

# CONNECTIONS

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



## Message from the Pastor



### 2021 October

***1-2 My dear congregation, I, your pastor, love you in very truth. And I'm not alone—everyone who knows the Truth that has taken up permanent residence in us loves you.***

***3 Let grace, mercy, and peace be with us in truth and love from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, Son of the Father!***

***4-6 I can't tell you how happy I am to learn that many members of your congregation are diligent in living out the Truth, exactly as commanded by the Father. But permit me a reminder, friends, and this is not a new commandment but simply a repetition of our original and basic charter: that we love each other. Love means following his commandments, and his unifying commandment is that you conduct your lives in love. This is the first thing you heard, and nothing has changed.*** 1 John 1-6 (MSG)

I am so excited to be meeting with all of you in the SPRC "coffee hour" starting this October. Like this letter above in 2 John, I too ***love you in very truth***. I just still don't know you very well. I am elated that we will finally get to sit down and talk. Which by the way is the name of the sermon series in October, *Can We Talk?* You see part of loving God and one another is opening ourselves to one another and talking about the real, deep down slug we walk through in this life. So I ask you to come to both the "coffee hour" gatherings and the Sundays in this series with an open heart and open mind, ready to love all the more.

Read the above scripture from 2 John again. That is the way we live out our Truth. We live out our Truth by conducting our lives in love. Love. Love. Love. All we need is love. (For more on that, check out the sermon from the *What's Love Got to Do With It* series on September 12 on Belleville First's YouTube Channel and remember to like and subscribe.)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### October

10/3 World  
Communion  
Sunday  
10:30am  
Combined  
Service

10/7 – 7pm  
Bishop Bard  
in person  
meeting

10/10  
Noah Sandwich  
Making

Office hours with  
Pastor Mary  
Mon-Thurs.  
Contact the  
Church Office to  
schedule.

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

Bobbie Winters  
Superior Woods



Brian	Andrews	1
Nancy	Shephard	2
Don	Schloesser	3
Evan	Basnaw	6
Rebecca	Brooks	7
Thomas	Germann II	7
Rodney	Kirchoff	11
Carol	Schank	11
Dee	Stansifer	14
Kelly	Jordan	30
Judith	Weed	30
Jan	Grice	31

## 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



Vern & Karen	Carlson	2
Nathan "Nate" & Melissa (Missy)	Clark	10
Sue & Gary	Altobello	13
Susan & Dan	Featheringill	15
Amy & Jeremy	Milios-Knieper	22

## Message from the Pastor

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Finally, I am so excited to be heading into our second fall together. Fall is one of my favorite seasons as the air turns crisp and cool, and we enter into the festive holiday season. I am hopeful that we will be able to celebrate at least a bit like we have in seasons past, but as our motto has been at Belleville First, we keep connected anyway.

So don't miss this exciting October and let us open our hearts and minds to love.

Loving blessings,  
Pastor Mary

## Events & Activities



*The Bread of Life*

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 – 10:30am*



# Meeting with Bishop Bard



Bishop Bard will be  
at BFUMC  
in-person  
Thursday, October  
7th at 7:00pm to  
address the  
membership.  
Please join our  
Bishop for an  
informative  
meeting.



# 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

**Doreitha Armstrong &  
Son Will  
Pat Aimone  
Dr. MacDermid  
Betty Shaw  
Audree  
Jim Wilson  
Doug Crawford  
Lisa Archer-Young  
Jim Fitch  
Each other & Our  
Country**



## Sermon Series *Brave Church: Tackling Tough Topics Together*

People need to trust that they can speak their truths without fear of being dismissed, shamed, or judged. As pastors and laypeople, we must foster and facilitate challenging conversations in our faith communities...We must put aside fear and discomfort to become a brave church.

In this sermon series based on the book of the same name authored by Elizabeth Hagan, we will discover how to talk with one another, really talk and not just gloss over. It is challenging to both be vulnerable and open, and it is my hope that we will come away from this series with a deeper understanding of one another and of ourselves.

### October 3, 2021

Scripture: Acts 2:5-8 (NIV)

Sermon Title: *Can We Talk?*

Synopsis: "Acts 2: 1-12 invites us into community with people who hold opposing perspectives or who speak in a language we don't comprehend. The passage gives us hope that we can see, understand, and abide with one another." Today, we will explore how to create safe spaces for Brave Talk for a Brave Church.

### October 10, 2021

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27 (MSG)

Sermon Title: *Brave Talk: Sexuality*

Synopsis: "In an effort to keep the peace, we often agree to disagree about sexuality.

We fear that when we start talking conflict might escalate quickly from respectful disagreement to hurtful accusations...Yet, the storyteller in Genesis offers us an invitation to slow down and begin again...God created humankind. We are told we're different from the rest of creation: We are made in the image of God. Not just some of us but all of us." Today, we will expand on the conversation we had with Bishop David Bard. We will learn how to stay in the conversation, cultivate affection for one another, and how to listen with compassion as we are in conversation with those with whom we do not agree.

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<sup>1</sup>Elizabeth Hagan, *Brave Church: Tackling Tough Topics Together* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2021), back cover.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, 19-20



## October 17, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 7:3-4 (CEB)

Sermon Title: *Brave Talk: Racism*

Synopsis: “Jesus asks us to consider the way we perceive one another. In his Sermon on the Mount, he contrasts our quickness to judge our neighbor with our reluctance to observe our own biases. Jesus invites us to turn our attention to our blind spots—the “logs” that lead to misperception and unfair judgments.” Today, we will excavate our bias while deepening our understanding of systematic and historical racism.

## October 24, 2021

Scripture: Psalm 88:3-8 (NIV)

Sermon Title: *Brave Talk: Mental Illness*

Synopsis: “Though we might be tempted to interpret Psalm 88 as an individual experience of sorrow...In the community of God, your sorrow is my sorrow. An my sorrow is yours. Our pain is shared.” Today, we will talk about how we can help to remove the stigma surrounding mental illness,

## October 31, 2021

Scripture: Psalm 55: 4-6,12-14 (CEB)

Sermon Title: *Brave Talk: Speaking Up about the Violence that terrorizes our Lives*

Synopsis: Whether it's the abuse and violence we experience behind the closed doors of our homes or behind the front doors of our churches, we all sense there is a better way to live this life. In this Psalm, “David didn't expect a threat to emerge from the community of support that he'd chosen.” And neither do we. Yet, because we are all human, we sometimes experience inhumane treatment from one another. What role does forgiveness play? How do we begin to break down the walls of silence that keep us running in terror? How do we being to live again?

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<sup>3</sup>Elizabeth Hagan, 88

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, 74.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid, 46

<sup>6</sup>Elizabeth Hagan, 60.





## 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.



## NOAH PROJECT SANDWICH MAKING BETWEEN SERVICES OCTOBER 10TH COOKIES AND HELPERS NEEDED

We will be making 300 sandwiches between the worship services on **Sunday, October 10th** as well as packing lunch bags to serve to those less fortunate in the city of Detroit.

Please plan to come down to fellowship hall in between the services to help with this activity. If you are able to make cookies, please drop them off before the first service or by 10am at the latest. One large homemade cookie per ziplock bag please.

If you would like to go downtown to Central UMC with us to serve the lunches, we would love to have you along! Please indicate your interest to Dee Groeneweg @ 734-635-1058.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support of this outreach.

The Missions Team

Thank you everyone who participated in the Men's Club September Garage Sale. Your support and love was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Donna Collins for providing the delicious lunch!

Carl Marosi, UMM President



Greetings Again Church,

Fall is underway and I couldn't be happier!!! We have had a great gathering of children and youth back for the new programming year. They have participated in a Back to School Blessing Pastor Mary lead, complete with backpack and book bag tags and device stickers to take with them each day. They have celebrated the return to church family life with a Welcome Back party the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September that offered a pancake breakfast bar (with chocolate chips and whipped cream and let me tell you, those two toppings were *very much* enjoyed!!!), cross on canvas reveal craft, and a week of kindness to serve through with their All About Me sheets that if completed, will allow them to enter a contest for a family movie night package. We have a few faithful youth who came out to start talking about what they'd like their youth group to look like and it was a great time of renewed fun with a few rounds of the Heads Up game. We are frolicking through fall fellowship, and we need your help!!!

As I shared last month, there are lots of ways to get involved currently, and the door is completely open for you to bring any inspiration forth for creating and leading something on your heart. Over the next several months I will be featuring a ministry/fellowship/programming focus that I hope you will join. This month we're focusing on **Bible Buddies ("B^2")**. This offers an intergenerational connection with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who have recently been gifted a children's bible (Adventure Bible NIV as is BFUMC tradition) from their church family for our lifelong Christ centered journey of discipleship and need help learning how to drive it!!! Will you help them out while also learning from them??? A ministry match with people who are looking to engage God in scripture by being partnered with a 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grader who is learning how to navigate their Bible for the first time is made. Starts Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and running through the first Sunday of Advent (December 5<sup>th</sup>) for a total of eight (8) weeks in the Artley Room between services (10 - 10:30 a.m.). During this half hour we will review a lesson in exploring our Bibles, talk about the various books, how to look up scripture verses, maps, and other components. You only need have a willing heart and annual background check. **Spiritual Pathway Steps: Engage (Growing in Trust) in Scripture, Prayer, and Small Groups; Express (Gratitude) by Expressing Faith Through Service and Influence.** **Sign up here, call the church office, or Jill to volunteer as a Bible Buddy with older elementary school kiddos:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094AAAAD2FAAF85-fall3>



## SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE FELLOWSHIP!!!

- ❖ **Bishop Bard Conversation October 7 @ 7 p.m**
- ❖ **Trunk or Treat October 29<sup>th</sup> @ 4 p.m.** We'll start at church with pizza dinner and trunk o' treating, then head down to Main Street for the community BOOville event. **CONTACT JILL TO DECORATE A TRUNK IN OUR PARKING LOT!!!** Community event info. here: [BOOville - Home | Facebook](#)



The Belleville UMW hosted a potluck luncheon for our dear Wednesday morning Bible Study teacher, Ilene Hazen.

Attendees: Ilene Hazen, Grace Chamberlain, Mary Carol Smallwood, Natalie Damon, Donna Collins, Betty Hughey, Betty Parmelee, Doreitha Armstrong, Alice Payne, Dee Stansifer, Judy Weed, Lynda Aimone, Sandy Wilson, Martha Conley, Sandy Dye, and Mary Posegay. Joyce Banks was out of town but present in spirit.

Ilene led our classes for over nineteen years. She shared with each of us her love for Jesus, our Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit. Ilene made many beautiful prayer shawls for those going through difficult times. She would bring them to class and we would pray over them to bless the recipients.

Ilene is a very knowledgeable, loving, Christian lady who lives and teaches her faith. We love and appreciate her and her many gifts she so graciously shared with us all.

This was a special time of fellowship, sharing memories of our years together. Thank you, Ilene, for being our guiding light. You will be dearly missed.

Sincerely,  
Your Wednesday Morning Bible Study Ladies

***Michigan Conference UMW, taking COVID-19 safety precautions, has moved the Annual Meeting online. Register now for this virtual gathering on October 23, 2021.***

Julia Paradine-Rice, President of the Michigan Conference UMW, announced on September 9, "After much consideration, the 3rd Annual Celebration of the United Methodist Women of the Michigan Conference is going virtual. Our Leadership Team felt it was best to avoid state-wide travel to accommodate a live event with the current pandemic statistics."

**All are invited to join the gathering online via Zoom on Saturday, October 23, at 9:30 am.**

Emily Jones, UMW Executive for Racial Justice is the keynote speaker. Jones is the executive for racial justice at [National United Methodist Women](#). She leads the UMW's campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Prior to her current position, Jones served as the director and lead organizer for the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty.

[A mail-in registration form is available here](#). Or [click here to register online](#). The last day to register for the event or to vote on business matters is **October 14**. Questions? Contact Registrar Dorie Litchfield, 269-580-3449, or [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)

An officers' training will also be held via Zoom on Friday, October 22, at 6:30 pm.

Learn more about the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women [on their website](#).



Hello Church Family,

We need Devotional articles for the upcoming Advent Devotional. The requirements are: scripture, 300 words or less story, and prayer. Below is a sample of an Advent Devotional written last year. Do consider blessing our church family during the Advent season.

## GETTING READY

[Isaiah 40:3](#)

A voice **of** one calling: "In **the** wilderness **prepare the way** for **the LORD**; make straight in **the** desert a highway for our God.

We prepare for vacations. We prepare for retirement. We prepare for taking tests and having guests in our home. At Christmas, we send cards, decorate, and prepare lots of food. But do we prepare ways to let the season be all about the one true gift that came at Christmas?

Preparing for a life with Jesus means removing obstacles in our daily life that keep us from living each moment for Him. It also means being prepared to tell others about Him. Are you ready to share Jesus this Christmas?

Take some time to think about what obstacles are keeping you from focusing on Him this Advent and work to replace those obstacles with ways to welcome our Savior into your heart and home this Christmas.

Dear God, We thank you for the gift of your son who came to show us the way. Please help us arrange our lives in ways that bring us closer to you and help us to reflect your love to others. Amen

Devotions are Due: Monday, October 25, 2021 – Please forward your devotions to the church office email [bellevilleumc48111@yahoo.com](mailto:bellevilleumc48111@yahoo.com).

Advent Begins : Sunday, November 28, 2021

Thank-you!

2021 Advent Devotion Team



## ***Numbers to Date***

Since January 1, 2021, we have been distributing food on a weekly basis to all clients due to the overwhelming generosity of so many. From January 1st through August 31st, we have distributed 1,123 bags of food to 108 families and have 51 new clients. With the beginning of a new school year, letters were mailed last week to all district principals and to the principal of Keystone Academy to inform them of our presence. Our Emergency Food Closet brochure was included as well as a list of other sources of food in the community that can be shared with staff and duplicated for families who may need assistance.

## ***Can/Bottle Drive***

Steve Dolot of Van Buren Township, a non-verbal adult who has multiple impairments, has been returning cans and bottles with the help of his aide and family that have been collected at Belleville First United Methodist Church since last October. His fundraising effort has raised **\$2,705** for the Emergency Food Closet to help feed the hungry in our community. Thank you to everyone who has donated cans and bottles to this ongoing fundraiser!

## ***Goat T-Shirts***

Belleville City Councilman, Ken Voight, who is also a graphic artist, designed the "goat" T-shirt. He is donating **ALL** the proceeds from this shirt sale to the Emergency Food Closet. The shirts are available at Egan's Pub at 396 Main St. and are \$20. John Juriga is modeling his "goat" shirt.

## ***Abundant Gardens***

Thanks to Doug & Pat Cook and Jim & Cheryl Wagner, our clients have been treated to lots of fresh vegetables from their gardens. Ms. Becky and Nidia brought Regan, Lyla, Raquel and Christopher, all preschoolers, from Becky & Jessica's Place located at 970 Savage Rd., Van Buren Township, with vegetables including corn, cucumbers, yellow and green squash, and green peppers. The day center has a garden and the children help care for it. One of their lessons is sharing and helping others.

# Food Closet



## ***Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive***

The Post Office Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive for 2021 has been cancelled due to the pandemic for a second year. Hopefully, it will return next year. Mark your calendar for next year's drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 14.

## ***Volunteers Needed***

If anyone is interested in volunteering to sub on Tuesdays or Wednesdays to distribute bags, please contact Marilyn Wood at (734) 751-4985 or [woodm50@comcast.net](mailto:woodm50@comcast.net).

Marilyn Wood - Coordinator





# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Worship 10am Noah Prep (FH) 10:30 Worship SS Worship	4 7pm Belleville Community Chorus (S)	5 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 7pm Ad Council (Z)	6 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	7 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH) 7pm Bishop Bard (S)	8	9 10am-12pm Noah Set-up (FH)
10 9am Worship 10am Noah Prep (FH) 10:30 Worship SS Worship	11 7pm Belleville Community Chorus (S)	12 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)	13 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	14 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	15	16
17 9am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship	18 7pm Garden Club (FH) 7pm Belleville Community Chorus (S)	19 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)	20 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	21 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	22	23
24 9am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship	25 7pm Belleville Community Chorus (S)	26 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH)	27 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band	28 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Amon (FH)	29	30