Pastor's Page – October through December 2026

"Pastor Greg" Buchner **Please add me to your contacts so you'll know that it's me.** ☺
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"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 And Dedicated" – 4:00 PM
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)

"Belonging in 2027" – February 7 – February 28
theme: the role of the church in this new year (church membership)

LENT AND EASTER 2027 – EARLY NEXT YEAR

Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027, 7:00 pm
Palm Sunday, March 21, 2027, 10:00 am
Maundy Thursday, March 25, 2027, 7:00 pm
Good Friday: March 26, 2027, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday: March 28, 10:00 am

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

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"Song-Sing and Potluck" – 5 PM Sunday, November 15

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.

MORE UPCOMING INFO FOR YOUR CALENDAR

"Harmony Town Chorus (Men's Barbershop)" will be here Sunday November 8 at 6 pm. Please join us!

The church office will be closed December 24, 2026 to January 4, 2027.

Bulletins will still be done for December 27 and January 3.

The food closet will be closed December 21, 2026 to January 4, 2027. Clients will be notified.

Belleville First United Methodist Church
Making Disciples - Transforming the World

TEAM'S UPDATE – OCTOBER 2026 – FOR 10-18-2026 CONGREGATION (UPDATED 10-13-2026)

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 has resumed after the second praise song in worship. See Terri, Kelley, Dee, for more information or to volunteer.

"Women Gathering Together" now meets regularly on Wednesday nights at 6 :00 pm in the Artley Room. Please see Joy Dubin and or Martha Conley 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. We also thank the team who helped clean up after the sale this year! 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. Recent new members include: Mille Fox - Carey (transfer) and Linda Lewis (profession of faith.)

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

The Missions team hosted Boy Scout troop 231 on Tuesday evening, September 22nd. Sandwiches were made and lunch bags were packed for Noah at Central in downtown Detroit. Fourteen scouts and some parents attended and learned about our food closet and were shown a video about Noah in Detroit and how this organization not only helps to feed those in need but helps them move forward towards more secure situations. One of the scouting moms came with us to deliver and serve the food was taken downtown.

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. We also thank the team who helped clean up after the sale this year! 100% of the proceeds will go to the Food Closet to help end hunger in our community. Last count: $2754 with 43 volunteers .

10-13-2026 Emergency Food Closet Report Ad Council Report

January 1 – September 30, 2026:
2,462 bags & frig items distributed — 153 new clients
15 Non-Residents (served one time only) — 15 Homeless
208 more bags distributed than in the same time period in 2025

September 1-30: 316 bags distributed (September had 5weeks)
24 new clients — **2 new Homeless**

October 6 & 7: 97 bags distributed (second highest weekly amount – 1st was January 6&7 – 102 bags distributed), 10 new clients one of which is Homeless

Expenses: YEAR TO DATE (as of September 30): **$74,718.47**

Income: TO DATE (as of September 30): **$46,997.70**
(which includes $20,000 from Cozadd Foundation)

Simply Give Balance (August 31, 2026): $26,370 ($19,403.64 left as of September 30)

Chase Debit Account Balance (October 9, 2026): $50,982.39

At this time, with our numbers and food prices continuing to rise, I do not recommend passing out $15 Food Only Cards at Christmas. We will need to order more of these just to help with the increasing Homeless population. Each Homeless client receives 2-$15 Food Only cards to buy foods he/she likes and has shelf life. Several clients are coming twice a month to get cards and bread and peanut butter/jelly. If our number of weekly bags increases beyond the 72 bags we pack, and we run out of bags, then 2-$15 Food Only Cards can be given to clients in place of a bag of food.

The Boy Scouts will be having a food drive on Saturday, November 14. Help will be needed with sorting, date checking, and shelving. We will probably start around 9:30 and hope to be done by noon. Any help will be appreciated.

The One Voice Gospel Choir did a free will offering at its October 6 concert and $367 was donated to the Food Closet.

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

WiHn currently offers drumming two days weekly, stretch n tone two days weekly, a walking group once weekly, and a pickleball group once weekly. Calendars can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.
Healthy Habits will be planning a fall outreach, possibly another trip to visit residents at Cedar Woods Assisted Living. Call Dee Groeneweg for more information. 734-635-1058.

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 Lechlitner (765-271-7579 or craig.lechlitner@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

Happy October everybody! We had an Ad Council meeting this evening and it was really an encouraging meeting. Although our church continues to have financial issues, there are some signs of improvement.

Additionally, some exciting things are being planned. The board approved some leadership training which I think will help our congregation. It will be informative, a refresher for some, and hopefully an inspirational and motivational time for everyone. Watch for details in the future!

There are many other things the board discussed that you will be seeing later.
Our church is a vibrant, growing, loving family. Pray for it continually. - Pete

FINANCE

In August 2026, income was $19,216, which was higher than August 2025, due to 3 money counting Sundays. Rental income is higher also, due to early deposit of September rent. Spending was fairly level due to repair of sanctuary A/C in 2025, which offset the increased salary expenses. We are showing a balance for the month of $5,069, but this will reverse next month as many

annual bills are paid in September. We still have $113,529 in our long-term savings that we are holding in reserve. It will be needed soon. We are showing a ($23,907) total loss for 2026 as of the end of August.

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 of our ministry opportunities on our website, www.bellevillefirst.org/resources.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Coffee hour was in honor of Pastor Greg on October 11th but if you were not in attendance, it is always appropriate to express thanks not only the rest of this special month but continually throughout the year. In other business we have been updating job descriptions. Due to current finances, it was suggested by SPRC and approved by ad council and charge conference that no staff will get raises in 2027 except where mandated by state and federal regulations (our custodian did get a small raise).

TRUSTEES

Our new chair lift has been ordered, but due to a production glitch installation has been delayed. The 4 light posts by the parking lot entrance have been painted and two of the globe lights have been fixed. Our security cameras have been mounted but not hooked up to the wifi yet. The door bell installation has been started but not completed yet. Pretty soon, we will be planning the yard clean up now that leaves are starting to fall. Date to be announced. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

WORSHIP

Join us and invite others! 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! Our next Song-sing and Potluck will be November 15, at 5 pm. "Harmony Town Chorus (Men's Barbershop)" will be here on Sunday November 8, 6:00 pm.