



Bridgeport United Methodist Church

251 Worthington Drive
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Phone: 304.842.6284 Fax: 304.842.1004

Ministers

Rev. Dr. Ken Ramsey, Senior Pastor

*Rev. Dr. Dan Kimble, Minister of
Outreach & Pastoral Care*

Rev. Ben Randolph, Assoc. Pastor

Rev. Jim Lang and

Rev. George Bramble, Pastoral Care

Treasurer

Christine Hickman

Administrative Staff

Kim Kapp

Jennifer Walker

Director of Music

Sarah Carr Parsons

Youth Choir

Dan & Catherine Hughes

Children's Choirs

Kaitlin Exline & Jenny Lawson

WOW Coordinator

Jennifer Walker

Youth Ministry Coordinators

Nathan & Tricia Price

Preschool Director

Polly Steele

After School Director

Rebecca Thornton

Dear Friends:

This is one of the most difficult letters I have ever had to write. I will be retiring from pastoral ministry this year. Per our annual conference guidelines this is effective at the Executive Session of Annual Conference on June 9, 2023. I make this announcement now because the District Superintendent will need to work immediately with our Staff Parish committee in appointing a new Senior Pastor.

I have been in the United Methodist ministry for 43 years and it has been a joy serving the Lord and a special joy serving this congregation. There is a time and season for everything and this is the time for me to transition to retirement. As most of you know, time goes by very fast. The time needed for aging parents, young grandchildren, and being healthy passes quickly.

We have navigated some challenging times together and we are a strong congregation. Your commitment to this church and your support of me as pastor is unmatched. Please continue to support, encourage, and actively participate in serving the Lord through Bridgeport United Methodist Church. Pastors come and go, but the church always remains. We will still be living in Bridgeport and Charlea will still be teaching at Bridgeport High. Though I will no longer be the pastor, I will always be your friend.

Over these next several months I need your support, perhaps more than any other time. I long to see you in worship and to be able to be in church together will mean so much during this time. I will continue to work and lead and pastor as intently as ever. I will preach as fervently as ever (maybe more so) and hope you will provide me the opportunity to impact your family as much as I can during these next several months. More information and details will be provided as time progresses. Please know of my prayers and know how much both Charlea and I need your prayers. Thank you for who you are in Christ and all that you have meant to us over these past 11 years. See you in church.

In Christ,

Dear Members and Friends:

Hopefully you will take the time to process the announcement that Dr. Ramsey has shared with us all. On behalf of the Staff Parish Committee, I want to be the first to offer gratitude to him and Charlea for their 11 years of service here at our church. The truth is that Ken has served one-third of his entire ministry among us at Bridgeport United Methodist Church. This includes three years back in the 1980s and now these 11 years. He has given 43 total years to ministry and we are thankful that we have been able to be in ministry with him for such an extended period.

As he mentions, our committee will be working with the District Superintendent to identify and receive a new Senior Pastor. This process takes several weeks and perhaps months, but you will be informed as things progress. We will also be sharing with you our plans as a congregation to celebrate Dr. Ramsey's retirement and support him and Charlea in this important transition.

For now, let us all renew our vows that we took as members to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. As Ken said not too long ago in one of his messages, "Following through on our commitments is not just something we do, but it also tells us who we are." We are a strong community of faith that will continue to serve Christ Jesus.

We look forward to sharing with Ken and Charlea in encouragement and gratitude over these remaining several months. Thank you for your faithfulness.

In Christ's service,

Darrell Moorhead, Staff Parish Chairperson

