

The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2023

Minister's Moment

This month, for Minister's Moment, I have invited Anita Bolen, leader of our ChiRho/CYF group, to share an experience that she and the youth had at the Regional Martin Luther King Jr. event, held on January 15, 2023.

Peace and Love,

Ann

On January 15, I was privileged to take some of our Chi Rho/CYF students to the Martin Luther King Jr. event sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Kentucky. The speaker was Devine Carama, and I must say at first I was skeptical that he would have anything to say that was meaningful to me. Let me explain why. According to his biographic information, Devine Carama is a nationally-renowned 2022 Emmy Award-winning hip-hop artist, educator, community activist, and motivational speaker from Lexington, Ky. He is currently employed by the Lexington mayor's office as the director of One Lexington. When I read this, I thought, "What does a hip-hop artist have to offer me? I don't listen to this, but the kids do, so we'll go."

I must say emphatically that I was wrong. He was a powerful speaker from the beginning. His message was concise and to the point, and one that not only our youth needed to hear, but one every adult in the room needed. Devine Carama reminded me what it meant to be a Christian without preaching to me. Every youth and adult was listening, and in a roomful of teens, not a single cell phone was in sight.

This is the core of his message.

Be Yourself: Nobody can be you. God created you to be you and only you. You tend to get comfortable with like people and their messages, but God sometimes sends you different messages in different ways. You need to look for common ground with others, even though you are different. That way, you are open to new messages. It is OK to be you! Be the best version of YOU with confidence.

Believe in something: What do you believe in that's bigger than you? What do you believe in so much that you will work for it even if you won't see the results? Some examples he gave were Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks – people who believed in a cause and were champions for it even though they never saw the final results.

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Be brave: Are you brave enough to do the right thing even if it's not the popular thing? Are you brave enough to speak up when someone says something that is disrespectful to others or does something against your moral code even when you may lose a friend or when it's not the popular train of thought in that crowd? Are you brave enough to be you instead of blending in with everyone else?

Balance: It's not just about being a leader, but how you lead. In order for things to change, you have to stand up. You need to find balance in your life. Leadership isn't about you – it's about how you defuse the situation and challenge the thinking at the same time. How you talk to others about others plants seeds – you can convey a message positively without being disrespectful. Be open to having a conversation about difficult topics, and keep an open mind to others' ideas – you may learn something in the process. Things are not black and white; true leadership is in the gray area.

He then asked the youth six questions. He told them the the first three were for a \$100 cash prize, but they had to know the answer without looking at their phones.

Question 1. What was the brand of suit and shoes that Martin Luther King Jr. was wearing on the day he was assassinated? The group looked at him like he was crazy, and he laughed and said, that's all right, I don't know either.

Question 2. What brand of purse was Rosa Parks carrying on the bus? Again, they are thinking he is crazy, and no hands went up, because, really, who knows the answer to that question?

Question 3. How many followers does LeBron James have on Twitter? Some went for their phones, but he called them on it quickly and said they had to know immediately. OK, the money round is over, and we have three more questions.

Question 4. By show of hands, how many of you have heard, either from parents or in school, about Martin Luther King Jr. and what he did during the Civil Rights movement? All hands went up.

Question 5. By show of hands, how many of you have heard, either from parents or in school, about Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat on the bus? Again, all hands went up.

Question 6. How many of you know that LeBron James has started a school to educate children? About half the room raised their hands.

Then he told them that they had taught him something just then, and it was a powerful learning moment.

You won't be remembered for your clothes, shoes, or number of followers on Twitter. You will be remembered for the actions you take and what you do in your life.

This is a message we all need to consider. It is not just for our youth, but also for our elders, and everyone in between.

The things I learn when working with the Chi Rho/CYF sometimes are reminders of how to live, and sometimes they are life changing. This speaker, who I was ready to blow off because he was a hip-hop artist, changed my life and left me with questions that I am still thinking about.



baby shower

Mark your calendar!

You are invited to a baby shower for Angel Rose and Hank Nolan on Saturday, March 11, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They are registered at Amazon and Target (under Angel Nolan). Angel is the granddaughter of Tom and Mary Watts.



Youth Fundraiser

Parents Night Out!

February 18th 6pm-9pm
(Ages 3-10)

Drop your children off at Bridgeport Christian Church, and have the ChiRho/CYF members watch them. \$25.00 for the 1st child, and \$10.00

<https://bridgeportchristianchurch.org/form/9e7994>

for any additional children is the recommended donation. Dinner will be provided.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee will meet Monday, February 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.



Join the BCC Book Club for reading, food, and fellowship

The Bridgeport Christian Church book club has launched its 12th(!) year of food, fellowship, and books. Our February book is "Where the Deer and the Antelope Play" by Nick Offerman. Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 28.

The BCC Book Club explores all manner of books – new releases and classics; fiction and nonfiction; history, mystery, comedy, and adventure. (From Ronda: "We read good books and, by accident, some of the worst books ever written." If that doesn't pique your interest, I don't know what will!) We meet on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss the month's book, enjoy each other's company, and share a dish with the group.

If you would like to join, if you would like more information, or if you just would like to keep up with the books we are reading, contact Ted Sloan at tsloan76@bellsouth.net.



SOUPER BOWL POTTERY PARTY

Please join us after church on Feb. 12 for our Annual Souper Bowl pottery painting. Susan Burge from Elements Clay Studio will join us again with a variety of soup bowls to paint.

The cost is \$15 per item. Soup and sandwiches will be provided for lunch.

ELEMENTS CLAY STUDIO



Choir News

Bridgeport Choir News
February 2023

I like to imagine Mary singing gentle songs while touching her belly and feeling Jesus grow inside her. I have often wondered what songs she and Joseph sang to the boy as He grew. And what songs He heard in the temple, in the market, or sung by workers in the field.

What songs do you imagine Jesus sang with His disciples as they rested during the heat of the day? Which songs did they sing quietly to accompany the music of the stars turning overhead in the night? When Jesus went off alone for a time, what songs did He carry in His heart? I wonder, what songs greeted Jesus when He returned to His Father?

The songs of our lives often leave an indelible mark in our spirit, and hearing or singing them can instantly bring us back to many special moments in our lives.

What songs do you carry in your heart? Which songs connect sound, words, and music in your spirit? May we take note of the songs of our lives, may we treasure them, and may we sing them with strength, surrender, peace, and joy.



Love,
Laura Foley



Missions

February 19-26 has been designated as “Week of Compassion.” Bridgeport Christian Church celebrates February as the “Month of Compassion.” Please give as you are able to this cause that does so much good. Thanks!



UPCOMING RETREATS

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.



BCC’S YOUNKIN INDUCTED INTO HOOPS HALL OF FAME



BCC member Linda Younkun was honored as a member of the inaugural class of the Franklin County High School Lady Flyers Hoops Hall of Fame in January.

Linda was recognized for her work as a sportswriter for The State Journal since 1981. She was inducted as a program contributor along with 11 others who have played for, coached, or supported the FCHS girls basketball program. She previously was inducted into the Franklin County High School Hall of Fame in 2014.

She also writes news articles and features and shoots photographs for the Frankfort newspaper.

Linda is a longtime member and deacon at Bridgeport Christian Church.



Green News

Need a suggestion for Lent?

As the Lenten season approaches, we ask ourselves, “What will I give up for Lent?” After all, Lent is about sacrifice. Just as Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us, we give up something to improve our physical and spiritual well-being as a reflection of our love for God. Typically, we think of fasting from a particular food, activity or habit. Why not use this Lent to make your lifestyle greener, to shrink your carbon footprint? Below are some ideas for observing Lent in a “greener” way - one that shows love for God, neighbor, and God’s creation.

1. Cut meat consumption. Try going meatless at least one day a week - Meatless Monday. Learn about the horrors of concentrated animal agriculture and its environmental effects. Lent might be the perfect time to dive into meat-free eating. (See recipe)
2. Go zero-waste or plastic-free. See how little garbage (including recycling!) you can generate between now and Easter. If that’s too much, focus simply on eliminating plastic as much as possible. Pledge to take your own coffee cup or refillable water bottle to work each day.
3. Reduce food waste. Strive to use all the food you buy before any goes bad. Try to cook through the contents of your pantry and freezer, places where food items often get forgotten.
4. Cook from scratch for all of Lent. See if you can make all your meals at home until Easter. Not only will you cut down on food waste, but you’ll probably save some money while you’re at it.
5. Try the 100-mile diet. For Lent, source only ingredients that come from within a 100-mile radius of your home. An added challenge is expanding that criterion to all aspects of your life, i.e. clothes, household accessories, etc.
6. "Fast" from excess water use. Pay close attention to your water footprint and try to eliminate it as much as possible through conservation, collecting rainwater, and reusing grey water. (Reducing or eliminating meat consumption plays a big role in water reduction, as it's the main culprit.)

The final question to ask ourselves at Easter, the end of Lent, is “Have I made a temporary or permanent change?”

Cheesy Skillet Lasagna

- 1 (24-oz) jar low-sodium marinara sauce
- 2 (10-oz) pkgs refrigerated spinach ravioli
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 Tbsp dried Italian seasoning
- 1/2 cup pesto sauce (like Barilla)



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. Spread 1 cup sauce on bottom of a 10- or 12- inch cast iron or oven-safe skillet. Top with half of ravioli, 1 cup cheese, 1 cup sauce, and 1/2 Tbsp Italian seasoning. Spoon 1/4 cup pesto evenly on top.
3. Repeat layers ending with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake 20 min. covered loosely with foil. Remove foil and bake another 20 min. or until hot and slightly browned. Cool 10 minutes. Serves 6.



Thank You

Dear Bridgeport Christian Friends,
To write a “thank you” to all the wonderful people in this church seems inadequate. I can’t express in words the feelings I have for each of you.

On behalf of the Hayden family, I sincerely thank you for your prayers, cards, texts, and phone calls on behalf of Bill when he was sick and especially at the end of his life. He always held Bridgeport Christian in his heart.

The service and meal were wonderful, and a special thank you to all who helped put it together. Your display of love during this trying time will never be forgotten. May God be with each of you.

Sincerely,
Larry Hayden and family



Evangelism Meeting Feb. 6

The Evangelism Committee will meet Monday, Feb. 6, on Zoom. Due to work/school schedules, the first meeting will be an “open” meeting with the link left open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. You are invited to join the meeting when it is convenient for you. After we gather ideas, we will meet in person at a later date to set our priorities for 2023. If you can’t attend on Feb. 6 but want to be part of our efforts, please contact Ronda Sloan (502-418-8728 or rsloan@bellsouth.net). Bring your ideas!

Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82029996584?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82029996584?pwd=M2p5VXhYNmNGROZKZHhzYUdCbINQQT09)
[pwd=M2p5VXhYNmNGROZKZHhzYUdCbINQQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82029996584?pwd=M2p5VXhYNmNGROZKZHhzYUdCbINQQT09)

Meeting ID: 820 2999 6584

Passcode: 843352

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2023

7:00 pm

Lent Begins



Camp Dates for Camp Wakon'Da-Ho 2023

June 2-4	Mini Camp (grades 2-3)
June 5-10	CYF 1 (grades 9-12)
June 11-17	Eighters Camp (grade 8)
June 19-23	Junior 1 (grades 4-5)
June 23-25	CAMP 101A (grades K-1)
June 26-July 1	CYF 2 (grades 9-12)
July 3-8	ChiRho 1 (grades 6-8)
July 10-15	ChiRho 2 (grades 6-8)
July 17-21	Junior 2 (grades 4-5)
July 22	Camp 101B (grades K-1, Day Only)
Sept 1-3	Y'all Camp
Oct 6-8	Fall Family Fest



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Calendar of Events

- 2/5– 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 4:30 pm Choir Practice
 5:00 pm Youth
- 2/6– 11:00 am Membership Meeting (Zoom)
 4:30-7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting (Zoom)
- 2/7—2:00 pm Helping Hands Meeting
 6:00 pm Education Meeting
- 2/8– 7:00 pm Board Meeting
- 2/12—10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Souper Bowl Party
 4:30 pm Choir Practice
- 2/18– 6:00-9:00 pm Parents Night Out
- 2/19—10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 4:30 pm Choir Practice
- 2/20– 2:00 pm Bible Study
- 2/22– 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 2/23– 6:00 pm Men’s Group
- 2/26-10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 4:30 pm Choir Practice
 5:00 pm Youth
- 2/27– 2:00 pm Bible Study
- 2/28– 5:30 pm Book Club



Date	Greeters	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship & Wonder	AV Booth
2/5	Ted Sloan’s Team	Ted Sloan	Ron Kelien	Donna Long & Kirk Shepherd (Parable of the Great Pearl)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
2/12	Ted Sloan’s Team	Annette Hayden	Larry Hayden	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge- Summerour (Parable of the Sower)	Wayne Begin & Tommy Smith
2/19	Ted Sloan’s Team	Diane Dominick	Ronda Sloan	Anita Bolen & Kirk Shepherd (Parable of the Good Samaritan)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
2/26	Ted Sloan’s Team	Linda Wilson	Don Flinn	Donna Long & Laura Begin (The Lenten Puzzle)	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 February

Feb 5 – Psalm 37:16-18; Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 – The Golden Rule

Feb 12 – Psalm 84:1-7; Matthew 13:24-43 – Parables of the Kingdom

Feb 19 – Psalm 41:7-10; Matthew 16:24-17:8 – Transfiguration

Feb 26 – Psalm 32:1-2; Matthew 18:15-35 – Forgiveness

Bridgeport Christian Church

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Staff

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



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**