



## Upcoming Events

- **Bible Study:** Meets weekly at 11:30am following church service (separate from the daily class)
- **Second Saturday Prayer Breakfast:** January 13, 2024 and February 10, 2024, at 9:00 am
- **Book Club:** January 13, 2024, and February 10, 2024, both at 10:30am
- **Children's Upcoming Events:** Please see details in Notes from Children's Ministry below
- **365 Bible Study:** began January 1, 2024 (self-paced online class)
- **Martin Luther King Jr Day:** January 15, 2024
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** January 18-25, 2024
- **Hot Chocolate Night:** January 31, 2024, hot chocolate, puzzles and board games at Nonna's Restaurant in Plainfield, 5pm to ?
- **Ice Cream for Breakfast:** Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 10a to noon, with breakfast foods, including ice cream, in BUMC Fellowship Hall
- **Children's Valentine's Day Party:** February 11, 2024, during Sunday School
- **BUMC Date Night Dinner:** Saturday, February 24, 2024 (sign-up sheet coming soon)
- **Admin Council Meeting:** March 9, 2024 at 10:15 am (following Prayer Breakfast)
- **Trustees' Meeting:** April 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Please watch the online church calendar for any future changes of date or time - should that be necessary. You can access that calendar under the "Activities" tab at <https://www.smallchurchbigheart.com/>

As a reminder, you may access the Directory by placing the following link/address in your search browser on your desktop/tablet/laptop: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

New Daily Bible Study Class: Just as a reminder, the congregation is invited to participate in a new self-paced Bible study of the New Testament, which started January 1<sup>st</sup>. However, you can still jump in and catch up on daily scripture readings. This online class is available through the YouVersion app, and is entitled "New Testament in a Year", and is supported by the Bible Project. To participate, you will need to download two apps, Bible Project and YouVersion on any Smart phone, iPad, desktop, laptop or Tablet. For questions about the class, or for help in downloading the apps, please see Dave Pearson.

## How Well Do You Know Me?

This section has hopefully been very meaningful to readers as we have learned a bit more about members of this congregation. This month highlights Ken Huffer, another long-time member of BUMC.

Ken Huffer grew up on the west side of Indianapolis, having lived there from approximately 1957 to 1998. In 1998, he and his wife, Toni, moved to Monrovia and have lived there ever since. Ken and Toni will have been married 44 years this coming April. They have no children, but do have lots of nieces and nephews, and are fur parents to a cat named Smokey Jo.

Ken attended Purdue University with the plan to become a pilot. He learned to fly, and earned his pilot's license, but his plan was thwarted because he could not fly at night due to color blindness. He went on to graduate from Purdue with an Aviation Maintenance degree. He then used that degree and education to work as a technical engineer at Allison Rolls Royce at the Maywood location for 38 years. As a technical engineer, he oversaw experimental testing of various types of engines for aircraft, trucks, cars and ground power applications. This included generators that ran the power supply of Patriot missiles, engines for helicopters, the Cessna Citation 10, the C130 aircraft (a military cargo plane), diesel engines for trucks, as well as turbo chargers for Detroit Diesel.

Ken not only worked at Allison, but he also worked as a volunteer firefighter with the Wayne Township Fire Dept. for about 25 years. He started that journey in Bridgeport, but moved to the Monroe Township Fire Department when he and Toni moved to Monrovia. Over the course of his firefighting career, Ken assumed many roles: Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Chief, he oversaw HazMat operations, and served as the EMS Division Chief, which oversaw the ambulance operations. His career with the fire departments afforded him the opportunity to also work as an EMT for 20 years.

As a child, Ken attended church services with his grandpa. When his grandpa's health began fading, Ken's uncle stepped in and started taking him to church. Ken attended Plainfield Church of Christ until he went away to college.

In 1993, when Ken joined the Masonic Lodge in Bridgeport, he met nice folks who were attending BUMC. He met Gene Reese, an officer at the Lodge, and Kenny Hoffman, the BUMC Choir Director. It just seemed to be a natural fit for he and Toni to also start attending BUMC. Max Case was the Pastor of BUMC at the time, and they have been attending ever since. Ken loves the Lodge, and served as Master in 2002.

Since becoming a member of BUMC, Ken has served the church in many ways: as a Trustee, member of the Admin Council, as a Lay Leader, and now as Chair of the Pastor Parish. When asked what he loves about BUMC, Ken states he loves the people – his church family – the most. He fondly remembered that John and Debbie Stansell were already at BUMC when he first started attending. Ken's mom, Shirley, knew Geoff Bradley's parents well. What Ken hopes and dreams for BUMC is growth. He loves that we are a small church, but he would also love to see younger families coming in, with some diversity that reflects the community in which BUMC is located. When asked about a favorite Bible verse, Ken prefers to rely on scripture that guides him with whatever situation is at hand.

I hope you have enjoyed getting to know Ken as I have. These monthly interviews allow us to learn a bit more about our congregation on a deeper level, and what each individual brings to the table, or to BUMC. When asked what they love most about BUMC, every person has said

the same thing: they LOVE the people here. They love the family feel of the church: the small church with the big heart. If you, too, would like to see BUMC grow, please invite friends, coworkers or neighbors to a Sunday service. Have you ever read the back page of the Sunday Bulletin? You will see that the ministers of BUMC are its people. If you would like to become more active and serve BUMC as Ken has, you are encouraged to talk to Pastor Ken. Each one of us has a different skillset and love for this church. What can you bring to BUMC?

## Looking Back with Joy

We had such a great month of December with the Operation Christmas Child (thanks Judy Pearson), the Sweaters and Sweets Cookie Exchange (thanks Joy Spurgin, Jacque Morris and Terri Harmon), the wonderful Christmas Cantata (thanks Choir Director Debbie Stansell and BUMC Choir), and beautiful, peaceful Christmas Eve service (thanks Heva Espay and Pastor Ken).

This year should be filled with joyful worship, fellowship, music, and opportunities to grow both individually, and as a church here at BUMC. Heva Espay already has many fun activities scheduled for January and February, and Joy Spurgin has scheduled our next social event, Date Night Dinner. These events are another way we can all grow closer together as a church family. Please see sign-up sheets for these upcoming events in the Narthex. Also, all events have been added to the BUMC online calendar, again, found at <https://www.smallchurchbigheart.com/>

## Notes From the Children's Ministry

Hello Bridgeport family! I hope you all had a wonderful new year! God has been good and I am so thankful to be a part of the Bridgeport family and for all the love and the friendships I've made here.

I have been working hard on curriculum and activities for the coming year and I am so excited for all the fun stuff coming up! I am excited to announce I will be putting on an Easter play with the kids this year. We are so blessed with such wonderful, smart, and talented students I hope to see them all participate! I don't want to spoil too many details just yet. I am still hammering out some things and, of course, getting approval by the powers that be (looking at you Pastor lol). There will be some rehearsals outside of Sunday school (in March). and I will post those as soon as I have confirmation. I will need lots of help! If you are interested in volunteering or helping behind the scenes in any capacity, please see me or sign up on the Easter play sheet in

the Narthex and I will be in touch. Thank you again for all of your support!

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Hot chocolate day - January 31st I am inviting all of Bridgeport to visit me at Nonna's! I will have free hot chocolate, board games and puzzles, and live music. Hope to see you all there! 5 pm-?
- "Ice Cream for Breakfast Day" is Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kids are welcome to come in their favorite pajamas and enjoy breakfast (ice cream included ) 😊. After, there will be different stations with games and activities for kids of all ages. This will be held at BUMC from 10a to 12:30 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in order to have an idea for food quantities. ❤️
- February 11th will be our Valentine's Day party during Sunday school.
- Easter is on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

I am so looking forward to this year learning and having fun together! God bless!

Blessings,  
Heva Espay

## Notes From Our Pastor

Happy New Year! Let us give thanks to The Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. As we begin another cycle around the Son, and the sun, I am thankful to be able to proclaim the love of God to you and all who will hear.

We can share in this love because God loved us first. He filled us with His Holy Spirit. We have become transformed and now following Him we do so with others. So let us in 2024 continue to be His church by following "The Great Commission" stated by Jesus in Matthew 28:19:

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

This is the Mission of Bridgeport United Methodist Church and The Methodist Church, be either United or Global, and that is "To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world all for the glory of God."

My hope for you and all is that you join or continue or join in the ministry of BUMC. The ministry of love, and there are so many ways to become involved. First and foremost is Worship which occurs every Sunday at 10am.

Second would be to participate in a small group or Sunday School class or our Bible studies which occur periodically throughout the year. This year, we have already started a self-paced Bible study to cover the New Testament. Please contact Dave Pearson for more information.

Another way to become involved would be to join me in reading the Bible everyday with the goal of completing it in one year. Please contact me if you want me to start sending you daily scriptures from the Old and New Testament along with a verse for the day. It takes about 10 minutes a day and is a wonderful way to either start or complete your day. Email me at [kloudenback@pumc.org](mailto:kloudenback@pumc.org) if you want to join several of us who started January 1.

So, in conclusion of this letter is that I share The Holy Scripture invitation to you in 2024 and forever is to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

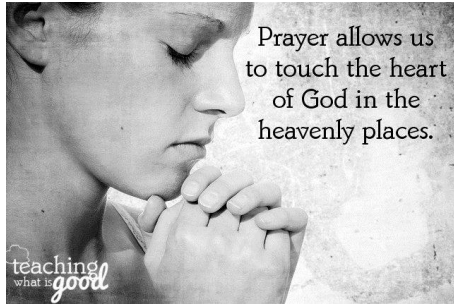
In doing so, you will be served by Christ Jesus who teaches us to serve others all for God’s Glory. This is the Message of Hope. May The God of Hope fill you with Joy and Peace in believing and may that hope abound in you by the power of The Holy Spirit all in The Holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Ken Loudenback  
Bridgeport United Methodist Church

## Birthdays



01/03/2024	Joy Spurgin
01/04/2024	Judy Pearson
01/06/2024	Ron Morris
01/13/2024	Jim Wheeler
01/19/2024	Marilyn Manzenberger
01/21/2024	Gladys Sherman
01/29/2024	Levi Jones



## Prayer Requests:

### Most recent prayers offered for:

For a complete prayer list, please see the weekly church bulletin. Prayer requests can be sent to:

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

### Ways to Give:

#### Missions:

- Monetary donations are always welcomed for yarn.
- Please bring nonperishable food donations on Sunday for the food pantry.
- Lebanon United Methodist Children's Home
- Operation Christmas Child
- Fletcher Place
- Allies/Purchased Human Trafficking
- Cardboard Box Ministries

### Continued prayers:

All our Military men and women

Homebound: Janet Jones, Leonard Prator



Online @ [Bridgeport UMC Indianapolis](#)



Download our App



Send letters or donations to: Bridgeport UMC, 1305 Bridgeport Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46231 OR P.O. Box 420, Plainfield, IN 46168

Email:

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