



NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | MARCH 2023

## Minister's Moment

Lent is probably my favorite season of the year. We are moving out of the colder weather (at least theoretically), days are getting longer, flowers and trees are starting to bloom. Everything is starting to come alive as we get ready to celebrate new life in Christ through his resurrection.

Lent is also a time when we willingly choose to do something that will bring us closer to God. Often times, we are called on to give up something for Lent – usually an indulgence of sorts – to aid us in our faith journey. This is a form of fasting. I have discovered, through the years, that when we give something up, we often replace it with something else. For example, the last time I gave up all chocolate for Lent, I found that it was a good excuse to eat sweets of different varieties (maple donuts, apple pies, strawberry shortcakes) more than I would have eaten the chocolate. I was missing the forest for the trees. I wasn't using giving up chocolate as a way to grow in my relationship with God. I was being pious for the sake of piety.

Over the years, I have encouraged people to take something on for Lent instead of giving something up. But, I think that can also be piety for the sake of piety. Instead, I think it is important to have a spiritual practice during Lent. It just needs to be something that really does bring you closer to God. If you choose to give up something like chocolate, maybe take time to pray every time you crave a piece. If you take on something like serving at the soup kitchen, offer prayers for each person you serve. Find something that allows you to grow in your life of faith.

It is my prayer that Lent will be a blessing for each of us this year. I pray that we will grow in our lives of faith and our love of God and others.

Peace,  
Ann

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## The Choir Loft

in the quiet before worship  
the robed choir enters and  
sits in the choir loft, in rows  
arranged by voices—  
basses and tenors,  
altos and sopranos—  
music folders in hand

ready to lift their voices  
in praise and worship—  
alone, or to the accompaniment  
of the piano, the organ

ready to share the Word  
with rhythm and tone,  
ready to fill the sanctuary  
with more than sound—

with welcoming hearts:  
Come, Christians, join to sing—  
Alleluia! Amen!

~laura foley

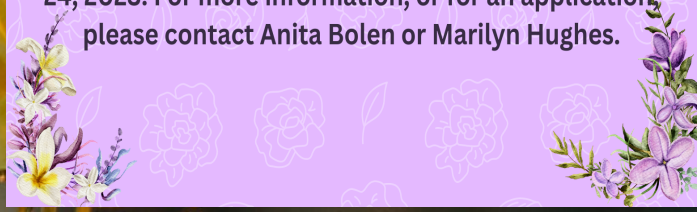


## Helping Hands Scholarship Applications Due April 24

Applications for the 2023 Helping Hands Scholarships are now available. To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must:

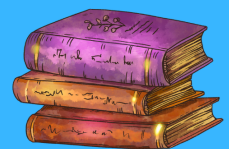
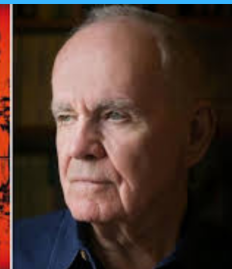
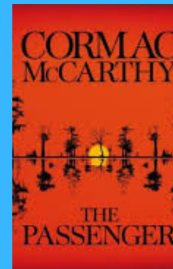
- be a member or currently attending Bridgeport Christian Church, or have a parent/guardian/grandparent who attends or is a member; and
- be a 2023 high school graduate, or a 2022 high school graduate who took a gap year, and must be entering a post-secondary institution (college/university/vocational school/trade school) after graduation.

The application must be completed and returned by April 24, 2023. For more information, or for an application, please contact Anita Bolen or Marilyn Hughes.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

*The membership committee will meet  
Monday, March 6, at 11:00 a.m. on  
Zoom. You are welcome to join us.  
Contact Donna Long and she will get  
the Zoom information for you.*



## Book club reading McCarthy's latest

The BCC book club is reading "The Passenger," the latest by Cormac McCarthy, as its March book.

The book follows the story of a diver who locates a crashed charter aircraft in the Gulf of Mexico that is missing a passenger. But the mystery only scratches the surface of the diver's own complicated story.

McCarthy's other books include "The Road" (for which he won a Pulitzer Prize) and "No Country for Old Men."

Book club will meet March 28. To be put on our mailing list, or to find out more about our club, contact Ted Sloan at [tsloan76@bellsouth.net](mailto:tsloan76@bellsouth.net).

## Bring a Friend Sunday!

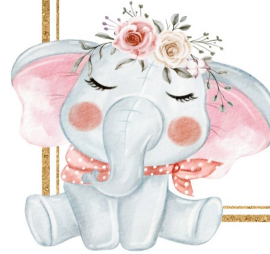
Please mark your calendars for  
April 30: Bring a Friend Sunday!  
We hope to fill the church with  
new friends as well as others we  
haven't seen lately.

Postcards will be available later in March for you to  
send as reminders. It would be great to fill the pews!



## It's a Girl

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BABY  
SHOWER ON SATURDAY,  
MARCH 11, AT 2 P.M. IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR  
ANGEL ROSE AND HANK  
NOLAN.



They are registered at  
Target and Amazon  
(Angel Nolan)

### Wakon'Da-Ho Camp Dates

Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) – June 2-4  
CYF 1 (Grades 9-12) – June 5-10  
Eighters Camp (Grade 8) – June 11-17  
Junior Camp (Grades 4-5) – June 19-23  
Camp 101A (Grades K-1) – June 23-25  
CYF 2 (Grades 9-12) – June 26-July 1  
ChiRho 1 (Grades 6-8) – July 3-8  
ChiRho 2 (Grades 6-8) – July 10-15  
Camp 101B (Grades K-1) – July 22

To register, visit <http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/wakonda-ho/> and click on  
the camp you want to register for. All camp registration is online this year. The  
church will pay half the registration fee for each youth to attend one camp. If you  
have any questions about camp registration, please see Pastor Ann or Anita Bolen.



The Evangelism committee will meet at  
church on Monday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m.  
We will be discussing spring projects.  
Everyone is invited to attend!





# Green News



## What Can We Do to End Plastic Pollution?

Do you recycle plastics? Did you know that only 15 percent of plastic waste is collected for recycling? And of that, some 40 percent is discarded due to its low quality, leaving only a 9 percent rate of actual plastic recycling. Plastic pollution is a worldwide problem! It ranges from littered landscapes to choked waterways to ocean garbage patches (Great Pacific Garbage Patch) to microplastics in animals and our food supplies entering our bodies. Microplastics are microscopic particles that result from the breakdown of chemical components of plastic materials over time. They enter the soil, the air we breathe, and the water we drink, especially from bottled water. Microplastics have been discovered in human feces, breast milk, blood, and organs. Scientists are now turning their attention to the effects of microplastics on our bodies over time. Do they bioaccumulate? Are they linked to adverse health conditions such as asthma, COPD, certain cancers?

The recent train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, brings to light the harm from toxic vinyl chloride used to make certain plastics. The hazardous material contaminated the air, water and soil of the community. While the cleanup will be costly, the long-term health effects to the residents are unknown.

According to Scientific American magazine, the answer to the plastic pollution problem isn't recycling. It's reduce and reuse, the first and second arrows of the recycling symbol. In fact, recycling should be the last action we think of when trying to solve the plastic pollution problem.

So, are we wasting our time recycling plastic? NO! But we need to do everything we can to protect and preserve our natural resources – our land, air, and water – from pollution. This should begin with REDUCE:

- Conduct a home audit. For one week, make a list of the amount of disposable plastic you use in your home, and note how much of it can be recycled. Remember that only about 12 percent of these products are ever effectively recycled.
- Consider product packaging. Do you purchase laundry and other detergents in plastic jugs/bottles? Try laundry detergent sheets. They come in small recyclable cardboard boxes. Rather than plastic dishwasher pods, try dishwasher tablets. Both sheets and tablets clean as well as detergent that comes packaged in plastic. Look for Tru-Earth, Clean People, or other brands.
- Buy in bulk. Many foods are available to purchase in bulk, which means less packaging. In fact, many grocers now sell products in bulk, and you can take your own containers to fill. Consider joining a cooperative or buying club for the bulk option. Capital City Foods is a local club that orders monthly. For more information, contact Annette Hayden or email the coordinator at [cccoopnews@gmail.com](mailto:cccoopnews@gmail.com).
- Shop with reusable bags rather than plastic. Several U.S. cities, states and territories have banned disposable bags, while others have imposed a fee. Ireland was one of the first European countries to put a levy on plastic bags, resulting in a 90 percent drop in consumption.
- Invest in a reusable drink container. Tap water must meet strict safe drinking water standards, while bottled water is less strictly regulated. But another problem with bottled water is that it contains microplastics produced when temperatures fluctuate in the transportation and storage of bottled water and sodas.
- Refuse plastic straws and utensils in restaurants. Bring your own take-out container or request a foil wrap in lieu of Styrofoam.

After you've done all you can to REDUCE your plastic consumption, REUSE as much as possible. Share with others, find other uses for the product, get creative! The Earth will thank you, and so will your body!



## Calendar of Events

- March 5- 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 4:30 pm Choir Practice  
 5:00 pm Youth Group
- March 6- 11:00 am Membership Meeting  
 2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study  
 5:30 pm Evangelism Meeting
- March 7- 2:00 pm Helping Hands Circle  
 6:00 pm Education Committee  
 7:00 pm Green Team
- March 8- 7:00 pm Board Meeting
- March 11- 2:00 pm Baby Shower
- March 12- 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 4:30 pm Choir Practice  
 5:00 pm Youth Group
- March 13- 2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study
- March 19- 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 4:30 pm Choir Practice
- March 20- 2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study
- March 23- 6:00 pm Men's Group
- March 26- 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 4:30 pm Choir Practice  
 5:00 pm Youth Group
- March 27- 2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study
- March 28- 5:30 pm Book Club

# March Birthdays

- March 1 - Steven Minter
- March 3- Morgan Minter & Glenda Abrams
- March 6- Sara Garner
- March 7- Mary Fint
- March 13- Myra Boyson
- March 15- Nick Perkins
- March 18- Micah & Madalyn Baesler
- March 19- Mary Taulbee
- March 23- Sarah Boston
- March 25- Gary Wolf
- March 26- Lisa Smith
- March 29- Skyler Shepherd
- March 30- Kinsley Alford
- March 31- Cindy Elrod

Date	Greeters	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship & Wonder	AV Booth
3/5	Donna Hedges Team	Sissy O'Brien	Donna Long	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (Jesus & the Children)	Wayne Begin & Tommy Smith
3/12	Donna Hedges Team	Donna Long	Jeff Pratt	Anita Bolen & Laura Begin (Jesus & Bartimaeus)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
3/19	Donna Hedges Team	Jeff Pratt	Ron Kelien	Donna Long & Kirk Shepherd (Jesus & Zacchaeus)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
3/26	Donna Hedges Team	Anita Bolen	Sissy O'Brien	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (Jesus the King)	Wayne Begin & Tommy Smith

**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.

**Scriptures and Topics for March**

Date	Scripture	Topic
3/5	Psalms 16:5-8; Matthew 20:1-16	Laborers in the Vineyard
3/12	Psalms 45:6-7; Matthew 22:1-14	Wedding Banquet
3/19	Psalms 43:3-4; Matthew 25:1-13	Bridesmaids
3/26	Psalms 98:7-9; Matthew 25:31-46	Last Judgment

**Bridgeport Christian Church**

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[pastor@bridgeportchristian.org](mailto:pastor@bridgeportchristian.org)

**Staff**

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



**Bridgeport  
Christian  
Church**