

# The Bridge

NEWSLETTER | BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2023

## Minister's Moment

On July 29-August 1, I was blessed to be able to attend the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, this time hosted in Louisville. Kirk Shepherd, Annette Hayden, Betty Martin, and my children also attended. It was an absolute blessing from beginning to end, as we worshipped together, attended workshops and programs, and did the business of the church.

The business is what I want to update you all on today. You can find out more about the business sessions at General Assembly and read all the reports and business items by going to [ga.disciples.org/business](https://ga.disciples.org/business). We had six Sense-of-the-Assembly resolutions (one of which you can read about in Green News). I want to tell you about two of the resolutions.

One resolution was titled "Calling the Church to Oppose Christian Nationalism." Christianity Today says, "Christian nationalism is the belief that the American nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way. Popularly, Christian nationalists assert that America is and must remain a 'Christian nation' – not merely as an observation about American history, but as a prescriptive program for what America must continue to be in the future." Also, according to the resolution, "Christian Nationalism misrepresents our faith to our neighbors, thereby, turning people away from the life-giving love of God, by identifying Christianity with hate, social hierarchy, fear of the 'other,' and violence." Christian Nationalism promotes division and is counter to the heart of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in our call for unity and welcome at the Lord's Table. This resolution called for our denomination to oppose Christian Nationalism, educate ourselves about Christian Nationalism and its dangers, and speak out against it. For more information about this resolution and Christian Nationalism, please read the following article: [https://publicwitness.wordandway.org/p/disciples-confronting-christian-nationalism?utm\\_medium=ios&fbclid=IwAR3jXtv00PZepST4zknRbMzG4hjA\\_b7U3OKfDAve2Vdhz2ccU7t5wvSx9Fc](https://publicwitness.wordandway.org/p/disciples-confronting-christian-nationalism?utm_medium=ios&fbclid=IwAR3jXtv00PZepST4zknRbMzG4hjA_b7U3OKfDAve2Vdhz2ccU7t5wvSx9Fc)

Another resolution that was discussed and passed, with no dissenting votes, was called "Invitation to Oppose Anti-Trans Legislation and Affirm the Dignity of Transgender and Gender-Diverse People." According to [translegislation.com](https://translegislation.com), across the United States, 83 anti-trans bills have passed this year so far, including two in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This resolution states that, as a denomination, we "reaffirm the historic commitment of this movement to recognize and affirm the sacred dignity of all peoples as all are made in the sacred image of God and deserving of respect and honor." The resolution called on our denomination, ministers, ministries, and members to stand up against this kind of harm and to become "safe spaces" for those who are gender-diverse and transgender. We have also been encouraged to learn more about using pronouns through the Pronoun Language Lab Resources, which can be found at <https://parkavenuechristian.com/resources/>

All the work we do at General Assembly is important. Watch for more opportunities to gather and learn from the resources available from General Assembly. There is a lot of work to do. Let us strive to do the work of the kingdom of God that is both within us and among us.

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**KINDOM  
OF GOD  
WITHIN US  
AMONG US**

## Bridgeport Choir News

September 2023

I wonder if you are like me. My entire week builds toward Sunday. Sunday is the high point.

Sunday is the point. Each week, I am filled with joy and anticipation as I drive over from Jessamine County for church. I cannot wait. And church is not the building to which we drive—it is a place where our family gathers. The family that loves God and loves one another. I often think of that verse in Matthew's gospel that shares what Jesus taught us, saying, "Where two or three gather in My Name, there am I, with them." And on Sunday, we are gathered as a family, and He is there! What a blessing!

I feel His presence every week. I feel it in the wisdom shared by Pastor Ann. I feel it in our voices raised in song. I feel it in the encouraging and caring words we share together before, during, and after worship. And in the loving smiles. Not only do I feel it in my heart, I believe it in my soul.

When I drive back home, I am full—as if I've received the loaves and fishes from Jesus' Hand. I am satisfied. And on that drive home, I begin looking forward to next Sunday. I wonder if you are like me. I think you just might be. See you Sunday.

Love,

*Laura Foley*

## What in the world is a **PRAY**Ground?

Friends, I have some exciting news for you and for our children's ministry. Beginning on Sunday, September 03, we will begin what we are calling our "PrayGround" experiment with the young ones in our congregation. On the first Sunday of each month, we will gather on a carpet in the front of the sanctuary (restaurant for now) with our activities, our Bibles, and our open hearts ready to receive what God has for all of us. During the worship service, the children will have the opportunity to stay focused with their own activities and play while also engaging in the worship service and listening to the word of God being preached by Pastor Ann.

As we all know, children are a blessing to our congregation. God even gave them wiggles and giggles to remind us of the joy of life and living as God's beloved. Since it is our first time doing this, you'll notice how they participate may be different than you do. Sometimes I think that we as adults ought to rip a page out of the children's book and learn how to move and explore more than we do! For indeed God makes us this way!

I hope you'll join us on Sunday, September 03 as we welcome our young folks to the worship service. If they want to bring an activity from home, they're more than welcome to do so. Don't worry about them distracting or bothering anyone. A volunteer and I will be journeying alongside the children during the service to ensure everyone of their safety.

Have questions? Contact me at [Joshuaelijahjacksoncampbell@outlook.com](mailto:Joshuaelijahjacksoncampbell@outlook.com)



**Jackson Campbell**  
Coordinator of Children & Youth

## Community Engagement Team Hosts FORR Forum

In August, the Community Engagement group hosted a "Let's Talk About It" discussion at the Paul Sawyer Public Library for Focus on Race Relations by providing sandwiches and desserts. Several of our members attended and participated.

It was a delight to see the support from our church as we have always been known for our hospitality and our giving nature.

FORR was appreciative of the gesture and told us it made the discussion seem more warm and inviting. We got a lovely Thank You note from them.

BCC is one of the sponsors for the 2023 Capital Pride Festival Oct. 14 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Old Capitol grounds. We will have a table and provide Communion as we did last year.

I think this year we are going to add homemade doggie biscuits. If you have a recipe or already know how to make them, perhaps you will consider making some for us to hand out. Perhaps you would like to take a shift at the Bridgeport table, as short as 30 minutes or as long as two hours. We appreciate any amount of time you would like to join us. I encourage you to visit the festival to show your support for our LGBTQ community.

Our November "event" will be to gather art supplies for the kids at The Kings Center. They are always very appreciative of any donations and enthusiastic about their plans to put things to good use. We will add love and prayers to go along with the paint brushes.

Mary A. Watts

## BCC BOOK CLUB WILL TAKE A TRIP TO "THE HEAVEN & EARTH GROCERY STORE"

The BCC book club will revisit a favorite author in September when we read "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store," the latest from James McBride.

"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" tells the story of a dilapidated neighborhood in 1920s Pottstown, Pennsylvania, where immigrant Jews and African Americans live side by side. The neighbors join forces to rescue a deaf orphan who has been institutionalized in an asylum.



Our next meeting will be Sept. 26 at the home of Larry and Annette Hayden. For more information about the book club, or to be added to our email list, contact Ted Sloan at [tsloan76@bellsouth.net](mailto:tsloan76@bellsouth.net).

## Recovery Update

Bridgeport Christian Church Family,

On Aug. 21, the Administrative Board authorized Property Chairperson Casey Hayden to sign a contract on behalf of the church for ServiceMaster of Louisville to perform the repairs to the damage from the June 13 fire. This is the same company that has been cleaning up the fire damage and storing items in preparation for the repairs.

ServiceMaster estimates that the sanctuary could be ready for us to worship there as early as mid-January, and their work on the rest of the church will be complete by mid-summer 2024. We should point out that any estimated timeline is just that – an estimate – and, as with any structure that has existed for several decades, it is reasonable to expect that they will run into the unexpected as they work. We appreciate your understanding and your patience.

BCC will continue to worship at The Evergreen Southern Kitchen for the foreseeable future. You have been willing and able to adapt to our circumstances, and we have enjoyed consistent attendance of enthusiastic worshipers. This reinforces the point we have made from the beginning of this process: The church is not a building. It's YOU, worshipping together, enjoying fellowship, and continuing the work of the church. We are blessed to have a strong core of dedicated members. Thank you.

Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, senior minister

Diane Dominick, chairperson, Administrative Board

## THE GLITZ



If you are interested in having lunch at The Glitz sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, please let Sissy O'Brien know, and she will try to make a reservation. (Please contact Sissy by September 3.)

# Green News

## Disciples Address Food Waste at General Assembly

by Annette Hayden

On July 29, Betty Martin, Pastor Ann and Kirk Shepherd, and I, along with more than 3,000 other Disciples, participated in the passage of Resolution GA2338 “Concerning Food Waste, Food Insecurity, and Environmental Justice.” Food waste has been on BCC’s Green Team radar for quite some time. You may remember that our youth presented a program last year on Earth Stewardship Sunday.

So why would Disciples present this resolution? Let’s look at the background information that supports it. “Climate change affects all of us, but especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Climate change negatively affects agriculture and fisheries by decreasing food harvests, causing greater food insecurity and loss of food worker livelihoods; climate impacts on food systems are projected to increase occurrences of malnutrition and diet-related mortality.

“Remarkably, rich countries in North America and Europe waste as much food as sub-Saharan Africa produces, a clear example of squandering the Earth’s resources without regard for those who are hungry.

Thirty to forty percent of all food produced in the United States is wasted.

“Food waste accounts for about a quarter of the trash sent to landfills and generates the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as 32.6 million cars. Methane, a greenhouse gas emitted in landfills as food decomposes, is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide when it comes to trapping heat in the Earth’s atmosphere.

“Beef production produces more than five times the amount of greenhouse gas (methane) emissions per serving as poultry.

“Many cities in the United States have demonstrated the ability to dramatically decrease greenhouse gas emissions in landfills by providing city-wide composting programs. Working with local governments to create affordable composting programs is a faithful response to our role as stewards who till and keep the garden.”



Through this resolution, congregations are urged to:

- Compost food scraps and coffee grounds rather than throwing them away;
  - Create a plan to share leftover food following church dinners;
- Encourage serving plant-based foods rather than meats at potluck dinners;
  - Serve water from refillable pitchers;
- Eliminate the purchase of disposable plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and tablecloths;
- Create a culture of dishwashing as a spiritual practice and time of fellowship;
  - Convert church lawns into community vegetable gardens;
- Provide space for local farmers markets and food distribution centers;
- Utilize established resources provided by Green Chalice; and
- Work faithfully with local governments to create affordable composting programs in our neighborhoods.



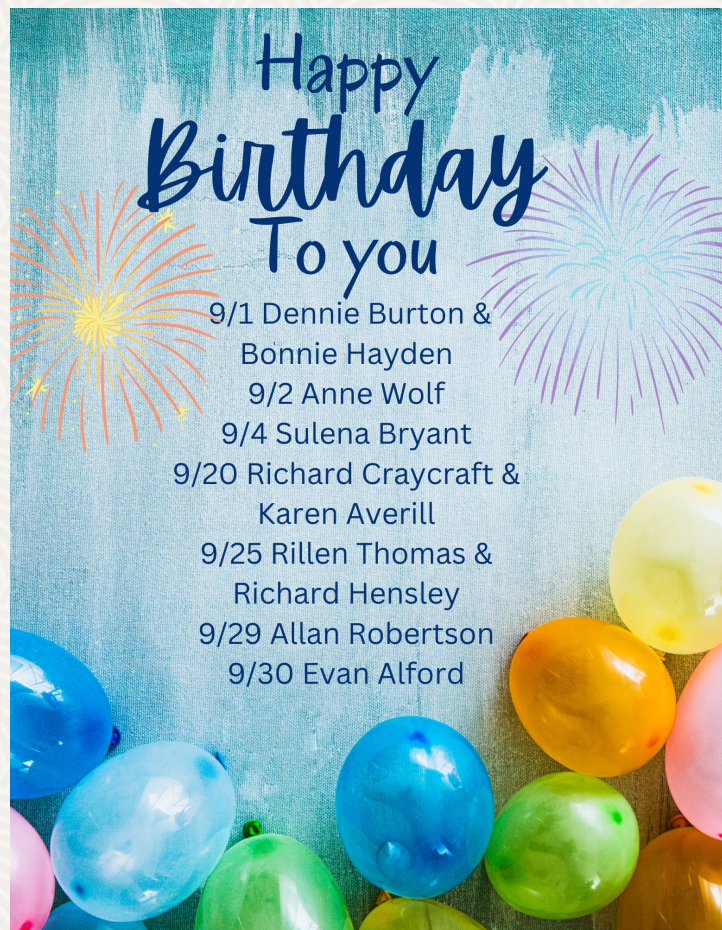
Individuals are urged to:

- Compost food scraps and coffee grounds rather than sending them to the landfill;
  - Purchase and prepare only the amount of food needed;
- Manage food storage by eating foods before they are no longer edible;
  - Bring home leftovers from restaurant meals;
- Replace one beef meal per week with poultry, fish, legumes, vegetables, or pasta; and
  - Utilize established resources provided by Green Chalice.

The story of “the least of these” in Matthew 25 teaches us to feed all who are hungry in the same way that we would readily feed Jesus. Our actions make a difference. By taking care of the Garden, we care for the “least of these.”

# Calendar of Events

- 9/3— 10:30 am In-person and online Worship
- 9/4—Office closed for Labor Day
- 9/5— 5:30 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting (Education Annex)
- 9/6—2:00 pm Missions Committee Meeting (Zoom)  
5:30 pm Church Wide Yard sale/Fundraiser/ Auction Meeting (Zoom)
- 9/10— 10:30 am In-person and online Worship  
5:00 pm Youth Group
- 9/11— 2:00 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
- 9/13— 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting
- 9/17— 10:30 am In-person and online Worship  
5:00 pm Youth Group
- 9/18— 2:00 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
- 9/24— 10:30 am In-person and online Worship  
5:00 pm Youth Group
- 9/26—5:30 pm BCC Book Club (Larry and Annette Hayden are hosting)



Date	Greeters	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship & Wonder
9/3	Mary Watts' Team	Ronda Sloan	Betty Martin	Jackson Campbell & Laura Begin
9/10	Mary Watts' Team	Debbie Rodgers	Ronda Sloan	Jackson Campbell & Donna Long
9/17	Mary Watts' Team	Linda Wilson	Jeff Pratt	Jackson Campbell & Kirk Shepherd
9/24	Mary Watts' Team	Don Flinn	Anita Bolen	Jackson Campbell & Karen Averill

**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.

Date	Scripture	Topic
9/3	Matthew 16:21-28; Romans 12:9-21	Love in Action
9/10	Mark 1:16-20; Genesis 2:4b-25	Garden of Eden
9/17	Mark 10:27; Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7	Isaac is Born
9/24	Mark 14:32-36; Genesis 32:9-30	Jacob Wrestles with an Angel

**Bridgeport Christian Church**

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**Staff**

- The Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, Pastor
- Valerie Drake, Admin. Assistant
- Laura Foley, Music Director
- Jackson Campbell, Children & Youth Coordinator



**Bridgeport  
Christian  
Church**