

# The Bridge

BRIDGEPORT UMC NEWSLETTER

## This Issue

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Christ International Church A Capella Choir

### From the Pastor:

September of the Year 2020 has arrived. The season of Fall is just around the corner. The normal cycle of Presidential Elections is upon us. It has been a year of surprises and not all these surprises are comforting. A Pandemic, Civil Unrest complete with Riots, Wildfires, Hurricanes, and the cycles of tragedy seemingly create a consciousness of fear and doubt for many. Yet, we are still here. We still have breath and life and time to adjust or maintain our course on our journey we call life as His Church.

I am beginning my ninth month at BUMC and by the grace of God, through all the challenges we have held together and continue to Love God and Neighbor as His Church. We continue to be His church in our community. We have ministered to our community by opening our church to immigrants who live in Bridgeport from the far away land of Ethiopia for the worship of God. We have contained and eliminated our fear by Loving God and Each Other being faithful with worship and service.

We have collected and then delivered food for people we do not personally know through our food pantry collections and The Methodist connectional church at Barnes UMC. We minister to each other by keeping track by either coming to worship or staying at home and participating and staying connected through the internet. Phone calls also have been a great way to keep up with each other.

With our calendar year now 2/3 completed it is time to plan for our future and the year 2021. Our annual charge conference for continued service is on Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Bartlett Chapel, 4396 E Main St, Avon, IN 46123. (Con't. on Pg. 3)



September 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



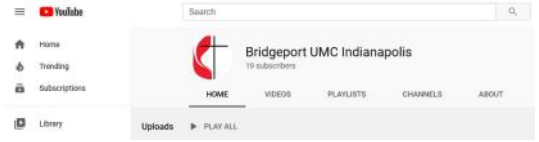
## At Our Church

Fellowship Time 9:15 AM  
 Sunday Services 10:00 AM  
 Sunday School 11:30 AM  
 Amazing Grace's Thursdays @ Noon  
 Choir Practice Sunday @ 8:30 AM  
 Movie Night (Postponed until June  
 4th Friday at 3 and 6 PM)



Church Family,  
 It is really a blessing we watch and have Sunday service (remotely) that I can see that number of people that are able to see the service online using YouTube.

Click here for Bridgeport UMC YouTube - [Bridgeport UMC Indianapolis](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC156261224432213)



On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Bridgeport-United-Methodist-Church-156261224432213/>

Email: [prayerlist@smallchurchbigheart.com](mailto:prayerlist@smallchurchbigheart.com)

Send Letters or Donations to: P.O. Box 420, Plainfield, IN 46168

## Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2020*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2020*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2020*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2020*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2020*

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Alex Heaton	Iain Spurgin	Leonard Prator
Alicia Padan	Janet Jones	Lori Bowser
Ann Benthin	Jean & Gary Smith	Mary Vogt
Barbara Lee Overton	Jeni Rober	Pat Tomes
Bob Fuller	Jerlyn Strube	Patti Mendel
Brian Hume	Jim Stansell	Paul Fair
Danielle Ferguson	John Unrich	Rachel Shore
Devin Thistlethwaite	Joy Bradley	Shelly Akers
Debbie Balder	Judy Johnson	Sherry Bryant
Eileen Parker	Kenneth Turpin	Stetson Garwood
Gladys Murphy	Larry & Mary Lou Schabeth	Sue Cox
Grace Ann Moore	Larry & Nancy Hess	Terry Simmons
Hayley Bowser	Laura Wilbur	Toni Huffer
Hunter Roberts		

## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Cheyenne Warwick 9-4  
 Will Pichon 9-4  
 Cheryl Novero 9-6  
 Judy Haberman 9-13  
 Carly Hunt 9-15  
 Lindsey Hayes 9-19  
 Jesse Bright 9-24  
 Rosemary Bates 9-25  
 Tammy Sherman 9-25  
 Carol Andre 9-26  
 Dave Pearson 9-29

**“BUT TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, NRSV).**

If there is someone you would like to have added to the prayer chain, just give their name to Julie Bright. Also, for various reasons a name which has been on the list may need to be removed to keep the prayer chain current. Again, if there is someone's name which needs to be removed, please contact Julie (317-409-7498).

(Con't from Pg. 1)  
I would like to invite everyone to this meeting and need at least 3 church members other than myself to attend. Please let me know if you will be joining us. Bartlett Chapel, The Branches Church of Plainfield and West Newton United Methodist Churches will also be conducting their business at this meeting.

The meeting generally takes about 1 hour and is an excellent way of seeing how other churches are doing. I usually learn something new at this meeting and have also found that we can teach others by sharing our example of Love to God and Neighbor. It is a privilege and blessing to be His church and this gathering is great way to see how we all come together as one.

It is also good to know our source of strength has not changed. Our Father God in Heaven is still here and is watching over us. He directs us with His Holy Spirit.

He has shown us the way to the future in His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Gospel message is alive and well at Bridge-



port United Methodist Church. The good news is we have meaningful work to still to do. The good news that we have a God who protects and provides with His presence through His Holy Spirit.

We have continued work to do and God has placed us here with each other at this very moment and location to lead others to Him as His Church and People. I encourage all to invite others to join us here at Bridgeport United Methodist Church and on the internet sharing our Mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, all for the glory of God.

In Isaiah 41:10 God says to

His prophet Isiah to share with His people:

Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for

I *am* your God.

I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

I say to this, Thanks and Praise to you Our Father in Heaven. Amen.

Pastor Ken



### Many parts, one body

Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on

the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

—Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*

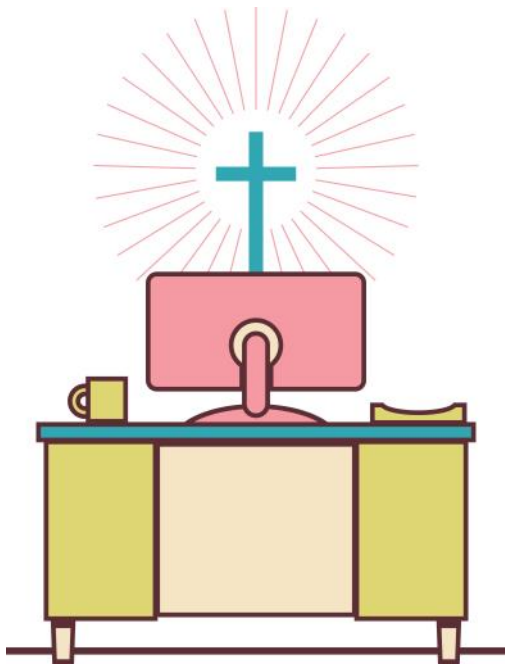
### God of (all) the ages

It's tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament's many references to "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people's needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.



## Witnesses at work



It is at work more than at church that the real moral — and immoral — decisions are being rendered about the health of our planet, our bodies, our children, our very souls.

Work is the adult arena for spiritual decision-making, whether we are talking about the waste our species spews into the earth, or the violence and titillating sex that dominates our television programming, or the inane political issues that get raised to fever pitch in order to drown out the real issues. It is in our work ... that the moral issues of our lives play out. And ... it is in our work that spirituality itself will be redeemed.

—Matthew Fox, *Confessions*

## One all-important word

Sometimes one word makes all the difference. In John 14:16, when Jesus promises the disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit, he doesn't say "the" Helper or "a" Helper but "another" Helper. For

there to be "another" of something, we must already be familiar with a first of that thing. Jesus has been, for the disciples, their first Helper. They already "know him for he dwells with [them]" (verse 17, ESV).

When my infant son was to start full-time daycare, the transition went quite smoothly. That's because his "new" caregiver wasn't new at all: She was Grandma! The sense that my son would be in the hands of *another* family member he already knew eased the handoff for Mama and baby alike.

Not all parents have access to that type of situation, but the caregiving arrangement Jesus provided his disciples is available to all. Even when Jesus is no longer

physically with us, another who loves us just as much — another we already know and whose truth we've seen in Jesus — is here. We're in good hands.

—Heidi Mann

## All workers are essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for "to call," previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that "*God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does.*"

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled "God Makes Pizza," describes how this looks today: "God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing 'daily bread' through the work that you do, no matter what that work is."

## When God crosses our paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and

petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still

required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a

face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).



WE HAVE THIS

HOPE

AS AN ANCHOR  
FOR THE SOUL

FIRM  
AND  
SECURE.

HEBREWS 6:19

## Optimism grounded in hope

"I am fundamentally an optimist," said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. "Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair.."

Some say optimism is naïve, "a generic good idea about the future" (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela's 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

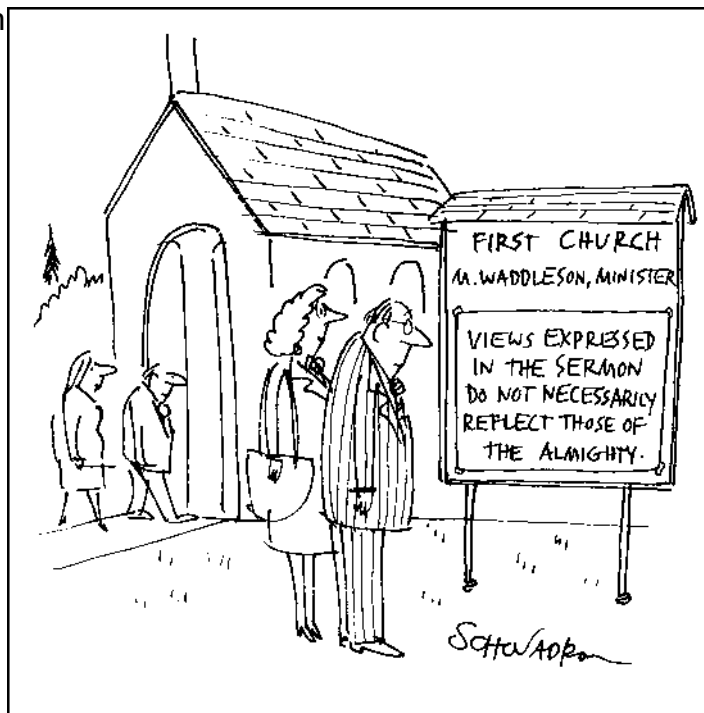
Our hope is grounded in God's power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus' resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can't fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa's first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.

## Always within reach

As I grow older, I appreciate help getting up from the couch. Often, my husband extends his arm to boost me up. This act of kindness reminds me how the Lord reaches out to me each morning. He is the strength to lift me up so I needn't depend on myself.

Looking back through the years, I can see how the Lord endlessly extended his arm to me. Isaiah 33:2 says, "O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble." Too often I haven't waited for the Lord, and my impatience resulted in no-good results. Waiting for — and accepting — God's guidance isn't always easy, but he always comes through, and we're never out of his reach.

I'm so

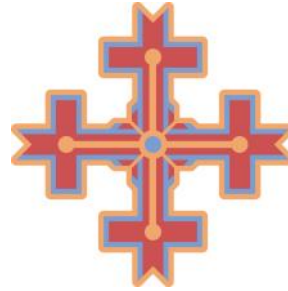


thankful my heavenly Father graciously extends his arm to help me up, get me "unstuck" and keep me from trouble.

—MaryAnn Sundby

## Christian Symbol

### CROSS CROSSLET—



This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. This cross is often used in connection with missions.

### Time for a pop quiz!

Tests don't end once you finish school.:

**The worship test:** Do I faithfully attend wor-

ship services and Bible studies?

**The weather test:** Am I a "fair weather" Christian?

**The work test:** Am I willing to put my talents to use for my church?

**The wallet test:** Do I regularly contribute or tithe?

## A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

### What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper

### What you do:

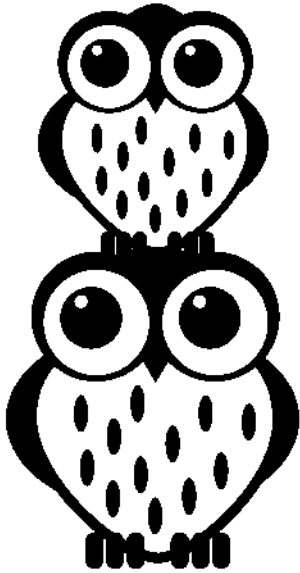
1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!

# PUZZLE

## WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



school    \_ O \_ \_ \_  
 paper    \_ O \_  
 wisdom    \_ \_ O \_  
 read      \_ \_ \_ O  
 play      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 learn     O \_ \_ \_ \_  
 grow      \_ O \_ \_ \_ \_  
 pencils    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 pray      \_ O \_ \_ \_  
 art        \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 student    \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_  
 kids        \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_  
 apple     \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_

"... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful."

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

# Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

### CODE

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
D	1	H	2	M	3	S	4	W	5
E		I		N		T		Y	

T  
 4 1 3 3    4 4    2 4 1  
 1 3 1    3 2 4 4 1 3  
 2 4 4    2 4 1  
 " 1 1    4 4 2 3 3    1 3 1  
 3 3 4 5    4 2 1 4  
 2    1 3    2 4 1"

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Please by the 20th of each month.

To submit articles or stories please send to

Dave Pearson

[pearson\\_david\\_b@yahoo.com](mailto:pearson_david_b@yahoo.com)

Or

Liz Hollinger

[lizhollinger17@gmail.com](mailto:lizhollinger17@gmail.com)

## Bible Quiz

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness



Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)