



Pastor's Page – March through May 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. 😊

UPCOMING:

"Resurrection Preparation" Gospel Series – March 1 – April 5

Theme: we need to prepare for the Resurrection in prayer, in repentance, and in worship.

- March 1 "Resurrection Preparation: Now We Can Share"
- March 8 "Resurrection Preparation: Jesus, The Savior Of The World"
- March 15 "Resurrection Preparation: Jesus Heals"
- March 22 "Resurrection Preparation: Jesus Raises The Dead"
- March 29 "Resurrection Preparation: All Hail The King"
- April 2 "Resurrection Preparation: The Last Time Together"
Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
- April 3 "Resurrection Preparation: It Is Finished"
Good Friday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. offered
- April 5 "Resurrection Preparation: Christ Is Risen Indeed"
Easter Sunday

"The Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously" UMC Series, April 12 – May 17 (Miracle Sunday For Theological Ed.)

Theme: Our new UMC vision "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously" and Miracle Sunday Initiative will unite 30,000 congregations worldwide to extend the mission of The UMC and to raise vital support for 500 clergy a year through The Endowment for Theological Educ. outside the U.S.

- April 12 "Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ"
- April 19 "Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit"
- April 26 "Disciples Love Boldly"
- May 3 "Disciples Serve Joyfully"
- May 10 "Disciples Lead Courageously"
- May 17 "Disciples Transform the World"

"Song-Sing and Potluck" – song list, beverages, silverware provided Sunday, May 24 - 4 p.m. - Song-Sing & Potluck



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

Are you Interested in teaching or attending a book study on:

**"Jesus Did It Anyway:
The Paradoxical
Commandments for
Christians"
by Kent M. Keith ?**

See Pastor Greg for details.

*For all who have experienced
grief, please join us for:*

**GriefShare
Saturdays, through May 2
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Belleville First UMC
Lounge Room
Taught By Joy Dubin and
Leilani Jones**

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

For more information, please call GriefShare at (800-395-5755) or see griefshare.org.

You may also call or text Joy Dubin (734-218-3634), Leilani Jones (734-731-0839), or Pastor Greg Buchner (734-252-9110). Thank you.



TEAM'S UPDATE – MARCH 2026 – FOR 3-10-2026 AD COUNCIL MEETING

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

We love your kids! We have some special plans for the children each week. During the second praise song, please meet in the lobby for further instructions! We are planning a Bible Sunday. We have 3 children that attend Sunday School that are due to receive Bibles. If you also have a child or grandchild that you would like to receive a Bible please notify: Dee Groeneweg, Terri Moroika, Kelly Anderson, or Paul Smith.

The GriefShare Class and Support Group (griefshare.org) is meeting on Saturdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am in the Lounge. Please see Joy, Leilani, or call 1-800-395-5755.

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The congregation is asked to continue their long-time support of Nurse Comfort Flomo and her work as the only nurse at John Dean Town Clinic with the Easter Offering. The Committee is organizing a Pancake Breakfast for May 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This event is open to the public and will allow people to carb-load before the Memorial Day Parade that starts at 10:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted. Subcommittees will participate in the Belleville Farmers Market on June 1, 2026, July 13, 2026 and August 3, 2026 to meet our neighbors and provide information about our work. Volunteers are needed to provide hospitality for the community during Music Lakeside on Thursday evenings from June 18th to August 20th.

MISSIONS – EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

January 1 – February 28, 2026: 544 bags & frig items distributed/ 43 new clients / 7 Non-Residents (served one time only) / 3 Homeless.

Currently staffed by 35 volunteers (54% are not church members, 46% are.)

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

WiHn exercise classes continue to meet regularly. See the calendar on the bulletin board in the narthex. Healthy Habits will be making some Easter crafts and will travel to area assisted living facilities to distribute and visit with the residents.

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.)

CHURCH OPERATIONS

AD COUNCIL

Happy March everyone! There are many exciting things in the works. The men's club sponsored a Euchre / games night at the church the last Saturday in February. A good time was had by all. And they have a dart's night scheduled for Mar. 21. It's sponsored by the men's club, but all are welcome!

Please take the time to read the attached teams updates. They have been working hard and many things are happening.

There is a pancake breakfast coming up in May.

Look for a brief financial update coming up soon during a service.

Please pray for our church, our leaders and team members that do so much behind the scenes.

Please be sure to make new comers feel at home. It's hard when you're shy, but you can do all things through God!

And above all, remember to be thankful for our church, and a country where we are free to worship without persecution!

FINANCE

In January 2026, we brought in \$12,506. We spent \$17,101 in expenses, so we had a net loss of (\$4,595). We still have \$108,627 in our long-term savings that we will need to use to cover the increased month expenses in 2026. Pay increases will not take effect until February. February pay is for the time worked in January.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We are looking for two areas to help us out. First, we're looking for folks who are willing to be on our tech team. Training will be provided. Second, we need a grant-writer / getter who will help us get grants for all the good things we are doing. Training is also available. See Pastor Greg for more information or to volunteer.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

In case you really don't know what Staff Parish is all about: United Methodist congregations give the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee the responsibility for administering the relationship between staff, congregation, and the district superintendent so that the mission of the church moves forward. The current team is Martha Conley, Diane Ferguson, Carl Marosi, Pete Jones, and chair, Dee Groeneweg. Roles include encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families, including advocating for a healthy work/life balance;

- promote unity in the churches;
- confer with the staff on the effectiveness of ministry and impediments to effectiveness, including conflict of interest and sexual misconduct;
- confer with the staff about the effective use of their gifts, skills, time, and priorities

conduct annual staff evaluations;

- teach the congregation about itineracy, steps into ordained ministry, the value of diversity in staffing, and the ministerial education fund;
- write job descriptions for staff;
- confer with staff about continuing education and spiritual formation;
- confer with the district superintendent about the clergy leadership for the congregation.
- recommend staff positions to the Church Council;
- create written personnel policies and sexual misconduct policies for the congregation;
- consult on matters of staff support, including housing, vacation, insurance, pension, and other matters outlined in the Discipline. WE RE HARD AT WORK!! Let us know if you have any questions.

TRUSTEES

Our Security team has worked hard on the implementation of a plan, to keep us safe during Sunday service hours and weekly hours. We are in the process of installing cameras around the building, panic buttons inside the building and a video doorbell by the office. We have had a rough winter with many snow days. Our snow blower has been fixed and has been used once, Hallelujah. Trustees would like to thank the following people for their tireless shoveling of our sidewalks; Ed Paris, Mike Skelton, Mark Groeneweg, Food Closet volunteers Scott Mc Shara and Joe Randazzo, Micky Keelan, Terri Morioka and a few men from the AA group. The past 2 months were brutal, but these folks were faithful. If we have missed anyone, please consider yourself thanked. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734740-3700.

WORSHIP

We are currently doing our "Resurrection Preparation" Gospel Series through Easter Resurrection Sunday, April 5. March 15, 4 pm, will be our next "Song-Sing and Potluck." The Maundy Thursday service will be April 2, 7 pm. And two identical Good Friday services will be available April 3 at 1 pm and 7 pm. Please invite others to join us.

Emergency Food Closet Report – Ad Council Report, March 10, 2026

January 1 – February 28, 2026:

- 544 bags & frig items distributed
- 43 new clients
 - 7 Non-Residents (served one time only)
 - 1 Homeless who has visited us 3 times

136 more bags & frig items distributed from 1-1- 26 through 2-28-26 than in the same time period in 2025. We also had 22 more new clients.

46% live in Van Buren Twp., 32% in Sumpter Twp., and 22% in the city of Belleville

January 1 – February 28, 2025:

- 408 bags & frig items distributed (closed two days due to cold weather)
- 21 new clients
 - 6 Non-Residents (served one time only)

Simply Give Balance (March 6, 2026): 0

Chase Debit Account Balance (March 5, 2026): \$68,597.10

Currently, ALL shopping is being paid for using the Chase Debit Card.

Expenses:

January: \$9,608.36 February: \$8,227.32 YEAR TO DATE: \$17,835.68
February Food: \$4,286.57 Meijer, \$1,747.67 Aldi, \$333.70 Kroger, \$1,151.98 Walmart, \$468 Jiffy, \$216 Dollar Tree, \$23.40 stamps

Income:

January: \$2,579.39 February: \$3,571.92 TOTAL: \$6,151.31

I applied for a Charles Cozadd grant, on-line, on February 16, 2026. I asked for \$20,000 since our funding is unknown. I will be appearing before the committee on Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m.

I received an email last week from Meijer Simply Give that we will be included in the 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!**

Even though we have 121- \$15 Food Only cards (\$1,815) left from Christmas, I do not feel it is wise to give these out at Easter. I think we should save these and give out at Thanksgiving or Christmas, IF we have enough funding. If needed, we can also use these cards to shop for weekly food. Our goal is to continue to give out food for as long as we can.

Looking ahead: Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive is Saturday, May 9. Set-up will be on Friday, May 8 at 10 am (in the garage) and hopefully will finish on Monday, May 11.

2025 Food Closet Video

Hi Everyone,

The 2025 Food Closet Video is now on the church website (bellevillefirstumc.org). It shares the outpouring of support we received last year and our mission to help those experiencing food insecurity throughout the community. It truly takes a village!!!

In addition, I received an email from Meijer Simply Give that we will be included in the Spring Campaign at the Meijer Belleville store beginning Sunday, March 29 and runs through Saturday, June 27. DOUBLE DAY will be on Saturday, June 20. On this day, if we can raise \$5,000 locally, Meijer will match with \$10,000 for a total donation of \$15,000! Mark your calendar to shop on that day! Your \$10 donation on that day, will be matched by Meijer with \$20, for a donation of \$30. The Simply Give Cards will be on display at the end of each traditional check-out line.

From January 1-March 6:

606 bags & frig items were distributed

44 new clients

7 non-residents, served once

1 Homeless client served 4 times

In 2026, 119 more bags have been distributed and 19 more new clients than in the same time period in 2025!

The Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive is Saturday, May 9. Help will be needed on Friday, May 8 for set-up and on Monday, May 11 to finish.

Thank you for your continued support! It is a *blessing*!

Marilyn
