

Pastor's Page – September through December 2026

"Pastor Greg" Buchner **Please add me to your contacts so you'll know that it's me.** ☺

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"Just the Basics. Just Jesus" Bible Series - September 6 – September 27

Theme: Scriptures we should know and memorize, because they are the foundation of our Christian faith taught by Christ to us.

September 6, "Saving Grace and Love"
September 13, "Overcoming Anxiety: Personal Peace"
September 20, "Guidance and Strength"
September 27, "Our Identity In and Because Of Christ"

"Living Jesus' Kingdom Parables" - October 4 - November 22

Theme: Jesus told over 30 parables in the New Testament as a way of teaching those who have ears to ear.

October 4, "The Kingdom Is Here And Then There"
October 11, "The Unsurpassing Value of God's Kingdom"
October 18, "Growing and Influencing For God's Kingdom"
October 25, "Radical Grace – God's Kingdom Generosity"
November 1, "Kingdom Lost And Found: All Things Matter"
November 8, "Neighborly Love and Responsibility"
November 15, "Prayer and Persistence"
November 22, "Building Wise Foundations"

"The Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" Advent-Christmas Series" - November 29 – December 27

Theme: The gift of Jesus and how he has changed and will change everything for the better (Rev. Adam Hamilton (c) 2020)

November 29, "Jesus Is The Anointed One, Messiah, and King"
December 6, "Jesus Is Our Savior In A World Needing Saving"
December 13, "Jesus Is Emmanuel – God With Us"
December 20, "Jesus Is The Light Of The World"
December 24, "Jesus Is Born"
December 27, "Our Response: Falling on Our Knees" (Epiphany)

"God's Promises For A New Year" – January 3 – January 31

Theme: God isn't finished with us yet. (God's promises)

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member, please check out the "belong" series found at:
www.bellevillefirstumc.org/groups
or contact Pastor Greg.

MINISTRY

Are you looking for a ministry? Is God calling you? Then check out the "United Methodist Ministry descriptions at:
www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources
or contact Pastor Greg

**"Song-Sing and Potluck" – 5 PM
Sunday, September 20**

Song list, beverages, silverware provided You can bring food if you wish, but there's always enough so everyone can come.



**Invite and Bring Others!
Everything will happen on the
main floor.**



As our church conference season continues, please keep these area
United Methodist congregations in your prayers. (see michiganumc.org)

United Methodist Churches Within An Estimated 15-mile Radius Of Belleville First UMC:

- Ann Arbor: First
- Ann Arbor: Greenwood
- Ann Arbor: Koren
- Ann Arbor: West Side
- Ann Arbor: Living Grace (Asian)
- Belleville: First
- Canton: Cherry Hill
- Carleton (have had Asian pastors)
- Dearborn: First
- Dearborn: Good Shephard
- Denton: Faith
- Dixboro:
- Flat Rock First
- Garden City First
- Livonia: Newberg
- Livonia: Clarenceville
- Livonia: St. Matthew
- Milan: Azalia
- Milan: Marble Memorial
- Milan: London
- Plymouth First
- Romulus: Community
- South Rockwood
- Taylor: Downriver
- Westland: St. James
- Willow
- Ypsilanti: St. Matthews
- Ypsilanti: Lincoln Community
- Ypsilanti: First
- Ypsilanti: Stony Creek

30 congregations



Belleville First United Methodist Church

Making Disciples - Transforming the World

TEAM'S UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2026 – FOR 9-20-2026 CONGREGATION

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 lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ!

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School: Children's Sunday School will resume September 13.

"Women Gathering Together" now meets regularly on Wednesday nights at 6 :00 pm in the Artley Room. Please see Joy Dubin for details.

The Men's club and the Food Closet team say a big "Thank You!" to everyone who donated, came and made a purchase or worked at the yard sale September 12. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Food Closet to help end hunger in our community. Last count: \$2754 with 43 volunteers .

Membership is Christian Education and Discipleship. Do you want to become a member? Our "belong" series is now at: www.bellevillefirstumc.org/groups, or ask Pastor Greg for information.

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Committee members participated in the Belleville Farmers Market on June 1, 2026, July 13, 2026 and August 3, 2026 and provided information to the community about WiHn, outreach and support efforts for the unhoused in the area and the Emergency Food Closet. Additionally, committee members and volunteers from the congregation are providing hospitality and aid for Music Lakeside at Horizon Park on Thursday evenings by hosting the event indoors during inclement weather and providing restroom access to attendees. Kelley Anderson and Dee Groeneweg will assume co-chair positions for the Missions Committee in September 2026.

MISSIONS – EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

The Men's club and the Food Closet team say a big 'Thank You!' to everyone who donated, came and made a purchase or worked at the yard sale September 12. 100% of the proceeds will go to the Food Closet to help end hunger in our community. Last count: \$2754 with 43 volunteers .

9-1-26 Ad Council Emergency Food Closet Report - January 1 – August 31, 2026:

2,146 bags & frig items distributed	129 new clients
15 Non-Residents (served one time only)	13 Homeless

Expenses: YEAR TO DATE (as of July 31): \$ 57,374.36

Income: YEAR TO DATE (as of July 31): \$ 38,534.13
(which includes \$20,000 from Cozadd Foundation)

Simply Give Balance (August 31, 2026): \$26,370
Chase Debit Account Balance (Aug. 28, 2026): \$52,672.

The Meijer Spring Simply Give cards were received on Monday, August 24. The cards have been recorded and activated and are ready to use. The \$26,370: Donation card sales: \$8,710; Meijer Double Match Donation: \$10,000; Meijer Ladies Professional Golf Association: \$5,380; Additional contributions: \$2,280.

The second Meijer Double Day in the Summer Campaign is Saturday, September 12. This campaign ends on Saturday, September, 26.

The Men's Club/Food Closet will be hosting a garage sale on Saturday, September 12 from 8-4. Donations are needed to sell and volunteers to work. Set-up will start at 8 am. Donations may be dropped off at that time. Many hands will be needed to help with this food closet fundraiser.

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

On April 28th the girl scout troop 78163 helped make 300 sandwiches and pack 300 lunches for NOAH at Central in Detroit. They were delivered and served the morning of Wednesday, April 29th by girl scout leaders Jenn Mirch, Jeneen Rippey and her daughter Maddie, along with Dee, Kim Paris, and Mike and Julie Skelton. The scouts brought a few donations for the food closet.

WiHn is now meeting only twice weekly. Healthy Habits is on hold for the summer. Pickleball has resumed on Thursday mornings at 9am at the Van Buren Township pickle park. Calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Dee hosted the church's booth at the Farmers Market on Monday June 1st. She gave out information about WiHn and outreach to scout troops.

WiHn participated at Lakefest at 10am on Saturday June 27th in our church parking lot. It was a smaller crowd this year due to not teaming up with another drumming instructor but those that attended had a blast!!

The next NOAH lunch event is planned with a boy scout troop for Tuesday, September 22nd with delivery downtown the following morning.

TECH

We're looking for help in the Audio-Visual Booth from anyone who wants to learn how to run the equipment or a full service. The plan is to have people rotate their days if enough folks volunteer. See Craig Lechlitrer (765-271-7579 or craig.lechlitrer@gmail.com) or Pastor Greg for more details. The best time to learn is during the 9:00 am setup on Sundays.

CHURCH OPERATIONS

AD COUNCIL

Hello from your Ad Council. It has been a wonderful summer. Our various teams have busy keeping everything progressing smoothly. Please continue to support them with your prayers. Now that we are on the other side of our Church Conference, I truly believe this congregation has come a long way from where we were at our last meeting with Dr. Totty. Our attendance is slowly increasing, and while every small group has a potential to help bring more people in our doors, and many do, there is one reason that has been sticking out to me lately. I have heard more than one person comment that the reason they joined us on Sundays is because of the welcoming atmosphere our church provides. I had lunch at Culvers after the service, and a couple that were travelling joined us. They said they had never been to a church where so many people greeted them and made them feel welcome. You guys are doing this! Thank God for the bravery to be able to do this. It does have results. Finally, for those of you who aren't comfortable doing this yet, you can still help our church. Pray. Pray that many people welcome our visitors. Pray that God will bless our church. Pray for our finances. We are a praying congregation!

FINANCE

In July 2026, income was \$12,103, which is similar to July 2025, spending was higher than 2025 at \$19,368, so our net loss for July in \$5,007, mostly due to increased salary expenses and lower rental rate. We still have \$112,692 in our long-term saving that we are holding in reserve. It may soon be needed. We are showing a \$28,975 total loss for 2026 as of the end of July.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The NLD team meets monthly and we work on developing the volunteer leadership and teams of our congregation. Currently we are looking for grant writers, tech team members, an Ad Council young adult representative, a Staff-Parish Relations chair, and a Christian Education chair. We're thankful that Craig Lechlitner is stepping up to do the tech team. See Pastor Greg, Carl Marosi, Dee Groenweg, or Pete Jones if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer. And, as always, you can find all the ministry opportunities on our website, www.bellevillefirst.org/resources.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

We thank all of our staff (volunteer and paid) for their dedication to God and their service to our church and community. Please keep all of our staff and volunteers in your prayers.

TRUSTEES

Trustees Our new chair lift has been ordered. Installation date to be announced, probably by mid-October for sure. Outside work continues. Happy to announce we caught the pesty mole that was roaming around our bushes and grass. Would like to thank Mark Groeneweg and Jack Keelan for starting a long overdue paint job to couple exit doors and louvers. The 4 light posts by the parking lot entrance are next. Our security cameras have been mounted but not hooked up to the WIFI yet. The door bell installation is still in process. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

WORSHIP

Join us and invite others! Our current September worship series is "Just the Basics. Just Jesus" Bible Series. Our next Song-sing & Potluck will be September 20 at 5 pm. Everything is provided, so just bring yourself. There's always enough food to share, so please feel invited whether you come with food or not ready to worship. Helpers are always appreciated. See Pastor Greg. Our next sermon series will be "Living Jesus' Kingdom Parables." Our choir, praise, and tech team are always needing volunteers. Training is always provided. See Judy Weed for choir, Eston Keller for praise team, and Craig Lechlitner for tech. Please pray and thank you for helping us in our worship!