

"Letting My Jesus Witness Show" Series

Theme: Knowing our Jesus story and being able to share our Jesus' story is key.

June 8 - "The Holy Spirit Is Here to Help Us Know Our Witness"

June 15 - "Every Moment Can Be a Telling Our Story Moment"

June 22 - "Answering the Questions and the Doubts of Others"

June 29 - "Living a Life of Faith is Our Best Witness to Others"

"Nine Ways To Pray" Series

Theme: Communication with God, as we connect with others, is a disciple skill to be developed, and shared.

July 6 - "Grappling with God – God Appreciates the Effort"

July 6, 5-7 p.m. - "Song Singing Potluck"

(Song-Sing 5 p.m., Potluck 6 p.m.)

July 13 - "Asking Boldly Because God Loves Us!"

July 20 - "Holding On To God's Promises"

July 27 - "Praying Fervently When You Don't Feel Like It"

August 3 - "Praying Privately"

August 10 - "Praying Patiently"

August 17 - "Measure Prayer By Weight,
Not Length"

August 24 - "Groaning Our Way To God"

August 31 - "By Praying Always"

Pastor's Page

June – August 2025

"Pastor Greg" Buchner

o: 734-697-9288

c: 734-252-9110 pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com

Please add me to your contacts so you'll know that it's me.

Upcoming Series

"Searching For
Trusted Normal"
September 7 –
September 28

"The Power of God-
Centered Music"
October 5 –
October 26

"Stewardship: Give
Thanks"
November 2 -
November 23

"Down to Earth
Christmas"
November 30 –
December 28

The United Methodist Church "NEW" Vision Statement

"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

Our Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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

Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Our children's ministry will remain available each Sunday just after the first song. See Terri if you're interested in finding out more or perhaps to volunteer.

Missions

COMMITTEE

The Committee continues discussing how to connect with the community and engage with the congregation.

EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET as of August 12, 2025

- January 1 – July 31, 2025: 1,738 bags and frig items distributed, 103 new clients, 225 families served (as of June 30, 2025)
- July was the busiest month of 2025 – 288 bags out, 19 new clients
- May 6 & 7 was the busiest week of 2025: 87 bags distributed in 6 hours, 5 new clients
- Chase Account Balance (August 4, 2025): \$44,804.19
- Simply Give Balance: (Winter SG campaign – August 4, 2025): \$14,000
- January 1 – June 30, 2025 Food Expenses: \$41,075.27 (\$34,175.30 spent at Meijer with SG monies) + \$6,026.97 spent from Chase Account at Aldi, Kroger, Walmart, and Jiffy plant). An additional \$1,663.45 spent at Dollar Tree for toilet paper from Chase Account. \$529.75 spent on ads, stamps and bags TOTAL: \$43,268.47
- 225 families (170+55) have been served in 2025 from January 1-June 30.
- Currently we have 170 clients in the 2025 Intake book (January 1-June 30).
- 62% of these are age 60+.
- 13 potential clients have referrals, but have never shown, no Intake sheets.

- 12 clients have 2024 Intake Sheets & a current referral, but have not been here in 2025.
- 9 new clients in June who have Intake Sheets but we are waiting on referrals.
- Another 55 clients were served in 2025 but have been removed from the 2025 Intake Book.

These have been saved in another notebook for future reference in case they return.

- 38 clients came once, no referrals
- 4 clients came 2 or more times, no referrals
- 9 clients came and were served, but are non-residents
- 4 clients were served whose referral has since expired

WIHN GROUP - Workouts in His Name (WiHn) is back to 3 classes a week for the summer with a 4th activity, pickleball, on Thursday mornings. Look for a calendar posted on the bulletin board outside the church office for exact times and dates.

WiHn teamed up with Drumatic Fitness to host a Hawaiian beach party cardio drumming event in our church parking lot in June. We had a great turnout and a fantastic time. Look for pictures in upcoming newsletters or on Facebook.

"Healthy Habits" is continuing to meet periodically on Monday mornings. We had a great response to the Belleville Independent letter to the editor and several new ladies have joined our group. We had a speaker on June 30th that spoke about Diabetes, nutrition, and insulin resistance. We will continue our book study of "Truly Fed" by Gari Meacham on July 21st and throughout the rest of the summer.

Tech

Thanks to a new fiber internet we're able to upload Sunday's message even faster now. You may even notice improved WIFI performance if you're connected in the Sanctuary. Catch up with our services at www.youtube.com/@bellevillefirstunitedmetho6875.

Church Operations

Finance

As of June 2025, we have a checkbook balance of \$56,120 and \$108,980 in our designated funds, including \$29,817 designated toward elevator (the electrical repairs on the roof have been completed and paid). Our United Methodist Foundation Funds (our long-term savings) we have \$102,525.

Nominations and Leadership Development

As leaders change, we thank those who have served. They have made a difference! And for those of you beginning to serve, learn from the past, but also lead us into the future. Pastor Greg will be doing training for each team after the September Church Conference. If you're being asked to serve, please consider serving. If you're not asked, but the Spirit is hounding you, please check our "United Methodist Ministry Descriptions" online at: www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources. Hard copies are also offered to loan from Terri and/or Pastor Greg.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Please be sure to say thank-you to anyone who serves at Belleville First UMC. We are thankful for ALL our staff, paid and volunteer, who work extremely hard to make sure ALL is done well. We are in the process of finishing our charge conference paperwork which will happen September 14. Be watching your bulletin for details.

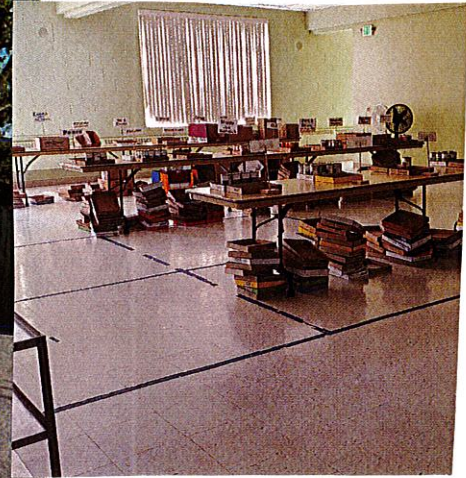
Trustees

While we are still taking funds for the elevator repair, a big thank you goes out to all the helpers who are getting small and large projects done around the building. If you see something that needs attention, please contact Pastor Greg or the church office. Although some new members have already started, Micky Keelan will be our chair starting at our church conference.

Worship

Those wishing to do special music this summer should contact Judy Weed to get scheduled. Our current series will be our "Nine Ways to Pray" through August 31, and then the "Searching for Trusted Normal" trusting in God series, from September 7-28. Watch your newsletter for details. And always, consider yourself invited and bring a friend.

"Moving Forward in Christ Together"



BEFORE

USPS Food Drive

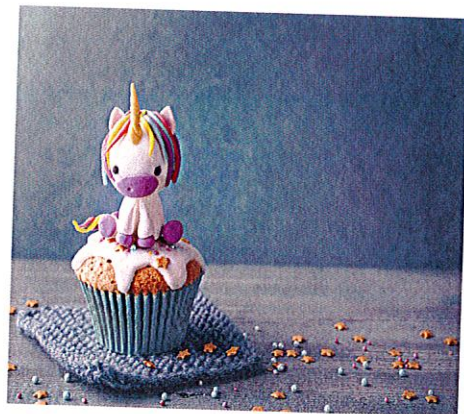
On May 10, members of BFUMC, Belleville High students and Food Closet volunteers partnered with the Post Office. In one day post office employees collected 7046 pounds of non-perishable food. The food was delivered to church, where volunteers sorted, date checked and boxed up the food. Once packed the food had to be moved into the building and stored away.



AFTER

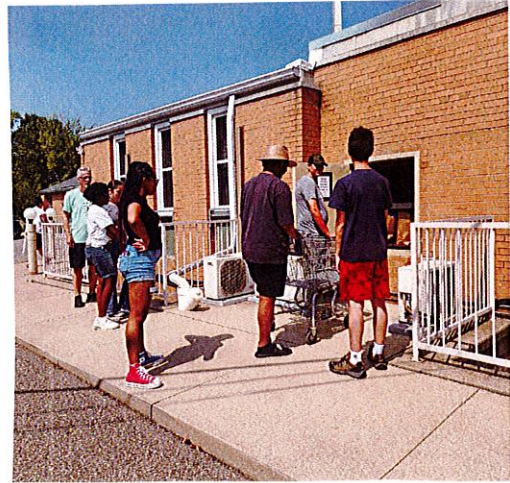


On the subject of the Food Closet...we had a special surprise coffee hour back in February, to celebrate the birthday of Food Closet director, Marilyn Wood.



On Tuesday, July 15, a very HOT day, VBS students from the 7th Day Adventist church came with their chaperones. They were greeted by Pastor Greg, then Micky and Terri supervised them packing 48 bags. The students toured the food closet and then moved the 48 bags to the dumb waiter, upstairs and to the bell room for storage. Each student received Food Closet brochures and some had questions.

Thanks to Lori for setting everything up beforehand.



FOOD CLOSET NEWS

The Emergency Food Closet had their biggest week ever on August 5 and 6. 91 bags with refrigerator items were distributed, and five new clients came.

In addition, we gave food to three non-resident people and to one family (an adult and four children) who were homeless and living in their car. Each one also received a list of resources that might be able to help.



Married today.....



In June we celebrated two marriages.

First we had the wedding of longtime friends, Millie Lea Folks to Dick Carey. It was a small , family wedding held in the BFUMC sanctuary.

and Married for 65 Years!

A surprise 65th Anniversary Coffee Hour was planned by the children of Roger and Diane Ferguson. Roger and Diane were quite surprised when their children and other family members started arriving for church. After worship they found another surprise, the coffee hour table with a wedding cake, flowers and cards.

We all wish both couples many more joyfilled years.



WORKING TOGETHER

Last spring our Missions Team, led by Marilyn Wood made Hurricane Relief Buckets. Using very precise directions they bought exactly the items that were listed by UMCOR. After church one Sunday volunteers assembled the bucket, the buckets were then loaded into Pastor's van. That Monday Pastor Greg and Mike Skelton Delivered the buckets to a collection center to be forwarded to the next disaster area..



Ever wonder who is taking such good care of the flower border in front of the parking lot. That is the work of the Belleville Garden Club. They used to meet in the church and took over care of the border as their thank you. You may have noticed the hose left out this summer. One of the ladies makes sure the flowers are well watered during the hot, summer days.

These are the ladies, if you know any of them please say "Thank you" from our church.

5 Reasons to Join Choir this Year

- 1. It's super fun, and the people are fun too.*
- 2. You will learn new songs.*
- 3. You will meet new friends.*
- 4. You will increase your singing skills.*
- 5. You help lead meaningful worship.*

"O come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation"

Psalms 95; 1

See Judy Weed for more information.

