

# THE BRIDGE

## BRIDGEPORT UMC NEWSLETTER

# SEPTEMBER 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
- Cobbler & Ice Cream Fest: Saturday, Sept. 28, 2-4:-00 pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Prayer Breakfast: Oct. 12, 2024 at 9:00 am
- Book Club: Oct. 12, 2024 (after prayer breakfast (10:30-ish))
- Admin Council Meeting: Oct. 12, 2024, at 10:30 am
- Central District Charge Conference: Nov. 3, 2024, 5:00 pm
- Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child: more information below



The book for the October Book Club meeting is "Bunnicula" 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, and I thought it was very funny. The book is not in the church library; however, it is available in the Indianapolis library.

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



We all know Garth Brooks' famous song, *Unanswered Prayers*. Last month, we included a section called "Answered Prayers." No one has offered any answered prayers for the Bridge this month. That's okay though because, as Garth's song says, "some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." Keep the faith, perhaps God is working on His timing for your prayers. In the meantime, please take a moment to reflect on something that you fervently prayed for but never received. Can you now smile and thank God for **not** answering that prayer? Sometimes, we think we know what we want, but God knows what we need. It is all in God's timing.

## 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 donations will continue at least through early November. If you have any questions, please see Judy. And, as always, thanks for your generous support of this project.

## Baby Blankets

Corenia recently made another trip to the Life Center location on Lafayette Road to donate her beautiful baby blankets. This time, there were three large tubs overflowing with blankets, and the staff at the Center could not have been more appreciative. It is estimated that Corenia now has personally crocheted and donated well over 100 of her hand-made blankets to the Center. Also included in this delivery were several baby blankets knitted by Christina Taylor.

It had been a few months since the last visit, but staff remembered Corenia, called her by name and gave her a big warm hug. Corenia and these blankets have made a lasting impression!

Life Centers offer pregnancy testing, counseling, support, and baby supplies (formula, bottles, and baby clothing) for new mothers in need. Each new mom also receives one of these blankets. Please prayerfully consider supporting this mission. Corenia always welcomes yarn or monetary donations to purchase yarn so she can continue to crochet these beautiful blankets. As we were leaving the Center, one of the staff members asked us for a group photo. We hope to go back in a few more months with another delivery.



## How Well Do You Know Me?

This month, we highlight retired Rev. Randy Boys, who graciously agreed to an interview.

Randy was born in Frankfort, in Clinton County. He has a brother and a sister, and is the oldest of the three siblings. His dad was a Civil Engineer. The family has lived in Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, and South Bend, but Randy feels he had a typical childhood.

Randy went to college at Indiana Central University, now known as University of Indianapolis. He studied in the American Humanics program for nonprofit youth agency administration. It is at University of Indianapolis where he met his wife, Patricia, and they became college sweethearts. They married and had two daughters together. Randy and his wife had been married for 50 years when she sadly passed away a few years ago. Randy enjoys time with his four grandchildren, two boys and two girls, one of which was adopted from Bulgaria.

Again, Randy's plan was to study nonprofit administration at University of Indianapolis, and then go into that field. In college, he actually had a job lined up with a nonprofit agency. However, growing up, he had been a Boy Scout, earning Eagle Scout status, and had always enjoyed working with summer youth and Bible camps. He also enjoyed serving as Youth Leader for Christ Methodist Church. During his senior year, he decided to apply for the seminary, and was accepted to the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He was ordained in 1972, and became an elder in 1974.

Randy has served many churches throughout the years. He remembers his first appointment was on the East Portland circuit, where he had a 3 point charge for several years. This meant he served 3 different churches, sharing morning, mid, or evening services. He also served the Bainbridge United Methodist Church for about 18 years before his last appointment at Mace Methodist Church in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

In 1983, Randy joined the Navy Reserves as a Chaplain and served until 1991. He is still involved with the American Legion. He has also worked for the Department of Corrections and the Boys School in Plainfield in the re-entry program. This program teaches inmates a variety of skills to help them successfully reintegrate into the community after release from jail or prison.

Randy started attending Bridgeport United Methodist Church in July of 2023, and he felt welcomed, encouraged, and loved from that first Sunday. It was that encouragement that got him to join the choir with his beautiful singing voice. He has also participated in every fellowship event we have held, and he assisted Joy in the towel drive for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

When asked what his hopes and dreams are for Bridgeport, Randy would like to see every Christian grow in their faith. He enjoys disciplining, and is willing to help with this however he can. Randy teaches the word of God by filling in for Pastor Ken when asked, and is currently

leading a Bible study on Thursday afternoons. A few of his favorite hymns include A Closer Walk with Thee, and Love Lifted Me. His favorite passage in the Bible is Isaiah 6:1-7.

Hopefully, you enjoyed reading about Randy. We are so fortunate to have him here at Bridgeport as he models the servant leader and discipleship roles however he can. Please encourage him on his faith journey, whether in the choir, leading a Bible study or filling in to provide a message when called on a Sunday morning.

## Birthdays

### September:

09/04/2024 Cheyenne Warwick  
 09/13/2024 Judy Haberman  
 09/19/2024 Lindsey Hayes  
 09/25/2024 Tammy Sherman  
 09/26/2024 Carol Andre  
 09/29/2024 Dave Pearson

### October:

10/10/2024 Brianna Hayes  
 10/10/2024 Megan D'Amato  
 10/15/2024 Jill Wheeler  
 10/16/2024 Al Mendel  
 10/16/2024 Pat Mendel  
 10/19/2024 Theresa Benton  
 10/24/2024 Leonard Prater

## Looking Back with Joy

As you know, Joy Spurgin is the BUMC advocate/liaison for the Indiana United Methodist Church's Home (IUMCH). After learning IUMCH was in desperate need of wash cloths and towels, she organized a towel drive, and the congregation donated four tubs of wash cloths, hand towels and bath towels. Susan Bennet of IUMCH visited us on September 8<sup>th</sup> to not only accept this towel donation, but to also provide an update about IUMCH. Ms. Bennett brought with her Tom Fagan, the new Director of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation. Mr. Fagan presented a brief history of IUMCH, and spoke of the exciting news that apartments had been developed on the IUMCH site for children who turn 18 but wish to remain close by. Mr. Fagan said six apartments were initially planned, and currently, 3 are ready for tenants.

Ms. Bennet told the congregation she always enjoys her visits to Bridgeport, and is so thankful to the congregation for its advocacy for IUMCH. She reiterated that Bridgeport really is a small church with a big heart. She also shared that our own retired Rev. Bill Clayton will be honored by IUMCH in the near future for his years of service and advocacy on its behalf. Pastor Ken then took this opportunity to award Ms. Bennett a challenge coin (BUMC Hope coin) for her dedication to these children. After the service, members of the congregation met with and encouraged Mr. Fagan and Ms. Bennett, and asked how else we might help, including any needs for the new apartment project. Watch for more to come on that. Included in this article are two photos: one of Ms. Bennett receiving her

challenge coin from Pastor Ken, and a second photo of our own Randy Boys and Joy Spurgin with some of the donated towels. We were informed that the second photo had been posted on the IUMCH Facebook page. Great job Joy and Randy!



## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Judy Pearson, Joy Spurgin or Ken Huffer if you would like to their insight and experience.

## Notes From Our Pastor

Joel 2:23 says, “Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for He has given you the autumn rains because He is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.”



Another term used for autumn is fall. The term fall is derived from the Germanic word meaning picking, plucking, or reaping, which refers to the act of gathering and preserving crops before winter. The word autumn comes from the Latin word autumnus, meaning the falling of the leaves. In North America, fall is more commonly used because of the leaves falling from trees during the season.

Matthew 9:37 states that, "The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Luke 10:2 speaks about this truth, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into his harvest." Amen to this!

So be Glad for God is faithful. I am so glad and filled with joy to be at Bridgeport United Methodist Church for God has sent many faithful and obedient people here to do God's will.

The Bible also says we reap what we sow. I now sow the seed of invitation to all to come and be part of this harvest and this wonderful small church with a big heart. It is time for us to sow and reap and do something that honors God as our response to the ultimate sower and reaper, Jesus Christ.

Come join us be God's church as we all continue to be transformed from seedling to the crop of God's loving people who love God and love Neighbor. If you know anyone who is looking for a place to share a community of faith, and that gives our lives meaning, please invite them to one or all of the many worthwhile activities here at Bridgeport.

I continue to be amazed by God and His church here and am so grateful for all of you who have chosen this place to be your place of worship and fellowship. Let's continue to plant the seeds of love in good faith manifesting hope in God's creation through the message of Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, and may this 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](mailto: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/>