

The Bridge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MAY 2021

BRIDGEPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BCC Regathering Coming Soon!

By Ronda Sloan

After a number of meetings and lengthy discussions, as well as careful monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccination and incidence rates in the state, the Reopening Committee has decided to move up the Bridgeport Christian Church regathering date to June 6. A phased approach will be implemented during June and July as outlined on the next page. If conditions remain stable during June and July, we anticipate easing restrictions for August.

Information on how to sign up to attend a service (9 a.m. or 11

a.m.) is available elsewhere in this issue of *The Bridge* and will be made available on the church website, through email blasts, etc. In addition to the online process, you may call the church office to reserve your spot once we begin accepting reservations. The elders will contact their shepherding groups during May to answer any questions.

In addition, please feel free to contact any member of the reopening committee (Anita Bolen, Don Flinn, Brenda O'Brien or Ronda Sloan).

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Minister's Moment

Both of my kids love the movie *Frozen II* and, because of that, we listen to the soundtrack just about every morning on our way to school. As the second song came on this morning, I started thinking about how much I love it because it is just so funny. It's called "Some Things Never Change." As Anna and Olaf are singing about how some things

never change and dancing through Arendelle, we watch as the frame of a new house is put up, a tree that a man is painting is cut down, and as "an old stone wall, that'll never fall" crumbles under Olaf.

The song is a reminder that things are always changing and that we can't always hold on to the past the way we thought we could. And I

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(Disciples of Christ)
since 1846



Bridgeport Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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Frankfort, KY 40601
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Details of the three-phase plan are listed below:

June -Phase 1

- ♦ Limited reopening with worship leader, children worship/wonder storyteller and elder recorded and shown in sanctuary, like what is currently done in virtual worship.
- ♦ No nursery. Children will remain in the sanctuary.
- ♦ No in-person Children Worship and Wonder or Following Jesus (recorded).
- ♦ No Sunday School. (Groups may continue to meet on Zoom.)
- ♦ Access will be limited to sanctuary and hallway with restrooms.
- ♦ Two services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Reservations required. Maximum: 40 people per service.
- ♦ Everyone must wear a mask and observe social distancing.
- ♦ Three-person greeting team with temperature checks, check-in, prearranged seating, individual communion packages. This group will sanitize the pews/restrooms /surfaces between services. When possible, the doors will be left open to provide additional ventilation.
- ♦ No congregational singing. Special music limited to soloists or small groups.
- ♦ No group meetings at the church. **Note: References to “at the church” include all church property, including the main church building, the Education Annex (former Youth House) and the Sebastian Pavilion.**

July - Phase 2

- ♦ Worship leader will be live in sanctuary, placed away from pulpit. Children Worship and Wonder/Following Jesus groups will meet in designated rooms outside the sanctuary. There will be one elder at the communion table.
- ♦ The nursery will be available for a maximum of 10 children per service.
- ♦ Sunday school classes will continue to meet on Zoom.
- ♦ Access will be limited to sanctuary, main floor restrooms, nursery, Children Worship and Wonder/Following Jesus rooms.
- ♦ Two services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Reservations required. Maximum: 40 people per service, not to include children in nursery, Children Worship and Wonder or Following Jesus.
- ♦ Everyone must wear a mask and observe social distancing.
- ♦ Three-person greeting team with temperature checks, check-in, prearranged seating, individual communion packages. This group will sanitize the pews/restrooms /surfaces between services. When possible, the doors will be left open to provide additional ventilation.
- ♦ Limited congregational singing. Will consult with choir regarding special music, small groups.

August - Phase 3

- ♦ Sunday school classes can meet at the church at a time other than Sunday morning due to need to sanitize the church during the regular Sunday school period.
- ♦ Youth groups may resume meetings.
- ♦ Committees and other groups may begin meeting in the church, Education Annex or Sebastian Pavilion.
- ♦ No food or drink can be served at any meeting or activity.
- ♦ **All meetings will require scheduling with the church administrative assistant to ensure only one group is in the church, Education Annex or Sebastian Pavilion at any time.**
- ♦ The committee chair or group leader will be responsible for sanitizing the area used and for enforcing mask and social distancing guidelines in place at the time.
- ♦ The main church building, Education Annex and Sebastian Pavilion will not be available to outside groups or non-church functions at this time.
- ♦ Depending on the vaccine/virus status in the community near the end of Phase 2, a decision may be made to begin holding one service with a higher maximum attendance allowed during Phase 3. Other restrictions in place during Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be reviewed at that time.

Minister's Moment Contin-

think it is a good reminder, especially as we look to return to on-campus worship in June. Things are changing and worship will look different than it did last March. We will have to RSVP for one of the two services that are being offered. Only 40 people will be allowed in the sanctuary for worship and you will be asked to sit with your family in a certain pew. Communion will be given to you at the beginning of worship and offering will be taken on our way in and out of the sanctuary. We will be wearing masks and music and responses will be limited.

But yet, as the song ends, the main characters sing together that some things never change and “I’m holding on tight to you.” And that is something we must acknowledge as well. Some things really don’t ever change – like how we have held on tight to each other over this past year, reaching out in whatever way we can to gather online or to send cards and phone calls and text messages and much more. Another thing that will never change and has never changed is the love that God has for each and every one of us and the message that God’s love is greater than anything we can ever understand and is for everyone.

So, it doesn’t matter what our worship will look like come June 6, the basics are there and will never change – our love for God and neighbor and God’s love for us that is bigger than anything we can imagine. It doesn’t matter where we are or where we worship, some things never change.

Volunteers Wanted

By Pastor Ann Shepherd

We are looking for a few more people to volunteer to learn how to use the A/V equipment and help run the live streams, the sound, and the projectors. If this is something you are interested in learning, please contact Larry Hayden at 502-330-2900 or ldhayden@aol.com.

How to Reserve Your Spot for Worship

By Pastor Ann Shepherd

Everyone who plans to attend worship needs to reserve a spot in the sanctuary. We will be offering two on campus worship services in June – one at 9 am and one at 11 am. Each service will have the same order of worship, same sermon, etc. Reservations will open by 10 am each Monday and close at noon on Friday. For example, spots for worship on Sunday, June 6, will be available to book starting at 10 am on Monday, May 31 and close on Friday, June 4 at noon.

Below are instructions on how to reserve your spot for worship. If you would rather not book online, contact Paula in the church office (502-223-1165) and she will help you reserve your spot(s).

1. Go to www.bridgeportchristian.org
2. Click on [Book Online](#) for Worship
3. Click “Book Now” for “Worship in the Sanctuary”
4. Choose the Sunday you are reserving
5. Put in the required information
6. Repeat steps 1-5 for each member of your family attending worship



Book Club Announcement

We will be choosing our May book on April 27 (after the publication of the newsletter). Please watch the e-blast on Wednesday to see what book we will be reading. Everyone is invited to read the book and join in the discussion on Zoom on the last Tuesday evening in May.

Upcoming Events for the 175th Anniversary

As we move through the year, please watch the monthly Bridge newsletter and Wednesday Email Blast for event details.

- ♦ **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.

What's Children Worship and Wonder?

By Lorrie Devers

What do you know about Children Worship and Wonder? Did you know our church has what is considered a model program and worship space? Have you ever stepped into our worship space to see what it's all about? Let me tell you more.

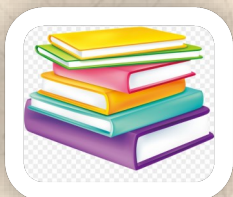
Each Sunday, we offer our children time to be still and worship. Our children already have a relationship with God. We don't have to teach them everything they need to know about God, but we do have to offer them time. In Children Worship and Wonder, there is no curriculum beyond the telling of the Bible story. Written and developed by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman, Worship and Wonder is a unique program that teaches children the basic foundation of worship and provides them with an opportunity to be with God. Through 'stories' told by trained storytellers, children move through the entire Bible, from "The Creation" to "Pentecost" with several parables included.

Children will also sing songs, read bible verses, participate in 'feast' and offering, and learn about the church calendar. Adults are present and available to follow the children's lead and listen to their needs as they develop their relationship with God. We have all the time we need. Children are given space and time to work through the weekly story and apply it to their own worship needs. When you pick up your child from Worship and Wonder, ask them, "How was worship today?" Help them to understand that there is no right or wrong. There is no correct answer to learn. There is only the time to be still.

We can all learn something from this program. Shouldn't we all *wonder* more often? How would we expand and grow in our faith if we did?

If you feel led to support the Worship and Wonder worship space, there are many wonderful books we would like to purchase for the children. We are currently taking donations for these books. If you would like to make a donation, please reach out to Pastor Ann and let her know. For every \$15 donated, you can dedicate a book in honor or in memory of someone.

Coming up! As many of you know, lots of work has been happening during this time of virtual work. In next month's newsletter you will learn about the new children's worship space, Following Jesus for children that have been attending Worship and Wonder for a few years. Stay tuned for more details!



Books for CW&W

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Pastor Ann. For every \$15 donated, you can dedicate a book in honor or in memory of someone.



Here are a few ways you can connect to your BCC Family.

- Online Worship on Sundays on Facebook and YouTube.
- Ripped from the Headlines Group Sunday mornings
- Online Directory
- Wednesday E-blast
- Monthly Bridge Newsletters
- Contact your Elder (not sure who it is? Contact the office.)
- Prayer Chain
- Monthly Book Club
- Thursday Bible Study
- Send cards/emails to others (try a letter of the alphabet each week)
- Be a member of a committee
- Attend committee meetings on Zoom
- Volunteer in worship when we regather

Online Directory Link

<https://bridgeportchristianchurch.breezechms.com/login/create>



Food Waste: What is Your Food Print?

Submitted by Annette Hayden

Reprinted in part from foodprint.org

Whether it's a salad, a juicy burger or your morning bowl of cereal, your meal has an impact on the environment, animals, and people. Your "foodprint" is the result of everything it takes to get your food from the farm to your plate. This includes labor, soil, water, air, and energy to produce and transport.

America wastes roughly 40 percent of its food. Of the estimated 125 to 160 billion pounds of food that goes to waste every year, much of it is perfectly edible and nutritious. Some is lost on the farm, some in transportation, some in restaurants, but a whole lot is also wasted at home.

U.S. consumers now throw away roughly 25 percent of the food they buy. Food that you throw away ends up in landfills where, as it breaks down, it forms methane, a greenhouse gas that's up to 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Food waste also represents a huge waste of the finite resources, like energy and water. And it costs an average person around \$1,800 per year. Sadly, some 40 million people in the US suffer from hunger.

By committing to reducing our personal food waste, we can lower our foodprint. Here are some steps we can take.

- ◆ Plan ahead. Think about the meals you'll be cooking this week, the ingredients you'll need, and what you already have in your kitchen.
- ◆ Make a list. Cross-check it with your pantry.
- ◆ Be realistic. Don't buy more than you can eat. Can you really eat 10 avocados on sale?
- ◆ Shop small. Combine trips to the grocery store with visits to the farmers market for an easy way to add a second produce pick-up each week. Not only will this reduce food waste, you will be eating fresher food.
- ◆ Prioritize. Don't let that moldy cheese lurk in the back! Use a system like First In, First Out to arrange foods in order of freshness, keeping older ones near the front. Create an Eat Me First box/area.

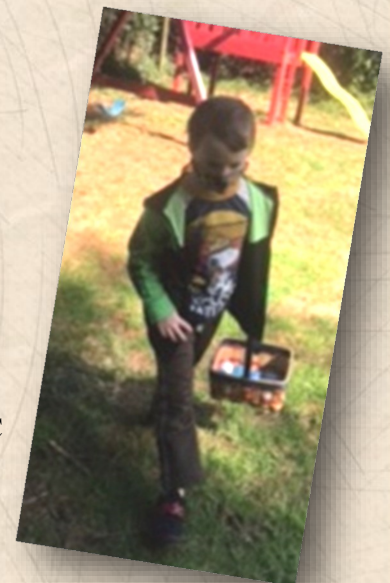
- ◆ Stock the essentials. Staple ingredients like canned beans, pasta, rice, and other grains are handy to make use of fresh foods you have on hand.
- ◆ Don't over prepare. Leftovers are great, but only if you're willing to eat them. Adjust recipes to match the number of servings you will need.
- ◆ Take leftovers home. If you don't finish your meal, bring it home for later, or add it to your compost bin. NOTE: Take a reusable container with you to the restaurant for leftovers.
- ◆ Use up leftovers. Eating leftovers can save time, effort and cash if you eat them for lunch instead of ordering out. Turn leftover rice into fried rice or roasted vegetables into a breakfast hash.
- ◆ Keep food fresh. Store foods properly to keep them fresh as long as possible. In general, don't wash vegetables before storing; cut off the tops of root vegetables to extend shelf life; and store foods that emit ethylene gas - like apples, bananas, citrus and tomatoes - by themselves as the gas makes other foods spoil.
- ◆ Don't toss food before it spoils. Labels such as Best By, Use By, Sell By and Expiration are NOT food safety dates. They are established by food manufacturers to indicate "peak quality." *Use By dates are federally required on infant milk and "pack dates" are required on USDA graded eggs.* When in doubt, use your eyes and nose.
- ◆ Preserve it. Canning, pickling, dehydrating and fermenting are all good ways to preserve leftovers.
- ◆ Make the freezer your best friend. Store foods in airtight containers and label. You can freeze bananas (peel first), hard cheese (grated), milk, sliced bread, vegetables (blanch first), grapes, ginger, chilies, herbs, etc.
- ◆ Share it. Share extras with family, friends, coworkers, or donate to a food bank, food pantry or shelter.
- ◆ Compost it. Whatever you do, keep that food out of the landfill. Composting transforms waste into a valuable soil additive and can be easily done at an apartment or house.

For more information on these and other ideas to reduce food waste, visit www.foodprint.org.



Do you have pictures from this year's BCC Egg Hunt? If so, please email them to secretary@bridgeportchristian.org.

Egg Hunt 2021



Upcoming EVENTS



175th Anniversary BCC Recognition Day At Cane Ridge May 23

We will have online worship preached from the historic Cane Ridge Meeting House near Paris, KY. Cane Ridge is the birthplace of our Christian denomination.

The tour has been postponed until the fall. Watch your Wednesday eblast for more information.



May 8

9 am

BCC Regathering June 6

Earth Day 2021

By Annette Hayden

In honor of our 175th Anniversary and in conjunction with Earth Day, Bridgeport Christian Church donated \$175 to Green Forests Work, a non-profit group dedicated to reforesting abandoned coalfields in Appalachia. This donation will plant 175 native trees on an abandoned strip-mined site.



Harper Kate

Hayes Lee

Henry James

Congratulations!

Lauren and David Ridderikhoff would like to announce the birth of their triplets, Harper, Hayes, and Henry on April 4. Mom and babies (who are still in the NICU) are doing well.

Calendar of Events

- 5/2—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship online, call-in option
- 5/3—6:00 pm Helping Hands Circle Meeting
- 5/5—7:00 pm Deacons Meeting
- 5/6—2:30 pm “Questions” Book Study on Zoom—Last Session
- 5/8—9:00 am BCC Spring Work Day
- 5/9—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship online, call-in option
- 5/10—7:00 pm 175th Anniversary Full Committee Meeting
- 5/12—7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting on Zoom
- 5/16 —10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship online, call-in option
- 5/23—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship online, call-in option
Pentecost Sunday
- 5/24—7:00 pm 175th Anniversary History Meeting on Zoom
- 5/25—5:30 pm BCC Book Club Meeting on Zoom
- 5/30—10:00 am Ripped from the Headlines on Zoom
11:00 am Worship online, call-in option
- 5/31—The church office will be closed for Memorial Day.

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

May

- 5/1 Heather Hedges
- 5/6 Dennis Martin
- 5/7 Ranelle Mackey
- 5/11 Carolyn Rodgers
- 5/13 William Arflack
- 5/15 Lorrie Devers
- 5/18 Sue Clarke
- 5/19 John Barger, Diane Dominick
- 5/23 Sarah Barger, Dove DeNigris, J. W. Kendall
- 5/30 Don Morse



Register today for Camp Wakon`Da-Ho

<http://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.

Call-in Option for Worship

We have a phone number for the call-in option. The Meeting ID and Password for all Sundays 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 10:59 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**.
3. After recorded message, dial #
4. After this, you will be asked to enter the pass-word: **068564**. After entering this, you should be on the call and able to hear all of the worship.

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

YouTube -
[www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U
_VTg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsZ84Pu5U2KkzvKR26U_VTg)

Scriptures, Topics, & Volunteers for May

Date	Scripture	Theme	Worship Leader & Elder
May 2	Acts 15:1-18	Council at Jerusalem	Diane Dominic & Sissy O'Brien
May 9	Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21	Living by Faith	Ronda Sloan & Donna Long
May 16	Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29	One in Christ Ascension Sunday	Jeff Pratt
May 23	Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7	Fruits of the Spirit Pentecost	Anita Bolen & Don Morse
May 31	National Parks Series—Isaiah 26	Trust at Yose mite	Debbie Rodgers & Donna Long

Bridgeport Christian Church

175 Evergreen Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

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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**