



currents

what's happening at the bridge

497 Olde Waterford Way, Ste 205
Leland, NC 28451 910-769-4951
thebridgepres@gmail.com
Thebridgepres.org

Our *mission* at the bridge Presbyterian Church is to help people

**Connect with God's people in your life
Connect with God's purpose in your life
Connect with God's passion for your life**

Sun. Feb. 28 - 10:00 am - Worship- In Person, Facebook Live and YouTube

Sun. Mar. 7 - 10:00 am - Worship- In Person, Facebook Live and YouTube

Sun. Mar. 14 - 10:00 am - Worship- In Person, Facebook Live and YouTube

Sun. Mar. 21 - 10:00 am - Worship- In Person, Facebook Live and YouTube

Sun. Mar. 28 - 10:00 am - Worship- In Person, Facebook Live and YouTube

Sermon Based Small Groups have started, but you still have time to register. See the information below.

Before the service visiting time Zoom - 9:15 - 9:55 - This is link to use weekly

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81276261023?pwd=Q3dEWXpWcGEyVTBodIVFUXIDREN2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 812 7626 1023 - Password: 703335

Links to all videos posted by the bridge on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_koqkyqdW43YbC9evcgxFQ/videos

Sunday, Feb. 21. - Facebook Live Service <https://youtu.be/gTt5JXX11kY>



Upcoming Ways To Connect

Sermon Based Small Groups



There is still time to join a group!

The purpose of the Small Group ministry is to help participants deepen the three connections in the bridge's mission statement: to connect with God's passion, people, and purpose for our lives. The goal of the small groups is to be relational and transformational, providing a place for discussion and conversation where we can learn about each other, ourselves, and our faith.

Sermon Based Small Groups (SBSG) will begin a Lenten series on February 21 and will conclude the week of April 4, Easter Sunday.

The leaders and times are:

Sunday at 11:00 am led by Teresa and Jerry Pierce

Monday at 10:00 am led by Cathy Purves

Wednesday at 6:30 pm led by Wanda Batten

Thursday at 2:30 pm led by Tom and Greer Broadwater.

You can register for the groups in 3 ways. Call Wanda at 910-769-4951, email her at thebridgepres@gmail.com or sign up on Realm. On Realm, go to the Registration of Events tab, scroll down through the SBSG until you find the leader/time you are looking for and register. Don't forget to submit. You WILL get a confirmation email, so if you do not get an email, please call Wanda to be sure the registration went through.

If you call and get the voicemail -- PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE - with your name and which group you would like to attend -- Wanda will send you a confirmation email.

Lenten Sermon Series: Unanticipated Good News: The Gospel of Mark

“News is an announcement that something significant has happened. And good news is what Jesus and his first followers were all about.” Just what is this good news that Mark proclaimed to the earliest, and often persecuted, Christian communities?

Mark wrote his gospel to struggling believers who were asking themselves: Why doesn't God just come down from heaven and make things better? Why are there not more miracles? Why did Jesus teach using such confusing parables? Where's the promised regime change? Is this really good news?

Mark's answer was that Jesus works in the world in unanticipated, surprising, sometimes hidden ways. And the path to discovering these unanticipated, surprising ways of Jesus is by putting one's total trust in this miracle working, parable teaching Messiah. This Lenten season we will look the unanticipated good news of Jesus in the gospel of Mark. Sermon titles include:

The Good News: It's Not the Miracles

The Good News: A Silent, Slow and Steady Kingdom

The Good News: In a Bag of Dirty Diapers

The Good News: On A Road Into Town

The Good News: Showing Up Is Half the Battle

Here are some ways to “**Stay Connected**” with your church family during Lent

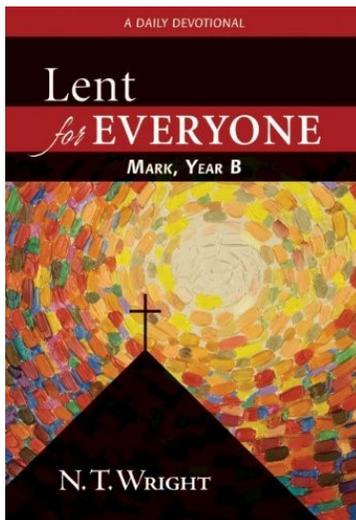
I hope you will consider joining one of our four Sermon-based Small Groups that will be lead by outstanding facilitators. The seven-week series is a great way to “**Stay Connected**” at the bridge and will bless your relationship with the Lord and each other.

Another way to “**Stay Connected**” is to purchase a Lenten devotional titled: Lent for Everyone: Mark, Year B by NT Wright.

A final way to “**Stay Connected**” during Lent is join us for in-person worship which will begin the first Sunday of Lent, February 21st @ 10:00am. Please call the church office to sign-up.

I look forward to connecting and re-connecting with you all during Lent. God bless.

Doug



Lent Devotion

Dr. Doug is inviting everyone to purchase Mark for Lent by NT Wright - a daily devotional guide for Lent. The hope is that the entire bridge Presbyterian Church family will use this devotional to guide us through Lent.

It is available on Amazon in print or e-book and also from the PCUSA store

The bridge Core Habits

What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like at **the bridge**?

Our core habits answer that question.

Our core habits are:

*Pray daily - Worship together weekly - Welcome & Include everyone -
Belong to a small group - Give generously - Cherish children -
Forgive & reconcile continually - Serve our community*

Worship Weekly



Date: Feb 28, 2021

Title: Unanticipated Good News: It's Slow, Silent And Steady

Text: Mark 4: 26 – 32: Matthew 11: 25 - 30

Questions:

- What difference would it make for you if God were to intervene in our world in some dramatic, grand and miraculous fashion?
- Why in the world would Jesus compare his Kingdom work in the world to something as insignificant as seeds?
- Is it more important to attempt to do great things for God in the world or to trust that God is already doing great things in the world?

Update on Indoor Services

We will renew indoors worship services. **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** The guidelines can be found on the bridge's website or you may contact the office at thebridgepres@gmail.com to receive a copy of the email.

Because we have a capacity of 40 people for indoors worship, **everyone wanting to attend will need to register.** The list of registrants will be used to document attendance at check-in and will also serve as a contact list in the event of exposure and contact tracing is needed.

You can register for Indoor Services in any of the following three ways. If you find that you are unable to attend service after registering, please contact Wanda at thebridgepres@gmail.com or by calling her at 910-769-4951.

On Realm -

you can easily get to Realm from the website - thebridgepres.org Click the blue button in top right-hand corner and then sign in

- a. Depending on your device- look for EVENTS – you may have to click the COMMUNITY tab.
- b. Once at EVENTS – find the blue area that says “Register by a date”. Click on that link
- c. Type your name and include all who will be attending.
- d. Please answer the seating question to help with chair arrangement before service. For explanation of seating comfort levels see the Guidelines under Resources.
- e. Be sure to click on “Register” again to submit the form. **You should receive a confirmation email. If you do not - you are not registered.**

Email Wanda at thebridgepres@gmail.com

- a. Please include names of all attending
- b. Please include seating choice of Level 1 or Level 2

Call Wanda at 910-769-4951 – please leave a message if she does not answer

- a. Please include names of all attending
- b. Please include seating choice of Level 1 or Level 2

Reflections On Ash Wednesday

On Friday, February 17th, the bridge hosted a drive through Ash Wednesday event for the community. After learning about the idea in a flyer put out by the Coastal Carolina Presbytery, a number of elders were immediately drawn to the idea. The hope of the elders was to find a way to celebrate Ash Wednesday in safe and responsible ways during a pandemic.

We had no clue what to expect as the elders and volunteers, under the guidance of Elder David Sink, began gathering and setting up for what would be our inaugural drive through Ash Wednesday event. Elder Cathy Westphal and the Hospitality Team had carefully put together 100 Lent-In-A-Bag giftbags for each family who would participate in the event.

While we had no idea what to expect, our first clue was provided at 11:20, when a woman showed up 40 minutes early asking if she was at the right place to be marked with ashes. Shortly before noon, the elders and I prayed together; I marked their foreheads with a cross of ashes and we began welcoming eager participants as they waited in their cars.

For over an hour, Luana Queen (holding a jar of olive oil in one hand and a container of ashes in the other) followed close behind me. On Luana's heels was Elder Karen Santone, who was quick to pass a new Q Tip to me after I had finished marking a forehead with ashes. She passed me 100 Q Tips between noon and 1:00pm. Judy Bath and Elder Marilyn Vernon did much the same thing from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

"I just needed to be marked with ashes today, and nobody else was doing this," one woman said to me after hearing me say: ***"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."*** Another participant told me: ***"We are new residents. We just arrived from Massachusetts and we didn't know where to go on Ash Wednesday. Thank you."***

A couple who was waiting for me outside their car, told me: ***"We've gone to Ash Wednesday services for 47 straight years and feared we'd never find something like this. What a blessing."*** One woman, translated the short liturgy (which was written on a 3X5 card) into Spanish so her parents could participate.

There were tears shed and spontaneous hugs given. There was genuine joy and gratitude as Elders Cathy Westphal and Elizabeth Murray passed out the "Lent-In-A-Bag" to each car full of participants.

Knowing that the imposition of ashes should be done in conjunction with worship and the preaching of the Word, I was careful to invite each person I imposed ashes upon, to join our Facebook worship service at 6:30pm. Did folks actually tune into our Ash Wednesday service...who knows? Will some participants join us in the coming Sunday's...only time will tell?

Here is what I do know. I was imposing ashes on people's foreheads, reminding them of their mortality, in the middle of a pandemic – a day to day, hour to hour, in-your-face reminder of our mortality. Yet, 150 people showed up (a majority not part of the bridge) eager to be marked with the sign of the cross and to say: ***"O Lord, accomplish in me the work of your salvation."***

Our Ash Wednesday drive through event reminded me of the deep spiritual hunger in this community and the vast, untapped potential our church has to point others to Jesus. Where and how might our Lord be calling us to be the Church in our community? I'd love to hear from you. 52drdoug@gmail.com

bridge "Notes" from Patty

patty.lyerly@gmail.com



As I was checking out new music videos this week, I saw this video of Harriet Tubman's house in Auburn NY and wanted to share it with you. Did you know that she was only 4 ft. 11 and couldn't read or write but led soldiers into battle during the civil war. I would like to visit her homeplace in Auburn one day. If you've ever been or want to share a story after watching the video, please email me at patty.lyerly@gmail.com. I promise to stick to music videos most of the time but I was touched by this video and wanted to share. I hope to see you Sunday.

<https://youtu.be/j0doBnVrGhk>

Blessings,
Patty



Elise's Tech Time

Having trouble hearing someone on the other end of the phone call? Have to switch glasses to read your text messages? Do you find yourself pressing the wrong button or opening the wrong app? You can improve all these features on your smartphone to make it work best for you!

All these fall under making your phone more accessible. And whether you need help with Sound, Sight or Touch, accessibility features are meant to make the use of technology less challenging to use with disabilities.

To access Accessibility Settings:

On an iPhone, tap **Settings** | **Accessibility** and select among many accessibility choices. On an Android phone such as the Google Pixel 4 (because many manufacturers make Android phones, you may see variations) tap **Settings** | **Accessibility** and similarly make a selection.

Here's a great article about what you can change on your phone, from text-size to transcribing to using voice commands:

<https://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/info-2020/smartphone-accessibility.html>



Pray Daily

Prayers for:

- The Glick family, who was directly affected by the Brunswick County tornado; Jeannie is hospitalized in critical condition and her husband was one of the fatalities (friends of the Stanewicks).
- Mitchell, hospitalized with an infection while visiting his Connecticut family; prayers for his recovery and safe return with wife Jill to his Leland home (friend of Susan Stanewick).
- Nick Novin, five-month-old who had surgery on 2/23 to close a blood vessel in his heart; prayers for a successful procedure and recovery (Grandnephew of Mary Ellen Cole).
- Leaders and participants in the Lenten Sermon Based Small Groups (SBSG) that began on February 21 and will conclude April 4, Easter Sunday.
- Prayers for the study of the gospel of Mark during the season of Lent.

If you would like to place a prayer request with the Prayer and Care team, please contact Marilyn Vernon Marilyn.vernon2@gmail.com (301-908-8704) or Ethel Adams at girls4sling@gmail.com.

Note: Names in parentheses indicate those who made the prayer request.

Daily Bread Devotion Books

The new books for Dec./Jan./Feb are outside the church office on the small table.



Cherish Children



Lenten Resources for Families

The season of Lent begins this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday and extends 40 days (46 days if you include Sundays) leading up to Easter. While Advent is a time of preparation celebrated with anticipation of the birth of the Christ child; Lent is a more somber time of preparation as we await Jesus' death and resurrection.

To help our children understand this time of preparation, the Children and Family ministries team at the bridge Presbyterian Church is providing families with a weekly devotion from Illustrated Ministry called Reflections on the Heart. Each week you will receive a devotion that contains scripture, a brief reflection to read aloud with some discussion questions, a family activity suggestion, a coloring page and a prayer.

For more information or to receive the weekly Lenten devotions, please contact Elizabeth Murray at efmurray1975@gmail.com



Support for Cub Scout Pack 118

The bridge Presbyterian Church is the charter organization for Cub Scout Pack 118. This means that we partner with them to provide leadership oversight, meeting space, and work collaboratively on mission projects. Although membership in the pack is down significantly due to COVID, we have very dedicated leaders and parents that have been supporting our pack of about 20 scouts during this time to make sure they STAY CONNECTED and committed to their goals.

Our scouts have been unable to engage in any type of fundraising opportunities this year. The funds they raise help to offset the cost of dues, camps, and other activities. They are also used to cover the cost of their storage unit for their equipment. Because of the decrease in membership and the inability to fundraise, the parents are being asked to shoulder the financial responsibility of this setback. If you would like to support the bridge Presbyterian Church's Cub Scout Pack, please put Pack 118 on the memo line of your donation. All donations will go directly to the pack to lessen the financial strain they are currently experiencing.

Give Generously

This Week's giving total - \$ 3,800

As you continue to give generously during this time, you can mail you pledges to
497 Olde Waterford Way, Suite 205, Leland, NC 28451 or set up direct payment where your
bank will mail a check., or set up online giving (see below)

It is easy to give online!

Visit thebridgepres.square.site

Scroll to the Give section. **Select a donation amount**, or enter a custom amount in the \$0 box. Select if your gift goes to the general fund or to a Monthly mission partner in the drop down menu, and you can enter text in the memo line. Click **Donate**, and then **Checkout**, and enter your card information.



CHURCH METRICS

Participation Metrics from Sunday Feb 21st

Maximum Live Viewers	Service Reached on FB	Total views Sunday (FB + Youtube)	% FB / % Youtube (live)
56	163	83	69% / 31%

* Reached on Facebook is when the service appears on someone's newsfeed

* Though the number of views is a good metric, it may not be accurate to actual people watching as there are couples and families watching together. Participation may be up to 2 times higher than views

Serve Our Community

February Sustainable Mission Partner / Project



**American
Red Cross**



**American
Red Cross**

**Brunswick Forest
Community
Has Heart Blood Drive**

**Sponsored by Shelmore
Volunteers
Community Center**

Held on the American Red Cross Bus
2701 Brunswick Forest Pkwy
Leland, NC 28451

**Friday, February 26, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

If you would like to send financial support for American Red Cross. Make your check to the bridge Presbyterian Church and put American Red Cross in the memo line. You can mail your check to 497 Olde Waterford Way, Suite 205, Leland, NC 28451.

You can also give online at thebridgepres.square.site . Remember to mark it for American Red Cross

March Sustainable Mission Partner / Project



New Hope Clinic is a free medical and dental service for under privileged individuals in our county.

The Clinic has an Amazon wish list, where you can order items directly.

Another option is you can pick up an item off the list below. Collections will take place in front of our church on **Wednesday March 31st from 10 to 12:00 noon.**

Blood Pressure Cuffs- Regular and Large
Triple A Batteries
Pill Splitters
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Help with Yard work

You can also make a monetary donation. Anyone donating checks can send them to the church (497 Olde Waterford Way, Suite 205, Leland, NC 28451 with New Hope Clinic noted on the bottom memo line.





Year - Round Food Gift Card Collection for Street Reach

Brunswick County Street Reach is a 100% volunteer, Faith-based organization. Their Interfaith Sheltering Program assists the homeless in our community. Street Reach provides food, shelter, clothing and resources. The needs are ongoing.

Please also consider purchasing a \$5 or \$10 gift card. Street Reach preference is for FOOD LION. It's walking distance to the motel they sponsored. Fast food cards are tricky if only the drive thru is open. Best next choice is Subway (no drive thru) Their clients often lack wheels required for drive thru service.

Mail it to the bridge Presbyterian Church, 497 Olde Waterford Way, Suite 205, Leland, NC 28451 and Wanda will forward it to Street Reach.

Thank you for your generous spirits.
Your Mission Team

Hot Meals for Street Reach...



Like to Shop? Like to Drive?

Street Reach has gone through a lot during COVID and getting meals together for the homeless can extend beyond donating Gift Cards and Pantry Products.

Weekly, on Thursday evenings, I have been preparing and delivering hot meals to Street Reach. In order to continue doing this, I need help with supplies and delivery. Please call me if you are interested in providing supplies or delivering a meal.

If you can help out with supplies, please call Diane Jobson (919-675-8230). If you can help drive, please call Mary Ellen Cole (703-618-6196)

Thank You,
Diane Jobson



Disaster Recovery Updates

Our Brunswick County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) stands ready to assist tornado impacted county residents with connecting to organizations and services that may be able to provide help and assistance during this recovery phase by calling 910-754-7979.

Monetary Donations to assist victims of the Tornado may be made to:

Brunswick VOAD
United Way Cape Fear Area
5919 Oleander Drive, Suite 115
Wilmington, NC 28403



BFA - News

Sustainable mission partner BFA has a new Confidentiality & Non-Disclosure Agreement which they would like each volunteer to sign. A copy may be found on their WEB site or may be obtained from the bridge Disaster Recovery Team.

Seeking Knitters and Crocheters to Help Launch a Shawl Ministry

"You created every part of me, Knitting me in my Mother's womb.

For such handiwork, I praise you. Awesome this great wonder!"

Psalm 139:13-14

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Would you like to participate in making and blessing shawls for others? If so, the Prayer and Care Team invites you to share your talents and time in helping help us launch a Prayer Shawl Ministry at the bridge.

In making prayer shawls, care and love of knitting (and crochet) are combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Today, knitters and crocheters of many faiths are creating handmade shawls as gifts of comfort, solace after a loss or during bereavement, for those undergoing medical procedures, or for prayer and meditation. The shawls are symbolic of an unconditionally loving God that wraps, enfolds, comforts, covers, gives solace, hugs, and shelters us.

Our team has taken the first steps in creating this ministry by partnering with knitter, Mary Campbell and crocheter, Judy Hogg. If you are interested in lending your skills, experience, or support to this effort, please contact Prayer and Care Elder Marilyn Vernon at Marilyn.vernon2@gmail.com (301) 908-8704, Mary Campbell at carlislecampbell@gmail.com (910) 269-9696, or Judy Hogg at



Celebrating Birthdays at the bridge

March



Sallie Bohn	6
Carol Spradley	6
John Vernon	8
Cathy Boettcher	10
Barbara Hedin	10
Ben Lindsey	10
Dave Bohn	11
Gidget Karlof	13
Twila Nahama	13
Richard Hepner	14
Cindy Rupprecht	14
Lora Rissmiller	15
Violet Stevens	17
James Bozeman	23
Carol Nelson	28
Susan Stanewick	31

Remember to login into REALM and put your birthday. You can also email Wanda - just remember to put the year (it doesn't show but is needed in system)