

THE BRIDGE

BRIDGEPORT UMC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 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
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/>



- Bible Study with Randy Boys:** Thursdays, at 1:00 pm
- Central District Charge Conference:** Nov. 3, 2024, 5:00 pm
- 2nd Saturday Prayer Breakfast:** November 9, 2024 at 9:00 am
- Book Club:** November 9, 2024 (after prayer breakfast (10:30-ish))
- Finance Meeting:** January 18, 2025 at 10:30 am
- Admin Council Meeting:** January 25, 2024, at 10:30 am
- Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child:** more information below



The book set to be discussed for the October Book Club meeting was "Bunnacula" by James Howe. It is a fun little children's book about a family that finds a small rabbit in a Dracula movie. The family dog is telling the story, and the family cat is reading a book about vampires and tries to "save" the family from the threat. The book is easy to read, very funny, and is available at the Indianapolis Public Library. Due to various conflicts, Book Club did not meet in October, but Bunnacula and one other book will be discussed at the upcoming November 9th Book Club meeting. See me if you have questions.

Janice Fontenot



Choir practice is every Sunday before worship service at 8:30 am. You may notice one or two new members, and it would be wonderful if there were more. This is a great way to praise God and have some fun at the same time.

Quote of the Month

"I've learned that even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help." (America Online).

How true this quote is! I believe this seed is very much planted in our Christian hearts. This may be one intention Jesus had when he said, "I give you a new commandment. Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." John 13:34

The Train of Life

A train, with its many stops and destinations can be a great metaphor for the cycle or journey of life. Thanks to Joyce Pierce for mentioning this beautiful poem called “The Train of Life” by James Tippett.

At birth, we board the train and meet our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant, i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum.

Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you all a joyful journey. -Unknown

Samaritan's Purse / Operation Christmas Child

Get excited because it's Operation Christmas Child time! Where did this year go? Judy Pearson has placed plastic tubs, brochures and stickers on a table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to participate, pick up as many tubs as you wish to fill and a sticker for each. You may also pick up a flyer that lists great ideas for filling these tubs by gender and age group. Once you have filled your tub(s), complete the sticker noting gender and age group and adhere it to the tub. These children greatly appreciate these gifts as noted in the video Judy played during a recent worship service. The joy on the kids' faces for something as inexpensive as a small stuffed animal was

heartwarming! These donations will continue at least through early November. As always, thanks for your generous support of this project.

How Well Do You Know Me?

This month, we get to know a little bit more about Kathy Johnson, one of our two newest church members.

Kathy reports growing up as the middle child in a loving middle class family in Indianapolis. She has two sisters; one currently lives in Florida and the other passed away a few years ago. Kathy's mom was a nurse, and her dad was an engineer for the Penn Central Railroad, now known as Conrail. Because her dad worked a lot of hours for his job, and her mother didn't drive, she rode to church with neighbors when she could as a child. As she got older, she was able to attend church more regularly on her own.

Kathy's husband is Jack Johnson, and you may remember them recently becoming members here at Bridgeport. She felt that God had placed joining the choir on her heart, so she talked to Debbie (Stansell), and joined the choir. A few weeks later, Jack also joined, and we are very happy they did. Our little choir is growing!

She and Jack will celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary on November 10th. Jack has two daughters and one son, and Kathy has two sons. They also have 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Kathy worked at Indianapolis Power & Light Company for 30 years, most of which were in a supervisory role. A series of life events led to a decision to retire from IPL in 2009. At the time, she was working at least 70 hours a week. She was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident, and around the same time, experienced another potential health scare. Her dad became sick and passed away during that year. She said it just felt like God gave her a wake up call to remind her that there was more to life than working. Happily, she learned her health scare was not as serious as it could have been. After retiring, she almost immediately became a fill in babysitter to one of her grandchildren. Today, she keeps busy with her grandchildren, and is a caregiver to an aunt who also needs transportation to doctors' appointments, etc.

Kathy likes keeping busy, and she describes herself as a people person. She learned to read music, was in the high school choir, and also played clarinet and oboe. She is a creative soul, and loves flower arranging, including making arrangements for weddings, and crafting wreaths of all kinds. Kathy previously did all the floral arrangements for Chapel Rock Christian Church, and was a greeter there as well. She loves children, and has also taught Sunday School for 4 and 5 year olds.

By the time Kathy met Jack, she had been attending Plainfield United Methodist Church, and Jack was attending a church where he lived in Franklin. Sometimes, he would come to Plainfield to

attend services with her, and other times, she would skip Sunday School to attend service with him at his church in Franklin. Then Covid hit. They really wanted to find a church they could attend together, or “their” church, and prayed about it. They visited a few churches, but nothing felt right. She knew Pastor Ken was also here at Bridgeport, so they gave it a try. Kathy says they immediately felt the love of the congregation and just felt welcomed by our church family. Kathy feels she and Jack started attending Bridgeport in March or April of this year, and just recently became our newest members.

As far as her hopes and dreams for Bridgeport, Kathy would like to see the congregation grow to more than 100 people – fill the pews so to speak. She likes being involved, so it will be fun to see her branch out into other activities besides the choir. Her favorite hymn is Amazing Grace, and her favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength.”

I really enjoyed talking with Kathy and getting to know her a little better. She is such a sweet soul. When you see her and Jack, please welcome and encourage them to become as involved as they wish to be on their faith journey here at Bridgeport.

Birthdays

October:		November:	
10/02/2024	Bill Grant	11/06/2024	Kyle Bandy
10/10/2024	Brianna Hayes	11/10/2024	Pat Atkins
10/10/2024	Megan D’Amato	11/11/2024	Scott Cline
10/15/2024	Jill Wheeler	11/17/2024	Leesa Weatherford
10/16/2024	Al Mendel	11/18/2024	Walt Johnson
10/16/2024	Pat Mendel	11/22/2024	Roland Bottorff
10/19/2024	Theresa Benton	11/23/2024	Melanie Hall
10/23/2024	Kathy Johnson	11/25/2024	Peg Lindsey
10/24/2024	Leonard Prater	11/30/2024	Kristen Bright

Looking Back with Joy

As you know, in early September, Susan Bennet of the Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home (IUMCH) visited us to provide an update, and also to accept the bins of wash cloth and towel donations. At that time, Ms. Bennett also informed us that our own retired Rev. Bill Clayton would soon be honored by IUMCH for his years of service, child advocacy and leadership on its behalf. That ceremony was recently held, and included below is a

photo of Rev. Clayton accepting the Lifetime Leadership Award from IUMCH. Congratulations are extended to him from Bridgeport, and bless you Rev. Clayton!



Also, on September 29, 2024, we welcomed two new members: Jack and Kathy Johnson. Please read the "How Well Do You Know Me" section above to learn a bit more about Kathy. Please wish them well on their faith journey and make them feel welcome into our church family.



Central District Lay Servant Academy

The Central District Lay Servant Academy will hold classes again this fall. Those interested in this program will meet on Saturday, November 16th at the Christ United Methodist Church located at 8540 US Highway 31, on the south side of Indianapolis. Several classes will be offered this year:

the Basic Course, Leading Public Prayer, Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (history) and Discover Your Spiritual Gifts. If you would simply like to know more about the United Methodist faith, or would like to really uncover those spiritual gifts you can share with others, please consider attending the November 16th session. There will be more information to come, but for now, for any questions or to register, please visit the Lay Servant Academy website at <https://www.inumc.org/ministries/resources-for-clery/upcoming-lay-servant-academy-dates/>

We have several Bridgeport folks who attended the spring program earlier this year. Please feel free to talk with Dave or Judy Pearson, Ron Morris, Joy Spurgin or Ken Huffer if you would like to their insight and experience. Sunday, October 20th is Laity Sunday, and we will hear a wonderful message by Judy.

Church Facts

The longer I attend Bridgeport, the more I learn about church history from our members. Last year at the Charge Conference at Danville UMC, I was talking with Ken Huffer, and asked him about the red lantern shining from the ceiling on the right side of the altar. I remembered that Bridgeport also has a similar light as does Way City Church (in Speedway). Ken informed me that this is the “Eternal Light.” Intrigued, I researched more on my own. This led me to the following link: <https://midwest.michiganumc.org/puzzlers-corner-blog/2021/09/08/the-eternal-flame/>

The light is usually encased in a red lantern, and is to remind us that the light of God is always with us. Therefore, it is known as the Eternal Light. As the article states, the light was first mentioned in Exodus 27:20-21 and in Leviticus 24:1-4 in which Aaron and his descendants were tasked to attend to it. The flame was never to be dimmed or go out altogether. The modern convenience of electricity makes “tending to it” very easy. In Aaron’s time, it seems to have been a bit more work. I invite you to connect to that link to learn how the lamp was fueled in those days and just what “tending to it” really involved.

This eternal light holds a place of honor in modern day churches to honor our Father and quietly reminds us that God is with us always.

Another insight relates to the physical layout of the church, which Randy explained during a recent Bible study. The narthex is the area just inside the church entrance where congregants meet before and after services. You will note there is a wall that separates the narthex from the nave. In the early church, it was used to separate those not allowed into the nave. The nave is the area beyond the wall where the congregants sit on chairs or pews for service. The term “nave” comes from the Latin term *navis*, meaning vessel or ship, which is reminiscent of the Ark. The area beyond the nave is the sanctuary for the clergy and choir, and houses the altar. Some churches also have a communion rail where clergy would stand on one side, and the congregants would receive communion on the other. The two or three steps up to the sanctuary are meant to draw our eyes up to God.

It is interesting how intentional the layout of the modern day churches is to the layout of the temples or tabernacles of early church history. One other little thing I learned when researching drawings of a church layout is that the narthex runs perpendicular to the nave to resemble a cross. We understand that once we pass through the doors from the narthex into the nave, we are entering a very sacred placed.

Notes From Our Pastor

Matthew 22:14: "For many are called, but few are chosen." This is a statement from Jesus Christ in the Bible. It is recognizing the many aspects of the relationship between Jesus and human beings. It reminds me of my freshman year tryouts for the basketball team at Northwest High School in Indianapolis.

There were over 120 freshman boys trying out for 12 spots. The process took about 3 total weeks as cuts were made gradually until the final 16 were selected. Yes, 16 were selected when we were originally told there would only be 12 spots. We who made the team endured the tryout season. I learned that those who did not make the "cut" as we called it, pretty much cut themselves. The coaches laid out the practices and all the ones who made it, made it for different reasons: some made it just because they tried out in the first place, some could play basketball well, some were tall or fast, some could shoot well, some played defense well, and some just had great ball handling skills.

Most people who got cut had all of the above skills but they were lacking in one thing - a good attitude. Some people with all the skills, and even the very best athletes, were cut because they had attitudes that did not mesh well with the team concept.

Now here we are at BUMC. Do you want to be on BUMC team? Are you being called? Who is calling you? Where are you being called? What is it that you are being called to do? Why are you being called? These are all questions that one experiences as one grows in their Christian discipleship. Hear the good news: in the kingdom of Jesus Christ, we all are on the team - just by asking Him. We are on His team not because of what we have done or can do, but because of who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us.

Many miss the call for many reasons. Don't miss your call and cut yourself from our BUMC team. Bridgeport United Methodist Church is calling you in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ. Come and join in the worship and fellowship here. Come join us in our many activities and mission work. Come and join us and become members of the family of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Come, whatever your reason. We call you to join us in the sharing of 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.

Best regards,

Pastor Ken



Prayer Requests:

For a complete list of current prayer requests, please see the weekly church Bulletin.

Continued prayers:

All our Military men and women

Homebound:

Pat Atkins, Janet Jones, Leonard Prator

Our Missions:

- Food Pantry
- Baby Blankets
- Indiana United Methodist Children's Home
- Fletcher Place
- Allies/Purchased Human Trafficking
- Active Graces
- Madina Village School and Hospital
- Cardboard Box Ministries

The Bridgeport calendar can be accessed on any electronic device under the "Activities" tab at <https://www.smallchurchbigheart.com/> There is a "whiteboard" on the table in the Narthex with written dates for upcoming BUMC events as well. This is a monthly calendar and it will be changed to reflect all current events each month. Additionally, you can find a picture frame containing a printed monthly calendar of all events scheduled for that month. We want to ensure everyone is aware of everything going on at BUMC.

Contact Information:

Online @ [Bridgeport UMC Indianapolis](#)

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

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

Books of the Old Testament

Z G Y I
 E N E H E M I A H K J D O R C F F F L E V I T I C U S N U N
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| 1 and 2 Chronicles | Haggai | Nahum |
| 1 and 2 Kings | Hosea | Nehemiah |
| 1 and 2 Samuel | Isaiah | Numbers |
| Amos | Jeremiah | Obadiah |
| Daniel | Job | Proverbs |
| Deuteronomy | Joel | Psalms |
| Ecclesiastes | Jonah | Ruth |
| Esther | Joshua | Song of Solomon |
| Exodus | Judges | Zechariah |
| Ezekiel | Lamentations | Zephaniah |
| Ezra | Leviticus | |
| Genesis | Malachi | |
| Habakkuk | Micah | |