

CONNECTIONS

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



Message from the Pastor



Psalm 121 (MSG)

¹⁻² I look up to the mountains;
 does my strength come from mountains?
 No, my strength comes from God,
 who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.

³⁻⁴ God won't let you stumble,
 your Guardian God won't fall asleep.

Not on your life! Israel's
 Guardian will never doze or sleep.

⁵⁻⁶ God's your Guardian,
 right at your side to protect you—
 Shielding you from sunstroke,
 sheltering you from moonstroke.

⁷⁻⁸ God guards you from every evil,
 God guards your very life.

God guards you when you leave and when you return,
 God guards you now, God guards you always



UPCOMING EVENTS

May

5/5
National Day
of Prayer

5/5-6/30
Men's
Fellowship
Thursdays @
7pm

5/8
Mother's Day

5/14
Food Drive
5/30
Memorial Day

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

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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



Natalie	Decker	1
Beth	Fancher	3
Ardelia	Lee	4
Mary Carol	Smallwood	6
Terri	Morioka	7
Faith	Redden	7
Bryan	Girbach	8
Anne	Girbach	10
Andrew	Cook	12
Jim	Pollard	14
Melissa (Missy)	Clark	16
Avis	White	18
Ed	Dubin	18
Stephen	Marosi	19
Chidera	Ikpeama	21
Daniel	Dzierbicki	22
Macdennis	Ikpeama	23
Don	Priest	24
Kelly	Boelter	27
Maxine	Henderson	30



Bruce & Susan	Lewke	18
David & Jennifer	Daigneau	28

Message from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

As I sit here writing to you there's so much commotion in our lives, our faith community, our denomination, our nation, and the world. It seems like everywhere we turn injustice and hate seem to be winning. We wonder when things will get better or even if they will. We wonder if we will ever again feel safety or calm or the reassurance that everything is going to be ok. We feel swallowed up in the pain within and around us.

The psalmist knew this very feeling and found reassurance in God. Verses 7 and 8 reassure us that God is on guard, watching over us and keeping us from harm. I don't think the psalmist meant for us to understand that harm will not reach us, but that God is with us during it, in it with us. Like the psalmist, I often look to nature to seek God. Seeking God and finding God is something we can do anytime and anywhere no matter of the crumbling circumstances around us. All we need to is take a deep breath in and out. God is the very air we breathe and will sustain us even when the chaos overwhelms.



So, the next time you are being blown over by the situations and circumstances in this life—breathe. God fills us with God's love and protection on our inhale and releases us from all the tension and anxiety on our exhale. Let us breathe in and out, in and out, in and out, until the peace that passes all understanding falls upon us.

Peace-filled blessings,
Pastor Mary



Sermon Series: We Are Witnesses

This Easter season series dips into the Acts of the Apostles as a way of examining the witness of the one who first experienced the Resurrection. Their story, as they struggled to find a way to live out the implications of this amazing news, this gospel event, becomes our story as we too seek to bear witness to the Risen Christ and to live that witness daily.¹

May 1, 2022

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6 NRSV

Sermon Title: Who are you Lord?

Synopsis: Last week, we stood with Peter as he faced his accusers in court. This week, we stand next to Paul as he seeks to root out the weed called “The Way” and the followers of this upstart from Galilee named Jesus; then he receives his invitation to join this movement that will change the world, even as it changes him. Let’s see how it changes us!

May 8, 2022

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43 NRSV

Sermon Title: Get Up!

Synopsis: Peter performs a miracle with so many strings attached for him and for those who were grieving. Today, on Mother’s Day, we will examine the strings that attach us to the past and yet propel us into the future.

May 15, 2022

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18 NRSV

Sermon Title: What God Called Clean

Synopsis: Line crossing. Yep, Peter is line crossing, much like Jesus did throughout his ministry. And between his vision and his memory of using the lens of Love, Peter has a story to tell. Come hear what he has to say.

¹<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/we-are-witnesses/easter-sunday-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes>



Sermon Series: We Are Witnesses (Continues)

May 22, 2022

Scripture: Acts 15:9-15 NRSV

Sermon Title: Open the Heart

Synopsis: Another vision that leads to more friendships and followers. That's what today's scripture is all about. So do we still see visions? Do we still find friendships and followers if we take the time to see visions and dream dreams?

May 29, 2022

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34 NRSV

Sermon Title: Disturbing the City

Synopsis: Deja vu?! No it's true, you have heard this scripture before. This time we're going to see how Paul, doing his best Christ follower work was disturbing the city. Maybe we can learn from Paul's experience and have courage to disturb our city too.

June 5, 2022—Pastor Mary returning from Annual Conference

Scripture: TBA

Sermon Title: TBA

Synopsis: TBA



OUR THOUGHTS *and* PRAYERS *are with* YOU

Pat Aimone
Milton Cleveland
Darryl Raymond
Bruce Lewke
The Broughton Family
Ray Mitchell, Sr.
Michael Crane
Russian People
Ukraine

Sunday, May 8th, 2022





CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!!! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!

We live as an Easter people throughout the year, each and every day, aware of and living into the conquering and resurrecting Christ. Easter is not over. Not by a long shot. It is an amazing inspiration that can really lift our Christian walk and spiritual life. Our *lifelong congregational discipleship journey to become more like Christ* together is part of what makes Belleville First United Methodist a church family. When we live together *with Christ as our center*, we are *Christ's extended family*, truly living as the church.

Compassionately sharing Jesus' love with all people. Outside of any physical church space and beyond whatever we consider our church family community especially, we are much farther along in reaching all people. This is what seeking to be actively engaged in our mission of *making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world* looks like and how it is lived out. When we embody our *Vision* as a church family, we cannot help but to live as Easter people into our *Mission*. The world takes notice and is transformed.

May brings much into focus. Firstly, it is **Asian Pacific Heritage Month**. Learn more about what this means within the United Methodist Church by clicking here:

[Celebrating Asian/Pacific American heritage \(umnews.org\)](http://umnews.org)





Sunday, May 1st we celebrate **Native American Ministries Sunday**. More background and insight as to how we connectionally focus and honor this Special Sunday within the United Methodist Church is available here: [Native American Ministries Sunday \(umc.org\)](https://www.umc.org) A special offering is collected. Drop your donation off in the church office, any time in Worship or on-line here: [Give to Belleville First United \(pushpay.com\)](https://www.pushpay.com)

Thursday, May 5th is the **National Day of Prayer**. There are plenty of ways to participate and if you are interested in learning more about how this day came to be and what you might do to honor it, see here: [NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - May 5, 2022 - National Today](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.com) If you haven't yet connected with anyone to share your prayer joys and concerns with, experiencing the power of intercessory prayer together, look no further than the BFUMC **Prayer Partner Program**. You will be matched with someone who you will periodically meet with in person, by phone, or whatever way works for you both. The Bible Year ([The Bible Year - Amplify \(amplifymedia.com\)](https://www.amplifymedia.com)) is what is used as a foundational start and daily scripture focus. This is a very flexible program that each prayer partner match can help design based on their needs and interests. It can be as structured or free flowing as you like and it can also be completely formatted for you, by me. So, jump on in, engaging God in Prayer along the **BFUMC Spiritual Pathway**. Sign up for a Prayer Partner here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094AAAAD2FAAF85-2022> You can also find the BFUMC Spiritual Pathway under the church website "Resources" tab found here: [7b7543_97611f406e3c4eddbbee03878affade8.pdf \(bellevillefirstumc.org\)](https://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources/7b7543_97611f406e3c4eddbbee03878affade8.pdf)

Sunday, May 8th is **Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home**. Think about attending church as a family, with your church family. A special acknowledgment for moms will be shared during both services. Discipleship Ministries shares: "This Mother's Day, celebrate those who have nurtured, no matter if they are mothers or not. We have all been shaped and cared for by a variety of people, not just mothers. And remember, as you give thanks for those whose experience of mother was positive and healing, that you need also to acknowledge those who have a different experience." [Discipleship Ministries | 2021 Christian Home Month: Planning... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org)

Sunday, May 22nd is the 6th Sunday of Easter, **Heritage Sunday** ([Discipleship Ministries | HERITAGE SUNDAY \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](https://www.umcdiscipleship.org)), and **Children and Youth Program Year End Celebration during regularly scheduled Sunday School Growth Grouping time**. Children through 5th grade will be celebrating from 9:15 a.m. (just after the children's moment in worship) until 10 a.m. and youth 6th – 12th grade celebrate from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.. The traditional Ice Cream for Breakfast bar will be enjoyed as we reflect on the year's journey and reach out to church family friends we hold dear and really miss.

Thursday, May 26th is **Ascension Day**. What is this and why should it matter to me??? [Why Ascension Day matters to United Methodists \(umc.org\)](https://www.umc.org) celebrated Sunday, May 29th



SUNDAY MAY 29th, WE MOVE TO OUR SINGLE BLENDED SERVICE AT 10 A.M.!!! The Worship Retreat held March 17th ended with the discernment to go to one service. The Worship Committee then met and planned when we would pivot to this single service offering and the holiday weekend launching us into summer was selected. **Monday, May 30th is Memorial Day.** For an historical look at some of the ways the United Methodist Church has observed Memorial Day, see: [Discipleship Ministries | Memorial Day Worship and Prayer Resources \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org)

There are so many opportunities to walk your talk this month and in future. I look forward to wrapping up and celebrating our program year together and moving into our season of fellowship and fun. I am always available if you have any questions. Take good care. Rest. Relax. Rejuvenate. Resurrect yourself that you might help to resurrect others.

With God's blessings in Christ through the Holy Spirit,

Jill



Jill Sestok

Director of Spiritual Formation

From birth to the final ascension, I focus on the available spiritual pathway offered through the church. God is calling me in my position to be of service in new and creative ways to share the light of Christ, especially with those who are struggling and have yet to find a church "home". I am very excited to be working at Belleville First and within this great community. As I pursue the Deacon track through the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church I am so pleased to have found a faith community where there is much tradition, a good volunteer base, and great potential for growth.

JILL B. SESTOK, DIRECTOR, SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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“Lord,
teach us to
pray...”





- Sunday, June 5th – Pentecost Sunday [What is Pentecost? \(umc.org\)](http://umc.org)
- Sunday, June 12th – Trinity/Peace With Justice Sunday [Discipleship Ministries | Trinity Sunday, Year B - Lectionary... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org)
[Peace with Justice Sunday \(umc.org\)](http://umc.org)
- Tuesday, June 14th – Flag Day [Discipleship Ministries | On US Flags in US United Methodist Worship... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org)
- Sunday, June 19th – Second Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day [Discipleship Ministries | Father's Day Prayer \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org);
Juneteenth [Discipleship Ministries | Music Musings: Juneteenth \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org)
- Tuesday, June 21st – First Day of Summer (Summer Solstice); Reflecting back on the season with the UMC: [Discipleship Ministries | Third Sunday After Pentecost, Year A -... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://umcdiscipleship.org)

BFUMC Summer Tour of Fellowship – let us explore Belleville together and practice getting out of the habit of being a host in the church building and instead be a guest in this community. There is fellowship, food, fun, live music, movies, and plenty of neighbors to get to know better.



- Periodically we may also gather in the sanctuary for a movie night with “The Chosen” Christian entertainment. [\(790\) The Chosen: Season 2 Official Trailer - YouTube](#)
- June 24th – 26th – Lake Fest [Lake Fest - Home | Facebook](#) Let’s hang out together downtown!!! Meet at the church Saturday, June 24th to check out the scene and fellowship with church family friends.



DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE YOU’D LIKE TO CELEBRATE WITH THIS CHURCH FAMILY?

We would love to lift and honor all our high school and beyond graduating folks. Please send the graduate’s bio including: name, photograph, school attended, major, future plans, and best lesson learned to Jill by June 1st. This way we will have what is needed to share this great and blessed achievement with all.

JILL B. SESTOK, DIRECTOR, SPIRITUAL FORMATION
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THANK YOU!!!

The Emergency Food Closet raised \$9,120 locally in the Meijer Winter Simply Give Campaign and was able to receive the \$10,000 from the two double match days for a total donation of \$19,120. Without the continued support of the philanthropic endeavors of Meijer, we would not be able to continue to feed the hungry in our community as we currently do. I truly appreciate Meijer's continued support and partnership with our Emergency Food Closet. But, we could not do it without your continued support as well!

Since January 1, 2022 we have distributed 655 bags of food and have had 33 new clients. Food prices continue to escalate on a weekly basis. Meat prices have increased 20% from a year ago. Due to price increases and availability of foods, I have had to make cuts with what goes into our weekly bags and refrigerator item choices.

Due to the generosity from the members of our church, the community, local churches and businesses, and churches in surrounding communities, the Emergency Food Closet has been able to distribute food to all clients on a weekly basis. In addition to receiving a bag of food, each client also receives a loaf of bread, a 4 roll pack of toilet paper, a meat, a dairy product, a lunch meat, and a personal care product.

Your continued support to help feed and care for the hungry in our community is a blessing!

Save the Date! – Saturday, May 14

According to the Letter Carriers' website, their "**Stamp Out Hunger**" food drive is a go for 2022! In the past, **all** food collected by the Belleville Post Office is donated to the Emergency Food Closet. This food fundraiser will need many hands! Volunteers will be needed to transport, check dates, sort, box, and shelve donated items. The last food drive was held in May of 2019 and over 11,000 pounds of food was donated by our community.

All collected food returns to the Belleville Post Office to be weighed. Volunteers will be needed to transport it from the Post Office to the church. This will happen in waves as the carriers continue to drop off food all day. Once it arrives at the church, the food needs to be brought downstairs to the fellowship hall to be sorted either as food for the weekly bags, cart food, or for migrant workers/homeless shelters. At each of these stations, expiration dates will be checked. Food for the weekly bags will be sorted according to food type, placed in trays/boxes, and stored in the food closet. The rest of the food will be boxed and labelled as either cart food or migrant/homeless.

On the 14th volunteers should meet at the church at 11:15 for a short meeting. If you are a transporter, you will then be sent to the Post Office. We will work at the church until 6 p.m. We will try to finish before and after services on Sunday, May 15. If there is still food to be checked, sorted and stored, we will finish on Monday, May 16 and if needed, Tuesday, May 17.

Whatever help and time you can give will be greatly appreciated!



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Volunteers are needed on **May 14** to sort, date check, shelve and store. Please meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 am.

DONATED FOOD will be given to the

EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

Belleville First United Methodist Church – 417 Charles St.

OPEN: Tuesdays & Wednesdays – 10 am to 1 pm



Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You!

For your support of Comfort Flomo, the nurse at the John Dean Town UM Clinic in John Dean Town, Liberia

The Missions Team thanks everyone for their abundant generosity during our campaign to raise salary funds for nurse Comfort Flomo, the only health professional serving the people of John Dean Town in Grand Bassa County Liberia. As of April 27, we have raised more than \$4000.00 to go towards Comfort's 2022 salary! What an awesome response. Your act of giving will allow Comfort to continue to help heal people, bring babies into the world, treat disease, and show God's love to people who have no means to pay for basic medical care. What a great example of actually doing what Jesus taught in Matthew 6:19-21 ¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Let our hearts continue to be with all those in need around us.

Your Missions Team

Comfort at work in John Dean Town Clinic





Worship Committee

As voted at the Worship Retreat, we will move to one 10 AM service every Sunday starting May 29th.

June 26th will be an Ecumenical service. It will be the first Parking Lot service of the summer. Mark your calendar to come join us.

Newsletter Update:

The newsletter will be discontinued for the months of July and August. The final newsletter is to be submitted May 15th. And the September newsletter is to be submitted August 15th. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the church office 734-697-9288.

Thank-you



2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>SS Worship</p> <p>3:00p Belleville</p> <p>Comm Concert</p> <p><i>Native American Ministries Sunday</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11am Tai-Chi (FH)</p> <p>7pm Ad Council</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>12:30pm Can /Bottle</p>	<p>5 <i>National Day of Prayer</i></p> <p>10am AA (FH)</p> <p>7pm Al-Anon (FH)</p> <p>7pm Men's Fellowship (L)</p> <p><i>7:45 Chancel Choir</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am AFEF (FH)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am</p> <p>WiHn (FH)</p>
<p>8 <i>Mother's Day</i></p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>11:45a Worship</p> <p>Comm (L)</p> <p>SS Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>AFEF (FH)</p> <p>11:00am</p> <p>WiHn (FH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11am Tai-Chi (FH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am AFEF (FH)</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11:00am WiHn (FH)</p> <p>2:30pm Can /Bottle</p> <p>6:30pm Praise Band</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am AA (FH)</p> <p>7pm Al-Anon (FH)</p> <p>7pm Men's Fellowship (L)</p> <p><i>7:45 Chancel Choir</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am AFEF (FH)</p> <p>Stamp Out</p> <p>Hunger Food</p> <p>(All Day-FH)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Stamp Out</p> <p>Hunger Food</p> <p>(All Day-FH)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>SS Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>AFEF (FH)</p> <p>Stamp Out</p> <p>Hunger Food</p> <p>(All Day-FH)</p> <p>7pm Garden Club (FH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11am Tai-Chi (FH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am AFEF (FH)</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11:00am WiHn (FH)</p> <p>12:30pm Can /Bottle</p> <p>6:30pm Praise Band</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am AA (FH)</p> <p>7pm Al-Anon (FH)</p> <p>7pm Men's Fellowship (L)</p> <p><i>7:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>AFEF (FH)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am</p> <p>WiHn (FH)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>SS Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>AFEF (FH)</p> <p>11:00am</p> <p>WiHn (FH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11am Tai-Chi (FH)</p> <p>7pm Missions</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am AFEF (FH)</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11:00am WiHn (FH)</p> <p>12:30pm Can /Bottle</p> <p>6:30pm Praise Band</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am AA (FH)</p> <p>7pm Al-Anon (FH)</p> <p>7pm Men's Fellowship (L)</p> <p><i>7:45 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am</p> <p>AFEF (FH)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>SS Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Memorial Day Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>10am Food Closet (N)</p> <p>11am Tai-Chi (FH)</p>				