, for making this happen and thank you, Hollis Rosenstein, for playing the piano for us. Merry Christmas and come join the Missions Committee in the new year.



Green News

Let's Welcome 2023 with a Climate Justice Commitment

“It is becoming more and more apparent that a growing climate crisis causes significant suffering for God’s children.” This quote by Rev. Vy Nguyen, Week of Compassion Executive Director, appeared in the December 2021 Bridge article “Climate Change Affects Week of Compassion.”

Over the last decade, natural disasters have increased in frequency and intensity – wildfires, drought, hurricanes, tornados, and flooding. The devastation they bring forever impacts families and communities.

Kentucky has been, and continues to be, impacted by severe weather. In December 2021, western Kentucky was in the path of tornados that ravaged the South and Midwest. Never in the history of the state had tornados left a path of destruction as far-reaching and deadly. A year later, residents continue to recover and rebuild from the estimated \$2.9 billion loss as they mourn the 80 lives lost on that fateful December day.

In the summer of 2022, torrential rains resulted in a 1,000-year flood event in eastern Kentucky. Homes were swept away, basic infrastructure (electricity and water) was destroyed, and 43 lives were lost. Today, residents are still cleaning up, and many survivors are living in temporary housing. Cost estimates to repair and rebuild are in the hundreds of millions of dollars and rising.

With rising global temperatures and a warming climate, the future will undoubtedly bring more natural disasters of the same or greater magnitude. So why are temperatures rising and the climate warming?

One reason is the natural processes of time and space, heating, and cooling – God’s design of the universe. But, we humans have contributed to the recent rapid increase, which began with the Industrial Revolution of the 1850s. Our dependence on fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) has generated and released significant amounts of carbon dioxide and methane gas into the atmosphere. These atmospheric gases act as a greenhouse, trapping the sun’s heat and preventing it from escaping. Thus, the rise in earth’s temperature, resulting in warmer oceans, melting glaciers, and rising sea levels. The imbalance in ocean temperatures and atmospheric conditions sets the stage for the unprecedented natural disasters we are experiencing.

So what can we do? As Christians, we must let our faith and spiritual paths guide us to care for creation by living simply, avoiding waste, and loving our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable, who are most affected by disasters.

So let’s start 2023 by committing to climate justice and a low-carbon New Year. You can begin by calculating your carbon footprint. Visit coolclimate.berkeley.edu for an online calculator to enter your information on travel, home, food, and shopping. The calculator will show your results and direct you to areas that make the biggest impact to reduce your carbon footprint – transportation, diet, and home energy use. Look for more information in future issues of The Bridge. Until then, let’s face the climate crisis head-on by committing to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint. After all, God put His trust in us to care for creation and to love our neighbors. Have a Blessed New Year!



Calendar of Events

- 1/1 -No Sunday School
11:00 am Online and in-person Worship
- 1/2 -Office Closed
- 1/3- 2:00 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting
- 1/5- 6:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting
(Zoom)
- 1/8- 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Online and in-person Worship
4:30 pm Choir Practice
5:00-6:30 pm Youth Group
- 1/15-10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Online and in-person Worship
4:30 pm Choir Practice
5:00-6:30 pm Youth Group
- 1/22- 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Online and in-person Worship
4:30 pm Choir Practice
5:30 Youth Group
- 1/29- 10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Online and in-person Worship
4:30 pm Choir Practice
5:00-6:30 pm Youth Group

January Birthdays

- 1/3 Kevin Perkins & Suzy Rogers
1/10 Kimberly Minter
1/12 Nick Alford
1/13 Aaron Arflack
1/16 Alyssa Baesler & Amanda Yeary
1/19 Jamie Bailey
1/20 Landon Arflack
1/25 Debbie Foy
1/29 Susan Rowland-Flynn



| Date | Greeters | Worship Leader | Elder | Worship & Wonder | AV Booth |
|------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1/1 | Ginny Burton's Team | Jeff Pratt | Don Flinn | Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (The Boy Jesus in the Temple) | Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith |
| 1/8 | Ginny Burton's Team | Ronda Sloan | Donna Long | Anita Bolen & Kirk Shepherd (Jesus is Baptized) | Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith |
| 1/15 | Ginny Burton's Team | Anita Bolen | Ronda Sloan | Donna Long & Laura Begin (Jesus in the Wilderness) | Wayne Begin & Tommy Smith |
| 1/22 | Ginny Burton's Team | Debbie Rodgers | Jeff Pratt | Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (Parable of the Mustard Seed) | Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith |
| 1/29 | Ginny Burton's Team | Don Flinn | Sissy O'Brien | Anita Bolen & Kirk Shepherd (Parable of the Leaven) | Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith |

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.

Scriptures and Topics

| Date | Scripture | Topic |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jan 1 | Psalms 84; Revelation 21:1-6 | Is Born |
| Jan 8 | Psalms 2:7-8; Matthew 3:1-17 | Jesus' Baptism |
| Jan 15 | Psalms 91:9-12; Matthew 4:1-17 | Tempted in the Wilderness |
| Jan 22 | Psalms 1:1-3; Matthew 5:1-20 | Beatitudes |
| Jan 29 | Psalms 20:7; Matthew 6:7-34 | Treasure in Heaven |

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Staff

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



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**