

The Bridge

Monthly Newsletter of Bridgeport Christian Church

September 2021



Minister's Moment

Romans 8:38-39: "I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created."

Every two years, disciples from across the United States and Canada join together for our General Assembly. The 2021 Assembly was supposed to happen in Louisville, but was cancelled in the summer of 2020 because of the pandemic. Earlier this year, the General Board decided to offer a virtual gathering that happened the first weekend in August. The theme for the gathering was Nothing can Separate us from the Love of God.

Continued on page 2...

Virtual Worship Returns

By Regathering Committee

At its meeting on August 18, the Reopening Committee agreed that we need to take proactive steps to protect the congregation during the surge of COVID in the community. Our own physicians and other medical professionals estimate that the next 4-6 weeks may be among the most critical in terms of disease spread and hospital availability.

In light of those factors, Bridgeport Christian Church will maintain its normal in-person schedule for Sunday, Aug. 22. This includes worship, Sunday School and youth groups. Beginning Aug. 23 and continuing until Oct. 3, the facility will be closed for everything but essential business, and all activities/services/meetings, etc., will be canceled or held virtually.

Continued on page 2...

Inside this issue

Minister's Moment Continued	2
Virtual Worship Returns Continued	2
Helping Hands Circle Meeting	2
GreenStock Cancelled	2
Bible Study on 1 Maccabees	2
175th Anniversary Upcoming Events	3
The Kings Center Supply Drive Update	3
Green News: Water Conservation	4
Thank You Notes	5
Volunteers Wanted	5
Youth Ministry Zone	5
Sunday School Is Cool	5
Ripped from the Headlines	5
Book Club September Pick	6
Worship Opportunities	6
Week of Compassion in Haiti	6
Calendar of Events	7
September Birthdays	7
Y'all Camp at Wakon' Da-Ho	7
Ways to Continue Your Giving	7
Scriptures, Topics, Volunteers	8



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

Minister's Moment Continued

In her sermon during closing worship, the Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, talked about how the General Board chose this scripture as the theme for the 2021 Assembly before we knew that COVID-19 was going to change everything. She talked about how, especially in the midst of all we have been through in the past 17 months, we have seen the limitless love of God and the limitless imagination of God. She encouraged us as a church not to place limits on God by placing limits on our imaginations as we move forward in this world that we live in.

I think this scripture is a good reminder for us as we go back to meeting in virtual spaces for the month of September. Please read the article from our Reopening Committee to learn more about this decision. We have had to find new ways to worship and new ways to be church in a world that is scary and new. We have had to use our imaginations and our resources to find ways to share God's love with the world around us. And we are continuing to figure out how to be church in new ways and will continue to use our imagination and resources as we move forward.

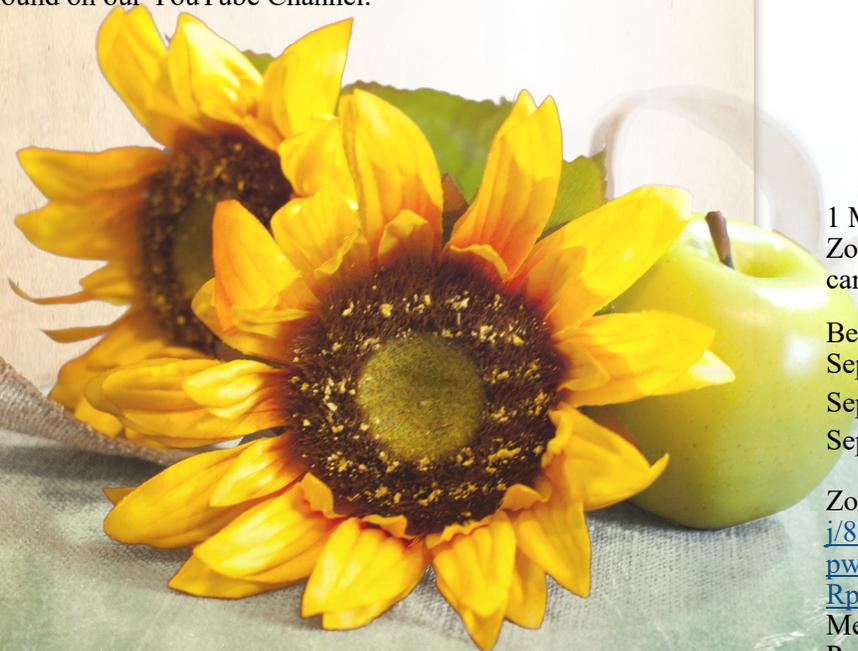
Rev. Owens ended her sermon with another scripture, Philippians 1:6, which says, *"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus."* What a good reminder for us. God is working in us and through us and will continue to use us for Christ's good works in this world. Even as we worship virtually in September, let us continue to look and see how God is using us to do good works and remember that nothing can separate us from the limitless love of God.

Peace and Love,
Ann



By Annette Hayden

Due to the latest COVID surge, the Green Team has decided to cancel our annual event and instead, repost videos from last year's virtual GreenStock each Tuesday as a Green Tip on our Facebook page. Videos can also be found on our YouTube Channel.



Virtual Worship Returns Continued

When we reopened in June, we hoped we would not have to make this decision. However, it has always been our goal to keep the congregation safe — especially our unvaccinated children. We no longer believe that is possible without taking this step.

Our medical community is exhausted and being overrun with cases. Many hospitals in Kentucky are full. This action is our way of loving our neighbor.

We know this news will be disappointing to many of you. As a group, we are sad that this decision was necessary. We thank you for your support.

Helping Hands Circle Meeting

By Linda Wilson

The Helping Hands Circle will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 6 pm.

Angie Kendall will lead us in a devotion and Anita Bolin will lead our study. Our lesson comes from the new book: *Christian Disciplines*, Chapter 1: Quiet Times.

In accordance with COVID guidelines, we will meet on Zoom. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88321857771?pwd=NkNCZlZ3UDAvTWhIN2pmWlpHTEUtdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 2185 7771

Passcode: 112877

Bible Study on 1 Maccabees

We will spend 5 weeks studying 1 Maccabees. If you are interested in this Zoom Bible study, please email Ann so she can make sure you have 1 Maccabees.

Below is the schedule:

September 2: 1 Maccabees 3:1-9:22

September 9: 1 Maccabees 9:23-12:53

September 16: 1 Maccabees 12:53-16:24

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86208001052?pwd=RzhBQU9RyeUE5Qnc5UVVlWlh2ZXUtdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 0800 1052

Passcode: 050301

175th Anniversary Celebration: It will look different, but it will go on

By Annette Hayden

As we approach our 175th anniversary date, November 7, the Anniversary Committee and Pastor Ann have decided to alter our celebration. Due to the recent surge in COVID cases and the uncertainty of the pandemic situation in the weeks and months to come, we will not host the celebration gathering open to the community on Saturday, November 6 and the catered meal planned for Sunday afternoon, November 7. However, whether we worship in-person or virtually on **November 7, we will hear the message from guest minister Rev. Dr. Derek Penwell**, senior minister at Douglass Boulevard Christian Church in Louisville.



As we move through the remainder of 2021, please watch the monthly Bridge newsletter and Wednesday Email Blast for event details and/or changes.

- ◆ September - Annual GreenStock Festival cancelled due to COVID. 175th Anniversary logo t-shirts will be available for purchase.
- ◆ October - Donation of handmade plastic sleeping mats for homeless persons. Instructions can be found on YouTube for crocheting or weaving plastic bags into mats.
- ◆ November - Continue with October project to make sleeping mats for the homeless. Monetary support for BCC Missions to purchase Christmas gifts for youth who have aged-out of local support systems. 175th Anniversary coffee/tea mugs and refillable drink containers will be available for purchase.
- ◆ December - 175th Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase.

We will NOT go without a celebratory gathering. In the spring or summer of 2022 (as COVID allows), we will gather at the church for a special worship service with a guest speaker, music (a commissioned piece) by the chancel choir, and an outdoor meal. We will publish oral and written histories and display pictures and artifacts. It may be delayed, but it promises to be a celebration you won't want to miss!



The Kings Center Supply Drive Update

By Ronda Sloan

The 175th anniversary celebration supply drive for The Kings Center continues through August. Although we will be meeting virtually, we want to gather as many items as possible for this worthy cause. Please contact Annette Hayden (502-330-9174) or Ronda Sloan (502-418-8728) if you have supplies to donate. They will make arrangements to meet you at church or can do a porch pick up at your house.

Thanks to all of you who have already donated. All items will be delivered in early September.

The Kings Center wish list of items includes:

- Paper towels
- Disinfectant spray
- Copy paper
- Dry erase markers
- Liquid soap
- Snacks – must be individually packaged. Favorites include Goldfish, Doritos, Sun Chips, Rice Krispie treats and Oreo cookies.
- Bottled water (required for after school programs due to COVID-19)
- Bike helmets (for children ages 6-12)
- Gently used bicycles
- Latex gloves
- Craft supplies - any supplies would be welcome. Some examples: small blank canvases, pre-packaged craft kits, paint, sets of watercolors and markers.



“In this way we remember the Lord Jesus’ words: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
Acts 20:35

By Annette Hayden

With heat advisories, drought, wildfires, and flooding ravaging our country and the world, you may wonder why we should be concerned about conserving water in our “neck of the woods.” After all, we are experiencing record rainfall events and averages in Kentucky. Well, let’s take a look at the bigger picture.

While water covers 71 percent of the earth’s surface, only around 3 percent is freshwater, and of that, only 1.2 percent is potable or drinkable. We learned in science class that water IS a renewable resource and recirculates through the water cycle. But if one part of the cycle – such as groundwater, a drinking water source for many Kentuckians – is depleted or contaminated, it may take thousands of years to recover. This creates water shortages. And today, extreme weather events from our quickly changing climate are a major contributing factor. Thus, the need for everyone to conserve water.

Here are some ways you can conserve in your home.

- ◆ Don’t pre-rinse dishes before placing in the dishwasher. Let the machine do the work. If you must pre-rinse, fill an appropriate size container with just enough water for rinsing.
- ◆ When starting your shower and waiting for the water to warm, catch the cold water in a pan or bucket to water your plants. *(Thanks to Vicki Lea for this recommendation.)*

- ◆ Reduce your shower time by 1 minute and save more than 1,600 gallons of water per year. Better yet, take a “Navy shower” and save 15,000 gallons per year. Turn on the water long enough to get wet, turn it off to shampoo and lather, and turn it back on to rinse.
- ◆ When brushing your teeth, wet the toothbrush and turn off the water while brushing. This will save gallons.
- ◆ Check your plumbing for leaks. Use leak detection tablets or a drop or two of food coloring in your commode tank to detect leaks. Replace the washer if your faucet drips.
- ◆ Catch water in a rain barrel or bucket to use to wash your car or water your plants or garden.



- ◆ Reduce your food waste. It takes a lot of water to produce crops, and it is estimated that around 30-40 percent of all food in the U.S. is wasted. Plan your meals and use leftovers.

- ◆ Eat less meat. Raising and processing beef uses an abundance of water. It is estimated that it takes over 900 gallons of water to produce one 8-ounce beef steak, enough to fill 44 bathtubs. That’s a huge water savings if you eat just one less beef steak per year. Think of the savings per month or week. Also, much of the water used in beef production is for feed crops. Consider buying locally raised, grass-fed beef to reduce water usage.

Visit waterfootprint.org to learn how much water is used to produce fruit, vegetable and meat products.

A tip for those who are canning fruits and vegetables: Reuse water. The heated water used to dip tomatoes or other fruits/veggies in for easy peeling can be used for the water-bath or pressure canner. Just add a small amount of vinegar prior to canning.

While we seem to have an abundance of drinking water today, we may suffer from drought tomorrow. Let’s be vigilant today for the future. After all, our children are watching and learning from our actions!

For more information and to teach children about water conservation with games and videos, visit <https://waterfootprint.org/en/resources/multi-media/>



What is your water footprint?

Thank You Notes

Dear BCC family,

Thank you to all who said prayers, sent cards, and made goodies while I've been recovering from my medical procedures. My family and I certainly appreciate the thoughtfulness and many blessings bestowed upon us.

Sincerely,
Vicki Lea

Dear Members of Bridgeport Christian Church,

Thank you for the \$200 honorarium check given for my leadership with your congregation.

The money is being placed in our travel fund and will be used by our regional ministers for future service within many other congregations in Kentucky.

Best wishes in your ministry. I am excited for Bridgeport Christian Church and for you!

Sincerely,
J. Dean Phelps, Transitional Regional Minister



All Youth Groups meetings have been cancelled until further notice.



Sunday School Classes (except Ripped from the Headlines) have been cancelled through Sunday, Sept. 26.

Ripped from the Headlines will meet on Sundays at 10 am on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84719027538?pwd=NFpQZGZsSmpUa0NlMlIHo3QT09>

Meeting ID: 847 1902 7538
Passcode: 146160



Volunteers Wanted

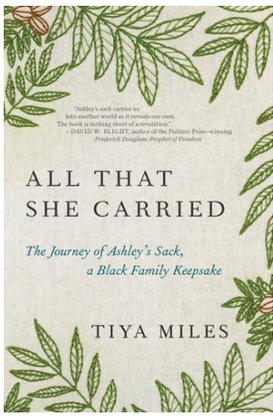
By Annette Hayden

There are a few things that need attention in and around the church. These include:

- Painting baseboards and doors in basement
- Trimming shrubbery and weeding beds around the church and Ed. Annex
- Attaching new BCC sign to post located at corner of US 60 and Old Bridgeport Rd.

If you have some time to help with any of these projects, contact Steve Minter at 502-229-2199 or Larry Hayden at 502-330-2900. Your help will be most appreciated.

“Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long.” Psalm 25:5



Book Club's Pick for September

Book club's next book will be "All That She Carried" by Tiya Miles. In accordance with BCC's current COVID protocols through September, book club will not meet in person but will meet via Zoom on Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m.



Worship Opportunities 11 Am Sundays through October 3

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

YouTube - 11 am on Sundays
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg

Call-in Option - 11 am on Sundays

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

1. Call [1-301-715-8592](tel: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](https://www.zoom.us/j/89546494510).
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.

Week of Compassion in Haiti

Taken from the Disciples News Service Email

*"On Saturday morning, August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the south of Haiti. Although it is too early to know the full impact of the destruction, casualties, and loss of livelihoods, initial reports from **Week of Compassion** partners indicate that the impact has been devastating and that hospitals are overwhelmed. Learn more about how you can help:"*

<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/stories/week-of-compassion-responds-to-earthquake-in-haiti?fbclid=IwAR1QRfndVHN1FI-M6-CEr8wGYycTqtH26ScCIEG1dZjMMbhZUCxjdAo9EYI>

"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6,

Calendar of Events

- 9/1—6 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting on Zoom
9/2—2:30 pm Thursday Bible Study on Zoom
9/5—11 am Online Worship Service & Call-in Option
9/6—Office Closed for Labor Day
9/8—7 pm Administrative Board Meeting
9/9—2:30 pm Thursday Bible Study on Zoom
9/12—11 am Online Worship Service & Call-in Option
9/13—7 pm History Meeting on Zoom
9/16—2:30 pm Thursday Bible Study on Zoom
9/19—11 am Online Worship Service & Call-in Option
9/26—11 am Online Worship Service & Call-in Option
9/28—5:30 pm Book Club Discussion Group on Zoom
9/29—11 am Elders Meeting on Zoom

***Our 11 am online worship services are on our Facebook page and our YouTube Channel.**



- 9/1 Dennie Burton, Bonnie Hayden
9/2 Anne Wolf
9/4 Sulena Bryant
9/20 Karen Averill, Richard Craycraft, Ann Morse
9/25 Richard Hensley, Rillen Thomas
9/29 Allan Robertson
9/30 Evan Alford



Y'all Camp at Wakon' Da-Ho

September 3-5

Everyone is welcome.

It's a great opportunity to worship, play and make new friends.

We hope to see you at camp.

Register at <http://www.ccinky.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-YALL-Camp-Reg-Form-copy.pdf>

For more info: www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/wakonda-ho/

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.



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](https://www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian)

[YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg)

Scriptures, Topics, & Volunteers for Sept.

Date	Scripture	Sermon Topic	Volunteers
September 5	John 21:1-9; Genesis 33:1-17	Restore	Lorrie Devers, Jeff Pratt
September 12	Genesis 1:1-2:4a; John 1:1-5	Creation by the Word	Don Flinn, Ron Kelien
September 19	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Binding of Isaac	Annette Hayden, Brenda O'Brien
September 26	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Jacob's Dream	Brenda O'Brien, Donna Long

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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



**Bridgeport
Christian
Church**