

THE BRIDGE

BRIDGEPORT UMC NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

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

Also review the "Upcoming Events" section of this Newsletter for special events



BUMC Hope Coin:



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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



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



Upcoming Events

- **Church Clean Up Days:** March 26 and 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and March 27 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm
- **Good Friday Service:** March 29, 2024, at 5:00 pm
- **Trustees' Meeting:** April 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm
- **Second Saturday Prayer Breakfast:** April 13, 2024 at 9:00 am
- **Book Club:** April 13, 2024, right after prayer breakfast (10:00-ish)
- **Admin Council Meeting:** April 20, 2024, 10:15 am

Please watch the online church calendar for any future changes of date or time - should that be necessary. Printed step-by-step instructions are on the table in the Narthex. 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/>

Re-Organization of the Food Pantry

The re-organization process continues. Therefore, we would appreciate your support by continuing to bring in any nonperishable foods you wish. High priority foods would be hot cereals, soups, cans of chili, etc.

Birthdays

March:

03/17/2024 Ruthie Briggs
 03/21/2024 Erica Wheeler
 03/26/2024 April Wheeler

April:

04/02/2024 Harold Pierce
 04/02/2024 John Stansell
 04/06/2024 Thomas Spees
 04/08/2024 Shirley Huffer
 04/12/2024 Paige Stansell
 04/18/2024 Bill Clayton

Notes From The Library

Blessed Are The Misfits is a book by Brant Hansen in which he talks about various people who don't fit in with "normal" people. He discusses people who are depressed, are introverts, are on the autism spectrum, and just feel uncomfortable with "normal" people. He also talks about how he grew up with a pastor father, and the problems he has. The book tells about how God loves all people, and that it is alright to be a "misfit."

Janice Fontenot

Hope Coin

Ron and Jacque Morris were inspired by the Weekend of Hope, and wanted to develop a way to recognize church members who demonstrate faithful service to BUMC that goes and beyond.

Ron and Jacque brought the Hope Coin to life from the concept of a "challenge coin." The challenge coin tradition carries on today in many corporate settings as a way for leaders to recognize people, boost morale, and give a sense of belonging. Leaders gift the coin to show appreciation for a phenomenal job done. The coin is special – it is more than just a thank you or a pat on the back. It is a tangible gift given only to those whose service goes well beyond normal expectations. Ron combined the inspiration he felt from the Weekend of Hope with the rich history of a challenge coin to create the Hope Coin for BUMC. Pastor Ken has gifted this Hope Coin to show his gratitude to those he felt deserved to be recognized for going above and beyond normal expectations. These people include BUMC church members as well as Dr. Fulbright, our UMC Superintendent for her work on our behalf in the Central District. These recipients have served their neighbors and the church with a loving heart, faithfully and selflessly, and have lived the core values of BUMC and the Methodist church in general.

We thank Ron and Jacque for this wonderful Hope Coin for BUMC, not only for the design itself, but also in gifting the church an initial supply of these coins. We hope to see this as a tradition carried forward for generations to come. Ron and Jacque's faithful and continued service is a blessing to BUMC. Below are the most recent Hope Coin honorees:



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 was intended to highlight Roland Bottorff. However, he had a bump in the road with his health, and continues therapy at the Greenwood Healthcare Center. Therefore, Roland will be highlighted in the April Bridge.

Easter Thoughts

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

Looking Back with Joy

Black and White Dinner:

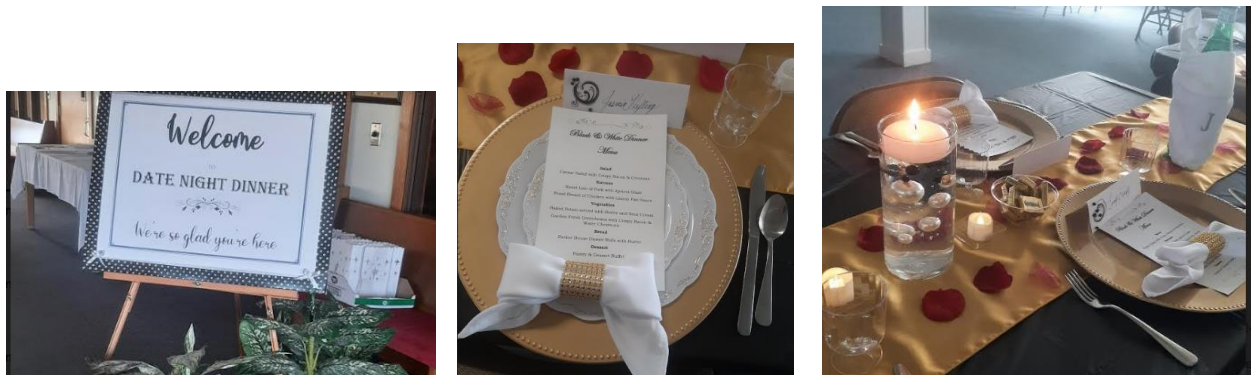
On Saturday, February 24, 2024, we enjoyed a great evening of fun and fellowship at our Black and White Dinner event. Guests were greeted with luminaries, a welcome sign, and wonderful hostess, Lexi. Heva assisted in welcoming guests and checking coats in the Narthex. Guests were escorted to the beautifully decorated tables in Fellowship Hall. Jacque Morris had set up a photo shoot area and a dance floor, complete with a disco ball placed overhead by Ron Morris. Guests were served their meal by waiters/waitresses Jacque Morris, Terri Harmon and Randy Boys.

Guests also received favors to take home as a memento as Terri made boutonnières for the men to wear during the dinner. Jacque also gifted each couple a printed photo from their photo shoot.

Special thanks to Joy Spurgin for organizing this wonderful event, and for preparing the entrees, salad, and sides. She also created a beautiful menu and place card for each place setting. At

our Worship Service on February 25th, Joy was gifted a Hope Coin for her service as the Missions Chairperson, which included this special event. Ron Morris and Carol Warwick deserve recognition and thanks for helping Joy with food prep, and then plating the meals in the kitchen to be served.

This event could not have been as successful as it was without all of you – your attendance, the delicious desserts you donated to round out the meal, and help with clean up and break down of the tables after the event. It was a special evening for all! Here are just a few photos from that evening, and we are so sorry we couldn't include more in this newsletter.



Lenten Breakfast Series:

Pastor Ken spearheaded the return of the Lenten Breakfast Series with local United Methodist Churches. This was an annual men's event years ago, but was discontinued during the Covid pandemic. Pastor Ken and others felt it was a good time to "resurrect" these breakfasts during the Lenten season, and opened them to everyone. The theme of this year's series was "Come and Cultivate, Connect and Circulate," and was held on Saturday mornings from February 17 through March 23. Area churches who hosted a breakfast included Avon UMC, Plainfield UMC, Bridgeport UMC, Danville UMC, Mount Olive UMC and West Newton UMC. By the fourth and fifth Saturdays, there were members of the Pittsboro UMC and Chapel Hill UMC congregations attending as well. Some of the special guest speakers included Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright, our Conference Superintendent, and Meredith McNabb, our Conference Associate Superintendent. If you were unable to attend any of the breakfasts this year, it is strongly recommended that you try to attend at least one next year. The messages were very meaningful with various speakers sharing the mission work at their church, as well as the fun activities to cultivate relationships and fellowship. And, of course, the food was delicious with biscuits and gravy being just one of the offerings served at every location. This has been a wonderful event as evidenced by the faithful support and robust attendance at all church locations.

Notes From Our Pastor

March is here and we are more than halfway through. We put into practice the Season of Lent where we humble ourselves and repent. This means we stop doing what is based on our own egos and return to God to make way for our return to His Will.

We have had a wonderful Lenten season. I cannot thank Bridgeport United Methodist Church body enough for the continued faithfulness and support of the ministry here. BUMC has been leading the charge of Lenten Breakfast series across 8 churches in Central District. We hosted 70 individuals who returned to this annual event for the first time in 3 years on March 2.

Thank you, kitchen crew, for your continued works of feeding others. Carol, Patty, Terri, Jacque and Joy provide great hospitality. I know there are others who brought food and help and forgive me for not listing you too.

As we continue to gather and prepare for Resurrection Sunday, let us invite someone to join us that day, March 31st . This is always a special day of the year and is usually the best attendance of the entire year along with Christmas. We are so blessed to have a church family that is so dedicated to God and each other.

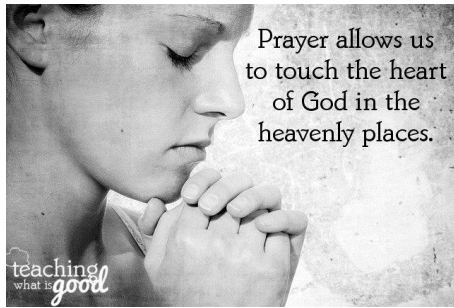
As March takes us from winter into spring, let us traverse these seasons from the cold to the warmth and share this warmth with each other, and especially with people we have yet to meet. Our mission as Disciples of Jesus Christ is to go and make disciples. What a great and worthy mission to have. That mission is to share the love of God with everyone. That is easily understood - just share the love.

We hope to bring in several new members into our congregation on Easter Sunday. If you are interested in being one of them, please contact me, Judy Pearson our lay leader, or Ken Huffer, Chair of Pastor Parrish Relations. Joining this house of worship will truly be a blessing to both you and us. This is how we cultivate Joy. This is the best way to serve Jesus. This is also the way to share God's 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. Happy and fun Easter to all!

Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace,

Pastor Ken Loudenback
Bridgeport United Methodist Church



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

Continued prayers:

All our Military men and women

Homebound: Janet Jones, Leonard Prator

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



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