

# The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | APRIL 2023

## Minister's Moment

I have been blessed this school year to work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade youth group on Sunday nights. I have done youth work in the past, working with kids as young as preschool, all the way through high school age. But this year has been fun. I haven't worked with this age group in a while, and this group of youth challenges me in so many great ways.

For the last month or so, we have been doing what we call "Pastor's Class". In it, we discuss the covenants God has made with humanity from creation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, to the covenants that God makes with us today, as we continue to learn and grow in our knowledge and faith. At the end of the class, I ask each youth whether they are ready to be baptized.

This year, I am blessed to be baptizing five of our youth. And that has me thinking about my own baptism and baptism in general. I was 11 when I was baptized. My church was different. I didn't have a pastor's class to attend before I made the decision. I just knew it was time. I talked to the associate pastor about it, and she agreed, and the next Sunday, I went forward to join the church. The service of baptism happened soon after I joined church. I remember the minister asking me if I believed in Jesus and if I accepted him as my Lord, and then he said, "I baptize you, my Christian sister." And that is the moment I remember the most – being called his Christian sister.

Baptism is a special and sacred experience in the life of the church. It is an outward sign of an inward decision to follow Jesus and live a Christian life. It is also a step that allows us each to feel accepted in God's family, maybe more than we have ever felt before. It is more than just a ritual. It is a sacrament, a holy event. I invite each of you to take time, especially during Holy Week, and remember your baptism. Ask yourself what you remember and what made it a holy moment for you. May God bless each of you.

Peace,

Ann

## Inside this Issue

- **Easter Breakfast**
- **Bring a Friend Sunday**
- **Camp Dates**
- **VBS save the date**
- **Helping Hands Project**
- **Choir News**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Volunteer Services**
- **Green News**
- **Water Saving Tips**
- **Church Women United**
- **Book Drive**
- **Book Club**
- **General Assembly**

Join us for a delicious

# EASTER BREAKFAST

**Sunday April, 9  
9:30 to 11:00**

We are joining in fellowship on Easter morning from 9:30 to 11:00 to enjoy a breakfast including muffins, pastries, quiches, and other sweet and savory treats. Milk, juice and coffee will also be provided. If you would like to contribute one of your favorite recipes, contact Betty Martin at 502-803-0858.

## Bring a Friend Sunday, April 30

April 30 will be Bring a Friend Sunday. Please invite your family and friends. We will have a short time of fellowship downstairs beginning at 10:30 a.m. Plan to join us for doughnuts, muffins, and more before morning worship.

Stamped postcards are available in the narthex. We are providing two kinds – one specific to Bring a Friend Sunday and others to send to members of our church family who haven't joined us lately.

### 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.

COKEBURY'S

# HERO HOTLINE

Called Together to Serve God!

**SAVE THE DATE**

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!  
Sunday, July 9 to Thursday, July 13 \* 5pm to 8pm each night.  
For age 4 to Grade 5.

## Helping Hands Spring Project For the Women's Shelter

Helping Hands is collecting gently used purses and plans to fill them with toiletry items for the Women's Shelter. The items to be included are toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, deodorant, shampoo, make-up, lipstick, chapstick, nail polish, nail polish remover, and notebooks and pens. We would like to invite the congregation to participate! A collection box will be placed in the Narthex. For those who would like to give but don't have a purse to donate, a 12"x12" sewn fabric bag with a draw string will do just as well! Thank you for your support!

# Bridgeport Choir News

April 2023

As you know, Easter is a movable feast, but did you know (I did not until today) that the changing date for Easter each year is based on an astronomical event? Easter falls on the first Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the first full moon after the spring equinox. This means Easter can fall as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. I think there is some poetry here. The equinox marks the coming of Spring—the promise of new life and growth, as the days begin to grow longer, as the light of the sun (the Light of the Son) rises higher in the sky. There is poetry in Easter following the full moon. The moon always brings some light to the night but is brightest when it is full—the moon pushes aside as much darkness as it possibly can when it is full, just as the risen Christ brings the true light and pushes aside all darkness, forever. As the sun rises on Easter morning, so, too, does the Son rise! May this Easter season be filled with the Light of Jesus for us all.

Love,  
Laura Foley



## Please join us for our upcoming events!

April 6, 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 7, 12:30 pm Good Friday Service

April 9, 9:30 am Easter Breakfast

10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am Easter Service

April 23, 11:00 am Earth Stewardship Sunday

April 30, 10:30 am Bring a Friend Sunday Fellowship

11:00 am Bring a Friend Worship Service.



## Volunteer Services

Share your talents, heart, and time as a volunteer with Bluegrass Care Navigators.

Do you have a heart for helping others? We need you! Impact your community by giving your time to support our offices, patients, and families as a volunteer for Bluegrass Care Navigators. How you can make a difference?

**Our volunteers use their talents and interests to participate in a wide range of activities.**

Office/ Clerical  
Data Entry  
Support Events and fundraising activities

Meal Delivery, and making Birthday Cakes for patients.

Crocheting, Knitting, Sewing, and Crafts. Flower arranging and delivery

Make phone calls and check on families' supply needs. Provide support to patients in their final hours.



Discover how you can make a difference!  
Call 502-223-1744 or complete an application at [bgcarenav.org/volunteers](http://bgcarenav.org/volunteers)

# Green News

## Water

The cradle of life, an expression of God's grace

As we celebrate Earth Stewardship Sunday on April 23, we will focus our attention on the life-giving resource – Water. “Just as water is the essence of all life, water is also the primary element in the life of a Christian, where the sacrament of baptism marks the sacred source of the spiritual life.” (Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew) Yet nearly 2 billion people today do not have access to clean drinking water.

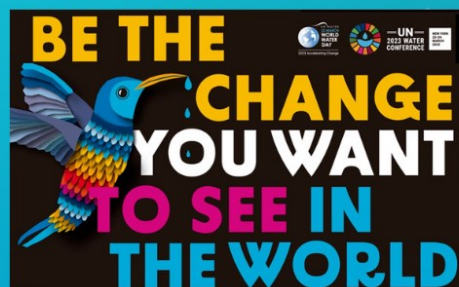
Our water resources are being depleted and degraded as a consequence of our agricultural and industrial use of water, deforestation and climate change, overconsumption, waste, and pollution. And while the challenges are great, the opportunities to conserve and preserve this precious gift are even greater.

What is the global water and sanitation crisis?

When we talk about the global water and sanitation crisis, it can be difficult to visualize. Facts and statistics are important, but they can be impersonal and fail to motivate people to take action. So, what would it look like if we applied the global water crisis to a community of just 100 people?

- 25 people would have to collect unsafe water from a stream or pond, often far away, or wait in line for hours and pay a high price to a vendor. The water would regularly make them so sick they couldn't go to work or school. Death from entirely preventable diseases, such as cholera and typhoid, would be a constant danger.
- 22 people would have no choice but to either go to the toilet in the streets, bushes, or fields or to use unhygienic and dysfunctional latrines. Women and girls would suffer the most as they would be more vulnerable to abuse and attack, and unable to properly manage their menstrual health.
- 46 people would live in areas vulnerable to disease because their wastewater and feces flowed back into nature without being treated. The other 54 people, having safe toilets connected to systems that safely treat waste, would remain largely unaware of how important their sanitation services are to protecting their health and well-being.
- Around half of the wetlands around the community would have been lost in recent decades, increasing the risk of flooding.
- 22 people would either work in or receive care at, a healthcare facility that has no basic water service, placing them at heightened risk of infectious diseases. Many of those will be receiving treatment for diseases that could have been prevented with safe water and sanitation in the community.
- Agriculture and industry nearby would take over 80 percent of the available water.
- Due to climate change, droughts would increasingly hit water resources and food supplies. Floods would threaten to destroy water and sanitation facilities and contaminate water resources.
- The community would be unlikely to have a cooperation agreement with neighboring communities to share and protect water.
- The poorest and most vulnerable members of the community, who would be disproportionately affected by the crisis, would face the biggest struggle to get the attention of authorities to improve their water and sanitation services.

As people of faith, we must be good stewards of the Earth and act responsibly to conserve and preserve this precious resource.



## Water Saving Tips

- Check faucets and shower heads for leaks. One drip every 5 seconds adds up to 5 gallons per day.
- Toilets are the single largest user of water (up to 33%) inside the home. Inspect toilets for leaks with a leak detection tablet or food coloring and repair.
- It takes 30-50 gallons of water to fill a bathtub. Instead, take a shower using a low-flow showerhead.
  - Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save up to 4 gallons per minute/200 gallons per week for a family of four.
    - When washing hands, turn off the water while lathering.
- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Instead, fill a dish pan with water for washing and another for rinsing.
  - Don't waste water rinsing dishes before loading the dishwasher – it's unnecessary for newer models. And when selecting a dishwasher, look for one with the Energy Star label – they use 4 gallons of water per load.
- Collect the water you use while rinsing fruits and vegetables or while waiting for water to get hot and use to water houseplants.
  - Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.
- Drink tap water and avoid bottled water. Tap water is regulated and purer than bottled water, which contains harmful microplastics.
  - Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Instead, compost vegetable food waste and save gallons of water.
    - When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Raise your mower blade to allow taller grass to shade the soil. It will take less water to keep your lawn green.
  - Don't dispose of used motor oil or other liquid waste into storm drains. Collect and take to a collection business.
- Take household hazardous wastes to a collection site in your community in the spring and fall.

### Book drive collects hundreds of books for E. Ky. libraries

The books collected in BCC's March book drive were delivered to the Harry M. Caudill Memorial Library in Whitesburg on March 27 for distribution to the Fleming Neon Public Library and others in the Letcher County library system.

The Fleming Neon library sustained heavy damage due to the widespread flooding in eastern Kentucky in July 2022, and the Blackey and Harry M. Caudill libraries also were damaged. A project of the BCC book club, the book drive collected approximately 600 books from members, our friends at Kentucky Monthly magazine, and friends Steve and Kembra Taylor of Lexington. Thanks to everyone who shared the blessing of literacy!



Photo captions:

The books are packed for delivery. (Ted Sloan photo)  
Ted Sloan (second from left) and Ronda Sloan (who is taking the photo) deliver the books to the Harry M. Caudill Memorial Library. Staff pictured are, from left: Scarlett Stewart, Susan Adams, and library director Alita Vogel.  
"Volunteers work to clean the Fleming Neon Public Library after the floods of July 2022"

## Church Women United

April 29, 2023

10:00 am

Highland Christian Church  
265 Versailles Rd.  
Frankfort, KY

Celebrating Friendship Day  
Please bring a friend!

Program will focus on" Mental Health issues for  
Women and Children"

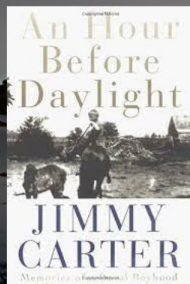
Presented by NAMI (National Alliance For Mental  
Health Issues)

## Book club will read Carter's 2001 memoir

The BCC book club will read "An Hour Before Daylight" by former President Jimmy Carter in April.

"An Hour Before Daylight" is President Carter's 2001 memoir of his boyhood in rural Georgia during the Great Depression. He writes about his parents and other relatives, friends, and neighbors in the sharecropping culture of his youth.

The book club is scheduled to meet on April 25. 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).



# KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

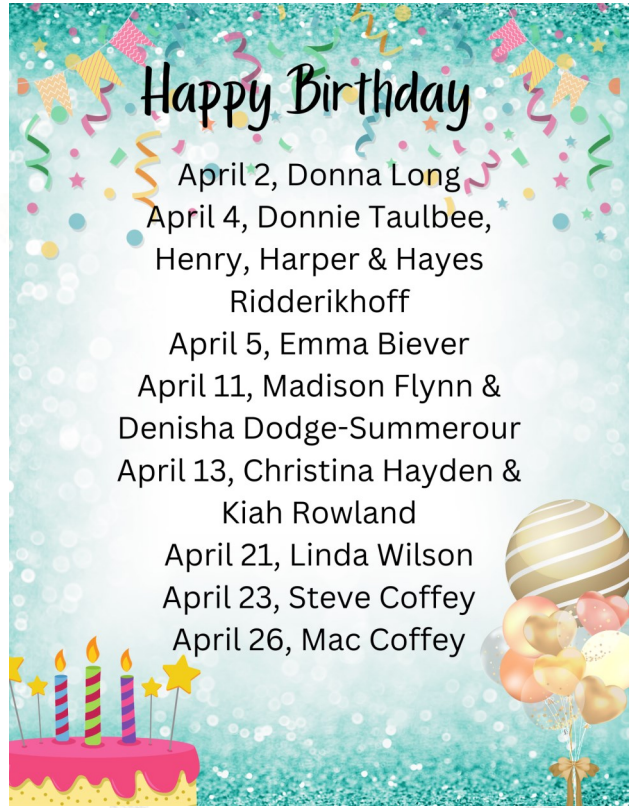
GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

*July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville*

In 2021, we gathered digitally and echoed Paul's words that "nothing can separate us from the love of God," and now we are gathering digitally and in person for the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1. Mark your calendars to be a part of worship, workshops and community building as we celebrate "The Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us." Learn more and get promotional resources at: [www.ga.disciples.org](http://www.ga.disciples.org)

## Calendar of Events

<p>April 2, 10:00 am Sunday School          11:00 am Worship          4:30 Choir Practice</p> <p>April 3, 2:00 pm Zoom Bible Study</p> <p>April 4, 2:00 pm Helping Hands Circle</p> <p>April 6, 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday</p> <p>April 7, 12:30 pm Good Friday</p> <p>April 7-14, Valerie is out of the office</p> <p>April 9, 9:30 am Easter Breakfast          10:45 am Easter Egg Hunt          11:00 am Easter Worship</p> <p>April 16, 10:00 am Sunday School          11:00 am Worship          4:30 pm Choir Practice          5:00 pm Youth Group</p> <p>April 18, 6:00 pm Education Committee Meeting</p> <p>April 19, 7:00 pm Board Meeting</p> <p>April 20, 6:00 pm Men's Group</p>	<p>April 23, 10:00 am Sunday School          11:00 am Worship Service          4:30 pm Choir Practice</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth Group</p> <p>April 25, 5:30 pm Book Club</p> <p>April 26, 11:00 am Elders Meeting</p> <p>April 30, 10:00 am Sunday School          10:30 am Fellowship          11:00 am Worship          4:30 pm Choir Practice          5:00 pm Youth Group</p>
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Date	Greeters	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship & Wonder	AV Booth
4/2	Ginny Burton's Team	Ronda Sloan	Betty Martin	Anita Bolen & Kirk Shepherd (Jesus' Last Passover)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
4/9	Ginny Burton's Team	Ted Sloan	Jeff Pratt	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (Jesus is Risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
4/16	Ginny Burton's Team	Debbie Rodgers	Larry Hayden	Anita Bolen & Laura Begin (Jesus is Risen: The Road to Emmaus)	Wayne Begin & Tommy Smith
4/23	Ginny Burton's Team	Annette Hayden	Anita Bolen	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge-Summerour (The Great Banquet)	Larry Hayden & Tommy Smith
4/30	Ginny Burton's Team	Linda Wilson	Ronda Sloan	Donna Long & Kirk Shepherd (The Good Shepherd and the Wolf)	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**

Date	Scripture	Topic
April 2	Psalm 118:25-29; Matthew 21:1-17	Triumphal Entry
April 9	Psalm 118:19-24; Matthew 28:1-10	Resurrection
April 16	Psalm 40:9-10; Matthew 28:16-20	Great Commission
April 23	TBD	Earth Stewardship Sunday. Special Guest: the Rev. Carol Devine
April 30	Matthew 10:40-42; Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18	Beginning of Paul's Mission

**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**