

January, 2016 Newsletter

BRIDGEVIEW UNITED METHODIST Church

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

WE WALK WITH CHRIST, WORSHIP GOD IN ALL WE DO AND SAY, AND WELCOME OTHERS INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST, AS WE MAKE DISCIPLES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

THE LIGHTS ARE ON AT BRIDGEVIEW

What an exciting time at Bridgeview! After a season of searching for the path God intended for this congregation, and months of wondering and praying about the future of our church, we can now see a way forward. Many hands have helped to pave this pathway, including the Bridgeview community itself, the Oklahoma Conference led by Bishop Robert Hayes Jr., the Reverend Greg Tener, Superintendent of the Heartland District, and our new collaborators in Christ, Moore First United Methodist Church. We do not know exactly what we will look like in a year's time, but we are assured that Bridgeview will be helping to spread the light of God's word in central Oklahoma. A transitional team is studying how best to shape our relationship with Moore First. Your continuing prayers are vital as we wait to see what amazing road we will travel in 2016. Come join us on this new walk of faith!

NEW TIMES
for January and February
(or until further notice)

Sunday School: 9:00 A.M.

Worship: 10:00 A.M.

The following message was sent by our Lay Leader, Chuck Simonds, just after the announcement that First United Methodist Church of Moore will enter into a partnership with Bridgeview UMC:

"We have a new direction before us and new opportunities for us to serve the Kingdom. There are still many questions yet to be answered and lots of decisions to be made. For now we will continue as we have in worship, fellowship, and mission. We have lots of work yet to do but as Jennifer says [see below], our future is bright as we join with our new partners in the service of Christ.

"Bless you all for your continued faith a support!"

The following is an excerpt from a most welcome message given December 17 by Jennifer McDanel on behalf of the Bridgeview Church Council:

"To the people of Bridgeview,

"Last night, in their Church Council meeting, Moore 1st United Methodist Church agreed to open a dialog towards joining in a relationship between our churches. While lots of details have yet to be determined, we see this as the start of a new future for Bridgeview.

"The last few months have been a difficult time in the history of our church. We have been unsure of our future which has made any type of planning quite a challenge and has put an enormous amount of stress on all of us.

“We are here today to look to our future and the future is bright. I want you to know that so many people have prayed, discussed, debated, prayed and prayed some more over what needs to happen for Bridgeview. We all know that what we have here is special and we are a family.

“So, the plan is simple: for the next 3 years, the Conference has made a monetary commitment to Bridgeview to assist with mortgage and staff.The administrative council of Bridgeview will work with the leaders of First United [of Moore] to build on our foundation, we will work to bring people and keep people in the church. We will continue to have our own fellowship events and at times may join their congregation to build the kingdom of God. The best analogy I heard was that we are in the dating phase of our relationship, we do not know where this will lead, but our hope is that we will have a strong partnership that will solidify what we have here.

“After your church council met last week, I went home and prayed, hard. I prayed every day as I have for the last several months for discernment and direction as to what God wanted for Bridgeview and where my family was in that plan. On Saturday, God said something to me and I asked if I could share that with you all tonight. Graciously, the council agreed to let me speak. What did he say? Trust me and do your part. My part? As usual, I am stubborn when it comes to God speaking to me and I prayed more, what is my part? And this is what I believe is the part of my family and myself.

“Our part is to commit ourselves to the vows we took when we joined this church.

“We will support Bridgeview with our prayers we will pray diligently for our leaders, our family members, our missions and our future.

“We will be present when the doors are open. We will be here joyfully, in Sunday school, worship, potlucks, children’s choir, etc

“We will give our gifts, we will push out of our comfort zone, trust God and give sacrificially.

“We will be of service. We will continue to serve on Missions and look for ways to grow the kingdom of God by being in service to our community.

“And finally our witness. We will invite people to join us here at Bridgeview, we will welcome those who come, we will share the good news of Jesus love and all that He has done for us. We will work so that our actions are a reflection of our faith.

“The future is bright and I am really looking forward to where we are headed and am honored to be able to serve this church and get to continue to be a part of our history. Let us be together, trust God and do our part.”

Jennifer McDanel

A “meet and greet” session was held on the evening of Tuesday, December 29 at the church, so that the Bridgeview community could welcome and get acquainted with Pastors Rob Harris and Adam Shahan of 1st UMC/Moore. For any pastoral care needs you may have, or just to say Hi, here is contact information for ministerial staff there:

Pastor Rob Harris
918-864-6001
pastor.rob@moorechurch.com
and on fb - rob harris

Pastor Adam Shahan
405-517-8133
adam.shahan@moorechurch.com
and on fb - adam shahan



Pastor Adam Shahan will be on our campus each Sunday in January to bring his message. To accommodate his travel between 1st UMC Moore and Bridgeview UMC the following time changes have been made for the month of January and February:

- Bridgeview choir practice* ---**
8:45 am
- Bridgeview Sunday school* ---**
9:00 am
- Bridgeview praise band* ---**
9:15 am
- Bridgeview worship* ---**
10:00 am

Pastor Adam's sermon series for January is "Give Me Jesus."

- Jan. 3rd Jesus Changes the Way We
See Ourselves: Genesis 1:26-31
- Jan. 10th Jesus Changes the Way We
See Others: II Cor. 5:16-21
- Jan. 17th Jesus Changes the Way We
See the World: Matthew 22:34-40
- Jan. 24th Jesus Changes the Way We
See Love: John 13:31-35
- Jan. 31st Jesus Changes the Way We
See Forgiveness: John 8:2-11

Here is a link to the sermon series promotional video:

<http://video214.com/play/3stPZFoQQQO9Pkb2V44SJg/s/dark>

In months to come, it is planned that, on alternate weeks, Pastor Adam Shahan will give the sermon in person at Bridgeview. On other Sundays, our service will proceed as usual, with just the sermon streamed to our screen from First UMC of Moore. That will happen after the necessary equipment is updated/installed.



Bridgeview Youth

The Bridgeview Youth Group is now meeting with the Moore 1st group, in Moore. All youth (grades 7-12) are invited to come Sundays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. for fellowship, food, a devotion, and games.

Skyline

On December 5, fifteen people from Bridgeview traveled to the Skyline Ministries resource center in south Oklahoma City. (This is a Methodist ministry, one to which Bridgeview contributes via apportionments.) Some helped distribute clothing, some helped with grocery distribution, and others served breakfast. Bridgeview members sent a rich assortment of breakfast casseroles, muffins, fruit and juice. Thanks for that very generous outpouring! Rev. Deborah Ingraham, director at Skyline, gave tours of the facility and explained all the services provided. They do a great work!

Did you know that food stamps only cover about one-third of a month's food needs? Of course, some supplies we think of as essential are not covered because they are not food. Missions Chair Jennifer McDanel asks the Bridgeview community to bring a package of toilet paper so we can T.P. Skyline. Just add your contribution to the stash in the north hallway.

United Methodist Women

At 6:30 on Tuesday, January 19, UMW will meet at Bridgeview. The meetings are informal, and all women of the Bridgeview community are invited. All who wish to bring a food item to share are enthusiastically encouraged to do so.

As Bridgeview has committed to serving Norman Public Schools' Dimensions Academy, UMW provided two kinds of gifts to the elementary and secondary levels of Dimensions in December: Each school was given \$250 to help students in need at Christmas. The secretaries and counselors knew where the need was greatest, and were willing to buy and wrap gifts on our behalf. Thanks to Judie Martin and Marilyn Daniel for getting the money orders and delivering them to the schools. UMW also collected items to stock the schools' rewards store, for toys, cool school supplies, snacks, etc. These gifts were delivered Monday, December 14th.

The women's Christmas party was held at the church on Tuesday, December 15th. They shared great food, had a gift exchange, and a good time was had by all.

Common Threads

Knitters and crocheters in the Bridgeview community worked throughout the fall making hats and scarves to help people with no reliable warmth and shelter stay a little warmer this winter. Carol Reames delivered twenty scarves and nine hats to Food and Shelter on December 17th. The lady who received them pointed to a laundry basket of hats and so on already on hand and said that the entire basketful would be given away by the end of the day.

The group is wrapping up its first knit-along project, the "Chevron Lace Scarf." It has been enjoyable to try the same project together, and fascinating to see how the same pattern can produce so many different results. This

January, all who wish will begin a crochet-along scarf. It's a simple design, adaptable to a variety of yarns, and should work well both for beginners and those with more practice in crochet. Both Carol Reames and Cindy Carr can e-mail you either the knit or crochet scarf pattern.

Common Threads continues to meet at Bridgeview each Wednesday, from 4 to 7. Come when you can, for all or any part of that time. Lessons, needlework advice, and knitting rescues are available on request.

Calling all quilters: Moore First UMC has a quilting group. How might our group work with theirs?

For more scheduled events at Bridgeview, check the "calendar" tab on the church website, www.bridgerviewumc.org

Bridgeview contact information:

Bridgeview United Methodist Church
4300 W. Indian Hills Road
Norman, OK 73072
Telephone: (405) 307-9611
Email: info@bridgerviewumc.org

- ✓ If you know of information that needs to be included in the newsletter, please contact the church office as shown below or Cindy Carr (bandccarr@att.net or (405) 579-2506).
- ✓ If you have announcements to be listed in the Sunday worship bulletin, send them to Jane Osborn at osbornjane@gmail.com
- ✓ If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the church's mailing lists, postal or email, please contact the church at the email address below.
- ✓ Need help signing in for the church's online directory? Contact Lay Leader Chuck Simonds.