

417 Charles Street Belleville, MI 48111 (734-697-9288) Email Address: bellevilleumc48111@yahoo.com

# CONNECTIONS

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



**Youth Group**  
Sundays  
6:00pm

**Breaking Free**  
**Bible Study**  
6:30pm  
Begin 1/16

**Human**  
**Relations Day**  
1/19

**Martin Luther**  
**King, Jr.**  
**Observed**  
1/20

**Men's Breakfast**  
1/25-9:00am

Dear Friends,

There's a stretch of the Outer Banks of North Carolina that's known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic", because hundreds of ships have been lost there over the centuries. It was there that something called the United States Life-Saving Service was born. They established white frame buildings called life-saving stations seven miles apart along very treacherous parts of the coast. The Life-Saving Service was actually a spawning ground for heroes. In one case, for example, a ship was in distress and had four men staying alive by just hanging onto the mast for dear life. Six of the seven men from the closest station went out into a storm that could very well have consumed them after they left a verbal will with the man who was left running the station. They went twenty-two hours without food or sleep. They finally brought back the four stranded men and then collapsed on the beach in exhaustion. It was incredible heroism. That was the norm for the men of the life-saving stations.

One interesting observation: never in the history of the Life-Saving Service did the drowning person ever come to the door of their station and ask to be rescued, "Excuse me, I'm drowning. Can you help me?" No, in every single rescue, the rescuers had to leave the safety of the life-saving station, and go out into the surf and into the storm to keep someone from dying.

It's the nature of rescue, isn't it? You have to leave the comfort of the life-saving station to save the people who are dying outside. The life-saving station is a great place to get rescuers strong enough to go out into the storm to bring people in. It's a great place to bring people after they've been rescued. If we wait for dying people to come into the life-saving station to get rescued, most of them will die without a chance.

That's the nature of spiritual rescue. Over the years, it's been known by many names - evangelism, soul-winning, witnessing. Maybe we've lost the urgency of what really is at stake here. Ephesians 2:12, and ultimately, someone who will be forever, in the Bible's words, "...shut out from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thessalonians 1:9). They are spiritually dying people, and their only hope is rescue by someone who is close enough to save them.

Sadly, we've been waiting for them to come to one of our meetings, our programs, our religious place, our life-saving station. Jesus said in Luke 19:10, "the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." He said that in the house of a reviled tax collector, where Jesus had been criticized for going. Jesus shows us that you have to go where the lost people are to rescue them. You have to seek them if you want to save them.



# Prayers and Praise

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### In the Hospital:

Please remember those in  
Continuing Care Facilities:

Bobbie Winters  
Superior Woods

Luanne Genga  
Wellbeing of Novi

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**Stephanie Boltrick**  
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

**Christopher Stone**  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

**Michael Stone**  
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

**Blake**  
Grandson of Betty Hughey

**Jared Stabnau**  
Grandson of Harvey & Elaine Stabnau

**Cord Ford-Aimone**  
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

**Justin Renton**  
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

**Chad Koenne**  
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm

## JANUARY Birthdays

|            |            |    |        |          |    |
|------------|------------|----|--------|----------|----|
| Nathan     | Clark      | 1  | Adelyn | Daigneau | 19 |
| Sandy      | Wilson     | 1  | Joshua | Weed     | 21 |
| Carl       | Marosi     | 2  | Betty  | Parmelee | 22 |
| Scott      | Skelton    | 2  | Jenny  | Struble  | 22 |
| Jacqueline | Dalzell    | 3  | Mike   | Skelton  | 23 |
| Darryl     | Raymond    | 3  | Nathan | Sparks   | 23 |
| Brayden    | Keelan     | 4  | Cathy  | Andrews  | 24 |
| Jean       | Hayward    | 5  | Debie  | Gurkin   | 24 |
| RuthAnn    | Herkimer   | 5  | Ian    | Simmons  | 24 |
| Rick       | Baker      | 9  | Rachel | Sparling | 25 |
| Dick       | Timm       | 9  | Elaine | Stabnau  | 27 |
| Tiffany    | Walker     | 9  | Jane   | Cook     | 31 |
| Chris      | Anderson   | 10 |        |          |    |
| Marilyn    | Zemko      | 10 |        |          |    |
| Erica      | Struble    | 12 |        |          |    |
| Susan      | Zemko      | 12 |        |          |    |
| Cindy      | Schloesser | 15 |        |          |    |
| Ayla       | Daigneau   | 16 |        |          |    |
| Nancy      | Carey      | 18 |        |          |    |

## JANUARY Anniversaries

Carl & Wyn Ann Marosi

23

Continued from Page 1

There is nothing greater you could do with your influence, and nothing greater you could do with your life than to rescue someone who would have otherwise died; to help someone else be rescued from hell and be in heaven with you forever.

In Christ,



Rev. Jim Walker

Connections

# Communications



Thank you to everyone who had their picture taken for the directory. If you did not, please  
a send a picture:

- 1) To the church email ([bellevilleumc48111@yahoo.com](mailto:bellevilleumc48111@yahoo.com))
- 2) Or bring to church
- 3) Or give to Susan Featheringill.

Please review your current photo by signing in to CCB at [bellevilemethodist.ccbchurch.com](http://bellevilemethodist.ccbchurch.com)

Sample directory will be available mid-January.

# Administrative Council



## **Church Leadership Team – Prayer Request**

As I complete my term as Chairperson of the Administrative Council, I want to take a moment to ask for your prayers for all the leaders dedicated to serving on your Administrative Council for the coming year.

According to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the purpose of the Ad Council is to “provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church”, and to “envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.” To say that this work is a challenge is, according to my experience, a significant understatement. It is a plain fact that this work can only be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This year, 2020, will no doubt be doubly challenging for the leadership of Belleville First UMC. We face chaos in our denomination and a change of pastoral leadership on top of the urgent work needed to achieve our mission and vision.

The roster of the Ad Council for 2020 is shown below. Please take some time to pray for each member and collectively for the entire council. Pray for energy. Pray for wisdom. Pray for discernment. Pray for inspiration as they invest their time and energy to take on the challenges of leadership, providing the framework to help us all make disciples and transform the world.

In His Service,

Mark G.

### **Belleville First UMC Administrative Council 2020**

**Ad Council Chair - Abby Fleming**

**Pastor – Jim Walker**

**Ad Council Secretary – Darlene Crawford**

**Staff Parish Relations – Barb Moore**

**Trustees – Jack Keelan (committee elects in 2020)**

**Finance – Chris Anderson**

**Treasurer – Susan Featheringill**

**Financial Secretary – Micky Keelan**

**Worship – Val Moore**

**Missions – Mike Skelton**

**Evangelism – Susan Walker (Kelley Anderson)**

**Christian Education – Marlayna Keelan**

**Youth Ministry – Evan Basnaw**

**Lay Leader / Annual Conf Rep – Ron Stansifer**

**Small Groups – Cindy Blake**

**President UMW – Lynda Aimone**

**President UMM – Carl Marosi**

**Emergency Food Closet – Marilyn Wood**

**At Large Members – Laura Kirchoff (2021), Jim Wagner (2021)**

**Youth Representative – Brandon Johns**

**Memorial Garden Committee – Mike Aimone**

**Lay Leadership Committee – Jim Walker**



## Thanks for helping with the Living Nativity

As always the Living Nativity was a beautiful performance and tribute to our Lord Jesus and Savior, Jesus Christ. In 2010, Paul McCrary first recorded the music soundtrack and Paul Smith's narration. They were the first of many great people who over the years have taken part in this outreach to our community. I am so grateful for all who have had a hand in making this production something God uses to proclaim the miracle of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. May He continue to add His blessing to it for years to come.

A big shout out goes to Evan Basnaw who built a sturdy Inn that has never once blown away. Evan also has set up the sound equipment for years after Paul McCrary retired from "the sound director" position. This year Evan used his high tech camera and photography skills to give us great photos.

Chris and Kelley Anderson have been great visionaries for reaching our community for Christ. Chris has a passion to see people come to know Jesus. Kelley is a creative genius who can take an simple idea and amplify it into something extraordinary. This was evident by the flyers she designed and the corrugated metal sign she made and hung on the stable the week before the production. Both Chris and Kelley have given countless hours to ensure the Living Nativity and other Evangelism projects look great and are well executed.





# Cast and Crew for 2019 Living Nativity

## Set Building

*Chris Anderson  
Kelley Anderson  
Evan Basnaw  
Mike Bournival  
Eston Keller  
Bill Lipke  
Jim Wagner  
Chris Strickland  
Jim Walker*

## Set Tear Down

*Evan Basnaw  
John Cerone*

## Sound Techicians

*Mike Bournival  
Eston Keller  
Hannah Walker*

## Costumes

*Kelley Anderson  
Kathy Perkins*

## Chaos Control

*Yetta Reges*

## Dinner for Cast and Crew

*KelleyAnderson  
Susan Featheringill  
Terry Morioka  
Alice Payne  
Lori Summers  
Janelle Wofford*

## Animals

*Donated by Real Life Farms of Canton*

## Transportation of Animals

*Rick Baker  
Kevin Baker  
Kim Paris*

## Mary and Joseph

*Eric and Sara Shuryan*

## Gabriel

*Paul Smith*

## Inn Keeper

*Micky Keelan*

## Angel to Shephards

*Rev. Jim Walker*

## Shepherds

*Jim Burgos  
Lee Cerone  
Susan Copeland  
Tiffany Cromity  
Kim Paris  
Chris Strickland  
Darren Strickland  
Collin Stover*

## Angles

*Rebecca Brooks  
Antonio Brooks  
Ella Convery  
Olive Convery  
Terry Morioka  
Crystal Strickland  
Wendy Strickland  
Cierra Turner and Alex*

## Wiseman

*Chris Anderson  
Bill Lipke  
Roy Reges*

**Coffee Hour Volunteers:**

We are still in need of people to do coffee hour between services. Most of January is filled, but there's still plenty of room in February, March, April and May. Please visit the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board across from the water foundation and restrooms on the 1st floor. Your support and participation is greatly appreciated!

# Volunteers are Needed!

***Volunteers in Mission Opportunity:***

*Mike Skelton will be leading a four day mission trip to Panama City, FL the week of February 10-14, 2020 to work on recovery efforts from Hurricane Michael. For more information, contact Mike or Julie Skelton at (734) 697-8915.*



## **Youth Group**

We meet every Sunday in the youth room from 6:00p.m. -7:30 p.m. for a time of worship, food and fun.

Sunday, January 12th begins our newest study, "Praying with Jesus". There's no better teacher on prayer than Jesus—what He taught about prayer, and how He prayed, gives us vital insight into what it means to have a living, breathing relationship with God. If you have any questions, please call Evan Basnaw (734)787-6231, Karen Johnston (810)730-1615 or Amy Milios-Knieper (734)546-1109.



## **Breaking Free Bible study**

This in-depth Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites of the Old Testament and New Testament believers in Jesus as the Promised Messiah. The study looks at the Book of Isaiah through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. These kings exemplify many of the obstacles to freedom with which we must deal. Scripture is used to help you identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small.

We will be meeting in the lounge on Thursday evenings at 6:30 beginning January 16th. If you have any questions, please call Susan Walker (734)250-0485 or Amy Milios-Knieper at (734)546-1109.

## *2019 Emergency Food Closet Financial Report*

Funding for the EFC comes from many sources: church members, community businesses, churches, individuals, the Meijer Simply Give campaign, Kroger cash back program, Van Buren Senior Center, Eagles Club, Boy Scouts food drive, and the Post Office “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive.

We think of the EFC as a non-profit business. We are funded by donations which are unknown, so planning for sustainability is important, yet difficult, for there are many variables. Many factors remain unknown including how much we will receive in financial support as well as food donations. It is difficult to predict how many clients we will serve each week.

It costs \$17-\$25 per bag depending on the week’s menu. If we pack 35 bags for 52 weeks, at an average price of \$20 per bag, that equals \$36,400 a year. In addition, we give out a four pack of toilet paper at \$1 a package, and items from the refrigerator that can range from \$4 to \$8 per client. This adds an additional cost of \$7,280 to \$14,560 to the budget. The total yearly expenditure range is \$43,680 to \$50,960. This amount can be more if our client base grows, or less if it decreases. It also varies depending on the cost of food items. If we receive more usable food from food drives, then we need to buy less, so our budgetary needs decrease.

The Meijer Simply Give campaign is our largest fundraiser. In 2015, we received \$15,480; 2016 - \$18,080; 2017 - \$3,790; 2018 - \$1,520; and 2019 - \$17,080. In the spring of 2019, we received another \$5,000 in Simply Give funds due to the generosity of Meijer because the company did so well in 2018.

The donations made to the Meijer Simply Give campaign can only be spent at Meijer. It is like having a savings account at Meijer. Every time we shop, the amount spent is deducted from our account. Additional shopping is done at Walmart, Kroger, the Chelsea Jiffy Plant, and Dollar Tree where prices may be better and ease of purchasing large quantities is simplified. Items purchased at these stores have to be purchased from the Emergency Food Closet’s Chase cash account.

In 2020, our client base may increase for the federal government is tightening food stamp work requirements. As people lose their food assistance benefits, they may seek help elsewhere.

Many factors determine our spending and budget. Our goal is to feed the hungry on an ongoing basis and try to make fact-based decisions to sustain our mission.



January Food Closet  
Item of the Month:  
Canned Soup  
(No Creams)



# Community Events



## Human Relations Day

*Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other.” — Romans 12:10, CEB*

We have been asked to love one another like members of our family. Knowing how hard this request would be, God sent Jesus to show us how. Jesus walked with those in the margins during his life and shared the message that everyone is valuable and loved. This is the message we celebrate on **Human Relations Day**.

On Jan. 19, across the United Methodist connection, we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community. We do this by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this church wide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: every one of God’s children is important.

The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and works with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Such ministries give us the opportunity to walk in the margins and continue the work of Jesus.



# 2020

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Food Closet Item: Canned Soup (No Creams)</b>   |   |  | <b>1 New Years Day</b><br>Office Closed                                  | 2<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac.<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH)                                 | 3  | 4<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))                             |
|  | 5<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>6 pm Youth Group (YR) | 6<br>Annual Conf Prep<br>7pm Comm Chorus Prac(S) | 7<br>6 p.m. Christian Ed Comm Mtg (AR)<br>7 pm Ad Council (AR)           | 8<br><b>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)</b><br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)   | 9<br>Annual Conf Prep<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 10  |
| 12<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>12 Noon Worship Comm Mtg (L)<br>6 pm Youth Group (YR)                           | 13<br>7pm Comm Chorus Prac(S)   | 14<br>7 p.m. SPRC (L)                            | 15<br><b>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)</b><br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 16<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br><b>6:30p Bible Study (L)</b><br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 17   | 18<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))                            |
| <b>19 Human Relations Day</b><br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>12:00 p.m. Finance Comm Mtg<br>6 pm Youth Group (YR) | <b>20 MLK Day</b><br>Office Closed<br>6 pm Comm Chorus Bd Mtg (AR)<br>7pm Comm Chorus Prac(S)   | 21   | 22<br><b>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)</b><br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 23<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br><b>6:30p Bible Study (L)</b><br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 24   | 25<br>8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom)<br>9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))<br>9am Men's Breakfast (L) |
| 26<br>9 a.m. Worship<br>9 a.m. Children's SS Classes<br>10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH)<br>10:30 a.m. Worship<br>10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class<br>6 pm Youth Group (YR)   | 27<br>6 p.m. Trustee's Mtg (AR)<br>7pm Comm Chorus Prac(S)  | 28<br>7 p.m. Missions (L)                        | 29<br><b>10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L)</b><br>7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR) | 30<br>10 a.m. AA (FH)<br>6 p.m. Praise Band Prac<br><b>6:30p Bible Study (L)</b><br>7:30 p.m. Choir Prac.<br>8 p.m. AA (FH) | 31   |   |