

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.

Planning for Action

On a cool Saturday morning recently, 22 of us gathered at the OU Wesley building for a four-hour dreaming and planning retreat. It was a time of fun fellowship, good food (thanks Terri!), and joy as we identified the many ways Bridgeview is blessed. Through a group process led by Ann Newman, we identified 6 areas of emphasis for the coming year:

- Improve information outreach
- Improve and sustain operations (financial & program)
- Active evangelism (invite others)
- Visible community outreach
- Active fellowship
- Vibrant worship

Many people were already at work on these areas and new initiatives are underway as well. Watch for announcements on how you can be involved. In the meantime, all of us will continue to pray for the life of our church and we can invite others to join us in worship or at our programs.

The month of February was off to a great start with 80 in worship on February 5 for our special Celtic service with most of those folks staying for our Souper Bowl of Caring lunch. We are indeed a blessed community!

Blessings,
Pastor Rod Newman



February Sermons

In a four-week sermon series we are considering the lives of women from the Old Testament and church history. We are considering these stories of women because they are inspirational and instructive, and in some cases because they are not very well known and deserve our attention. But part of the fascination with the stories of women is that they are voices from the outside, from the margins. They give us the perspective of people who faced many disadvantages in their times and cultures and who were expected to stay in their assigned positions of weakness. Yet we will see how time and again God worked through these women and how they stayed faithful to God, even when they had plenty of reasons to give up hope.

Church tradition asks us to reflect on the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the last Sunday of Epiphany just before we enter Lent. It's appropriate to do so because this is a transition story. It is set during the ministry of Jesus but it looks forward to his death and resurrection.

Feb. 5 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon text: Exodus 15:19-21

Sermon title: Brigid: Living on the Border

Feb. 12 - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon text: Ruth 1:1-8, 14-16

Sermon title: Ruth: Crossing Boundaries

Feb. 19 - Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon text: Esther 7:1-6

Sermon title: Esther: Risking for Others

Feb. 26 – Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon text: Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon title: A Glimpse of Glory

helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-ashes-on-ash-wednesday>



MARCH 1

7:00 PM

You are invited to join us for a short service to mark the beginning of the season of self-examination leading toward Easter.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes,

Lent at Bridgeview

Easter falls on April 16 this year. Counting back from that date means that the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. We are planning a special worship service that night at 7:00 p.m. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for services at 7:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 13, and Good Friday, April 14. The pastor will be offering a Bible study in Lent similar to the one he led during Advent. Watch for times for this and other special events in Lent.

To Contact the Pastor

You are welcome to contact me if I can be of service to you. The best way to reach me is by email at pastor@bridgeviewumc.org. You may also call my home phone, 405-608-4485, and leave a message.

**Lenten Bible Study
Sign Up Now**

Pastor Rod Newman will again lead a weekly Bible study, this time during the season of Lent. Time and day will be determined by what works for the most people. There are sign-up sheets in the

narthex: put your name down for each time slot that works for you. Those who attended the Advent Bible study series know this is not to be missed!

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship each Sunday in Lent (March 5, 12, 19, & 26 and April 2 & 9), as well as on Maundy Thursday (April 13). First-Sunday-only Holy Communion will resume in May.

We need not now go up to Heaven,
To bring the long sought Saviour down;
Thou art to all already given,
Thou dost e'en now Thy banquet crown:
To every faithful soul appear,
And show Thy real presence here!
[A stanza of a hymn by Charles Wesley]

Holy Week Services

To be announced: Candy Egg Hunt
Thursday, April 13, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 14, 7:00 pm: Good Friday
Sunday, April 16, 10:00 am: Easter worship



Happy Birthday to Us!

Bridgeview is sixteen years old this month!

MISSIONS

March Service Project

Volunteers are needed to go to Luggage with Love in Norman on **Saturday, March 4**. We will fill bags with supplies for foster children newly placed with a family. We will not need to bring anything.

“Luggage with Love (LWL) endeavors to assist the foster child's transition to the placement family by providing needed support, clothing and hygiene items soon after a child has been placed in a new home. Most children who are placed in foster care come to the foster home with nothing except what they are wearing....Oklahoma has approximately 9,900 children in foster care, and 350 children waiting to be adopted....LWL provides support during the transition phase to demonstrate love and provide peace when it is needed most... LWL delivers a piece of luggage, containing clothing and other supplies to [newly placed foster children.]”

“Luggage with Love will demonstrate our faith in Jesus by providing for the basic physical, emotional, & spiritual needs of newly-placed foster children and their foster families.”

<http://luggagewithlove-ok.org/our-vision/>

Thanks to all who worked to make the Souper Bowl of Caring a success! Bridgeview raised over one hundred dollars to benefit Food and Shelter.

Forthcoming Missions Projects

April: Volunteer at the Regional Food Bank on Saturday, April 8.

May: Collect diapers (all sizes) for the Center for Children and Families in Norman.

Movie Group

2nd Friday in March

Theater, film and show time to be announced

Join the group for a film, followed by fellowship at a nearby restaurant.

UMW Meeting

The next meeting of United Methodist Women will be **Thursday, March 16**. The regular day for meetings has been shifted to the third Thursday of each month. Planning for the fall crafts fair will continue.

All women of the church are welcome! Bring a dish for the potluck dinner, which begins at 6:30 pm.

Leadership Planning Retreat

Twenty-two people met at the Wesley Foundation on January 28 for Bridgeview's planning retreat. Anne Newman was greatly appreciated as the facilitator!

After lots of small & larger group work, the basic need was identified as increased attendance, which will fill lots of needs. The biggest issue is to increase our education programs for all ages to increase that attendance. An education director/youth director is an essential factor. Possible ways to accomplish that were listed.

It was definitely a productive day.

Common Threads

In addition to prayer shawls, the group is currently knitting and crocheting headbands and ear warmers as gifts for both Dimensions Schools' faculties, to be given to them during Teacher Appreciation Week. If you need patterns, ask Carol Reames. She has found a number that are both attractive and simple to make using small amounts of yarn already on hand.

The group meets each Wednesday between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Come for whatever part of that time you like—lessons in knitting and crochet are available.

Book Club: February 27

Our book this month is *Don't Try to Find Me*, by Holly Brown. We meet the fourth Monday at 6:30, and the February meeting will be at Bridgeview. Some copies may be available from the book club kit borrowed from the public library—you may ask Jane Osborn.

From Moore First's *The Link*:

Ladies from Moore 1st, Bridgeview, Journey Church & St. Andrews Catholic join together on the 4th Monday of the month @ 6:30 pm for an insightful book club, snacks & laughter. We currently have around 14 ladies of all ages who alternate locations between Moore 1st UMC & Bridgeview UMC....

Feb 27 *Don't Try to Find Me* by Holly Brown (at Bridgeview UMC)

Mar 27 *All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg (at Moore 1st UMC)

April 24 *The Supremes at Earl's All You Can Eat* by Edward Kelsey Moore (at Bridgeview UMC)

Ministry Opportunity with the Elderly

**Monday, February 27
10:00 to 10:30 A.M.**

You are invited to join Bridgeview members Bob and Barbara Brooke in a devotional

service of singing, Bible reading and prayer at Grace Living Center, 85th & S. Western in OKC, every last Monday of the month from 10:00 – 10:30 am. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please call 793-0144.

**Silver Elm Estates Communion
Service
Wednesday, March 1
1:00 P.M.**

You are invited to join with Pastor Rod Newman and other members of Bridgeview at the monthly communion service held at Silver Elm Estates (assisted living) at 2100 36th Ave NW. The service is quite brief, and is offered on the first Wednesday of each month.



Inclement Weather Information

During the winter months, we are aware that icy weather could cause us to cancel some services or programs at the church. If we feel that road conditions are too dangerous, we will announce any closings on the local television stations and we will also send an email to the general mailing list.

Even if the church is open, we encourage everyone to use their best judgment on travel and not to take undue risks. We want everyone to be safe.

GED Classes at Moore First Methodist

Terri Simonds is teaching classes for those preparing for the GED exam. They meet each Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Enrollment is open, and the classes are free. The classes follow the Norman Public Schools calendar.

Are you missing from the church directory? Even without a photo, it is helpful to have your phone number and email address available. If you are not in the directory, or are not able to log on to the directory, please contact Chuck Simonds or email info@bridgeviewumc.org

See Bridgeview's Facebook page for information, photos, and comments. It is possible to view the page even if you don't have a Facebook account.

Contact information:

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

To contact Pastor Rod Newman:
pastor@bridgeviewumc.org
home phone: 405-608-4485

To see more scheduled events, check the "calendar" tab on the church website, www.bridgeviewumc.org

Kindly send announcements for the Sunday bulletin to Jane Osborn (janeosborn@cox.net or 659-8493)

If you have any information for forthcoming newsletters, or photos you have taken at church events, would you please send them to Cindy Carr at bandccarr@att.net , or call 579-2506. Any additions or corrections to this newsletter should go to the same address or phone number. Thanks!