

The Bridge

Minister's Moment

2020 has been a wild ride, but I am excited that we are entering 2021 with new hope and new beginnings. Even though we know it will take a while to get everyone vaccinated and for things to look more like they did before March of 2020, we see a light at the end of this dark night.

Before we look to 2021, though, I want to acknowledge two things about 2020. First, this has been a very hard year for us. Not only have we experienced all the highs and lows of the year that everyone else experienced, but we lost so many people that we love. Once we can safely gather again, I am planning to hold a memorial service where we can come together and remember those who have died in 2020 and celebrate their lives and the love that they shared with us.

There have been several good things that have come out of 2020 for our church as well. Because we had to make changes to how we work to accommodate worshipping online, we were able to upgrade our AV equipment. This will allow us to continue to both live stream and record our worship services and other events in the sanctuary as we eventually move back into on-campus worship. We have also been able to get lots of work around the building done that we have needed to get done for a while without worrying about having to have everything back in place in time for Sunday. That freedom has been a real blessing.

We know that at some point this year, we will once again be able to gather in our building for corporate worship. I cannot wait because I know it will be quite a celebration for us to be together again. And I am looking forward to it being safe again to be with people and laugh and share food together and hug one another.

I am also excited because we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Bridgeport Christian Church in 2021. This is a huge achievement for a Disciples church, and frankly, one I have only seen accomplished in Kentucky, where our denomination was born. I look forward to celebrating with you all this year with all of the many activities that our 175th planning committee has planned. You will find more information about the monthly activities planned for this year later in this newsletter.

Beloved, there is so much good ahead of us in 2021 and beyond. No matter what we may be feeling, we know that God is among us and will continue to bring blessings in the midst of it all. May God bless each of you as we enter this new year.

Peace and Love,
Ann



www.thelearningite.info



Bridgeport Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
175 Evergreen Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
<http://bridgeportchristian.org>

January 2021

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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

What's a Prayer Chain?

We are excited to announce that we will begin the Prayer Chain in January 2021!

By Pastor Ann Shepherd

One of the many things I love about Bridgeport Christian Church is our care for our community and our church family, especially through prayer. When I had my first elders meeting and they shared with me that they gather every Sunday morning to share the needs of the community with each other and pray before Sunday School starts, I was floored and so happy. And I am amazed every single Sunday by the number of “yellow cards” that are passed to the front during announcements! We are a praying church and that is such an amazing gift!

All of this got me thinking (and talking, of course) to people about a way that we can share prayer requests throughout the week and not just on Sunday mornings. I would like to see us start a Prayer Chain.

What is a Prayer Chain? Simply, it is a way to share prayer requests and updates through our church family and give each of us chances to pray for each other during the week. It will also allow us to easily get information to each other, for example, if we must close for bad weather. A prayer chain is an incredible communication tool for a church to utilize. The nice thing is that we can set up 2 different ways information can be communicated – both with a phone tree and by email! I have talked to the elders about this and we are going to work together to set this up in the most logical way possible.

How do I become part of the prayer chain? Simply by contacting the office at secretary@bridgeportchristian.org or 502-223-1165 and letting us know you would like to be on the list!

Each member of your family can choose to be part of the Phone Tree, the email list, or not to be included at all. Our goal is to make sure we honor each person and their right to decide how and if they want to be involved.

How do I get a prayer request on the prayer chain? Simply by contacting the church office or designated elder and sharing the request. After the request is shared, Paula will email it to those who have chosen to receive the email and the designated elder will begin the phone tree. Please make sure before we share any information that you have permission to share the information with the church family. We are still working out all the “rules” with this, and will be sharing more in the email *Blast*, as well as in the future as we need to “tweak” the process. As ever, our goal with this is to share in prayer and to respect the privacy of everyone involved.

I am excited about the Prayer Chain! I truly believe that it will be a valuable tool as we continue to do ministry together!

This article was first printed in March, 2020 and is appearing now with editing.



By Paula McQuate

In December, the office staff started using a church management software called *Breeze*. With this software, we will be able to keep better records, email individuals and groups of people, check people into events, have a volunteer schedule, and track contributions.

One benefit of *Breeze* is that members of BCC will be able to view their own profile and update their information. It will also enable us to have an online directory in which you can see limited information (phone, email, address) for each other. An email address will need to be on file to have access to online directory. As we move into 2021, we will have a trial run with the Membership Committee in order to get the quirks out of the system so that it will run smoothly. Once ready, we will send an invitation to you by email that will allow you to create your own username and password to

Welcome to Breeze

view your account. We ask that you go to the profile and verify your information and fill in any missing info. Please contact the office if you don't have a computer or email and would like a printed copy of the directory.

As we become more familiar with the software, we will be able to allow others to utilize the program. (Personal information will only be viewed by Pastor Ann and Paula (admin. assistant.) There is also an app for your phone to make viewing your profile easier.

Ever wonder when a meeting or Bible study is? *Breeze* has an event calendar that you will be able to view. Through the event calendar, we will be able to list volunteer openings and you will be able to accept positions.

Pastor Ann and Paula are really excited about this program and the many benefits that it will have for the BCC family and we know you will be excited too.

The Gift of Comfort

BCC calls for volunteers to create mats for the homeless

By Annette Hayden

The hard fact is that some of our brothers and sisters in the community don't have shelter for the night. We pray for their well-being and join our local leaders and the faith community to look for ways to enable them to sleep in safety and comfort.

Until that day comes, we must do whatever we can to see to their immediate needs.



As part of Bridgeport Christian's 175th Anniversary celebration, we are asking for volunteers to make sleeping mats for the homeless from plastic grocery bags. These crocheted mats will be light-weight, easy to clean, and will provide a cushioned barrier from the ground or hard surface. You don't need to know how to crochet to participate. Only a handful of volunteers actually crochet the mats. But there are several steps to preparing the bags (approximately 1,000 for a 3' x 6' mat) for crocheting:

Selecting—Only plastic grocery bags (12" x 14") are suitable.

Collecting—The entire congregation, families and friends can collect and donate bags. A container is located behind the church outside the choir room.

Sort—It is easier to use bags from the same stores for material consistency. Also, keeping the cut strips sorted by color allows the person making the mats to design a color pattern.

Flatten – Bags must be right-side-out. Shake, straighten, and remove air from bags. Place bags on a table and flatten from the bottom seam out, with gussets folded in and straightening the handles as needed.

Cutting – A rotary cutter, self-healing cutting mat, and a 6" quilting guide will be needed. Using the cutter,

remove the bottom ½" and the handles from a stack of 10 bags. Using the 6" guide, cut two 6 inch strips from the bags. Keep cut strips sorted by color. Plastic scraps are to be recycled at the store.

Looping—To attach the strips together to create the plarn (plastic yarn) for crocheting, take two strips and loop one around the end of the other, loop and pull. After the strips are looped together, fold them into bundles of 20-30 connected strips.

Crocheting the Bags—These instructions assume you already know how to single crochet.

1. Open a bundle of the plarn created above and make a knot at the end of the plarn.
2. To create the first row, using the Size Q crochet hook, create a 3 foot long chain (approximately 40 stitches.)
3. To create the next and all subsequent rows, single crochet the EXACT same number of stitches as in your original 3 foot chain.
4. Continue to single crochet the same number of stitches in each row until the mat is 6 feet long. (Stitches which are loose rather than tight will create a thicker, softer mat for sleeping.)

This project is scheduled to be completed in October 2021, but since it is labor-intensive, it's time to get busy! What will you volunteer to do? Collect, sort, flatten, cut, loop, or crochet bags? Please contact Annette Hayden at 502-330-9174 to volunteer. Happy New Year!

*From Faith Westwood United Methodist Church
CareMAT Ministry Omaha, NE*



175th Anniversary Year of Celebration

January

By Ronda Sloan

As part of BCC's 175th anniversary celebration, we will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc., during January. These will be donated to local groups that assist the homeless. Items can be purchased or hand-made. All sizes are welcome, but adult items are particularly needed.

These can be left in the tent behind the church that has been used for Missions Committee projects during December.

BCC Approves 2021 Budget & Slate of Officers

By Ted Sloan

Members of Bridgeport Christian Church ratified the proposed budget and slate of officers for 2021 in a special mail-in and online vote held in the absence of a congregational meeting. The Administrative Board voted to submit the proposed budget and slate of officers to the congregation in its November meeting.

The proposed budget totals \$266,200, an increase of \$14,000 (5.55%) compared with the 2020 budget. The board also shared the details of emergency capital projects approved by the board in 2020 for renovation of the kitchen in the Carter House, upgrades to the audiovisual system in the sanctuary, cleanup and flooring replacement, drywall repairs, and new doors for the front and back entrances.

Officers and committee chairs for 2021 are:

Chair – Nancy Bailey
Vice Chair – Ted Sloan
Recording Secretary – Angie Grasch
Treasurer – Don Morse
Elder Chair – Ronda Sloan
Deacon Chair – Annette Hayden
Education – Kim Minter
Evangelism – Angie Kendall
Finance & Stewardship – Stephanie Craycraft
Membership – Betty Martin
Missions – Brenda O'Brien and Donna Hedges (co-chairs)
Policy & Personnel – Diane Dominick
Property – Steve Minter
Worship – Laura Begin
Trustees – Don Flinn, Marilyn Hughes, and Ron Kelien

Thanks to all the members who participated in the voting process. We appreciate your dedication and your willingness to adapt to the challenges created by the pandemic.

2020 Helping Hands Circle Charitable Donations

By Donna Long

At their December meeting, Helping Hands Circle made a \$300 donation to Ronald McDonald House of the Bluegrass Hugs for Hope program in memory or honor of church family members. The Hugs for Hope program provides a "hug" and emotional support in the form of a teddy bear to the hospitalized child whose family stays at the Ronald McDonald House.

Ronald McDonald House sends a certificate of acknowledgement to our church family member, letting them know we are thinking about them. We thank those who sent a donation to us allowing us to make this charitable donation.

HHC hopes to be able to hold a spring fundraiser and fall bazaar, allowing us to resume our usual level of local charitable donations in December 2021. Of course, these opportunities will depend upon COVID-19 restrictions.

Helping Hands Circle Zoom Meeting

Jan 4, 2021
6:00 PM



During our January meeting, Ronda will be quizzing us on 2020 and Jackie will give us the answers to the Christmas games.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86098722762?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86098722762?pwd=aHJkSGVrK3FLSUc3TmtKNjR2NINHQOT09)

[pwd=aHJkSGVrK3FLSUc3TmtKNjR2NINHQOT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86098722762?pwd=aHJkSGVrK3FLSUc3TmtKNjR2NINHQOT09)

Meeting ID: 860 9872 2762

Passcode: 595495

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 will be the only ones with keys to the box.
3. Give using the Givelify app or website at <https://giv.li/s2znli>.

Mark Your Calendar

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.

- ♦ **January** - Mitten, glove, hat and scarf drive. Our goal is to collect 175 pairs/items.
- ♦ **February** - Special worship service with Second Christian Church of Midway.
- ♦ **March** - Women's History Month—Workshop with Lisa Gammel-Maas is planned.
- ♦ **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 us out!

You can watch the worship services, learn great tips on Green Tip Tuesday and more!
<https://www.facebook.com/bridgeportchristian>



Dear Friends,

We are in receipt of your contribution to the Resource Office of Social Ministries (ROSM). With your financial help, we are able to provide assistance to those in our community who are in need.

Sincerely,
Cindy Owen
Executive Director, ROSM

Dear Bridgeport Christian Church,

Thank you for your continued support of RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities) of the Bluegrass during an incredibly challenging year. Your kindness has brought peace and comfort to hundreds of families with critically ill children.

Your special gift of \$300.00 towards our Hugs for Hope campaign—traditionally known as Bear Hugs—brings us one step closer to reaching our goal.

On behalf of the families that we serve today, and the many more we will serve in the years to come, thank you for being a person who cares.

Warm regards,
Nate Graham, Executive Director
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass



Green Tip: Repurpose Your Christmas Tree

By Ted Sloan

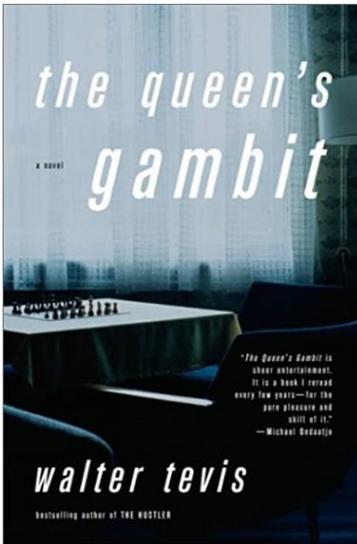
If you celebrated Christmas with a live tree, you can repurpose it for fish habitat restoration. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources sinks the trees in Kentucky lakes and waterways to provide spawning habitats. Just call the Franklin County Road Department at 875-8760 to get on their pickup schedule, which begins January 4. Make sure your tree is free of tinsel and decorations before you set it out for pickup.



Book Club Checks Out Walter Tevis Novel

By Ted Sloan

The BCC book club has chosen for its January book “The Queen’s Gambit,” the basis of the Netflix miniseries of the same name, written by Kentucky author Walter Tevis. “The Queen’s Gambit” is the story of a girl in a Kentucky orphanage who becomes a chess prodigy. Tevis was better known as the author of “The Hustler,” “The Color of Money,” and “The Man Who Fell to Earth,” all of which were made into major motion pictures.



The book club met Dec. 29 to discuss “Marley” by Jon Clinch. “Marley” is a prequel to the Charles Dickens classic “A Christmas Carol,” and the book club agreed that it was worthy of its predecessor. We found it to be entertaining, well-written, and true to Dickens’ voice.

The book club meets the last Tuesday of every month. Until further notice, we will meet via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We’ll read just about anything – classics and current bestsellers, fiction and non-fiction, thrillers and science fiction, Silas House and Stephen King. To find out more, contact Ted Sloan at tsloan76@bellsouth.net.

2021 Women’s Retreat Canceled

By Betty Martin

The annual Knobs Haven Women’s Retreat at the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky., has been canceled for 2021. Knobs Haven is closed for retreat gatherings through the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. BCC has asked to hold our reservation for the first weekend of February 2022.

Cabins at the site are still being rented. Anyone who is interested in renting a cabin may go to www.loretto retreatcenters.com for more information.

If you have any questions about the retreat, contact Betty Martin, chair of the Membership Committee, at bjmart333@aol.com.

“For I know the PLANS
I have for you”
declares the LORD
“plans to PROSPER you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Calendar of Events

Birthdays

- 1/3—Kevin Perkins, Suzanne Rogers
- 1/10—Kim Minter
- 1/12—Nick Alford
- 1/13—Aaron Arflack
- 1/16—Alyssa Baesler
- 1/19—Jamie Bailey
- 1/20—Landon Arflack
- 1/25—Debbie Foy
- 1/29—Susan Rowland-Flynn

175th Anniversary Year of Celebration

January Focus

Goal: 175 pairs

- Mittens
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves



Jan. 1—Happy New Year's Day
Office Closed

Jan. 3—10:00am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00am Worship on Facebook Live, call-in option
5:30pm God Squad on Zoom

Jan. 4—6:00 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting on Zoom

Jan. 10—10:00am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00am Worship on Facebook Live, call-in option
5:30pm God Squad on Zoom

Jan. 13-7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting on Zoom

Jan. 17—10:00am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00am Worship on Facebook Live, call-in option
5:30pm God Squad on Zoom

Jan. 24—10:00am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00am Worship on Facebook, call-in option
5:30 pm God Squad on Zoom

Jan. 29-5:30 pm BCC Book Club Meeting on Zoom

Jan. 31—10:00am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00am Worship on Facebook, call-in option
5:30 pm God Squad on Zoom

Call-in Option for Worship in January

We have a **NEW** phone number for the call-in option. The Meeting ID and Password for all Sundays in January 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 10:59am 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.

Scriptures, Topics, & Volunteers for January

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	Theme	Worship Leader & Elder
Jan. 3	Luke 2:41-52	Jesus in the temple at age 12. He is in "his Father's house."	Ted & Ronda Sloan
Jan. 10 Baptism of our Lord	Luke 3:1-22	John baptizes, bear fruit worthy of repentance, share what you have.	Annette & Larry Hayden
Jan. 17	Luke 4:14-30	Sermon at Nazareth (Isaiah fulfilled, Elijah and widow, Elisha and Naaman).	Lorrie Devers & Jeff Pratt
Jan. 24	Luke 5:1-11	Great catch of fish, Peter will fish for people.	Morgan Minter & Anita Bolen
Jan. 31	Like 6:1-16	Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath (plucking grain, healing a man) and call of Disciples.	Diane Dominick & Ron Kelien

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