

The Bridge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2021



BCC Celebrates 175th Anniversary March is Women's History Month

Spotlight on: Fay Utterback

By Mary Welch

Editor's note: As part of the 175th anniversary celebration at Bridgeport Christian Church, we have set aside March to salute the women, past and present, who have called BCC their church home. One of the most well-known, accomplished, and beloved of those women was Fay Utterback, who served in various capacities in the church and holds the distinction of being the first female elder at BCC. This feature was published in The Bridge in 2011 and is reprinted here to celebrate the life of "Miss Fay" and commemorate the invaluable contributions of all women at BCC.

On day one of my visit to Bridgeport Christian Church, the first person I recall flying around the corner's edge of my pew was this little tiny white-haired whip of a lady who was Johnny on the spot to welcome me. Fay was literally my first contact at BCC.

Fay is all about her church family – "her family," she reiterated to me. "Words cannot express my feelings as to how much I love this family," she said through misty

eyes. "This family is reliable, dependable, and so supportive."

Fay's Bridgeport journey commenced in 1968, when she started teaching Sunday School, before she had even joined the church. She recalled that, at that time, the building itself was only a shadow of what it is today. "Why, every Sunday I would have to wear a new pair of pantyhose because the pews were so rough and splintery!"

Fay and Tom Utterback settled in Bridgeport in 1956, calling their little red brick house home right on the main drag. Fay was a Baptist, and Tom was a member of the Disciples of Christ. For years, they drove past this little white country church while on their way to Evergreen Baptist Church. One day, Tom mumbled, "I hate like everything to pass this little church up every Sunday." So, one Sunday, they stopped in for a visit. And they never turned back!

Born in 1926 in Gypsum, Ohio, to "Kentucky parents" who had found work at a paper mill



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



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

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Join Us For A Guest Speaker on Zoom

By Betty Martin

Celebrate your unique life story in a new way, in the loving presence and support of other faithful women. Spiritual Director Lisa Maas will guide us through a creative and fun journey...one that will help us contemplate the word "home", appreciate who we are as God's beloved creation and explore the richness of where and who we "come from."

We will gather on Zoom on Thursday, March 11 and March 18 from 6:30 - 8 pm. There will be a little homework between sessions.

This is a church sponsored event.

Seating is limited! You must be registered to participate. Please register online at

www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/aK7mhayAZ64P3wLx9i3G45

or by contacting Betty Martin at 502-803-0858.

Celebrating the Women of BCC

To continue the year-long celebration of Bridgeport Christian Church's 175th anniversary, we have designated March to honor the women who have called BCC their church home. BCC has a rich history of strong female leadership, and every woman who has walked through the church doors has contributed to BCC's success and its service to the community.

We invite you to participate in this month's celebration by commemorating the women of BCC who are special to you. You can mail them a card or a letter to let them know what their friendship and their works have meant to you and your Christian walk. You can write a social media post to tell the world about the special women of BCC (past or present); use the hashtag #BCC175 so everyone can follow your stories!

Like all churches, Bridgeport Christian Church could not carry on without the tireless service of its women – some in positions of authority, others in unsung, behind-the-scenes roles that are essential to the operation of the church. Join us in showing our appreciation during March and all year long.

Apply Now for Helping Hands Scholarships

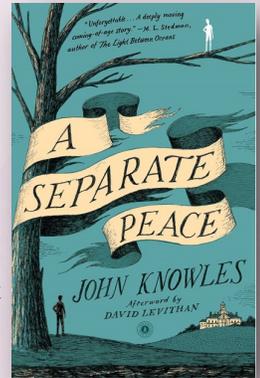
Students attending a college, university, vocational or trade school may apply for the 2021 round of Helping Hands Circle scholarships. **Applications must be submitted no later than April 26, 2021** by mailing them to Jan Thornton, 1115 Johnson Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, or Karen Averill, 1256 Ninevah Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Visit the announcement page at <http://bridgeportchristian.org> for the application.

Book Club March Choice

By Ted Sloan

Our March book will be "A Separate Peace," a coming-of-age story set in the early years of World War II, by John Knowles.

Join us for our book discussion on Tuesday, March 30 at 5:30 pm. Contact Ted Sloan for the Zoom link.



Be sure to pick up your cross pin today!

Fay Utterback Continued from Page 1

across the Ohio River, Fay is the oldest of seven children. A year later, the family relocated to Millville, where her dad found work at the distillery. Left to help raise her siblings in 1938 after her mother died of hepatitis, Fay found strength through her faith.

Thomas met Fay when he was visiting his cousin, who lived right next door to her at the Forks of the Elkhorn, while on leave from the Army. They married in 1943; Fay graduated in 1944 from Elkhorn High School and gave birth in 1945 to their first child, a son whom they named Thomas. Fay attended Fugazzi Business School in the interim of her son's birth and that of Glenda, whom they welcomed into their lives in 1952.

Fay worked for 35 years in state and local government. Her clerical skills honed during her employment garnered her "Member at Large" standing in the International Association of

Administrative Professionals (IAAP). Her coat of many colors includes 50-plus years as an Eastern Star Worthy Matron of Capital chapter, Grand Officer. She was BCC's first female elder and served as president of Helping Hands Circle and initiator of the scholarship program, a Sunday School teacher, choir member, church secretary, and a member of the pulpit committee when Keith McAliley was called to serve as BCC's minister.

Fay's vision for the church is to see it continue to grow, perhaps to the point of needing a bigger building!

In a nutshell, Miss Fay is a representative of a whole group who is not kept within boundaries – Bridgeport Christian's "Member at Large."



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 28
Worship Service Online at 11 a.m.



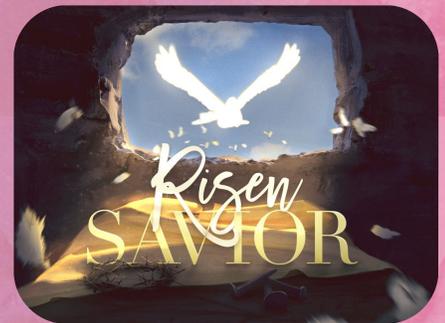
Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 1
Online Tenebrae Service at 7 pm on Facebook,
YouTube & Zoom

Good Friday—Friday, April 2
Walk the Labyrinth (see details below)



Easter Vigil—Saturday, April 3
Easter Vigil Online Service 9 pm on
Facebook, YouTube, & Zoom

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 4
Online Worship Service 11 am
on Facebook & Zoom



BCC Reopening Slated for July

By Ronda Sloan

The reopening committee has set Sunday, July 4, as the day Bridgeport Christian Church will resume in-person/on-campus worship. This decision was made after much discussion, weighing the current vaccine status/community incidence rate with anticipated improvements in both coming soon.

We will provide more details and guidance over the next few months. Many of the restrictions outlined earlier in the pandemic still will apply – masks, temperature checks, no congregational singing, etc. In

addition, Sunday morning activities and building use will be limited initially. Please watch for more information, including directions on reserving spots for your family in one of the two morning services.

Online services are a permanent part of our ministry and can be accessed by those who are not comfortable returning to on-campus worship in July.

We appreciate your patience as we have waded through these uncharted waters. We look forward to worshipping together in whatever form it may take.

Good Friday Information

Our labyrinth will be set up in the fellowship hall on Good Friday, April 1, from 9am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm. We are asking that everyone who comes to walk the labyrinth to schedule a time using this sign-up genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA9A72DAAFFC25-good>. You may sign up as an individual or in your family group, but we don't recommend more than 3 people use the labyrinth at one time. Each time slot is for 30 minutes. We ask that everyone who walks the labyrinth keep a mask on at all times and walk in your stocking feet. At the end of each time slot, anything that needs to be sanitized will be.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, but do not have access to do so online, please contact the church office.

Dotson remembered for beautifying Capitol grounds



By Linda Younkin

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the Feb. 12, 2021 edition of The (Frankfort) State Journal.

When Ken Dotson went to work for state government, he thought it would be for a year or two. Instead, he stayed for 34.

Dotson, the state's first landscape branch manager, died Feb. 3 at his home in Frankfort. He was 88 years old.

Dotson was initially reluctant to interview with then-Gov. Bert Combs for the job. "I hadn't heard anything good about state government," he said in an interview conducted by the Kentucky Oral History Commission of the Kentucky Historical Society in 2011. "Then I decided it'd be a good experience for a year or two, and it lasted 34."

One of the most enduring accomplishments of Dotson's career was the floral clock, which was built in 1961. "I had seen a floral clock, a small one, in Scotland when I was in the military," Dotson said in the interview.

"One day we (Dotson and Combs) were just talking and he said: 'I want to get people to come here. I want you to put something in they can see that will make them come back.'

"Just out of the clear blue I said, 'I saw a floral clock in Scotland,' but he kind of looked at me funny and never said anything. That fall, he called me over to his office he said, 'I saw one of those floral clocks.' He said: 'Go out to the airport, go up to Niagara Falls and look at it, and come back. We're going to build it.' That's it. That's how it started."

Dotson also planted the tulip beds and designed the rose garden at the Capitol.

"We planted thousands of tulips," said Tim Cummins, who worked with Dotson for 17 years. "We probably planted between 70,000 to 80,000 tulips."

Kim Cowherd began working with Dotson in 1988 when she was hired as a landscape planner. "He was fun," she said. "He was always joking. We had a good time, but he knew how to get business done, to get work done."

"He had to plan. You have to think ahead in landscaping, and he was always good at it. He was a little bit quirky to work for, but he knew his stuff. He knew landscaping. He probably forgot more about landscaping than I'll ever know."

What was the quirky part of the work? "They were always playing pranks on each other," Cowherd said about the crew. "You had to be a little wary on April Fool's Day when you worked for Kenneth."

When Dotson retired in 1994, Cowherd took over his position.

"I had to live for several years with hearing 'Kenneth always said

this' or 'Kenneth always did this,' " Cowherd said. "Everybody loved him. He had been around for such a long time, and he was such an icon."

He was also a mentor to those who worked for him.

"He was like a dad," Cummins said. "He had me for eight hours a day. I saw him more than my dad during those 17 years. He treated us like his sons. He didn't cut us no slack."

Because of COVID-19, a private burial service for Dotson was held on Saturday.

Survivors include three sons, Kent, Kurt (Fran) and Keith (Grace) Dotson; a daughter, Dana (Tommy) Griffin, and six grandchildren.

The family plans a memorial tree planting service in Dotson's honor at a later date.

It will be a fitting tribute to a lifelong landscaper.

"The (Capitol) grounds would not look like they do now if not for Kenneth," Cowherd said.

Picture from en.wikipedia.org



IT'S A *boy & a girl & a boy!*

LET'S CELEBRATE MOMMY-TO-BE

LAUREN RAMSEY RIDDERIKHOFF

DAUGHTER OF BECKY AND ALAN ROBERTSON AND BUTCH RAMSEY

SUNDAY
MARCH 14
2-4PM
DRIVE BY ONLY

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DIANE, ANNETTE, BONNIE, HOLLIS

RIDDERIKHOFF RESIDENCE

166 LOCUST RIDGE RD
BEHIND PEAKS MILL SCHOOL

LAUREN AND DAVID ARE REGISTERED AT WWW.BABYLIST.COM
WIPES AND DIAPERS GLADLY ACCEPTED!

Ways to Continue Your Giving to Bridgeport Christian

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Give using the Givelify app or website at <https://giv.li/s2znli>.

Green News: Beware: Utility Companies Seek Rate Hike

By Annette Hayden

Did you know that Kentucky Utilities (KU) and Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E) have asked the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) for another rate increase? This is their third in four years. While these are separate cases, the PSC will consider both at the same time.

Here is what they propose:

Higher energy bills

KU wants an increase average residential electricity bills by \$12.85 per month, an increase of 10.67 percent.

LG&E wants to raise bills by \$11.74 per month, an increase of 11.8 percent. LG&E also proposes to increase residential gas bills by \$6.17 per month, an increase of 9.4 percent

Harm to low-income residents and folks who conserve energy

They propose to substantially raise the basic monthly service charge - the flat monthly fee that all residential customers pay regardless of how much energy they use, while raising only slightly the energy charge - the fee people pay for each unit of electricity or gas they use. This approach makes it hard for low-income customers and others to manage their bills by conserving or using less energy.

Harm to the future of rooftop solar

KU and LG&E propose to reduce the value of solar energy supplied to the grid by more than 75 percent - from the current retail rate of 10 cents/kWh to 2.2 cents/kWh. The benefits of solar to the utility and ratepayers from the increase in kWh to the grid during peak demand times are not considered in this proposal. Therefore, devaluing solar energy will put rooftop solar out of reach for households, nonprofits, and small businesses.

Here is how you can help:

Make your voice heard! Write to the Public Service Commission. They need to hear from KU and LG&E customers, solar users and advocates, and organizations that help people pay their utility bills. Submit a personalized, persuasive comment (not long or technical) in this precedent-setting rate case.

- Tell them why this matters to you and how you will be affected.
- Let them know that now, during a pandemic, is not the time for Kentuckians to pay more for the energy they need, or to receive less for the energy they provide to the grid.
- Briefly describe who you are.
- State why you are concerned about this proposal.
- State what you want the PSC to do.
- Include your full name and address (required).

- Include the case number for **KU (2020-00349)** and **LG&E (2020-00350)** in your letter and in the subject line (required) if you send your comment via email.

Send your comments to the PSC as soon as possible, ideally before the end of March 2021.

Mail to:

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd., PO Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Or

Email to psc.info@ky.gov. Remember to put the case numbers in the subject line of your email.

Information provided by Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light. Nonprofit organizations representing low and moderate income customers, small businesses, and the future of affordable and clean energy include Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Mountain Association, and Kentucky Solar Energy Society, all represented by Tom FitzGerald of the Kentucky Resource Council. Separately, the Sierra Club is also intervening.



Picture from www.sunrun.com

Online Directory Coming in March

At BCC, we have begun using Breeze membership software. We have been releasing it slowly in order to work out the kinks and have heard positive results.

In mid-March, we are going to open access to the online directory to members of BCC. You will be able to view and edit your contact information, list emergency contacts, list allergies we might need to be aware of and more. No one but Pastor Ann and Paula will have full access to your information. You will be able to access the phone number, email address and home address of other members of BCC through the directory. If you do not wish to have this information available for others to see, please contact the office before March 10.

You will also be able to view the church events calendar and be able to see the volunteer schedule and sign up to volunteer.

First, you will receive an email with more information and then an invitation by email. You will be able to access the online directory on your computer and on your phone (using the app). Once you have created your account, please check your profile to make sure your information is correct and make any corrections needed.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Paula for a printed copy of the directory.

**Daylight Savings
Time
Sunday, March 14**

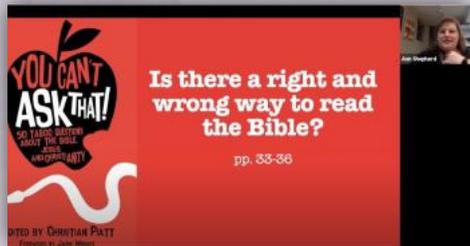


Thursday Book Study March Questions

“You Can’t Ask That!: 50 Taboo Questions About the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity”

Thursdays at
2:30 pm on Zoom

Check out our
YouTube Channel
for the Book Study
video lessons!



Schedule of topics

- ◆ 3/4 – No Book Study Meeting
- ◆ 3/11 – What does the Bible really say about homosexuality? Can you be LGBTQ and be a Christian? A minister? More denominations and Christian communities are welcoming LGBTQ people, as well as ordaining LGBTQ as ministers. Is this really possible? (pages 13 & 137)
- ◆ 3/18 – How do we reconcile Old Testament command for vengeance (eye for an eye) with Jesus’ command to turn the other cheek and love our enemies? (page 29)
- ◆ 3/25 – In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Do people have to choose to follow Jesus to go to heaven? And what does it mean to choose his way? (page 83)

You can purchase the book by contacting Pastor Ann or by purchasing it from Chalice Press https://chalicepress.com/products/you-can-t-ask-that-50-taboo-questions-about-the-bible-jesus-and-christianity?_pos=1&_sid=14b481c2d&_ss=r

Upcoming Events for the 175th Anniversary Year of Celebration

As we move through the year, please watch the monthly Bridge newsletter and Wednesday Email Blast for event details.

- ◆ **April** - Earth Day/Earth Stewardship Sunday—Special worship service and we will donate 175 trees to areas ravaged by fires.
- ◆ **May** - BCC Day at Cane Ridge—either in-person or virtually.
- ◆ **June** - Collection of 175 food items for the Franklin County Food Pantry and bench dedication.
- ◆ **July** - A patriotic celebration and a recognition of the contribution of men throughout BCC’s history.
- ◆ **August** - Collection of supplies for young people who attend the Kings Center.
- ◆ **September** - The annual GreenStock celebration will recognize the congregation’s 175 years of service to the community.
- ◆ **October** - Donation of 175 handmade plastic mats. See page 3 for instructions on how to begin this project now.
- ◆ **November** - Big weekend celebration! On Saturday, Nov. 6, we will host an ice cream sundae party for the community. The service on Sunday, Nov. 7, will feature a guest speaker and commissioned music. Immediately following the service, we will share a catered fellowship meal.
- ◆ **December** - Special BCC 175th anniversary Christmas ornaments will be available for sale.



Check it out!!

The Children Worship & Wonder videos are now on our YouTube channel!

Call-in Option for Worship

We have a phone number for the call-in option. The Meeting ID and Password for all Sundays will remain the same. Below is how to access the call-in option for Worship at 11am on Sunday mornings.

1. Call **1-301-715-8592** at 10:59 am or so on Sundays by using any kind of phone that can call long distance.
2. You will hear a recording which will prompt you to dial the Meeting ID **895 4649 4510**.
3. After recorded message, dial #
4. After this, you will be asked to enter the password: **068564**. After entering this, you should be on the call and able to hear all of the worship.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events

- March 4—CANCELLED “Questions” Book Study on Zoom
- March 7—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship on Facebook Live, call-in option
- March 10—7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting on Zoom
- March 11—2:30 pm “Questions” Book Study on Zoom
6:30-8 pm Calling Women of Faith on Zoom
- March 14—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship on Facebook Live, call-in option
- March 18—2:30 pm “Questions” Book Study on Zoom
6:30-8 pm Calling Women of Faith on Zoom
- March 21—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship on Facebook, call-in option
- March 25—2:30 pm “Questions” Book Study on Zoom
- March 28—Palm Sunday
10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship on Facebook, call-in option
- March 30—5:30 pm BCC Book Club Meeting on Zoom



Dear Bridgeport Christian Church,
 Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 in 2020. We deeply appreciate your support of the Food Pantry.
 Best wishes,
 Regina Wink Swinford, President, Emergency Community Food Pantry of Franklin County

Dear Bridgeport Christian Church,
 Thank you for your generous support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass in 2020! Your contribution [of \$300.00] played a crucial role in keeping families close to their sick child(ren) during times of unprecedented medical need.
 With warmest regards,
 Nate Graham, Executive Director, RMHC of the Bluegrass



Birthdays



- 3/1—Steve Minter
- 3/2—Harrison Van Sickle
- 3/3—Glenda Abrams, Morgan Minter
- 3/7—Mary Fint
- 3/13—Myra Boyson
- 3/15—Nick Perkins
- 3/18—Madalyn Baesler, Micah Baesler
- 3/19—Mary Taulbee
- 3/23—Sarah Boston
- 3/25—Gary Wolf
- 3/26—Lisa Smith
- 3/29—Skyler Shepherd
- 3/30—Kinsley Alford
- 3/31—Cindy Elrod



Dear Church Family and Friends,
 A special thank you to Reverend Ann, Hollis and Rillen for their part in the funeral service for Bill.
 I received so many Christmas cards, sympathy cards, and thinking of you cards. The food was a tremendous help and so, so delicious!
 Please know our family appreciated all the many ways you touched our hearts and made the grieving process so much easier.
 Love,
 Karen, Cindy and Lucy

Dear Friends,
 I want to say thanks for the cards, prayers, phone calls, and for the food. I didn't have to cook. I am doing better, but still sore. Again, thanks.
 Emma Bieber

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, Topics, & Volunteers for March

Date	Scripture	Theme	Worship Leader & Elder
March 7	Luke 15:1-32	Parables of lost sheep, coin, prodigal son.	Don Morse, Ron Kelien
March 14	Luke 16:19-31	Parable of the rich man and Lazarus	Ann Johnson, Anita Bolen
March 21	Luke 18:31-19:10	Jesus came to seek and save the lost.	Don Flinn, Jeff Pratt
March 28	Luke 19:29-44	Triumphal entry—Palm Sunday	Sissy O'Brien

Worship Service Opportunities

Facebook -
www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian

YouTube -
www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg

Call-in—See instructions on page 5 of this newsletter

Bridgeport Christian Church

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Staff

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

