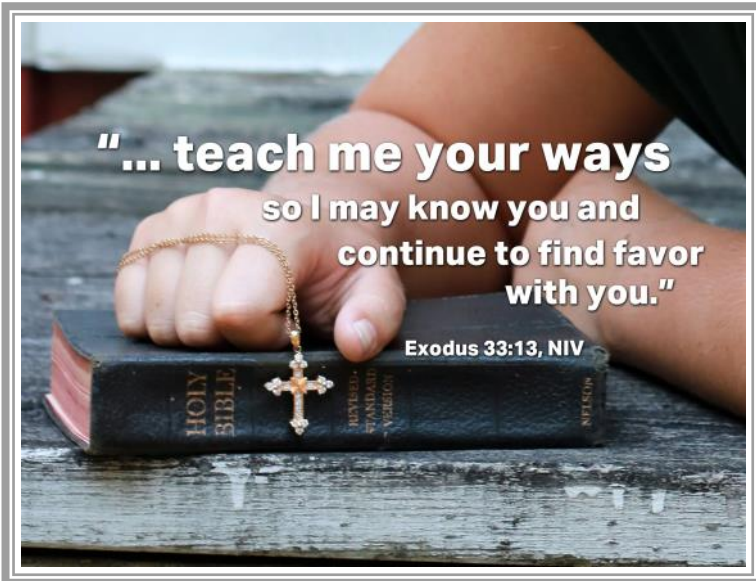


The Bridge

BRIDGEPORT UMC NEWSLETTER

This Issue

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From the Pastor:

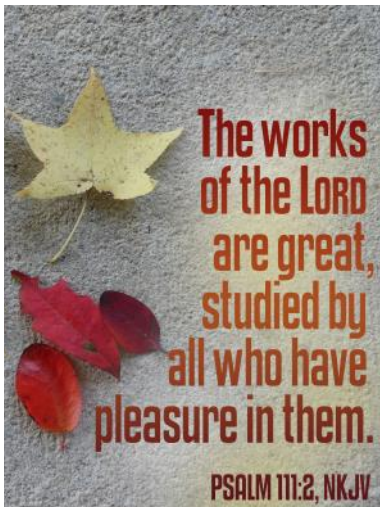
Greetings friends and family at Bridgeport United Methodist Church. October has arrived. The season of Fall has started, and we continue to celebrate our Lord with worship and service here at Bridgeport United Methodist Church. We are 3/4ths through our calendar year. I am grateful to report that Bridgeport United Methodist Church is alive and well.

Thank you, Charlene Swank and all the other volunteers that hosted our annual fall garage sale. Janice Sedam, Patty Reese, Melania Hall, Carol Warrick, Wanda Sipe, Marilyn Manzenberger, and a host of others did another great job staffing the sale and raised over 2 thousand dollars for the United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, Indiana this year.

BUMC continues to send food and dry goods to Barnes United Methodist Church for their food pantry. Thank you, Greg, and Julie Bright for the deliveries. BUMC sent donations as a church for well over \$1200 to The Medina School in Africa and The Gideons International for purchase of Bibles. We are a loving and generous congregation helping others to promote The Love and Grace of Jesus Christ Locally, Nationally, Globally.

I am so pleased that Judy Rutter is conducting a Women's Bible Study via Zoom Starting this month. Thank you, Judy, for your servant leadership. Please see Judy or contact church office if you are interested.

For The Business of The Church and Planning for 2021, our Annual Church Charge Conference is currently scheduled on October 24th at 1000am being held at Roberts Park. I am hoping we have several members in attendance. Please let me know if you can attend. Also, please be on lookout for any changes in time and location,



October 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	31



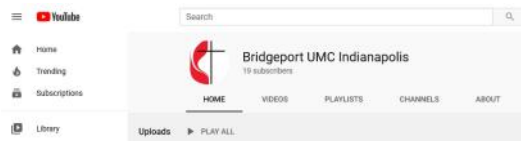
At Our Church

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

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

Special dates

- ◆ Pastor Appreciation Month
- ◆ World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2020*
- ◆ Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2020*
- ◆ Reformation Day, *October 31, 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		

OCTOBER Birthdays

Danielle Hunt 10-1
 Malcolm Baker 10-1
 Aidrey Hunt 10-2
 Rod Sieck 10-2
 Cindy Huffer 10-9
 Brianna Hayes 10-10
 Megan D'Amato 10-10
 Paul Hunt 10-11
 Kelly Powers 10-13
 Kathy Sringellow 10-14
 Eileen Parker 10-15
 Jill Wheeler 10-15
 Al Mendel 10-16
 Pat Mendel 10-16
 Kathleen Stringfellow 10-19
 Theresa Benton 10-19
 Pam Jones 10-20
 Derrick Shoemaker 10-24
 Leonard Prater 10-24
 Steve Jones 10-27

**“O LORD ...
 [WE] WILL
 EXALT
 YOU, [WE]
 WILL
 PRAISE
 YOUR
 NAME”
 (ISAIAH
 25:1,
 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).

which is a possibility for anything schedule this 2020 year.

I am encouraged that attendance in our building has been steady.

Viewership of worship service online is being enjoyed by many. It is our intent to provide this online internet experience going forward with upgrades planned to do live real-time worship within the

next month. We are starting our 8th month of streaming starting from scratch. We have been so fortunate and blessed.

Thank you, John Stansell and David Pearson, for all your dedica-

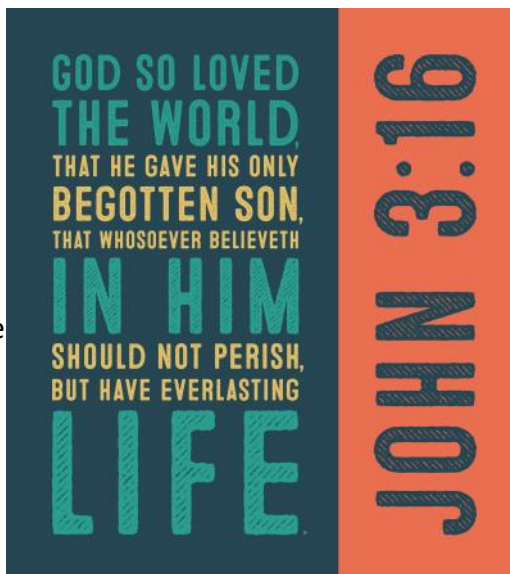
tion in providing this online worship experience. You both are wonderful.

As pandemic restrictions are being lifted Donuts and Coffee return to Fellowship Hall in October. We have hopes that we can ease into breakfast and fellowship together on sight with a sense of Joy and Peace by the end of the Year. I pray to God for Grace

and Mercy and Thank Him for continuing to allow us to Worship, Fellowship and Serve God and Neighbor at Bridgeport United Methodist Church.

My entire Family, Kim and I are grateful for all the love and support we have received from you this year. It is a Joy to Be Here.

Love, Peace and Hope to you,
Pastor Ken



The best medicine

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

That Bible verse be-

Women's Bible Study

Judy Rutter is hosting a Women's Bible Study. It will meet virtually Starting: Oct 11, 2020, Sunday at 6:30pm. This will be around 12-14 weeks of Bible Study with the Book below. The book is approximately \$15 dollars on Amazon or the church is willing to purchase the book for you, if you prefer.

You can participate by either logging on to "Zoom" via a Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet. You can also participate by dialing into the bible study by phone.

Book Name : It's All Under Control
Author : Jennifer Dukes Lee
ISBN 978-1-4964-3047-2

Description from the book:
It's All Under Control is a book for every woman who is hanging on tight and trying to get each day right but feeling life out of control. Let's learn how to:

- ◆ Overcome the anxieties and worries that burden our heart
- ◆ Prioritize our busy life so we can make choices that align with God's best for you
- ◆ Find freedom through a new approach to our daily tasks
- ◆ Let go of what God has not asked you to do, so you can shine at what he has

Let's discover a new way of living that will free us to be ourselves and experience the peace of knowing that God has it all under control.

Please contact Judy by email or phone if you would like Judy to get the book for you or login/password information to attend: Judy.rutter@yahoo.com; 317-694-4994.

came a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. "What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is the Bible itself!" After repeating the words of

that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heart-aches!"

God's Missions

Rummage Sale

Thank you so much for everyone who was involved with the Rummage Sale. It takes a village to do what we have done. One person can't do it. Because of all of you and the supporters who came to the church during our sale, we raised, \$2,170.00. Thank you and the United Methodist Children's Home give you a warm thanks.

Samaritans Purse

We are now starting our Samaritan Purse Boxes. Normally we do about 36 boxes. With the Covid-19 I pray that we are able to still do so. Starting October 11, you will find Samaritan boxes in the Social Hall. Inside each box you will find everything you need to get started. National Collection week is, November 16-23.

Thanks Tree

For the month of November there will be a tree in the Social Hall. This year instead of jumping from Halloween to Christmas, God said how about using November as a time to reflect on what we are grateful for as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth.

You will find cut out hearts to write down what you are grateful for and then hang it on the tree. You don't have to sign your name. Let us be thankful for what God have given us.

Loved for who we are



When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we *are*. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we

will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*

—Madeleine L'Engle,
Walking on Water

A singular focus

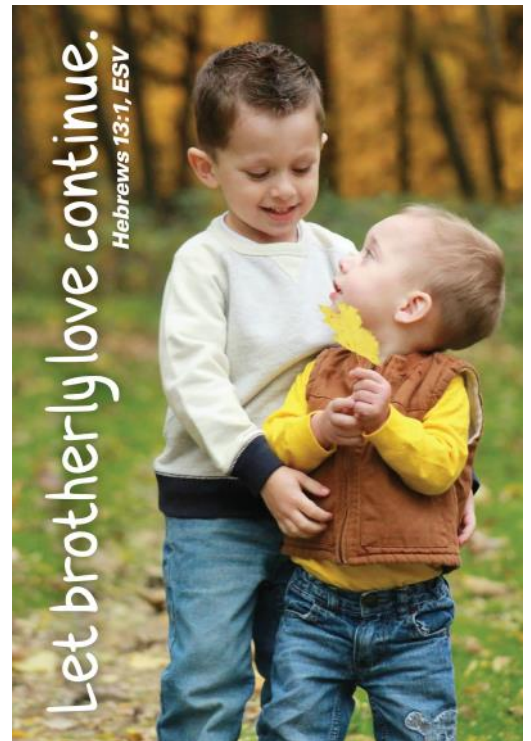
When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by *many* things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.

Just be — and be still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: "I am a human being, not a human doing. It's okay to just *be* sometimes." Many of us get anxious if we think we're not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it's not a waste of time to just be: "To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world



Let brotherly love continue.
Hebrews 13:1, ESV

needs most."

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus' spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and "do." Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

(Con't on Page 5...)

(Con't from Page 4)
It's sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just *be*. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God's presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

Christian Symbol



PLOW — This farming implement is mentioned frequently in the Bible, often in conjunction with verses about the harvest. The act of plowing symbolizes preparing the heart to receive God's truth, or the "seed" of God's word. The plow also represents commitment; Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, NIV). In the Old Testament, the prophet Elisha burns his plow to show his commitment to answer God's call (see 1 Kings 19:21).

A lesson in appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, "Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, 'The one we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation

Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

Learning from autumn leaves

Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn

leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Truth + love

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the *Christian Post*, "Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, 'If you cut off someone's nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.' If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener's nose, there is no use in giving them the

sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child's head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love."

SEED impressions

Create autumn-themed artwork using items from plants.



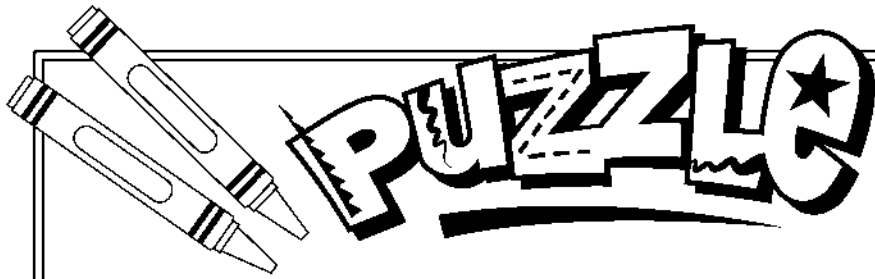
What you need:

- Seed pods, nuts, pine cones
- Mixing bowl
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Go on a nature walk and collect seeds with interesting textures.
2. In the bowl, mix flour and salt. Gradually add water. On a table, knead the dough. (If too dry, add more water; if too sticky, add more flour.)
3. Flatten a ball of dough and stamp impressions in it with the seeds.
4. If desired, bake for several hours at 150 degrees until dry and hard. Or, to reuse dough, store in an airtight container up to 6 months.





A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant
3. To plant
4. Sharp part of a plant
5. What is harvested
6. To dry up and shrivel
7. Person who plants
8. The earth a plant grows in

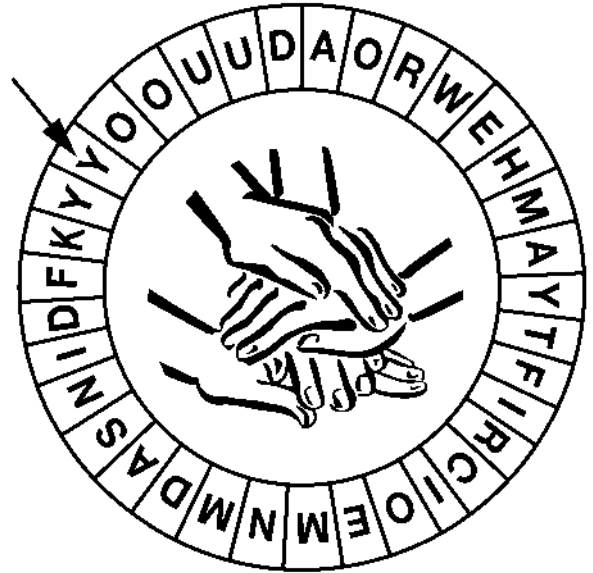
"But the 2 falling on good 8 refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a 5, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was 3 n."

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



"Y

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil; seed, soil, top, sow

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

Please by the 20th of each month.
 To submit articles or stories please send to
 Dave Pearson
pearson_david_b@yahoo.com
 Or
 Liz Hollinger
lizhollinger17@gmail.com

Bible Quiz

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks

Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)