

THE BRIDGE

BRIDGEPORT UMC
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Bridgeport UMC
1305 Bridgeport Road
Indianapolis, IN 46231
317/241-6195

Worship Schedule

Choir Practice	8:30 am
Fellowship Time	9:15 am
Sunday Service	10:00 am
Bible Study	11:15 am
Latino Worship	11:30 am
Christ International Church	12:30 pm



You may also wish to join with us online:

Connect with us:  

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

Click here for Bridgeport UMC YouTube – [Bridgeport UMC Indianapolis](#)

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

Upcoming Events

- **Bible Study:** Meets weekly at 11:30am following church service.
- **Second Saturday Prayer Breakfast:** October 14th at 9am
- **Book Club:** October 14, 10:30a
- **Trustee's Meeting:** October 16, 6pm
- **Chili Cook off:** October 28, 2023 at 5p
- **All Saints Day:** November 1, 2023
- **Daylight Savings Time:** ends on November 5, 2023
- **Church Charge Conference:** November 26, 2023 at 5p at Danville United Methodist Church
- **Children's Upcoming Events:** Please see upcoming dates in the Notes From the Children's Ministry below

Looking Ahead With Anticipation

Mark your calendars to attend our Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 5p in Fellowship Hall. Activities have been planned for folks of all ages, with the kids' activities beginning a bit earlier, at 4p. See more information below in the Children's Notes from Heva Espay. For the meal, there will be a chili cook-off, and anyone may enter a pot of chili. Do you have a chili recipe that is the talk of your neighborhood? Do you have a bit of a competitive spirit? Attendees may sample all of the chili and vote for up to three different favorites. The entry with the most votes will be awarded first place, but second and third place winners will also be recognized. Each of these winners will receive a certificate of commendation and bragging rights for their chili concoctions. Cornbread and surprise desserts will also be served. We plan a western theme planned, so jeans, bandanas, cowboy hats and boots would be fun to wear. You are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors – and as Bobby Hayden suggested -any "rascals" you know. If you want to enter your chili, don't forget to complete the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. We hope to see you all at the Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off as this will be a fun night of fellowship together.

Other upcoming events include a prayer breakfast on Saturday, October 14th at 9a , and the book club meets right after breakfast, or around 10:30a.

Lastly, if you visit the Bridgeport website online, you will notice a new church calendar has been added under the "Activities" tab thanks to John Stansell. The hope is that we will be able to view the church calendar from anywhere. This is a new process, so please be patient as we all get used to adding events to this online calendar. Also, there are people working on updating the Church Directory, and possibly a hard copy of that Directory will be available relatively soon.

Note from the Children's Ministry

Hello Bridgeport!

I love fall and I am so excited for everything we have planned here at BUMC. As Halloween approaches, many people start thinking about all that the modern occasion entails — costume parties, trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving and haunted houses.

The ghosts and ghouls are a reminder of the day's dark origins in ancient Celtic history, when Oct. 31 was believed to be the night when ghosts of the dead returned to earth. Despite its decidedly pagan start, or perhaps because of it, Halloween also played a pivotal role in religious history as Reformation Day.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a monk and university professor, released his "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," also known as "The 95 Theses." The document, intended to be used as a basis for discussion with church superiors, spoke against the selling of indulgences, a practice that allowed people to "buy" their salvation from local priests. "One had to have a penance for one's sins, but at the same time, Luther was just outraged that you would have to pay money for that. His emphasis was more on repentance than on penance." The distribution of the theses marked the beginning of the Lutheran movement and the eventual spread of Protestantism around the world. Was it coincidence he chose to do so on Oct. 31? "The reason he did that was because the next day was All Saints' Day," Martinson, a reformation scholar, said. "He knew that well-educated people were going to come to the services." All Saints' Day, celebrated on Nov. 1, is dedicated to honoring saints (those who have attained heaven), and one of the ways people did that was through relics. An enviable collection of relics — one from all 5,005 saints — was amassed by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, who founded the University of Wittenberg, where Luther taught. The relics were housed at the Castle Church, where Luther is said to have nailed his theses to the door.

I know that Halloween is a fun holiday for all of the children, and I certainly want to provide a safe and fun experience for them. I also want them to know more about why we celebrate what we do, and also start to understand the history of the church. I would like to take the opportunity to have fun games and activities that teach them about the history of Reformation Day. So, I am excited to celebrate fall alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ on October 28th. At 4:00 pm, we will have stations for the kids with lots of fun activities while also learning about the Reformation, Martin Luther, All Saints Day, and the history of Halloween. Around 5:30-ish we will be heading down for dinner with the rest of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me!

We will continue to collect items for the homeless drive which we will be participating in late November.

Here are some of the items we still need:

1. Grocery bags
2. Soap Bars
3. HotHands Hand and Toe Warmers
4. Non-Perishable food items (crackers, applesauce, soft bars, water bottles)
5. Women's Sanitary Napkins, etc.
6. Warm Socks, Gloves, Hats, and Scarves.

Heva Espay

Kid-Isms Korner

Little Henry has a new baby sister, and her name is Opal. As you all know, Henry is YaYa Jacque's (Morris) grandson, and is a proud big brother. Here's another Henry quip to make you smile. He was recently looking at various types of aircraft in a book, and was pointing them out: "here's a fighter jet, here's a helicopter, and this one is a 'blump'." Evidently, in little Henry's world, blimps are blumps. Out of the mouths of babes....

How Well Do You Know Me?

How well do you think you know our church members? This month, we get to know Harold Pierce a little bit better. He and his wife, Joyce, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 17, 2022. They have three adult sons, one daughter (who passed away), 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Did you know that Harold is a former fire fighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department? He began his career in 1953 as a chauffeur, and retired in 1982 with the rank of Captain. When he began his career, the role of chauffeur meant he actually drove the fire apparatus. As the years passed, he rose through the ranks, and ultimately earned the title of Captain, with various duties, including assisting the Fire Chief. Harold comes from a strong fire fighting background with nine family members also being fire fighters. That in itself is a commitment to service of community. He has some harrowing stories to tell, including rescuing kittens from trees and personally delivering a baby. Be sure to ask him about the perils of falls from inside a burning house and a garage door that fell on his battalion as they were entering a burning garage. Harold also served as the cook for his fire house, which started while he was looking for something to do while others napped. I cannot wait to taste Harold's chili that he will be entering in the Chili Cook-off on October 28th. When you see Harold around church, be sure to thank him for his years of service to the community as a fire fighter.

Harold's hobbies include playing games on the computer and working jigsaw puzzles. He also has been a Shriner for 43 years, and is a past President of the Shriner Firemen's Club. He recalls driving an old fire engine in various parades, including the Indianapolis 500 Parade.

Harold and Joyce initially attended Wesley United Methodist Church for 30 years while living in Indianapolis. He and Pastor Ken's paths crossed long ago as both attended that church together, with Pastor Ken singing in the choir. When Harold and Joyce moved from Indy to Avon 20 years ago, they decided to find a church closer to home. After attending a few different churches, they came into Bridgeport one Sunday and felt an instant connection. Harold appreciated the friendly welcome with people giving them hugs and handshakes. While a member at BUMC, Harold has served the church in various roles and on different committees, including the role of Trustee. Until this past year, Harold was in charge of changing the weekly message on the sign out in front of the church on the lawn. For well over 8 years, he weathered rain, heat, snow and wind to change those messages. He said Joyce helped him create them, some coming from scripture, and some according to events on the church calendar throughout the year.

When asked what he dreams for Bridgeport, he stated he wished to see the congregation grow, and to see more children attending. What Harold likes most about Bridgeport is the warmth and friendliness of the congregation. Harold enjoys his church family, and he knew from the moment he stepped inside, this was the church for him.

It is with joy that this interviewer got to sit down with Harold to learn more about his life outside of church, but more importantly, what he continues to contribute to this church and his church family.

Note from our Pastor

It is written in **Exodus 14:14** - **"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.** This is great news of encouragement and instruction. In my struggles on this Earth, I have fought with others over many principles and have learned in my experience to be still and trust that God has all things covered. **For if God is for us who can be against us? Romans 8:31,** and **Psalm 46:10- Be still and Know that I am God.**

As we all continue to journey forward, let us take our instruction from Our Father in Heaven, through His sacred Word in The Bible. Let us not give up, but keep our focus on Jesus Christ by the Power of the Holy Spirit. This is a walk of faith trust. We will be welcoming new members to Bridgeport here in the next few weeks. All praise and thanks be to God. Please contact me if you are interested.

God is blessing us greatly and is and will always provide for His people. Being people of faith, we need to keep our eyes on the one whom we believe, Jesus Christ. We do this by our worship. We do this by studying His word. We do this by loving our neighbors. We do this by inviting and welcoming others to be part of His family, His church.

It is written, **All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose Romans 8:28.** When things seemingly are not working, know that as human beings, we have finite understanding. This is where our faith in Jesus Christ will carry us through our trials and tribulations. God's understanding is infinite.

Faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the Word of God. Romans 10:17 How well do you know the word of God? How often are you studying it for yourself and sharing it with others?

As we all mature in our spiritual formation, let us continue to follow the Holy Spirit at Bridgeport UMC, being His people and sharing His love with all who come through His doors here.

We are His people, and we share His message of Hope and He will take care of everything. Please continue to share this message with others as we are told to by Jesus in The Great Commission. Please continue to come and worship and invite others. 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.

Ken Loudenback
Pastor Bridgeport United Methodist Church

A Powerful Witness

St. Ignatius of Antioch was a bishop and martyr in the early years of Christianity, well known for his extensive writing about Christ and the church. On his journey to martyrdom in the early second century, he wrote letters to the Christian communities of the time that are still instructive today.

On November 1 we celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering all who have died in faith, as well as particular models of strong faith whom the church has named "saints." Especially inspiring — and challenging — are these words of Ignatius, written near the end of his life: "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth. He who died in place of us is the one object of my quest. He who rose for our sakes is my one desire."

Birthdays



For through wisdom, your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. Proverbs 9:11

October birthdays:

10/10	Brianna Hayes
10/10	Megan D'Amato
10/15	Jill Wheeler
10/16	Al Mendel
10/16	Pat Mendel
10/19	Kathleen Stringfellow
10/19	Theresa Benton
10/24	Leonard Prater

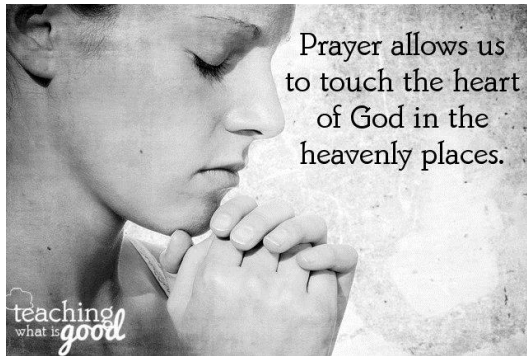
Church Directory

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/>

Goodies from the Kitchen

This month's recipe is from Terri Harmon, for the keto rum pound cake that she brought in to church for the breakfast on Sunday, October 1st. This cake is listed as keto friendly, but is also diabetic friendly due to the reduced carbohydrate content.

Keto Rum Pound Cake	
Preheat oven at 350°	Prep time: 15-20 min Cook time: 45-50 min
<p>Cake: 2½ cups almond flour 1 cup coconut flour 2 teaspoons baking powder ¼ teaspoon of sea salt ¾ cup butter (room temp) 8 oz cream cheese 5 eggs 1¼ cup sugar substitute (I used Swerve) 1 tablespoon vanilla extract ¼ cup heavy cream ¼ cup amber or dark rum</p> <p>Sauce: ½ cup melted butter ½ cup brown sugar substitute (Swerve) ¼ c amber or dark rum 1/8 t sea salt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mix all the dry ingredients together and set aside -Cream butter, sugar substitute and cream cheese together until fluffy -Add in vanilla extract -Add eggs, one at a time, incorporating fully each time -Slowly add in dry ingredient mixture (one or two tablespoons at a time) -Lastly, fold in rum and heavy cream <p>Butter and flour bundt cake pan well, and spoon in batter/</p> <p>Bake in preheated oven at 350° for 45-50 min. Once done, set aside for 10 min to cool while you make your sauce. Once cake has rested for about 10 min, poke small holes (I used a wooden skewer) in the bottom of the cake while still in the pan. Slowly drizzle half of the sauce over the entire bottom of the cake allowing it to soak into the cake through the holes you made. Invert the cake onto a serving tray and then poke additional holes in the top of the cake. Slowly drizzle remaining sauce over the top of the cake. You may need to microwave the sauce a bit to avoid the brown sugar from becoming "grainy" as it cools.</p>



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

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](#)



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