

CONNECTIONS

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



Message from the Pastor



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/4 Drive-Thru Communion & World Communion Sunday (Offering)
- 10/11 Parking Lot Svce
- 10/18 Watch Party
- 10/25 Parking Lot Svce
- 10/26 Blood Drive
- 11/1 Time Change (Fall Back)

I am grateful, and I cannot wait to see what you're like when we're not living in a pandemic together. 😊

These are the last words of last month's newsletter article, but I'd like to revise them a bit. I'd like to say to you all, "I'm grateful and am excited to see how you are willing and eager to serve God and others during this pandemic."

How many times have I heard, "I cannot wait to get back to in-person worship?" It's a sentiment I "too" feel. It's so hard to get to know a new congregation during this pandemic. I have gotten to know and love our leadership who I see during Zoomed Ad Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Worship, and Finance meetings. I have also been able to express my vision for BFUMC and display my enthusiasm about how alive BFUMC already is to some in leadership. But I think it is time for me to offer some of the responses to my conversation with the leadership to the larger congregation. First, let's start with scripture:

1 John 4:7-21
God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

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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

Luanne Genga
Novi Lakes Health Campus

Bobbie Winters
Superior Woods

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

October BIRTHDAYS

Nancy	Shephard	2
Gary	Warmanen	2
Reece	Girbach	3
Don	Schloesser	3
Mason	Skelton	3
Evan	Basnaw	6
Stephanie	Franklin	7
Thomas	Germann II	7
Rebecca	Brooks	7
Rodney	Kirchoff	11
Carol	Schank	11
Dee	Stansifer	14
Mike	Goike	15
Kelly	Jordan	30
Judith	Weed	30

October ANNIVERSARIES

Vern & Karen	Carlson	2
Nathan "Nate" & Melissa (Missy)	Clark	10
Daniel & Sharon	Smith	12
Gary & Sue	Altobello	13
Dan & Susan	Featheringill	15
Jeremy & Amy	Milios-Knieper	22

Message from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This beautiful love song sang to us through the author of 1 John, helps us to know how to live and love in this life. We know God's love because God is love. We know God's love because God became flesh and dwelt among us, taking on our humanness so that he could take on our sinfulness—those mistakes we fall prey to in our humanness. We know God's love because through our loving relationships we experience that love in one another as we uphold, encourage, and hold one another in love.

Let me give an example. A few among us who have been carrying the load, as I have been in recovery from my surgery, sent me words of apology for not doing whatever it was that I had asked them, well enough. These words came out of a perfection, but not the one spoken of in this scripture above. They came from what can be defined as "a refusal to accept any standard short of perfection." This is what the world might expect of us, but not what God expects. Read these words again: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. Who does the perfecting...God. What are we to do...Love one another. Worldly perfection that causes us to see ourselves less than the beloved of God has no place in our faith. God is love and God's only expectation for us is to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. It's that simple and that complex. Also, God is such a big God that even our meager offerings can be used for God's glory.

My vision for Belleville FUMC is that we become people of deep love. We learn to grow daily in the love of God as individuals, in small groups, and as a faith community.

In the next few sermon series, we will learn how to walk and grow on a spiritual pathway. We will reset our souls so that we can truly live incarnationally. We will become perfected in love so that we are a beacon of love for our community and the world.

We will grow deep, and in growing deep, we will reach out to others on the journey of faith who are just beginning, who are seeking, and we will become companions on the journey as we learn from one another.

As the leaves begin their magnificent coloring and the air becomes so crisp and clear, let us grow together in love. Let us apologize for when we mess up, but let us also continue to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd and walk in the path that leads to life—a life perfected in love.

Loving my companions on the journey,
Pastor Mary



Sermon Series: A Spiritual Pathway

Over the next three weeks, we will explore how using a spiritual pathway can deepen our faith. Three steps on the pathway are: encounter, engage, and express. These steps can be a bit like a two-step going forward one step and back two, but what is important is that we are intentionally walking the spiritual pathway and growing in our love of God, neighbor, and self daily. Come walk with me on the spiritual pathway.

September 27, 2020

Scripture:

Exodus 3:12, 1 Chronicles 16:8-10, 23-34
Psalm 99:1-5, 9

Title:

Encountering the Decision: Worship

Synopsis:

An encounter is an unexpected meeting or experience. As you gaze upon the self-diagnostic tool found in the My Church App, the first page describes steps in the dance to encountering God. So how can coming to worship be an encounter if we've chosen to come? Don't we know what we are coming to encounter? The answer is yes and no. Yes, we know the event we have come for, but no, we do not know how God will be present with us in the event.

October 4, 2020

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 32:6-7; Acts 2:42

Title:

Engaging by Growing in Trust: Scripture, Prayer, and Small Groups

Synopsis:

Growing in trust of God is a lifelong pursuit. Each day we live there are bad things that happen to good people, and our trust in God seems to weaken. How do we connect with God so deeply that our circumstances and the circumstances of the world around us do not destroy our trust in a God that is with us in the midst of the storm?

October 11, 2020

Scripture:

Acts 2:44-47; Hebrew 13:1-5

Title:

Express Gratitude: Service, Generosity, Influence

Synopsis:

Choosing love, growing in love of God and of neighbor and self leads us into a life of gratitude. When your life is flowing with the love of God, you cannot help but have God's love spill over into your relationships with others.



Sermon Series/Study: Soul Reset: breakdown, breakthrough, and the journey to wholeness by Rev. Junius B. Dotson. For the next six weeks, we will grow deeper in God's love and deeper in community as we reset and recalibrate—getting back to the most important things such as time with God and being in relationship with others. A soul reset is an invitation to slow down—to take stock of what you have given your heart to, of how hard you are working, and whether or not you are working hard at the right things. This is an invitation to lay down our collective burdens and fall into the grace of God, learning together to follow Jesus' unforced rhythms of grace day by day.

October 18, 2020

Scripture:

Matthew 11:28-30

Title:

How Is it with Your Soul?

Synopsis:

The most important thing—our first-base tag—is staying close to Jesus. That's what sustains us for the lives and the works to which we are called. Let's work to put the first thing first.

October 25, 2020

Scripture:

Psalm 42

Title:

Feel the Feelings

Synopsis:

God doesn't just save us for heaven in the future. God saves our hearts and souls and bodies in the here and now. God cares about our whole person, just as we are.

Soul Reset Study

Wednesdays (6 weeks –beginning 10/21 @ 7pm)

Thursdays (6 weeks – beginning 10/22 @ 10am)

More details to follow



This is clearly a time of change and transition for our church, and while change can certainly be challenging, the new opportunities it brings can be exciting and invigorating. It is in this spirit of excitement that the Staff Parish Relations Committee announces two church staffing changes.

Jill Sestok joins us this fall as our Director of Spiritual Formation. She steps into a newly reimagined roll that will provide leadership to all of our Christian education programs. Jill will oversee spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults, including our existing Sunday school classes and small groups. Her passion, enthusiasm, and experience make her an exciting addition to our staff, and we hope that you will welcome her and pray for her as she works to grow our opportunities to deepen our faith. (See Bio below)

While certainly not a new presence in our congregation, Michael Gross has taken on an expanded roll as our Creative Arts Director. In addition to continuing to oversee the music programs of the church, Michael is providing indispensable leadership in the production of our online worship services. His work in front of the camera is only a small part of what he does to make every Sunday's video happen, and we thank him for stepping into this new role in response to our desire for a robust distance worship experience.

As we navigate through the unknown of the weeks and months ahead, we at Belleville FUMC know that our dedicated and hardworking staff is one of God's great blessings on our congregation. With thankful hearts, we look forward to the gifts they will share with us as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Greetings Church, My name is Jill B. Sestok, and I am very excited to be hired on as the new Director of Spiritual Formation. I come to you from Dearborn First United Methodist Church in the Greater Detroit District, where I am working on becoming a certified candidate for the Deacon track. I have a passion for social justice and the inclusive open communion table of the UMC. I have served previously as a Director of Youth Summer Ministry with Mountain T.O.P. and the Director of Youth Family Ministry with Dearborn First. I am in love with the town of Belleville, especially the lake, which reminds me of where I grew up, in Lake Orion, Michigan. I am really looking forward to being a part of the BFUMC community and getting to know everyone. Please definitely seek me out as soon as possible, especially if you are interested in volunteering with any and all spiritual formation events!!! Many blessings and thanks to you all for having me!!!





Oct. 4. Drive-Thru Communion

Oct. 11. Parking Lot Service

Oct. 18. Watch Party

Oct. 25. Parking Lot Service

Nov. 1 Drive-Thru Communion

In case of RAIN, the parking lot service will be cancelled; In its place, please view the online service.

Thank-you!

God is good. He has blessed me with so many caring and loving friends. Thank you all for the food, cards, flowers, text messages, visits and gifts. It has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. What would we do without our church family. May God Bless each of you for all your kindness.

Love, Cheryl Wagner





Missions Update

We have a long running relationship with folks in Liberia. One area of work has been supporting the children who attend Gretta Moffat School in John Dean Town. The United Methodist Health Clinic in John Dean Town serves the same kids and parents as the Gretta Moffat School. This rural clinic is staffed by one Registered Nurse. Her name is Comfort Flomo. Our Volunteers In Mission team worked with Comfort in 2016 during our trip to Liberia.

Several district churches had funded Comfort's salary since 2017. However, these funds have been exhausted, leaving the primary healthcare provider for the John Dean Town without pay. In response to the immediate crisis, the Missions Committee was able to send funds (\$2100) for half a year salary from existing money so that Comfort could continue to be paid through December. It is great that Belleville First UMC can help those suffering in this crisis in Liberia. What happens after December?

Missions has exhausted its reserves, so if we want to continue to support Comfort and healthcare in John Dean Town, we will have to raise money. The salary for this position is \$4200.00 per year. Please think about whether you would like to participate in supporting Comfort going forward. Fundraising mechanism and details will be announced in the near future.

Your Missions Committee

Comfort at work in John Dean Town Clinic



United Methodist Clinic in John Dean Town





**Monday,
10/26/20
1:00pm
Fellowship
Hall**



October – News from the Emergency Food Closet

On September 1st I received an email from Rev. Mary Hagley who is the Minister of Children and Youth at Dixboro UMC. She is a member of the leadership team for the upcoming Heritage District Virtual Conference on October 10. The leadership team wants to highlight our Emergency Food Closet. They requested a short 2-3 minute video highlighting our ministry.

This is a skill I do not possess. I supplied pictures and information to a dear friend of mine, Peter Silveri, to see if he could help. He created this awesome video. Rev. Mary thought it was beautiful and asked if it could be put on the Heritage website as well.

This is the link you can use to see it:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qNBe2TJdEum3uYm-tvgsBvl-Kh3RJ1Na/view?usp=sharing>

I also reached out to David Brownlee for help with this project. Even though he and Minette now live hundreds of miles away, David created a wonderful, informative power point. It has been added to our church website and is listed in the menu under Missions – Food Closet.

Deb Smith and Joyce Forest have returned to pass out food to clients on Wednesdays. Lori Summer, Nancy Boltrick, Deb Japp, and Paul McCrary are helping me on Tuesdays to distribute bags. Tuesdays tend to be our busy day. A new volunteer, Laura Loepp, is helping out on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Kelley Anderson and Terry Morioka have volunteered to pack bags the 2nd and 4th week of each month. Alice Payne & Sheri Brown are packing week 1 bags. Mary Jane McCrory is packing week 3 bags. Jerry & Kathy Caldwell and WynAnn Marosi have returned to pack bags for week 5. Mark Groeneweg continues to help with the shopping. We are continuing to operate as a drive-thru food pantry. It is working well and keeping everyone safe!

I would like to thank everyone who has continued to support our Emergency Food Closet through monetary donations, food items, personal care items, fresh garden produce, and volunteering their time. There are too many people to name! Our ministry has truly been blessed!

Additionally, I have not received any information on a fall Meijer Simply Give Fundraiser campaign or a fall Post Office “Stamp Out” Hunger food drive. When I do, I will let everyone know.

Marilyn Wood

Food Closet





Attention Families of Military Personnel:

Please assist us by providing updated contact information (email and mailing address) of your loved ones in the service. If available, pictures are welcomed and appreciated. Information should be forwarded to Barbara Moore @ 4barbieannsdogs@gmail.com.

Thank-you

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the church building is closed; all in-person meetings have been modified. If you would like to schedule a meeting with 10 or less attendees, please contact the church office Monday-Thursday 8:00am-12:00pm. If you are scheduling virtual meetings, we can also schedule and place these meetings on the calendar.





October Word Search



October
Harvest
Halloween
Pumpkin
Leaves

Rake
Scarecrow
Corn Maze
Hayride
Fall

Autumn
Orange
Red
Brown
Yellow



Welcome October!

