

# CONNECTIONS

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



## Message from the Pastor



### 2021 November

3 Now the boy Samuel was **ministering to the Lord under Eli**. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup> **At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see**, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called, "Samuel!" Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." **Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.** <sup>9</sup> **Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'**" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>1</sup> Samuel 3:1-10

I don't know if you've ever looked at this call of Samuel as a call of Eli too. I hadn't either until the Heritage District virtual gathering on October 18 when the Rev. Dr. Jennie Brown, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Clergy Excellence, opened my eyes. She talked about Eli having served as priest for a long time.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### November

- 11/7  
Time Fall Back 1  
Hour @ 2AM
- 11/7  
All Saints Day
- 11/11  
Veteran's Day
- 11/25  
Thanksgiving Day  
Office Closed
- 11/26  
Church Closed
- 11/28  
Advent Begins
- 11/28  
United Methodist  
Student Day

With Christ as our center, we are His extended family, compassionately sharing Jesus' love with all people.  
Our congregation is on a lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.

# Prayers and Praise



## PRAYER requests

### In the Hospital

Please remember those in  
Continuing Care Facilities

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Stephanie Boltrick  
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

Christopher Stone  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Michael Stone  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Blake  
Grandson of Betty Hughey

Jared Stabnau  
Grandson of Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone  
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton  
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne  
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm



Judith	Hulett	4
Linda	Farkas	6
Cindy	Smith	7
Crystal	Strickland	15
Mark	Thetford	18
Dick	Carey	20
Debbie	Smith	20
Gabe	Keelan	23
Rowena	Zimmerman	26
Pam	Boughton	27
Donna	Collins	28



Jim & Carol	Fitch	14
Rodney & Laura	Kirchoff	27
Mark & Rachel	Sparling	27

## Message from the Pastor

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She talked about how Eli's children didn't want to take over his position and how sad that made him feel. She talked about how Eli thought Hannah was drunk all the while she prayed to God for a son and promised God that she would give her son back to God when he was of age. Then we see this scene, which most of the time is referred to as Samuel's call...but what if it was Eli's call too.

It says that Eli's eyesight had begun to grow dim. This could literally mean he was losing his sight, but it could also be pointing out that he wasn't hearing from God very much anymore. I wonder if Eli felt a bit useless, not being able to serve God like he always had. But it says, "the lamp of God had not yet gone out." Eli still had a purpose and a reason to continue serving God.

Then there's all the back and forth of Samuel coming to Eli thinking it was Eli calling him, but it was really God. Finally, "Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy." I wonder if in that moment Eli recalled all the conversations he had had with his own sons to no avail about being faithful to God. I wonder if he contemplated telling Samuel to go back to sleep and to not bother him again. But that's not what Eli does. He supports Samuel in his call and tells him what to do to answer God. Eli knew his time was almost up, but he wanted there to be people of faith to follow after him. His own family had abandoned the faith he'd always know, but Eli was still willing to keep the faith going by supporting this new servant of God. Eli had no idea how God would use Samuel, but Eli trusted God and gave the outcome to God.

Do you feel like Eli? Have you been frustrated that you can no longer do all that you use to do in the service of God? Do you find yourself frustrated with the younger generation always coming and saying, "Here I am, you called me" and then witnessing them doing what you have always done in totally new and different ways? What do you think helped Eli to let go of the outcome and to trust God with who God was calling to continue the ministry? Who, in your sphere of influence, are you hearing the call to support? What does that support look like and what are your next steps?

I have witnessed the struggle between the younger and older generations at BFUMC. Both have stopped listening to the other. Perhaps it's time to reread this story of an old priest and a young boy and how God continues to call both.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mary

P.S. Speaking of the younger generations, thank you so much to the children and youth who signed and sent me a card telling me how much they appreciate me. It means more than you can know kids. Bless you!

# Events & Activities



*November 7th*

*Remembering all the saints who  
from their labors rest on*

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

Living Out The POWER of We

**11/07/21**

DON'T FORGET TO

**FALL  
BACK**

**Thursday, November 11th**

**VETERANS DAY**

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



## **Sermon Series *Brave Church: Tackling Tough Topics Together* (Continues)**

November 7, 2021/ All Saints Sunday

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:10-11 (NIV)

Sermon Title: Brave Talk: *Coming Close to Pain*

Synopsis: We've all bargained with God when we come close to pain. It is often very difficult to discuss our grief with those in the beloved community. Today, we will learn how to speak with each other in our grief and how to help each other process our grief.

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Elizabeth Hagan, 60.

## **Sermon Series: A Life that Matters**

This is an opportunity which comes almost at the end of the Christian year (since it all starts with Advent) for us to remind ourselves that we are people looking forward to a promise. It need not be a longing for heaven, but more a hoping for the kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, just like we pray each week. Part of our worship experience week after week is to open ourselves up to the vision God has for all of creation, which includes us!

November 14, 2021

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8 (NRSV)

Sermon Title: *Not One Stone*

Synopsis: Taking the long view. Foresight? Perspective? It's hard to find a word that can sum up the attribute Mark 13:1-8 invites us to consider. In the story, the disciples are wowed by the seeming permanence and strength of the temple building. But Jesus says it won't last. Come and let's explore what it means to know our reality, but to be looking beyond to the kingdom that is coming.

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/a-life-that-matters/twenty-fifth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-b-lectionary-planning-notes>



## November 21, 2021

Scripture: John 18: 33-37 (NRSV)

Sermon Title: *Everyone Who Belongs*

Synopsis: Reign of Christ Sunday is a marker for the end of the liturgical year. It is a way of saying we wrap up a year's worth of worship by claiming again whose we are. We reiterate our mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The emphasis this week is in the middle – “of Jesus Christ.” That is the kind of disciple that we are. We aren't disciples of our own wisdom; we aren't disciples following the winds of this world. We are disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **Sermon Series: Tell me the Story**

During VBS this year, we discovered that our children did not have a good grasp of the story leading to the manger. This advent, we're going old school and exploring the old, old story. Let us all be like little children as we discover this amazing world changing story once more. (I will be utilizing pieces of Adam Hamilton's *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*).

## November 28, 2021—First Week of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

Sermon Title: *Mary Did You Know?*

Synopsis: Let us walk in the shoes of this young girl as she finds out she will be the mother of the Savior of the world.

# Events & Activities



## **DID YOU KNOW???**

Did you know...that BFUMC is on a ***new worship schedule starting September 19?***

9:00am Praise Worship  
10:30am Faith Foundation Worship

***10:30am Combined Worship once a month on Communion Sunday (usually the first Sunday of the month—we'll let you know about those rare second Sundays) with no children's or youth Sunday School Growth Groups so that everyone can participate in a full worship experience including communion...when we say combined we really mean it ☺***

Did you know...that all ***announcements*** need to be ***in to the church office by noon on Tuesdays*** in order to be included in Sunday worship? Live/in person/spur of the moment announcements will no longer occur so that Belleville First becomes a place and worship that visitors want to explore.

Did you know...that all ***prayer requests*** can be found on the tear off in the new bulletin? (***Announcements*** can be found there too!) Please feel free to take the tear off home with you. All the prayer concerns that come into the office are shared through the CCB church email and on the Church App. If you are not tech savvy and don't have an email, feel free to call the church office @ 734-697-9288 from 9am-12pm Tuesday-Thursday to check in. Prayers within the worship service will be of a general nature as we are protecting the privacy of our worshippers and creating a place and worship that visitors want to explore.

Thank you for worshipping with us!  
BFUMC Worship Committee



## OUR THOUGHTS *and* PRAYERS *are with* YOU

Mark Groeneweg

Pastor Jeff Moheler

John Posegay

Graham Shepherd

John Mark Smallwood

Tony Bankhead (Friend Mike Skelton)

Lois Long(Friend of Everett Meggett)

Family & Friends of Bobbie Winters



## Gatherings with Pastor Mary

Can you believe it's been over a year since Pastor Mary joined us at Belleville First UMC! What a year! We've experienced new ways to worship online, in our parking lot, around a giant Advent wreath, and now with two services in the sanctuary starting September 19th. We've been grateful to receive Advent boxes and Lenten bags that connected us even when we couldn't gather in person. We also have explored a spiritual pathway as we connected in Growth Groups through online, hybrid, and in person formats helping us grow in our faith. Yet, even with all these creative ways of connecting, due to covid-19 restrictions, this year has been challenging when it comes to knowing our new pastor.

To facilitate this, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and Pastor Mary will be hosting gatherings in the church Lounge starting in October on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:50am. This will be a time for you to get to know Pastor Mary a bit better and for you to share some history of your involvement at Belleville First. These intimate gatherings of five active church participants, an SPRC member, and Pastor Mary will last approximately 45 minutes. The SPRC and Pastor Mary hope these gatherings will be a time of connection and deepening relationship.

A member from SPRC will contact active church participants in the coming weeks, to schedule your visit. Even if you are well acquainted with Pastor Mary, we hope you will still attend and encourage the conversation. All are welcome and because we are limiting the number who gather, a reservation is required. We will follow the Covid guideline policy approved by the Administrative Council and found on the website on the day of your gathering. Please utilize this opportunity to get to know Pastor Mary and one another better.



## N.O.A.H. Sandwiches – Again! Thank You!



Once again Belleville First was able to assemble and distribute 300 lunches to those in need through the N.O.A.H. Project in Detroit. A huge thank you to everyone who baked cookies, helped make sandwiches, assemble the lunch bags, and distribute the food. Each lunch included sandwich, pretzels, granola bar, grapes or oranges and a cookie. With your support, we were able to do this for \$1.50 per lunch. This was a great demonstration of following Jesus' instructions to love and take care of our fellow human beings. Check out N.O.A.H.'s website at <https://noahprojectdetroit.org/> for more info on N.O.A.H.

Thank You! Thank you for your cards, thoughts, and most of all, thank you for your prayers during my recent hospitalization. This unexpected event was a reminder of (among other things) the importance and power of belonging to a faith community. Dee and I appreciate your support.

Mark Groeneweg



For you Church, I give thanks...

As we continue through such a time as this, I pause for spiritual sabbath rest, and spend time in gratitude. For all who have come this far, by faith, as a church family in a life long journey of discipleship with Christ at the center. For the challenges and growth that have been a part of sharing the love of Jesus. As we follow-up with Brave Church family conversations this month post visit with the Bishop in October, consider engaging God in prayer and small grouping this November. *Express your faith by sharing your story as it relates to growing into a Brave Church by showing up on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in the Artley Room (we will relocate to the sanctuary for overflow) from 6 – 7 p.m..*

So much thankfulness also for all those educators who have taken on re-opening the nursery (Chris Strickland, Terri Morioka, Julie Skelton, and Alice Payne) and teaching the children and youth Sunday School Growth Groups. The Skeltons, Stricklands, Keelans, and Flemings, have really shown up to try some more meditative montessori Methodist based curriculum while our first selection was experiencing technical difficulties. Marlayna Keelan, Megan Skelton, Jenn Daignau, and I are continuously re-evaluating what we have to work with and how to make a one room school house model a vibrant Christ inspired experience. Amy Reeves has stepped up to be the second adult available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and older children who haven't yet gone through the Adventure Bible Study Buddies sessions. We are engaging God in scripture during these gatherings on Sundays between services in the Artley room and joining in worship together in community communion the first Sunday of each month. This started October 17<sup>th</sup> and goes through November 21<sup>st</sup>. Also thankful for Dee Groeneweg stepping up to help lead the youth gathering and to Tiffany Cromity who will be helping out as well.

Think about taking on a prayer partner or sharing a ride to church through the upcoming Advent season, which starts Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a good and joyful thing to be in community together. Blessings to you and yours especially during this holiday season.

In Christ - Jill



**11/25/21**

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

**The Church will be Closed 11/25 & 26**

## Youth & Children



The junior high took a walk during their growth group to investigate the cross seen as you enter Belleville when crossing the bridge. We learned the original cross did not belong to the business. It was taken back by the owner. A new one was built and is owned by the business, so now the cross is here to stay!



# Food Closet



## **Holiday Gift Cards**

**Food Only** gift cards were recently purchased from Meijer. These will be passed out to clients the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas to help provide extra food for the holidays. Each client will receive their regular weekly bag of food and refrigerated and personal care items plus a \$25 **Food Only** gift card. Food prices continue to rise and some items are now in short supply.

## **Food Closet Video**

An updated 2021 food closet video has been added to the church website and mobile app. I hope everyone will take time to watch it! I want to thank my friend, Pete Silveri, for creating this wonderful video that tells our story.

## **Can/Bottle Drive**

Thanks to everyone for donating their bottles and cans to the Emergency Food Closet. We are quickly reaching the \$3,000 mark. Please make sure your cans and bottles have been rinsed. We've recently noticed more bees exploring the bags!

## **Another Great Fundraiser!**

A big thank you goes out to Ken Voight for his "Goat T-shirt" fundraiser and to all the people who purchased shirts. The proceeds of the sale, \$800, were donated to the Emergency Food Closet.

Thank you!  
Marilyn Wood - Coordinator



# November 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 7pm Ad Council (Z)	3 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	4 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	5	6
7 Time Fallback 10:30 Worship SS Worship  All Saints Day	8	9 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)	10 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	11 10am AA (FH) 6pm Faithfully Living (AR/S) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	12	13
14 9am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship	15  7pm Garden Club (FH)	16 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)	17 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	18 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	19	20
21 9am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship	22	23 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)  7pm Missions (FH)	24 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	25   Church Closed	26  Church Closed	27
28 9am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship  United Methodist Student Day Offering	29	30 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)				