

The Bridge

February 2022 Monthly Newsletter
of Bridgeport Christian Church

Minister's Moment

Walk into any store in the US in the month of February and you're bound to find a display designed to remind you how you can show your sweetheart your love and affection via chocolates, stuffed animals, flowers, or cards. As soon as the Christmas decorations are packed up, it seems that Valentine's Day is "next up" in the seasonal aisle. While the over-commercialization of the holiday can be irritating, Valentine's Day can be a great time to reflect on love. Here are three simple thoughts about God's Love for you to think about this month.

There are many different types of love in the Bible, and different Greek words to express it. The highest and holiest form of love is agape love. Agape love is perfect, and sacrificial. Agape love is more than just mere sentiment. Agape love is shown through action. Something to try: write the word agape on a paper heart and put it somewhere you'll see it as a reminder to practice and share God's love with all.

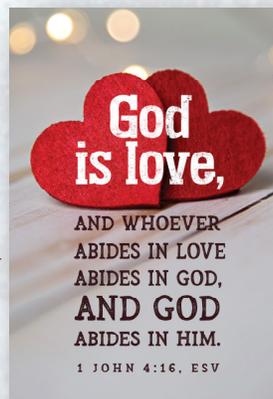
The Bible tells us that God and love are inseparable. The book of 1 John, chapter 4, verse 16 says this God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (NRSV). God and love are the same. If we feel love, we feel God and if we feel God, we feel love. If you're having

trouble discerning whether something is from God or not, ask yourself if it feels loving or not. Something to try: Try to memorize this verse. It's short and easy to remember. Try saying it every morning when you wake up and every evening when you go to sleep. If you do it every day for a week, you will have the verse memorized!

The famous "love passage" in the Bible is 1 Corinthians chapter 13. It begins "Love is patient. Love is kind." Though it is often read at weddings, it's a passage less about romantic love and more about the holy and pure agape love we mentioned earlier. It's a beautiful passage to think about and to practice. Something to try: Write down all of the qualities of love, in addition to patience and kindness. Put your list somewhere you can see it to remind you of God's love.

Happy Valentine's Day, Beloved! God loves you! Have fun as you consider ways to share God's love today and every day.

Love,
Ann



Bridgeport Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
175 Evergreen Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
bridgeportchristian.org
502-223-1165



A Green Chalice and Open
& Affirming Congregation
of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) since 1846

Inside this issue

Opportunity to Share God's Love	2
Love Remains: Week of Compassion	2
Schedules—CW&W and FJ	3
Schedules—Greeters, Worship Leaders, Elders	3
Youth Group Meeting Dates	3
Souper Bowl Party	3
February Book of the Month	3
Green News: Climate Change	4
Brrr! It's Cold Outside	4
Calendar of Events	5
February Birthdays	5
Worship Opportunities	5
Ways to Continue Your Giving	5
BCC Financial Snapshot	5
Scriptures & Topics	6

Opportunity to Share God's Love



Adapted from an email by Christian Care Communities

At Christian Care Communities, we want our residents to feel the love on Valentine's Day, now less than a month away. Christian Care is asking you to send either handmade or store-bought Valentine(s) to our residents, as some don't have family or friends who are able to visit regularly. We know we can count on our communities throughout Kentucky to help. Please ask your family, church, school, youth group, and office to help spread some happiness to our older adults on Valentine's Day! Cards can be dropped off or mailed to the locations below.

Thank you, and Happy Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Cards Drop Off Locations:

- Best Friends Adult Day Center - 5220 Grey Oak Lane, Nicholasville, KY 40356
- Bowling Green – Village Manor, 1800 Westen Street, Bowling Green, KY 42104
- Corbin – Christian Health Center, 116 Commonwealth Avenue, Corbin, KY 40701
- Cornell - 101 North Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
- Grayson - Friendship House, 174 Everman Street, Grayson, KY 41143
- Hopkinsville – Christian Health Center, 200 Sterling Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
- Louisville – Christian Health Center, 920 S. Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40203
- Middletown – 11530 Herrick Lane, Louisville, KY 40243
- Midway - The Gathering House, 101 Sexton Way, Midway, KY 40347
- Nicholasville - Bridgepointe Ashgrove Woods, 5220 Grey Oak Lane, Nicholasville, KY 40356
- Owensboro – Garden Grace, 2401 Friendship Drive, Owensboro, KY 42303
- Program Support Center – Christian Care Communities, 12710 Townepark Way, Louisville, KY 40243

Helping Hands Circle Meeting Wednesday, February 2 6 pm

By Linda Wilson

The Helping Hands Circle meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday, February 2, at 6 pm.

We are currently studying from the Christian Principles book and will be discussing "Evangelism".

Our members are currently donating money toward the purchase of a gift card for the VA Hospital.

We invite you to join us for fun and fellowship.

Love Remains: Week of Compassion Special Offering Collection

Adapted from WeekofCompassion.org

"Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives. When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You

also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education,



and empower women through vocational opportunities. In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains."



Bridgeport Christian Church will be collecting donations for the Week of Compassion during the month of February. Ways you can make a donation:

- Use the special Week of Compassion envelope for your donation.
- Place your donation in the offering box—write "Week of Compassion" on the memo line.
- Use a coin box to collect coins and then turn in the box at the end of the month.

Schedules

Children Worship & Wonder

2/6	The Parable of the Great Pearl	Karen
2/13	The Parable of the Sower	Anita
2/20	The Parable of the Good Samaritan	Karen
2/27	The Parable of the Great Banquet	Lorrie

Following Jesus

2/6	Who is the Greatest?	Lorrie
2/13	Jesus Makes Lazarus Alive Again	Lorrie
2/20	The Parable of Two Sons	Anita
2/27	The Lenten Puzzle	Brian



Greeter Schedule

2/6	Angie Grasch, Jackie Hensley
2/13	Donna Long, Judy Ziegler
2/20	Kim Minter, Steve Minter
2/27	Linda Wilson, Casey Hayden

Worship Leader Schedule

2/6	Ronda Sloan
2/13	Debbie Rodgers
2/20	Morgan Minter
2/27	Don Flinn

Elder Schedule

2/6	Donna Long
2/13	Jeff Pratt
2/20	Ron Kelien
2/27	Jeff Pratt



Youth Groups Meetings

Feb. 6, 20, 27

5-6 pm

ages 4 years to 12th grade

Souper Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb. 13

Noon (after the service)



Everyone is invited to stay and paint your own pottery for \$15.

Lunch will be provided.

Questions? Contact Kim Minter at
502-330-4836

BCC Book club's February book is the latest Michael J. Fox memoir

By Ted Sloan

The BCC book club's February book is "No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality" by Michael J. Fox. Fox is a movie and TV star best known for the "Back to the Future" movie trilogy. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease when he was 29; today, his Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research is the world's leading nonprofit funder for Parkinson's science.

The March book is the critically acclaimed novel "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 22. We will wait to see whether we will meet in person or virtually as the COVID-19 situation dictates.

Green News

How Is Climate Change Affecting You?

By Annette Hayden

Most of us are experiencing the effects of climate change, whether we realize it or not. Maybe we haven't been directly affected by drought, wildfires, rising sea levels, or extreme storm events yet. But flooding and deadly tornados have hit very close to home. In fact, meteorologists have pointed out that "tornado alley" appears to be shifting eastward, which may explain why Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois were in the path of the deadly tornadoes of December 10.

In our area, severe storms have led to injury and property damage. A few years ago, Bridgeport Christian Church had major hail damage to the roof and entire back of the building, resulting in more than \$40,000 in damages. Since 2013, Larry and I have replaced our roof twice within a span of four years due to severe hail damage. And as expected, the losses increased the cost of our homeowners insurance.

What about our health? Have you noticed the increase in asthma and respiratory illnesses in the last few years? Maybe you or someone you know suffers from a respiratory disorder. Inhalers and other medications are common today compared to four or five decades ago.

When I was a student in the '60s, I knew just one person who used an inhaler. Fast forward to my years of teaching in elementary school (2001-2010), many students relied on inhalers when breathing became difficult.



As people of faith, we are called by God to care for our earth home. But we sometimes feel overwhelmed and disheartened by the continual rise in the global thermometer and the enormity of disasters worldwide. We ask ourselves, "What can I, one in nearly 8 billion people, possibly do? Can I really make a difference in the grand scheme of things?"

The answer lies in our faith. How committed are we to making our world better? Do we even know where to begin?

Let's start by educating ourselves through trusted sources on the reasons for global warming. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the drivers of our changing climate in the United States are transportation (29%), electricity production (28%), industrial production (22%), business and residential (12%), and agriculture (9%). From this, we can see where our lifestyles contribute to climate change. But more importantly, we can use this information to identify areas for change in our lives and make a plan.

In the March issue of The Bridge, you will find ideas for change that will benefit creation. Until then, visit www.ecoamerica.org, blessedtomorrow.org and greenfaith.org to learn how each of us is connected in the world and how our choices can affect our neighbors across the planet. As 1 Corinthians 14:26-27 states, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Let's do our part to *walk more gently on God's creation* for the benefit of all!

Brrr! It's cold outside.

Adapted from BCC Facebook Page

But is it cold inside your home, too? Sealing air leaks around your home and adding insulation can make your home more comfortable and energy efficient – and provide up to a 10% savings on your annual energy bills. Simple fixes include installing weather stripping on doors and caulking around windows. You can cover leaky windows with plastic and remove over-the-door hangers for decor; they affect the door seal and allow air to enter. Bigger jobs might include sealing leaks and adding insulation in your attic, basement, or crawl space.

For information on small projects that could result in big savings, visit https://www.energystar.gov/campaign/seal_insulate. These improvements will save you money while reducing consumption of energy generated by coal-fired power plants, which cuts greenhouse gases.



Picture from <https://www.energystar.gov>

Calendar of Events

- 2/1—2 pm Zoom Bible Study
- 2/2—6 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting on Zoom
6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 2/6—10 am Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
5-6 pm Youth Groups Meeting
- 2/8—2pm Zoom Bible Study
- 2/9—6 pm Choir Rehearsal
7 pm Administrative Board Meeting
- 2/13—10 am Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
Noon Souper Bowl Party & Lunch
- 2/14—5:30 pm Community Engagement Meeting on Zoom
- 2/16—6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 2/20—10 am Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
5-6 pm Youth Groups Meeting
- 2/22—5:30 pm Book Club Discussion Group
- 2/23—11 am Elders Meeting
6 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 2/27—10 am Sunday School Classes
11 am Worship Service-In-person, Facebook, YouTube
5-6 pm Youth Groups Meeting



- 2/1 Carleigh Parr
- 2/3 Mary Clayville
- 2/5 Ginny Burton
Lucy Eddins
- 2/8 Nathan Minter
- 2/9 Suzanne Hensley
Angela Kendall
- 2/10 Wendy Evans
- 2/12 Annette Hayden
- 2/14 Jack Marston
- 2/15 Chris Hayden
- 2/16 Jan Thornton
- 2/17 Samantha Harrod
- 2/20 Ivy Van Sickle
- 2/22 Hadleigh Flynn
Tyler Harrod
Kirk Shepherd
- 2/26 Ted Sloan
- 2/28 Brenda O'Brien

Ways to Continue Your Giving to BCC

- Mail in your Tithes and Offerings! Mail is checked every day and deposits are made once a week. Our address is 175 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.
- Use our new locked drop box, located by the side door of BCC! Our Administrative Assistant and our Treasurer are the only ones with keys to the box.
- Give using the Givelify app or website.

BCC Financial Snapshot

Giving in December	\$ 20,013
Giving to date	\$194,832
Budget to date	\$240,000

Worship Opportunities

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian>

YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg

Scriptures & Topics for February

Date	Scripture	Topic
2/6	Psalm 40:1-5 John 4:46-54	Healing Stories
2/13	Psalm 34:1-10 John 6:35-59	Bread of Life
2/20	Psalm 147:1-11 John 7:37-52	Living Water
2/27	Psalm 27:1-4 John 9:1-41	The Man Born Blind

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.

Worship Service Opportunities

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian

YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg

Bridgeport Christian Church

175 Evergreen Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

<http://bridgeportchristian.org>

Phone: 502.223.1165
secretary@bridgeportchristian.org
pastor@bridgeportchristian.org

Staff

- The Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, Pastor
- Hollis Rosenstein, Dir. of Music
- Lorrie Devers, Dir. of Children's Worship



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**