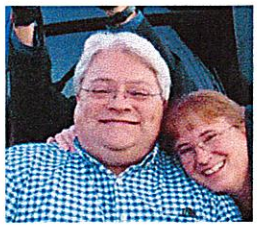


Pastor's Page – June through August 2026

"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. ☺

"Being Christian Citizens" Series May 24-July 5

Theme: The Bible has a lot to say about how we're supposed to support our communities faithfully through love, service, volunteerism, voting, and of course through peace and justice. The Kingdom of God is not of this world, but it is for this world. We are Christian first, then citizen second, especially Memorial Day through July Fourth.

May 24 "Freedom Is Still Not Free"
May 31 "Pray Always, Pray for All"
June 7 "Vote Your Values – Responsibly"
June 14 "Becoming Informed Sheep"
June 21 "Sharing With Others In Love"
June 28 "Old Testament Citizens"
July 5 "New Testament Citizen Servants: Keep God the Theme"

"End Time Keys" Bible Series July 12 – August 30

Theme: For unbelievers, to believe in Jesus before it is too late. For believers, to move from fear to anticipation. "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe." – John 14:29

July 12 "The Lord's Coming Is Near: Be Ready"
July 19 "Understanding the Book of Revelation"
July 26 "Understanding Daniel, Ezekiel, and the Old Testament Prophets"
August 2 "The Times We Live In – We Wish All Would Get Ready"
August 9 "Our Rescue – The Rapture – Our Blessed Hope"
August 16 "Until Jesus Comes, We Wait Expectantly"
August 23 "The Promise of Hell and Outer Darkness"
August 30 "The Promise of Heaven and God's Eternal Promises"

From the "Prayer Always, Pray for All" message, I was asked to repeat what we're to do if God wakes us up overnight:

1) First say, "Speak Lord, Your servant is listening." This was Samuel's response when God called him at night.
2) Second, always write it down. Keep a journal or notepad by your bed. Do not lose what God speaks to you.
3) Third, just pray for whatever is on your mind at that moment. Pray for that person or situation, until the burden lifts.
4) Fourth, if you're up, choose to worship with quiet praise, and then rest in the Spirit's presence.
5) Last, don't slip into old habits. Stay off the phone. Keep the TV off. This time may be holy ground, set a part.

"Jesus Did It Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments for Christians"
by Kent M. Keith
(book read during class)

Sundays 8:30 am
Artley Room
Bring Your Own Breakfast
through June 21

"Song-Sing and Potluck" – song list, beverages, silverware provided
Sunday, July 19 - 4 p.m. – Song-Sing & Potluck

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

The "Women Getting Together" Group is now meeting on Wednesdays, 6 p.m. in the Artley Room. Please see Joy Dubin or Leilani Jones for details.

Belleville First United Methodist Church

Making Disciples - Transforming the World

TEAM'S UPDATE – JUNE 2026 – FOR 6-14-2026 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: Sunday School will resume in September.

The Wednesday night 6:00 pm grief group is now officially "Women Gathering Together" in the Artley Room. Please see Joy Dubin or Lelani Jones. Please see Joy Dubin or Leilani Jones for details.

"Jesus Did It Anyway" Sunday 8:30 am Bible Study in the Artley Room. April 12-June 21. Bring your own breakfast! ☺ Pastor Greg will be leading.

Do you want to become a member? Our "belong" series at: www.bellevillefirstumc.org/groups is now available, or ask Pastor Greg for information. The last form on the last class is our Membership Information Form. It needs to be filled out completely as possible, and then sent in to the church office. Pastor Greg will then follow up.

* These children received Bibles (and a book about using the Bible) in worship 5-10-2026 on Mother's Day:

	Josiah Steininger	Aaliyah Rawls	Ava Zoopata
Ian Cardona Sua	Reese Shephard	Wyatt Loritz	

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

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

Mission Committee members continue to plan for the Pancake Breakfast on May 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This event provides an opportunity to open the doors to the public before the Memorial Day parade and military commemoration.
We are looking for volunteers to help promote and run this event. Other community outreach events are scheduled throughout the summer and volunteers are needed.

MISSIONS – EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

January 1 – May 31, 2026: 1,311 bags & frig items distributed
82 new clients```10 Non-Residents (served one time only)
5 Homeless (1 of these has returned 4 additional times for help)
135 more bags & frig items distributed from 1-1-26 through 5-31-26
than in the same time period in 2025.

Simply Give Balance (June 1, 2026): 0
Chase Debit Account Balance (June 1, 2026): $ 72,383.74
Currently, ALL shopping is being paid for using the Chase Debit Card.

Expenses: YEAR TO DATE: $ 40,705.30 (as of May 31, 2026 which includes stamps, 2 new banners, ads for Independent, brown bags)

Income: YEAR TO DATE: $ 31,287.78 (as of May 31, 2026 which includes $20,000 from Cozadd Foundation)

We will be included in the Meijer Spring Simply Give Campaign which runs from Sunday, March 29 through Saturday, June 27 at our Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. There is one DOUBLE MATCH DAY which will be held on Saturday, June 20. If we can raise $5,000 on that day locally, Meijer will match with $10,000 for a total donation of $15,000!

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

The exercise class is making plans to participate in Lakefest again this year. We will be drumming in the church parking lot on Saturday June 27 at 10am.

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. See Evan Basnaw (734-787-6231) for details. The best time to learn is during setup, one hour before Sunday service, or during Praise Band practice (currently Thursdays at 6 pm.)

<u>CHURCH OPERATIONS</u>

AD COUNCIL

Happy summer from the Ad Council. Our teams are hard at work even though it is summer!

Our Food Closet is serving an ever-growing number of people. Some would not eat without the Closet. This team has also brought some new people into our church.

Our Missions team just had a successful pancake breakfast on Memorial Day. It raised some money for us, and was a great outreach to our community.

Our Trustees have been doing a great job on the building and the surrounding grounds. Just a little while ago they neatened up our flowers and lawn.

Our Finance team is constantly working on improving our financial situation. Please pray for them!

Our SPRC team is always working behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. Most of what they deal with is confidential, but believe me when I tell you that they do a great job.

The men's club just had a miniature golf tournament. Everyone had a great time. If you're not attending these outings, you're missing out!

Pastor Greg and his family are with us for another year, and we are blessed by his messages and his pastoral care.

God is blessing our church. We have some new members, people have been healed, some are recovering from successful surgeries, and we've all made it through another month through God's grace!

So yes, continue to pray unceasingly for our church. But don't forget to thank Him for blessings already received.

FINANCE

In April 2026, we brought in $18,711. We spent $19,680 in expenses, so we had a net loss of We still have $110,060 in our long-term savings that we are holding in reserve if needed later in 2026. We are showing a total loss for 2026 as of the end of April. The extra income from Solid Rock rental is helping to cover the increased salary costs.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We are still looking for folks who are willing to be on our tech team. Training will be provided. See Pastor Greg or Evan for more information or to volunteer. And, as always, find all the 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 prayer. In the meantime, we are waiting to hear from our district superintendent for Pastor Greg's one on one meeting and our Annual Church Conference meeting dates.

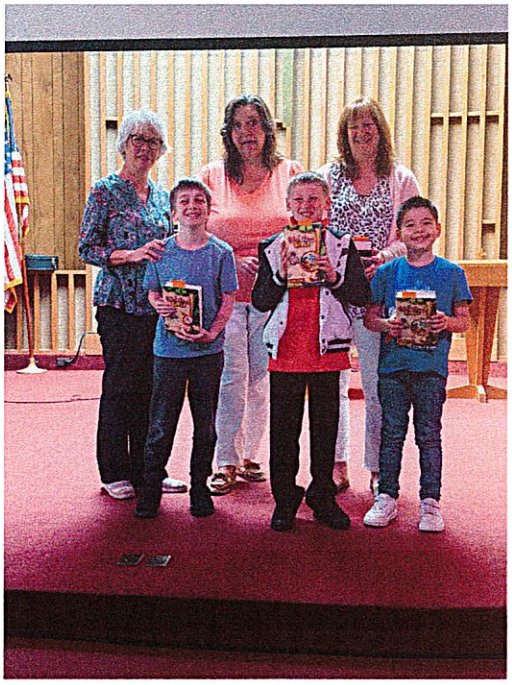
TRUSTEES

Solid Rock Church, our new renter, are very thankful to be using our building. They are very nice and gracious people; we are very fortunate to have established this new rental so quickly after Redemption left. God is an awesome God. I would like to thank Ed Paris, once again, for his plumbing skills. He fixed a leak in the basement, that dripped from the ceiling, taking him many hours of hard work. I would also like to thank a very impressive group who help on Friday, May 29th, clean up our grounds and the memorial garden: Dee Groeneweg, Kim Paris, Jim Wilson, Marilyn Wood, Norma McCrary and Terri Morioka. Future grounds work will be to keep up with

the weeds and add mulch. We also will be cleaning the wells and some down spouts around the church. Hopefully I will be able to announce completion of such job in the next Teams publication. On the down side, we have to fix a main line break to our sprinkler system before we can use it. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

WORSHIP

Join us and invite others. Our current worship series is how to be a "Christian Citizen" (Memorial Day – July 4.) Then we will do our "End Time Keys" Bible series on July 12 – August 30. Our next Song-sing & Potluck will be July 19 at 4 pm.



Bibles given on Mother's Day 5-10-2026 to:
Josiah Steininger, Aaliyah Rawls,
Ava Zoopata, Ian Cardona Sua,
Reese Shephard, and Wyatt Loritz.
Thank you: Terri Morioka, Kelley Anderson,
Dee Groeneweg and all our Christian Ed team!