

CONNECTIONS

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



Message from the Pastor



January 2022 Newsletter

This is a day of new beginnings UMH 383

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember, and move on,
time to believe what love is
bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of
difference as faith and hope are
born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past, and leave
behind our disappointment, guilt
and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to
find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can
do. This is a day of new
beginnings; our God is making all
things new.

Alternate stanza 4, at communion:
In faith we'll gather round the table
to show and share what love can
do. This is a day of new
beginnings; our God is making all
things new.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

1/1/2022
Happy New
Year

1/2/2022
Meijer Simply
Give
Campaign
Begins

1/17/2022
Martin Luther
King Birthday
Church Closed

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

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 Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|---------------|------------|----|
| Nathan "Nate" | Clark | 1 |
| Sandy | Wilson | 1 |
| Carl | Marosi | 2 |
| Scott | Skelton | 2 |
| Darryl | Raymond | 3 |
| Jean | Hayward | 5 |
| RuthAnn | Herkimer | 5 |
| Rick | Baker | 9 |
| Dick | Timm | 9 |
| Chris | Anderson | 10 |
| Cindy | Schloesser | 15 |
| Nancy | Carey | 18 |
| Mike | Skelton | 23 |
| Nathan | Sparks | 23 |
| Debie | Gurkin | 24 |
| Ian | Simmons | 24 |
| Elaine | Stabnau | 27 |
| Jane | Cook | 31 |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Carl & Wyn Ann Marosi 23

Message from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

As I sat down to write this new year article, I could not help but think of this beautiful hymn and its compelling lyrics. This is a day of new beginnings isn't just for the new year. Each day dawns new on the journey of faith. We can find a fresh start each day as we pray to God and give our day to God. The psalmist proclaims that "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:5) Each day we choose how we will live and how others will observe us living. Will we live with the peace that passes all understanding in the midst of the adversity of our circumstances?

Each day we can remember with wonder and awe, the joy and blessings as well as the agony and pain of the past. Sometimes we want to linger there, wallowing in it, and yet this song pulls no punches and calls us to leave it behind. It says, there's love just waiting to burst forth in faith and hope...if we are willing to move on.



I remember when Disney's *The Lion King* first came out and I bought the VHS tape for my kids. We watched it over and over again at nauseum. Yet, each time when the scene came where the Baboon shaman, Rafiki, hits Simba, the hiding away lion king, over the head with his stick, I would linger and think about what past I needed to leave in the past in order to reach my full calling. Was I running from it or learning from it? This hymn helps us to linger in the same question. It is about what past we need to leave in the past in order to reach our full calling.

So as we head into 2022, I challenge us to reflect each day within ourselves and within our faith community. It's time to leave the past in the past and to allow Christ to go before us showing and sharing with us what love can do, now, TODAY, this very moment. Let us be open to how God is making all things new around us, in us, and through us.

New Year Blessings,
Pastor Mary



Praying on Purpose

Prayer is one of the steps of faith on the Spiritual Pathway and what a better way to start out a new year than with praying on purpose. We will ponder how often we pray, how we pray, and wonder if there is more to this praying thing. This January, join us to learn the art and practice of praying on purpose.

January 2, 2022

Scripture:

Acts 1: 14 & 2:42 MSG

Sermon Title:

Praying on Purpose: Inside First

Synopsis:

Today we will explore how we make room for prayer in our lives and in the life of our faith community. Come and understand why praying on purpose is so important for you, for your neighbors, and for the world.

January 9, 2022

Scripture:

Matthew 21:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 MSG

Sermon Title:

Praying on Purpose: Together

Synopsis:

Today we will discover what it looks like when we pray for each other. We can pray for each other one-on-one or corporately and through healing prayers. And our prayers bring hope, health, and healing...just not always in the way we would imagine.

January 16, 2022

Scripture:

Acts 4:23-26 MSG

Sermon Title:

Praying on Purpose: The Scriptures with Everyone Everywhere

Synopsis:

Today, we recall the power of praying God's Word. We can pray with, for, over, above, around, and into everyone everywhere as we take this power of praying on purpose outside the four walls of the church.



Praying on Purpose (Continues)

January 23, 2022

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40 MSG

Sermon Title: ***Praying on Purpose: Fasting into the Intersections***

Synopsis: Praying and fasting go hand in hand in the Bible. Today we will explore how praying and fasting help to open us to praying in the God-given intersections of our lives. This is what we call discernment because praying isn't just about speaking to God, but listening back for direction.

January 30, 2022

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34 MSG

Title: ***Praying on Purpose: Strength and Courage***

Synopsis: There are evil powers and forces in this world. That could scare us into hiding and silencing the power God gives us, but God calls us to pray with strength and courage. When we do, it's amazing the miracles that can happen.



Events & Activities



DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know...that BFUMC is on a ***new worship schedule starting September 19?***

9:00am Praise Worship
10:30am Faith Foundation Worship

10:30am Combined Worship once a month on Communion Sunday (usually the first Sunday of the month—we'll let you know about those rare second Sundays) with no children's or youth Sunday School Growth Groups so that everyone can participate in a full worship experience including communion...when we say combined we really mean it 😊

Did you know...that all ***announcements*** need to be ***in to the church office by noon on Tuesdays*** in order to be included in Sunday worship? Live/in person/spur of the moment announcements will no longer occur so that Belleville First becomes a place and worship that visitors want to explore.

Did you know...that all ***prayer requests*** can be found on the tear off in the new bulletin? (***Announcements*** can be found there too!) Please feel free to take the tear off home with you. All the prayer concerns that come into the office are shared through the CCB church email and on the Church App. If you are not tech savvy and don't have an email, feel free to call the church office @ 734-697-9288 from 9am-12pm Tuesday-Thursday to check in. Prayers within the worship service will be of a general nature as we are protecting the privacy of our worshippers and creating a place and worship that visitors want to explore.

Thank you for worshipping with us!
BFUMC Worship Committee

Did you know???

The Connection Card that you find in your bulletin each week helps us to track your attendance. We are using the new Connection Card instead of the friendship pads for safety during the pandemic. Each week as you come to worship you have the opportunity to let us know you're with us. You can use the Connection Card or you can use the MyChurch app to show your attendance. Either way, this is important as we register your attendance in our database. If you're attending and not filling out the card or the app, it is possible a year from now you will receive a letter asking if you still wish to continue as a member of BFUMC. Accurate attendance helps us in our record keeping. If you're a member it's as simple as signing your name and marking member. Please make sure to fill out the Connection Card or MyChurch app next Sunday.

Thanks, The Worship Committee



OUR THOUGHTS *and* PRAYERS *are with* YOU

Pat Aimone

Ray Mitchell & Family

The Sweeney Family

Betty Parmelee

Suanne (The Ferguson's Friend)

John Posegay (Nephew of Mary Posegay)

Nick Martin (Grandson of Mary Posegay)

Valerie Moore & Family



Happy New Year and Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, Church!!!

Christmas is here!!! The Magi/Wise Men/Kings are still on their way to get to baby Jesus by Epiphany (or the 12th day of Christmas) which is January 6th annually in the Christian calendar. *To discover more about what Epiphany means to the United Methodist Church, contact me or see here:*

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-do-you-know-about-epiphany>.

The UMC Christian calendar also highlights the *Baptism of the Lord on January 9th*, *The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observance on the 17th*, and a **Call to Prayer and Self-Denial** between now and March, among other special times. Continuing from our collective congregational Advent devotional reading, Pastor Mary is launching us out together on a life long journey of discipleship to become more like Christ by focusing us on prayer through her sermon series that starts the first Sunday of this month. Now is a great time of year to revisit the BFUMC Spiritual Pathway (found on our website here:

<https://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources>) and engaging with God by prioritizing Growing in Trust.

An immediate way you can take up this powerful global call to prayer is by signing up right now to be a prayer partner

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094AAAAD2FAAF85-2022>)!!! Attending any daily prayer session in the sanctuary at church during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18th – 25th (Tues. – Thurs. from noon – 1 p.m.; Fri, - Mon. 8 – 9 a.m.) is another option. One of the small groups that will start the week of February 20th will be specifically focused on these pathway steps to Growing in Trust through daily engagement with scripture and prayer in The Bible Year that I will lead. Learn more here: <https://youtu.be/wXxCNwr9JD0>. Final small group offerings will be shared towards the end of January when sign-ups are released and full promotion begins, so stay tuned for those opportunities as well.

Thanks so much to all the parents of children and youth who volunteered so heartfully to help offer the Symbols of Christmas worship service December 19th and completely handled the "Goldie" skit that was shared during Christmas Eve worship. The children and youth are putting together the hygiene kits for the unsheltered this month and we thank you for your partnership there as well. I look forward to the ministry year before us including a fall Confirmation Class.

Always, In Christ – Jill

Jill B. Sestok, Director, Spiritual Formation; JBSestok@GMail.com; 313/948-7050



**WINTER
BLAST** 2022

High School * Feb 4-5
Middle School * Feb. 18-19
Elementary * Feb. 18-19

This weekend will be a BLAST! Come ready for sledding, playing games on the ice, worship, and chilling out. Make new friends and catch up with camp friends. Hear stories of Difference Makers from the Bible and discover how we can be Difference Makers too.

Group and individual registration available. \$65 per person (Chaperones stay for free). Everyone welcome! Bring a friend!

Register online at umcamping.org/winter-blast or with the printed form. Contact the registrar if you need help, 989-534-6587, registrar@umcamping.org. Groups bringing their own chaperones may stay over Saturday night and depart after breakfast, add \$10 per person.

High School - grade 9-12 - Feb 4-5
Middle School - grades 6-8 - Feb. 18-19
Elementary School - grades 3-5 - Feb. 18 -19

Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center is located an hour southwest of Lansing., 20 minutes NW of Battle Creek. 1700 Clear Lake, Dowling, MI 49050
info@wesleywoodsmi.org
269-721-8291



SCHEDULE ❄️

Friday

- Check in (5-6pm)
- Dinner
- Games, Chapel, More Games

Saturday

- Breakfast
- Chapel, Games, More Games
- Lunch
- Games, Free Time
- Dinner
- Chapel
- Depart (7pm)

Part of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Family. See umcamping.org/covid for health and safety protocols.

Thank You

To everyone who baked for our Christmas Cookie Walk, we are sincerely grateful. We had a wonderful assortment of cookies. Thanks to everyone who assembled the boxes, and to all who purchased a box or two, we hope you will enjoy them. The monies raised will be a blessing to our UMW Missions. Again thank so much!

Your UMW



Food Closet



The past two months at the Emergency Food Closet have been very busy. In November, 203 bags were distributed and 9 new clients were added. From December 1st through the 18th, 115 bags were passed out and another 10 new clients were added. Since January 1st through December 18th, 136 families have been served with 83 of these new to this year. **1,701** bags of food have been distributed!

As 2021 comes to a close. I would like to thank **everyone** who has volunteered their time packing, shopping, making home deliveries, distributing bags and brochures; donated food and personal care products; and given financial support to help feed and care for the hungry in our community. Your continued support is a blessing!

A Christmas Gift

On the morning of December 17, I was shopping at the Belleville Meijer store and in the check out line. My cart was full of Hunt's spaghetti sauce, boxes of muffin mix, mac and cheese, cases of corn and green beans, Chef Boyardee items, and containers of oatmeal. There were 3 people ahead of me. A gentleman that was two ahead of me paid, moved away, but didn't leave the area. He kept looking at me and my cart and I wondered why. The customer in front of me finished and I placed my items on the belt and the stranger who was still watching asked me what I was doing with all that food. I told him I was shopping for the Emergency Food Closet located at the Belleville First United Methodist Church. He then spoke and said "I want to pay for your order!" I was stunned for this had never happened before. I protested knowing that this was a big bill - \$223.51! He again said, "I want to pay!" and he did. This Christmas Angel is Steve, a resident in Belleville. I thanked him and he left. When I reached my car, a truck pulled in across from me and it was Steve. He came to help load the items in my car. This must have been the day for angels for the man in the car next to me got out and helped load too. What a blessing are the people in this community!

Winter Simply Give

Meijer has selected our food closet to partner with during their *Winter Simply Give Campaign* at the Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. and runs from January 2nd through April 2nd, 2022. This is the **Emergency Food Closet's** biggest fundraiser and helps provide food for our shelves. The campaign has two **Double Match Days – Saturday, March 5th and Saturday, March 26th**. Circle these dates on your calendar! If you would like to purchase a Simply Give card, please purchase on **Double Match Days**. On these two days, Meijer will double what one donates on the card. If one buys a \$10 card, Meijer will donate \$20, for a total donation of \$30. If we can raise \$5,000 total on these two **Double Match Days**, Meijer will match up to \$10,000. Thank you for helping the **Emergency Food Closet** feed the hungry in our community!

Thank You!

A **BIG** thank you goes out to the 22 volunteers who helped unload, sort, tray, and store the 42 boxes of food that arrived at the church on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 19, from the Belleville/Van Buren Township Goodfellows. Thank you Arlene Bird and Pam Fleming for reaching out and having it donated to the Emergency Food Closet. It will provide food for many families!



The **meijer** Simply Give Campaign

Runs
January 2
through April 2, 2022



The Belleville Meijer store is partnering with the Emergency Food Closet housed at the First United Methodist Church to provide food for area families. You can be part of this effort by purchasing food cards at the store check outs. For each \$10 you donate, Meijer will issue a \$10 food card to the food closet. **Double Match Days** – On **Saturday, March 5** and **Saturday, March 26**, Meijer will **double match** your donation. A \$10 purchase on those days results in \$30 of food cards for the Emergency Food Closet.



Please help
feed the hungry
in
Van Buren and
Sumpter Townships
and
the City of Belleville



2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|-----|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> |
| 2 10:30 Worship SS Worship | 3 | 4 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 7pm Ad Council | 5 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band | 6 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Anon (FH) | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:00am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship | 10 | 11 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) | 12 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band | 13 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Anon (FH) | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship Worship Comm | 17 <i>MLK Day</i> <i>Church Closed</i> 7pm Garden Club (FH) | 18 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) | 19 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band | 20 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Anon (FH) | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:00am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship | 24 | 25 10am Food Closet (N) 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 7pm Missions | 26 10am Food Closet (N) 10am Ladies Bible Study (L/FH) 12:30pm Can /Bottle 6:30pm Praise Band | 27 10am AA (FH) 7pm Al-Anon (FH) | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00am Worship 10:30 Worship SS Worship | 31 | | | | | |