

# THE BRIDGE

BRIDGEPORT UMC  
NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 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](mailto: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 14th
- **Trustee's Meeting:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm
- **Church 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

Please watch for other upcoming social events even though official dates have not yet been set: chili cook-off, Thanksgiving meal, and Christmas cookie exchange. More to come!

## Looking Back With Joy

The BUMC Cobbler Festival was such FUN, and we had a great turn out. Pies and cobblers were baked by Ron and Jacque Morris, Joy Spurgin, Terri Harmon, and Janice Fontenot. There was a flavor for everyone, ranging from peach, blueberry, cherry/almond, caramel apple, and keto blueberry cobblers, to apple orange marmalade, raisin, lemon meringue and chocolate cream meringue pies. Generous members donated several items to raffle off: a beautiful quilt made by Joyce Pierce, two fairy tea cup gardens - one made by Jacque Morris and the other by Wanda Sipe - and a beautiful afghan crocheted by Corenia Pitchford. People who won those items were absolutely thrilled! Proceeds from the Cobbler Festival totaled over \$400 and will go to the church's various Outreach missions. Special thanks to Jacque Morris and Joy Spurgin for creating and organizing the fun event, and for taking care of the advertising. This is definitely an event that will be held again next year!

Our annual rummage sale took place September 14-16 from 9a to 2p. BUMC extends a special thank you to Joy Spurgin for all of her hard work in organizing this HUGE endeavor. She worked countless hours meeting folks at the church to receive donations and in the final week before the sale. Also, thanks to all church members who stayed after church service on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and brought down donations from upstairs. In the week ahead of the sale, volunteers Jacque Morris, Randy Boys, Joyce Pierce and Terri Harmon helped Joy organize, price, place donations on tables and racks in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, and interact with our shoppers. Carol Warwick and Patty Reese prepared meals and snacks for volunteers working the sale all week long, which was so appreciated.

This was one of those times where it truly took a village (or a church) to pull off an event as large as this. Thanks to EVERYONE who brought in all the lovely donations, and for shopping the sale. **Again, your generosity proves this is a small church with a big heart.**

## Note from the Children's Ministry

Hello Bridgeport!

I am so excited to remind everybody that this Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be our first "Blessing Bag" Prep day! We will meet at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. I will have coffee and breakfast treats for all. Everyone is welcome to join us, the more the merrier, and of course, bring the kiddos!

The goal is for everyone to leave with several bags they can store in their car. We have some great donations, but we are still needing some bags to put everything in. These are most often Ziploc bags as they are waterproof and can be reused, or can be small totes or drawstring backpacks that are useful as well. We also still need socks, feminine hygiene products, and small, non-perishable food items.

This is my first time organizing something like this so I am excited to learn and do this together. I hope to make this an activity we can all do periodically. Maybe every season or a couple times a year, we can all get together to restock our blessing bags to give out. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am available to pop in anytime this week if anyone has any additional donations. Thank you all for your enthusiasm and support! I am excited!

Important Dates:

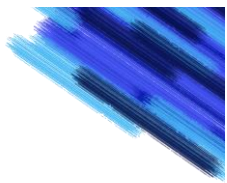
- Blessing bag prep - Saturday 9/23 at 10 am
- Kid's Movie Night: Saturday 9/30 at 5 pm. Dinner will be provided. I will need 2-4 volunteers, depending on how many kids sign up. Please see me if interested. Kids sign-up sheet will be available Sunday.

As always, I am so grateful to be a part of this congregation. Thank you for your support, prayers, love - you are a blessing in my life!

Heva Espay

## Kid-Isms Korner

Little Henry, YaYa Jacque's (Morris) grandson, has struck again. As you may already know, Henry's momma Molly is expecting Henry's sister, Opal, soon. Henry's momma was eating one day and Henry asked, "when you eat that, does it fall on Opal's head?" Out of the mouths of babes....



## How Well Do You Know Me?

How well do you think you know our church members? It was suggested by Ann Benthin that it would be fun if someone from the congregation was highlighted in the newsletter each month. This not only would serve as fellowship, but how fun it will be getting to know one another a bit better?

This writer chose to highlight Ann Benthin (actually *pronounced as BEN TEEN*) this month. Ann has one daughter and three adult grandsons and seven great grandchildren. She grew up in Everett, Washington, but came to Indiana when she was 10 years old due to a job change of one of her parents. Her extended family is now spread out as far as California, Florida, Arizona and Washington.

Several years ago, Ann and her husband owned a motorcycle assembly business. Because of that, Ann learned to ride 4 wheelers, jet skis, and motorcycles. She completed the bookkeeping and payroll for that business. Later, Ann began volunteering at the Eiteljorg Museum, which eventually morphed into a Human Resources position, a natural fit given her skill set. She really loved her work and the opportunity to talk with many different people at the Eiteljorg, but retired from that position in 2002.

According to [nameslook.com](http://nameslook.com), the meaning of Ann's surname of Benthin means helper, or freedom lover. Ann certainly lives up to her name with her volunteer position at the Eiteljorg, her help at this church, and her "need for speed" with motors. Ann adds that her "claim to fame" is having attended at least 40 Indianapolis 500 races and 10 Brickyard races. AJ Foyt has always been her favorite race car driver.

Ann took sewing classes all through high school, and is an accomplished seamstress. She makes purses, bags and pillows from men's silk ties. She had no tutorial for that – she just figured it out on her own. She also loves to read and work word puzzles, and used to write poetry. CBS News Sunday Morning is her favorite television show.

Ann believes she started coming to this church about 10 or 12 years ago. While not sure of the exact year, she remembered her first Sunday here coincided with the first Sunday Pastor Bill came back following his knee surgery. When asked what she loves most about this church, Ann replied that she loves the feeling of the sanctuary. She also loves the great feel of community here, and how everyone gets involved in various projects. Ann especially appreciates Debbie Stansell as choir director and the cantatas and special music they perform. Ann is awestruck by the large sound that our small choir can produce each week, stating no one would ever know the choir is just 7-10 voices strong.

Ann's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:10 – "be still, and know that I am God...." When asked about her hopes and dreams for the church, she would like to see it grow with more children attending in the future.

So how well do you know Ann? I hope it was as fun for you to read about her as it was for me to write about her.

## Note from our Pastor

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, it says: “There is a time for everything and every season under the sun.” This September 2023, we transition from the season of Summer to the season of Fall. Many activities at Bridgeport United Methodist Church continue to be carried out by God’s Small Church with a Big Heart - BUMC. All Praise and Thanks be to Father God in Heaven in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture says, “The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). The Lord continues to send new people to BUMC to join in and serve. Some of the laborers of the past have transitioned to their “new season” to other places, others remain. We pray and thank God for their service and that they continue to be allowed to be blessings and serve the Lord wherever they are.

We, being the people of Jesus Christ, confidently remain on task with our Bi-annual Rummage Sale (since 1955) set for September 14-16, 9a to 2p, with all proceeds going to the United Methodist Lebanon Children’s Home. Thank you, Joy Spurgin, for leading our effort. Thank you Terri Harmon and Jacque Morris, as well as countless others who serve with Joy, “for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

In these times of today, let us remain steadfast in faith and service without grumbling. I pray that those who speak of their concerns continue to do so with love and peace. I also pray that all learn to express themselves in a manner that does not discourage others, but instructs God’s people to be the best we can be and to be a reflection of God’s love.

As momentum continues to build here, I wish to encourage all, the old and newest members and those who will become members to search their hearts and find what God is calling you to do in your “new season.” There are many opportunities for everyone who wants to be a “harvester” here at BUMC. Please contact Joy Spurgin, Missions Chairperson, or me, if you are looking for ways to become a part of The Missions team and God’s blessing here.

For those who are struggling with all the changes, I present to you this: Jesus said “Shalom I leave with you, my shalom I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” ( John 14:27). Watch, wait and see, we all will come to know. Shalom means peace and it is a peace that is not the absence of trouble, but a peace that is being in the presence of the Lord. Trust that God is in charge and all things are working together for His Good in Christ Jesus here and everywhere. This goes way above our human understanding. We must have faith and continue to trust.

I pray without ceasing through every season, that “the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing and may that hope abound in all by the power of the Holy Spirit.” I thank you all.

Pastor Ken

## Birthdays



### September birthdays:

9/4 Cheyenne Warwick  
 9/6 Cheryl Novero  
 9/13 Judy Haberman  
 9/19 Lindsay Hayes  
 9/24 Jesse Bright  
 9/25 Tammy Sherman  
 9/26 Carol Andre  
 9/29 Dave Pearson

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

## 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/>

## Lay Ministry Opportunity

Have you felt the desire to learn more about the United Methodist Church, or even serve as a lay minister but have no idea how to get started? Pastor Ken has talked about an upcoming laity program offered through the United Methodist Churches of Indiana, Lay Servant Academy for our Central District. This would be a wonderful time to learn more about prayer, Christian coaching, or the Methodist Church. The next Lay Servant Academy class will be held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8a to 5p at the Castleton United Methodist Church. That church is located at 7101 North Shadeland Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana. If interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Ken, but the link to the Lay Servant Academy website and registration for the September 30<sup>th</sup> class can be found at <https://inumc.swoogo.com/CEIsa93023>

## Goodies from the Kitchen:

We thank Ron Morris for his peach cobbler recipe, which he baked for the recent Cobbler Festival.

### MeMe's Peach Cobbler

#### Cobbler filling:

3/4 cup packed light brown sugar  
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 ¼ teaspoon nutmeg  
 ¼ teaspoon salt  
 4 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 6 to 8 large peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced (about 6 cups – I used more for a larger pan about 10 to 12)  
 1 tablespoon Bourbon whiskey or Amaretto liqueur  
 Sweet Pie Crust (Recipe follows below)  
 2 tablespoons heavy cream  
 1 tablespoon granulated sugar

#### Sweet pie crust:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
 2 teaspoons sugar  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1 stick cold butter, cut into 1/4-inch pieces  
 2 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening  
 2 to 3 tablespoons ice water

-Preheat the oven to 400° F.

-In a bowl, combine the sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt

-In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat.

-Add the peaches and cook, stirring gently, for 1 minute.

-Add the sugar-flour mixture, and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens and begins to boil. Remove from the heat and stir in the bourbon or Amaretto (I used bourbon).

-Let cool and the sauce will continue to thicken.

-Divide the pie dough in 2, with one portion slightly larger than the other.

-Roll out the larger portion on a lightly floured surface to about 11 inches in diameter. Transfer to an 8-inch cast iron skillet or Dutch oven (I used a 9 x 13 foil pan), fitting the dough up the sides, leaving a slight overhang.

-Pour the peach mixture into the bottom dough. Roll up the overhanging bottom crust over the edges and pinch to seal. Crimp together around the pan. Brush the top with the cream and lightly sprinkle with the sugar.

-Transfer to the oven and bake for 15 minutes, then reduce the heat to 350° F and continue baking until the crust is golden and the juices are bubbly, 20 to 30 minutes longer.

-Remove from the oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely before serving.

#### Pie Crust:

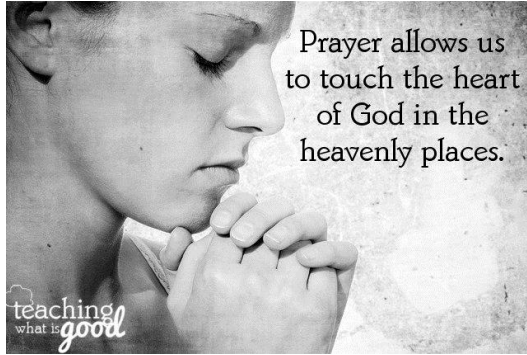
-Sift the flour, sugar, and salt into a large bowl.

-Using your fingers, work in the butter and shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

-Add 2 tablespoons of ice water and work with your fingers until the water is incorporated and the dough comes together. -Add more water as needed to make smooth dough, being careful not to over-mix.

-Form the dough into a disk, wrap tightly in plastic wrap, and let rest in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.

NOTE: it is important to leave the dough in the refrigerator for the 30 minutes



## 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](#)



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