

March Newsletter

The Bridge 2025

Minister's Moment

I always look forward to Lent (and I have been called weird for it, I have to admit). But there is something about Lent. Even though it is a time of preparation, like Advent, it feels very different. Maybe it's the lack of twinkle lights? No?

In Lent, we truly have time to reflect on our lives of faith. It is a time of preparation as we walk with Jesus to the cross, remembering all that that entails, and preparing ourselves, once again, for resurrection. It is a time that can often feel dark and gloomy. Yet, it is a time for deepness in a way that we do not get to experience at other times of the year.

This Lenten season, we will dive into a series called "Everything In Between: A Lenten Series in Luke's Gospel" by A Sanctified Art. We will look at stories that we are familiar with – the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, Zacchaeus, and several parables. Because we know these stories so well, we often lose the "shock factor" behind Jesus' words. You see, Jesus' ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally highlighted the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. By studying these stories, we may see how they mirror many of the divides we are experiencing in the here and now.

I want to encourage each of us, as we enter both this season and this series, to use the resources we have provided for reflection and prayer. Lenten Devotionals, with themes that align with the sermon series, are available at church, and we will post a devotional thought each day on Facebook.

So, let our journey begin.

Ann



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All-Church Lunch and Pottery Painting Party

Sunday, March 9

Noon

Fellowship Hall

Please join the Education and Evangelism Committees for what promises to be a super fun event!

Susan from Elements Clay Studio in Lawrenceburg will once again join and help us with this event. Cost will be \$15 per piece of pottery painted.

The Evangelism Committee will prepare lunch. If you would like to help with lunch, please contact Ronda Sloan.



General Assembly Save the Date

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will come together for General Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee July 12-15. To register or for more information, visit ga.disciples.org.

The logo features a colorful circular graphic on the left, followed by the text "2025 MEMPHIS" in a small font, "BEYOND" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, "GENERAL ASSEMBLY" in a smaller font below it, and the biblical reference "EPHESIANS 3:20-21" in a very small font. At the bottom, the dates "July 12 - 15, 2025" are displayed.

BEYOND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EPHESIANS 3:20-21
July 12 - 15, 2025



Bridgeport Choir News

March 2025

Do you know the story of how King Jehoshaphat defeated Moab and Ammon?

The story unfolds in 2 Chronicles 20:

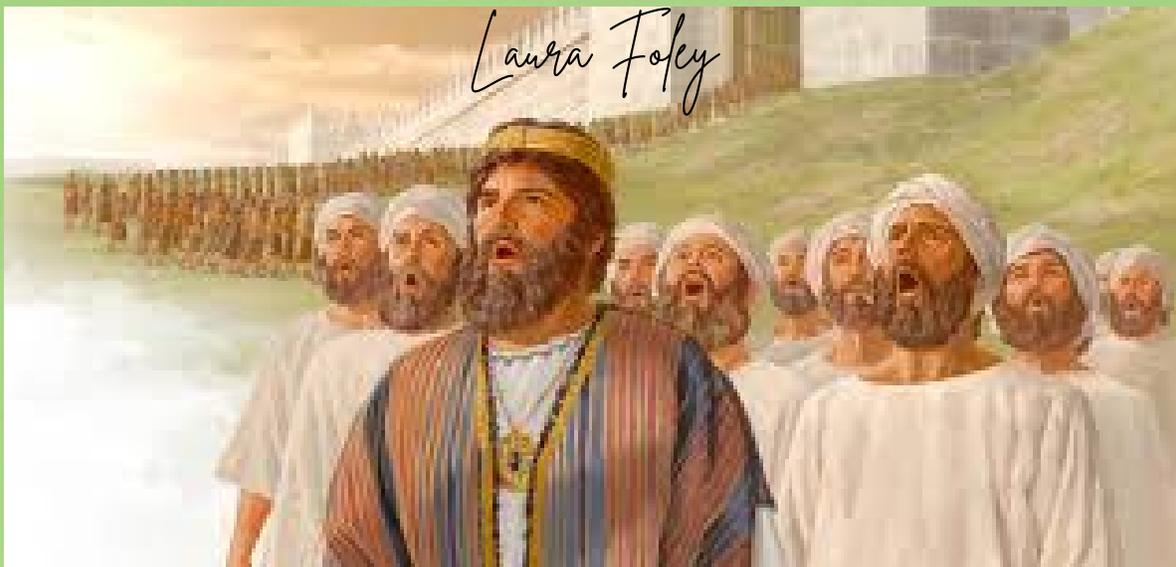
After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat ... alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord ... Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord ... Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

"Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever."

Imagine, a Choral Army marching out to face an armed army seeking to destroy them. This chapter tells the story of God's Faithfulness and, yes, the enemy was defeated. I encourage everyone to read 2 Chronicles 20 for the full story, but I think the lesson is clear:

When we lift our voices in praise and song, God hears us, God loves us, and we cannot be defeated.

Love,



CAMP WAKON'DA-HO 2025 DATES

YOSEMITE, KY | REGISTER AT CCINKY.NET



SPRING WORK WEEKEND	APRIL 25-27
MINI CAMP (2-3)	MAY 30-JUNE 1
CYF 1 (9-12)	JUNE 2-7
EIGHTER'S CAMP (8)	JUNE 8-14
JUNIOR CAMP (4-5)	JUNE 16-20
CAMP 101A (K-2*)	JUNE 20-22
CYF 2 (9-12)	JUNE 23-28
CHI RHO 1 (6-8)	JUNE 30-JULY 5
CHI RHO 2 (6-8)	JULY 7-12
CAMP 101B (K-2*)	JULY 19
Y'ALL CAMP (ALL AGES*)	AUGUST 29-SEPT 1

*FIND DETAILS REGARDING AGE RESTRICTIONS, CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS, AND PRICING AT CCINKY.NET/MINISTRIES/CAMP/WAKONDA-HO



Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) - \$110 (\$55)

CYF 1 (Grades 9-12) - \$300 (\$150)

Camp (Grade 8) - \$325 (\$162.50)

Junior Camp (Grades 4-5) - \$275 (\$137.50)

Camp 101A (Grades K-2 with an adult) - \$60 per person (\$30 per person)

CYF 2 (Grades 9-12) - \$300 (\$150)

Chi Rho 1 (Grades 6-8) - \$300 (\$150)

Chi Rho 2 (Grades 6-8) - \$300 (\$150)

Camp 101B (Grades K-2 with an adult) - \$35 per person (\$17.50 per person)

Y'all Camp (all ages; youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) - TBA

Registration is online. We will send registration and payment information directly to those eligible to attend camp this summer, with explicit instructions.

Note: You will be asked to pay at registration (they have changed it this year).

Each church will be given a unique coupon code to enter at checkout. This means you will pay only 50% of the camp fee. The church will receive a bill at the end of summer for the balance.

Questions? Contact Anita Bolen.

Lent Zoom Bible Study

For Lent this year, the Monday afternoon Zoom Bible Study will follow the video series "The Final Days: A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels" by Matt Rawle. In this study, we will explore all four of the Gospels, looking at how each offers a unique perspective on Jesus' life and ministry. We will also encounter personal stories that illustrate the dynamic interplay between faith and life, as we reflect on our own journeys of faith and the ways our faith is shaped by those around us.

Date/Scripture Topic

- 3/10 Mark 14:32-42; Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46 Meet You at the Flagpole
3/17 Luke 19:29-38; Matthew 21:12-16 Looking for a Messiah
3/24 Mark 8:27-33; Mark 15:25-39; Mark 16:1-8 Yes, I Am: The Passion According to Mark
3/31 Matthew 11:2-6; Matthew 27:3-5; Matthew 27:15-24; Matthew 28:16-20 You Have Said So, but I Say to You: The Passion According to Matthew
4/7 Luke 22:45-51; Luke 23:6-12; Luke 23:32-34a, 39-43 A New Covenant to Remember: The Passion According to Luke
4/14 John 13:1-9, 12-14; John 18:33-38a; 19:14b-15; John 19:25b-27, 33-35 A Word that Weeps: The Passion According to John

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86208001052?pwd=RzhBQURyeUE5Qnc5UVVlWlh2ZXRpdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 0800 1052 Passcode: 050301

Contact Pastor Ann with questions or to be included in the Bible Study email.



Graduates

Have a graduate in your family? Let us know.

Contact Donna Long.



Lent Schedule

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is March 5 this year. We will have our Ash Wednesday service on **March 5 at 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We hope you all will attend.

Devotionals are available for pickup.

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday, April 13.** Worship in the sanctuary and online at **11 a.m.**

Maundy Thursday service will be Thursday, **April 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary and online.

Good Friday service will be Friday, **April 18 at 12:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary and online.

Easter Sunday Worship will be on Sunday, **April 20 at 11 a.m.** in the sanctuary and online.



BCC Book Club To Read Stowe Classic in March

The book club will take on a challenging classic in March when we read “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The story of the suffering of Uncle Tom and other enslaved persons – which opens in the parlor of a Kentucky estate – was a sensation when it was published in 1852. It made Stowe – the daughter and wife of ministers – a household name, and many credit it with launching the series of events that led to the Civil War.

Please note that some of the language and events described in the book are offensive and unacceptable by modern standards. The book is available in hard copy, audio, and digital form from local libraries and may be downloaded in various formats at <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/203>. An 1898 reproduction of the book is available from Google Books, or you may email tsloan76@bellsouth.net for a PDF copy.

Kathy Crabtree, right, lights a braid of sweetgrass to share the aroma with book club members Feb. 24. The book club read “Braiding Sweetgrass” by plant scientist and Indigenous author Robin Wall Kimmerer in February.
(Ronda Sloan photo)



BCC WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025 WRAP-UP

Making Space – Moving Toward Sanctuary

Psalm 27:4: One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

As we gathered in a circle to begin our study and discussion of making space and moving toward sanctuary, we were given thoughts and questions to consider. “What is sanctuary to you?” “Come to Jesus with an empty bowl.” This thought led to discussions about the many forms of clutter in our lives:

- Physical – stuff
- Emotional – relationships, self-criticism, judgment
- Time – over-commitment, group participation, digital clutter

During the study, we reflected on these questions: What nourishes you? What sustains you? What inspires you? What satisfies you? Where do you give back? What makes you love life? What are you grateful for? Recall a time when you discovered sanctuary – what happened?

One of the handouts we received encouraged us to become the best version of ourselves by saying goodbye to these five things that may be hindering our growth.

1. Seeking outside approval;
2. Neglecting your health;
3. Holding on to bad relationships;
4. Comparing yourself to others; and
5. Not believing in yourself.

Participant Comments:

The retreat renewed my interest and desire to continue to be organized and reduce clutter in my home and physical life but also drew focus to the need to reduce the clutter in my spiritual life and allow for the joy of sanctuary. – Betty Martin

Each year, the retreat helps me reevaluate my physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Lisa Maas, our Spiritual Director, always guides us to look more deeply into ourselves – our fears, motivations, gifts, etc. This year, I discovered and, in some cases, rediscovered the clutter that is keeping me from finding sanctuary and the peace and fulfillment of God’s grace. I truly enjoy the laughs and fellowship we share during our time together and highly recommend this retreat. – Annette Hayden

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Making Space – Moving Toward Sanctuary (continued)

Each year, I automatically reserve the first weekend of February for “The Retreat.” With newfound anticipation, I look forward to keeping company with the most incredible group of ladies. Their wisdom, compassion, and unconditional acceptance of each of us are absolutely inspirational, to say the least. True fellowship in every sense of the word. With each assignment, comes a renewed self-awareness compelling me to further challenge my spiritual self. Lisa encourages us to think outside the box and push the envelope a little further. Growth is what I strive for, and I always come away from that coveted weekend wanting more. Peace, calm, self-forgiveness, and a stronger relationship with God are well worth the annual visits! – Mary Welch

I am so grateful for the opportunity to join in the women's retreat at Loretto. Not only is it spiritually uplifting, it affords me the time to reflect on my faith journey, and to recharge my commitment to better serving my church and our community. Not only do I learn new leadership skills, I also learn more about the inner workings of our church. This opportunity is truly a blessing. – Linda Wilson

Save the date for the 2026 retreat scheduled for February 6-8. All women are welcome.



Week of Compassion Special Offering Extended

Due to a weather event and a canceled worship service in February, we have extended the Week of Compassion special offering to include Sunday, March 2. Week of Compassion is the relief ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that responds on the ground after disasters worldwide. BCC received financial assistance as we recovered from our 2023 fire.

You may make a one-time or year-round donation by going to www.weekofcompassion.org.

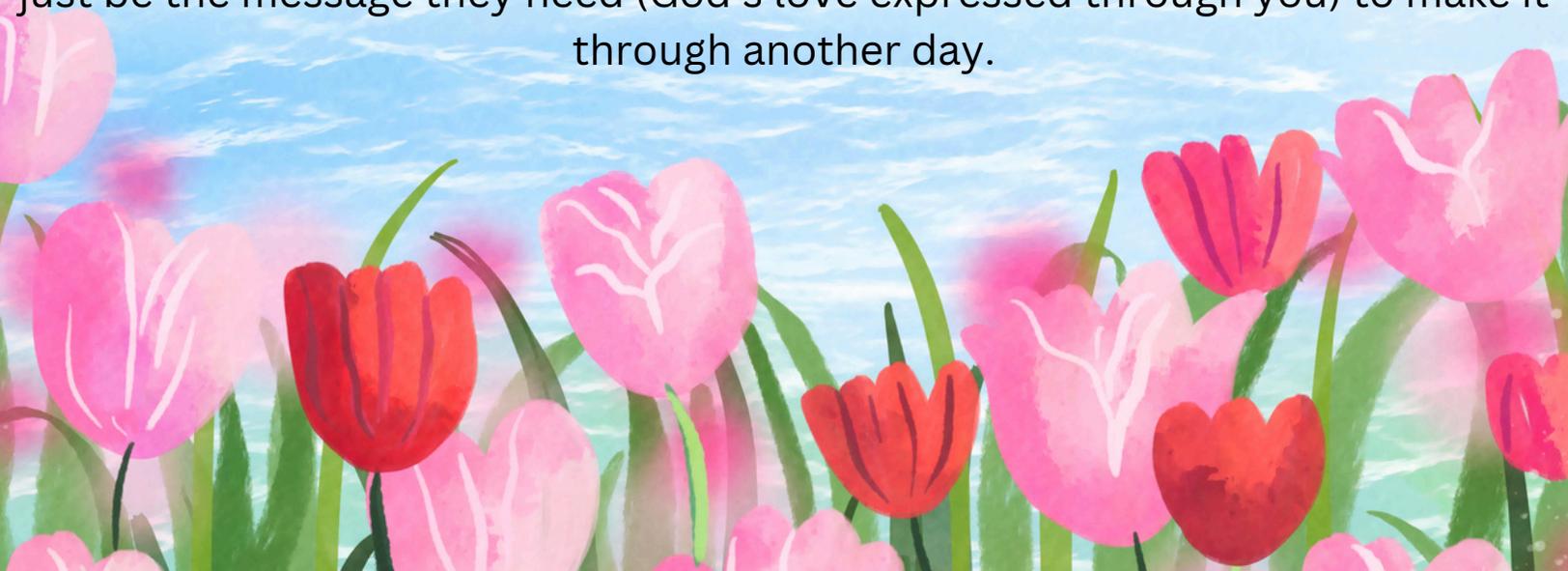
Missions Committee News

Committee members met in February and planned community outreach events for the year.

We currently prepare and serve the lunch meal at the **Soup Kitchen** on the third Monday of each month. We plan to do the same for Fresh Start (formerly The Women's Shelter). We will plan a menu of meat, sides, dessert, and drinks for 12-15 adults and children. Then we will prepare the food in our homes or church and deliver it on a Monday afternoon (TBD) for dinner. If you would like to help, contact Linda Wilson (330-2348) or Annette Hayden (330-9174).

Emergency Food Pantry Food Delivery: Beginning in March, Missions members will be on call to pick up requested food boxes from the Franklin County Emergency Food Pantry and deliver to the church for recipient families to collect. Members on call include Ginny Burton, Annette Hayden, Donna Long, and Linda Wilson.

PRAY IT FORWARD CARDS: Back by Popular Demand. Beginning in March, these cards will be available at both entrances of the sanctuary. Take a few and when you do a good deed for someone like carry bags, pay for a coffee or meal, chauffeur to a doctor/grocery, or the many random acts of kindness too numerous to mention, leave a card with the recipient of your gift. It may just be the message they need (God's love expressed through you) to make it through another day.



Green News

Citizen Action: What Can We Do?

The Kentucky legislature is currently in its “short” session, and several bills have been introduced and are making their way through the legislative process. So what are these bills, how do they affect us, and what can we do? The House and Senate bills that are of particular concern to our health and the environment are:

- SB 89: would impact water quality by eliminating protections for groundwater and headwater streams. It passed the Senate 30-5 and was received in the House but has not yet been assigned to committee.
- HB 137: broadly interpreted, would restrict citizen air quality monitoring that could be considered by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet and the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District. It passed the House 73-16 and is currently in the Senate Committee on Committees.
- HB 641: would allow coal ash to be “beneficially reused” at underground or surface coal mines and the resulting reclaimed land to be used for any suitable purpose including agriculture.
- HB701: Crypto-mining/digital currency – prohibits local zoning changes to protect the community from noise and abandonment from these loud digital-asset mining businesses. They are heavy electricity users, and Kentucky produces more carbon dioxide pollution from cryptocurrency mining than any other state. Also, it creates significant e-waste since the specialized hardware becomes obsolete every 1.5 years.

The number to call any and all legislators is 502-564-8100 or toll-free 1-800-372-7181. To check a bill’s status, and for more information about these and other bills, visit www.legislature.ky.gov/lrc. For detailed explanations, visit the Kentucky Conservation Committee at www.kyconservation.org or the Kentucky Resources Council at www.kyrc.org.

World Water Day – March 21

The United Nations has declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers Preservation, with the first World Day for Glaciers to be held on March 21 to raise global awareness of the critical connections between the cryosphere, climate change, the water cycle, the economy, environment, and society. Glaciers are critical to life – their meltwater is essential for drinking water, agriculture, industry, clean energy production, and health ecosystems. Rapidly melting glaciers are causing uncertainty to water flows, with profound impacts on people and the planet. Did you know:

- In 2023, glaciers lost more than 600 gigatons of water, the largest mass loss registered in 50 years. (World Meteorological Organization)
- About 70 percent of Earth’s freshwater exists as snow or ice. (WMO)
- Nearly 2 billion people rely on water from glaciers, snowmelt, and mountain run-off for drinking, agriculture, and energy production. (UN-Water/UNESCO)

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Green News

continued



- Increased glacier melting contributes significantly to global sea-level rise, with today's sea level about 20 centimeters higher than in 1900. (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
- Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius could save glaciers in two-thirds of World Heritage sites.

We can affect glacier melt by reducing our carbon footprint. Here's how:

- Transportation: Drive less and plan efficient routes; walk, bike, use public transportation, or carpool; consider an electric or hybrid vehicle.
- Energy at home: Switch to renewable energy sources such as solar/wind/geothermal (check local utility for availability); use energy-efficient appliances; adjust thermostats to moderate temps; properly insulate your home.
- Diet and food choices: Eat less meat and prioritize plant-based options; buy local produce; avoid food waste.
- Waste management: Recycle and compost as much as possible; reduce single-use plastics; buy products with minimal packaging.
- Consumer habits: Choose sustainable products when shopping; repair items instead of buying new ones; consider the carbon footprint of clothing choices.

Calling Congregants of All Ages!



You're Invited to the
National Faith + Climate Forum 2025!

March 27, 2025

12:00–5:30 p.m. ET

Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington

Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville

First Christian Church, Louisville

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Princeton



Join faith leaders and community members for a live watch party of the **National Faith + Climate Forum 2025** (Kentucky watch parties are listed above), or watch from your home or office. Experience a day of powerful discussions, engaging workshops, and community building as we explore the intersection of faith and environmental action.

Come and be part of a movement toward sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience. Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice.

Register today at nationalfaithandclimateforum.org.

Scholarship Application Information and Deadline

Applications are now available for the Hugh Moore, Jr., Glenna Tuttle Wingate, and Helping Hands Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to High School Seniors graduating in 2025 (or 2024 graduates who took a gap year) by the Helping Hands Circle. You may access them through the link provided or speak with Anita Bolen or Marilyn Hughes for a copy of the application. The deadline for applications to be received is **April 25, 2025**. Applicants must be members or attenders of Bridgeport Christian Church or have a parent, guardian, or grandparent that is a member or attender. **If you are interested in applying or have questions regarding the scholarships, please talk with a member of the scholarship committee: Anita Bolen or Marilyn Hughes.**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lg2vSH9HWXT06xAi4uSqfnqkB17lp4QX/view?usp=sharing>



**FRIENDLY REMINDER TO
SET YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR.
MARCH 9TH.**



Happy Birthday

March 1 – Steve Minter

March 3 – Morgan Minter

March 6 – Sara Garner

March 7 – Mary Fint

March 13 – Myra Boyson

March 15 – Nick Perkins

March 18 – Madalyn & Micah Baesler

March 19 – Mary Taulbee

March 22 – Marcheta Sparrow

March 23 – Sarah Boston

March 24 – Donna McNeil

March 25 – Gary Wolf

March 26 – Lisa Smith

March 29 – Skyler Shepherd

March 30 – Kinsley Alford

Calendar of Events

- 3/2 – 10am Adult Sunday School (Childcare Available)
11am Worship
5pm Youth Groups
- 3/4 – 4:30pm Helping Hands Circle (Fireside Room)
- 3/5 – 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary
- 3/6 – 6:30pm Green Team (Fireside Room)
- 3/9 – 10am Adult Sunday School (Childcare Available)
11am Worship
12pm All-Church Lunch and Pottery Painting Event
- 3/10– 10am Membership Committee on Zoom
2pm Zoom Bible Study
- 3/16 – 10am Adult Sunday School (Childcare Available)
11am Worship
5pm Youth Groups
- 3/17 – 10am Soup Kitchen
2pm Zoom Bible Study
- 3/19 – 7pm Administrative Board (on Zoom)
- 3/23 – 10am Adult Sunday School (Childcare Available)
11am Worship
5pm Youth Groups
- 3/24 – 2pm Zoom Bible Study
- 3/30 – 10am Adult Sunday School (Childcare Available)
11am Worship
5pm Youth Groups
- 3/31 – 2pm Zoom Bible Study
5:30pm Book Club

Deacons For March

- Nick Alford
- Karen Averill
- Stephanie Craycraft
- Dove DeNigris
- Sara Garner
- Donna Hedges
- Diane Pratt
- Cathy Terry
- Jim Terry
- Mary Watts
- Tom Watts
- Linda Wilson

Date	Worship Leader	Elder	Worship and Wonder	Following Jesus	A/V
3/2	Ronda Sloan	Jeff Pratt	Donna Long & Laura Begin	Anita Bolen	Tommy Smith & Wayne Begin
3/9	Jodie Necaise	Sissy O'Brien	Anita Bolen & Kirk Shepherd	Combined with Worship & Wonder	Tommy Smith & Larry Hayden
3/16	Debbie Rodgers	Ronda Sloan	Karen Averill & Denisha Dodge –Summerour	Anita Bolen	Tommy Smith & Larry Hayden
3/23	Jeff Pratt	Betty Martin	Donna Long & Laura Begin	Anita Bolen	Tommy Smith & Wayne Begin
3/30	Laura Begin	Donna Long	Karen Averill & Kirk Shepherd	Anita Bolen	Tommy Smith & Larry Hayden

Scriptures and Topics

March 2

Matthew 13:1-23;
Romans 12:1-2



Asking
Questions

March 9

Luke 10:25-37;
Deuteronomy
26:1-11



Stranger
& Neighbor

March 16

Luke 10:38-42;
Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18



Faith &
Works

March 23

Luke 13:6-9;
Isaiah 55:1-9



Rest &
Growth

March 30

Luke 15:1-7;
Joshua 5:9-12



Lost &
Found

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.



Staff

- The Rev. Ann B. Shepherd, Pastor
- Valerie Drake, Admin. Assistant
- Laura Foley, Music Director
- Shaunta Summerour, Nursery Attendant

Worship Service

Opportunities

Facebook - www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian

YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U VTg

