



*Thank you for 2023.  
Looking Forward to 2024.  
To God be the glory!*

*Pastor's  
Page for  
January  
2024*

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**Please add me  
to your contacts  
so you'll know  
that it's me.**

*"Intensifying our Jesus Walk" Series  
January and February*

*theme: Harnessing Christian intensity. We need to start 2024 strong. At the beginning of the year is a great time to "intensify" our walk with Christ by learning and developing Spiritual Disciplines that intensify our Christian power to shape the world for Christ and his church.*

- January 7 "Pray and Listen"
- January 14 "Praise and Worship"
- January 21 "Study and Wise Counsel"
- January 28 "Give and Share"
- February 4 "Serve and Help"
- February 11 "Fast and Confess"
- February 14 "Forgive and Reconcile" (Ash Wednesday)
- February 18 "Sabbath and Solitude"
- February 25 "Patience and Love"

*"The legalistic heart says, 'I will do this thing to gain merit with God.'  
The disciplined heart says, 'I will do this thing because I love God  
and want to please Him.'" - Kent Hughes, "Disciplines of a Godly Man."*

*Upcoming Confirmation and Membership Classes (great for new folks and to review)*

Please plan on attending all three classes to learn more about our faith and the church.

**Confirmation Classes** (for those 5<sup>th</sup> grade through High School Graduate)

will be held on Sundays, March 3, March 10, and March 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

**Membership Classes** (High School graduate plus)

will be held on Sundays, March 3, March 10, and March 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Lounge.

**New Nomination's Team Developing at Belleville First UMC**

As we continue to rebuild our leadership teams, we need a strong nine member "Nominations and Leadership Development" team that helps fill volunteer vacancies. Five must-have qualifications: 1) Be a church member or want to become one. 2) Can't be someone serving on the Ad Council, Finance, Trustees, or Staff-Parish Relations Teams. 3) Be someone who seems to know everybody in the church. 4) Be someone who can talk to folks about serving in the church. 5) Be someone who understands our mission and vision. If interested, have an idea who should serve, or have questions, see Pastor Greg.

## Thank You Salvation Army Volunteers

For several years our congregation has supported the efforts of the Salvation Army, this year was no exception. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, for 10 hours, these hardy souls stood in front of Walmart on Belleville Rd, rang the bell, shared smiles and Christmas greetings, sang carols, and helped to fill the kettle for this worthy cause.

Special thank you to these members and their friends for their time and efforts: John MacDermid, Kevin and Lisa Martin, Kelley and Chris Anderson, Micky Keelan, Kelly and Mike Boelter, Donna Gotts, Sandra Patillo, Kim and Ed Paris, Ruth Kessel, Richie Sanders, and Joy and Ed Dubin.

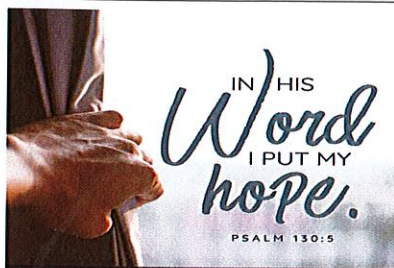
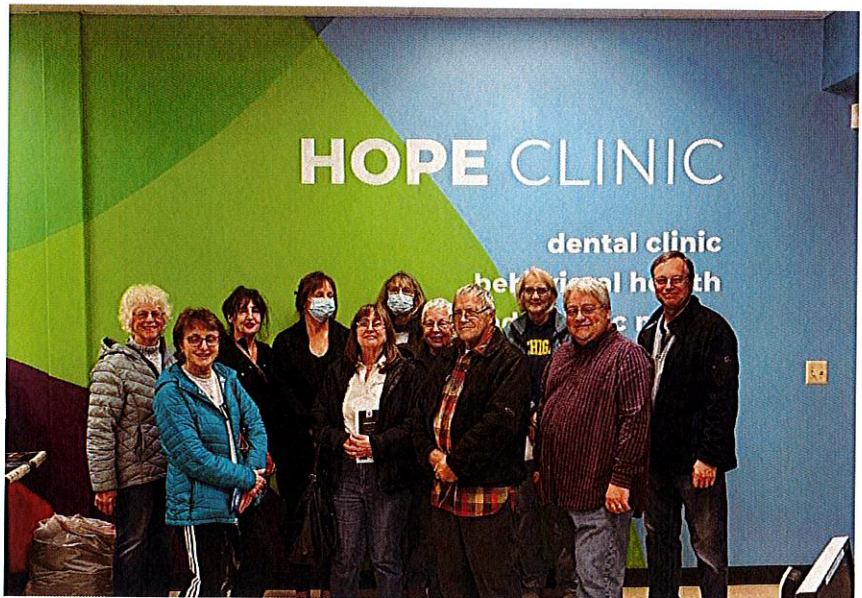
It would not have been possible without you.

## BFUMC Visits Hope Clinic

The Missions Team sponsored a visit to the HOPE Clinic in Ypsilanti on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The HOPE Clinic provides free care for the uninsured that meets physical, mental, and spiritual needs. True health care must address the whole person. That's why Hope Clinic offers integrated and free medical, dental, food, and behavioral health care, all in Jesus' name.

Belleville First has assembled sack lunches for HOPE in the past and we were eager to see the operation first hand. Eleven of us were given a great tour that included HOPE's Medical Clinic, Dental Clinic, Behavioral Health, Sight Program, Hot Meal Program, Food Pantry, Laundry Service, and Diaper Pantry! The services being provided, and the number of volunteers involved, was impressive and all this is being done with Jesus at front and center. We came away with some ideas and an understanding of possible ways to participate with HOPE.

Contact Mark at [mgroe@comcast.net](mailto:mgroe@comcast.net) or 313-617-8994 for more information.



## Bible Trivia Question

\*What unusual gift did King Herod promise his daughter for her birthday?

\*How many people were aboard Noah's Ark?

See page five for the answer.

## Happy Birthday!

Sandy Wilson Jan 1  
Carl Marosi Jan 2  
Scott Skelton Jan 2  
Darryl Raymond Jan 3  
Brayden Keelan Jan 4  
Chris Anderson Jan 10  
Cindy Schloesser Jan 15  
Ayla Dagneau Jan 16  
Adelyn Dagneau Jan 19  
Mike Skelton Jan 23  
Nathan Sparks Jan 23  
Ian Simmons Jan 24  
Jane Cook 31  
Kim Paris Feb 5  
Anne Jones Feb 6.  
Donna Gotts Feb 12  
Linda Lewis Feb 15  
Vern Carlson Feb 18  
Marilyn Wood Feb 21  
Tara Cleveland Feb 24

Candlemas is the reason for the lighted Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

To faithful Christians even now, Candlemas is a solemn and worshipful time, a time to try to be "a light in the world."



## Christmas Fun at BFUMC

WinHN, the cardio drumming group run by Dee Groeneweg, entered a float in the Winterfest Parade. Their float, "He Did His Best for Him", based on the Little Drummer Boy, won the trophy for Best Use of the Parade Theme.



Marilyn and Terri entered a Christmas Tree in the Festival of Trees at the Museum. The tree titled "Helping Hands, at Home and Far Away" was decorated to highlight the things in which the Missions Team is involved.

## Christmas Offering to Engage MI

Our 2023 Christmas offering totaled \$6075.00

Donated as follows;

\$1120.00 to NOAH

\$240.00 to Abundant Health

\$1440.00 to Ganta Hospital and Elementary School Scholarships

\$490.00 to Community Health

\$2785.00 to UMCOR Disaster Relief.



Pam Fleming and Craig Bird of the Belleville Goodfellows.

The Food Closet has been blessed to receive donations from several local businesses and organizations in the last quarter of 2023.

In October Pastor Greg took a trip to New Boston where Swift Transportation had two pallets of macaroni and cheese to donate.

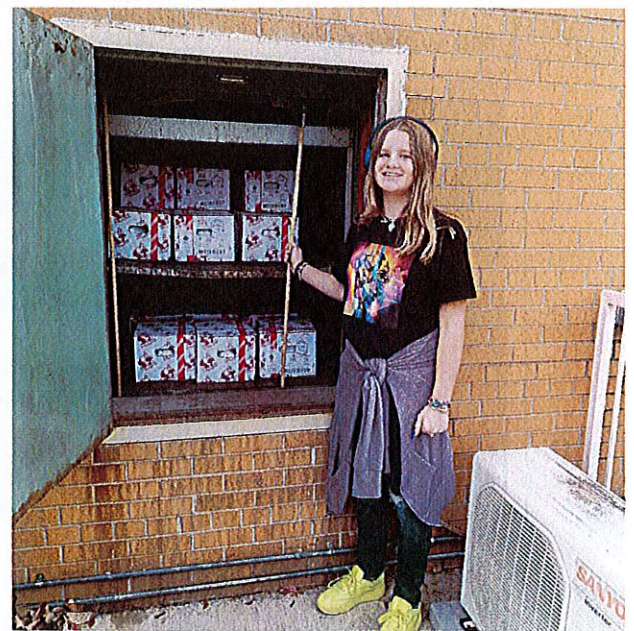
In November, Bayloff Stamping donated 15 frozen turkeys, and Abundant Harvest Church donated 25 boxes of food.

In December, Pam Fleming and Craig Bird (daughter and son of Ralph and Arlene Bird), of the Belleville Goodfellows delivered 14 boxes of food to the Food Closet and on the same day Autokinton donated two van loads of food which Pastor Greg picked up. What a busy day! Already in January Marilyn has received a check for \$10,000.00 from Blue Sky of Belleville.

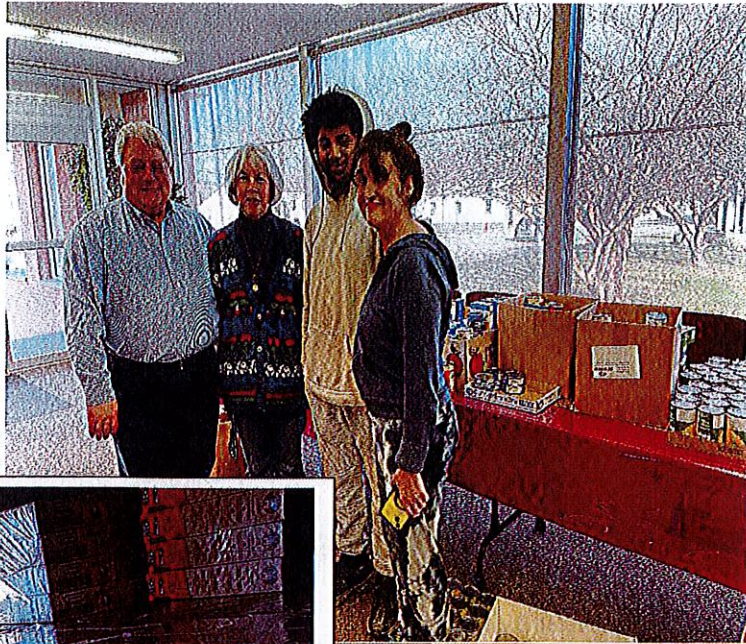
## FOOD CLOSET NEWS



Carol and Karen from Bayloff Stamping with a donation of 15 turkeys.



Sammy Clark manning the ropes on the dumbwaiter.



**Trivia Answers**  
King Herod promised his daughter  
the head of John the Baptist.  
Eight people were aboard the Ark.

## Who Did the Emergency Food Closet Serve in 2023?

Number of Clients	1 or 2 in the family	Family with 3 or >	Family with kids	Receives 2 bags	Age 60 or >	Vet	Has a referral	Receives food stamps	Came once or twice	Came regularly on a monthly basis	Homeless	Served-but a non-resident No Intake sheet done
<b>274</b> =	<b>141</b> +	<b>126</b>	110	40	102	3	141	36	142	123	3	<b>7</b> +

## Percentages in each category with Intake Sheets

Number of Clients	1 or 2 in the family	Family with 3 or >	Family with kids	Receives 2 bags	Age 60 or >	Vet	Has a referral	Receives food stamps	Came once or twice	Came regularly on a monthly basis	Homeless	Served-but non-resident No Intake sheet done % based on 274
<b>267</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>

January 1 through December 31, 2023, **3,015** bags were distributed and had **196** new clients.

January 1 through December 31, 2022, **2,144** bags were distributed and had **114** new clients.

Our numbers increased by **871** bags and **82** new clients during the same time period! **A 41% increase!**

Our oldest client was born in **1936** and our youngest client was born in **2004**.

**73%** of clients served in 2023 (196 new clients /267 clients) were **NEW**.

**December 31, 2023 Chase Food Closet Balance: \$8,810.39**

**December 31, 2023 Meijer Simply Give Card Balance: \$11,000**

# Income and Expense Report for the Emergency Food Closet

January 1 – December 31, 2023

**Income:** (includes deposits & Online transfers/checks) **\$28,425.12**

**Expenses:**

Meijer:	<b>\$51,260.70</b>
Kroger:	<b>\$ 659.74</b>
Aldi:	<b>\$ 8,286.53</b>
Walmart:	<b>\$15,671.49</b>
Jiffy Plant:	<b>\$ 1,623.00</b>
Dollar Tree: (toilet paper)	<b>\$ 1,743.26</b>
Office Sup/Ads: (stamps/Independent Ads)	<b>\$ 848.47</b>
Mich Poly Supply: (brown packing bags)	<b>\$ 886.14</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$80,979.33</b>

**12-31-2023 Simply Give Card Balance:** **\$11,000.00**  
(plus whatever Mark Groeneweg and Lori Summer have left on their cards)

**12-31-2023 Chase Account Balance:** **\$ 8,810.39**

**Information from 2019-2023**

<b>2023</b>	274 families served	3,015 bags distributed	196 new clients	55-85 bags per week
<b>2022</b>	179 families served	2,144 bags distributed	114 new clients	30-45 bags per week
<b>2021</b>	138 families served	1,800 bags distributed	86 new clients	20-30 bags per week
<b>2020</b>	162 families served	didn't record	96 new clients	15-20 bags per week
<b>2019</b>	149 families served	didn't record	88 new clients	20-25 bags per week

**2023** No Food Only cards were distributed due to # of clients and our Chase account balance

**2022** Food Only gift cards for Christmas 110 x \$10 = **\$1,100**

**2021** Food Only gift cards for Christmas 62 x \$25 = \$1,550

Food Only gift cards for Thanksgiving 67 x \$25 = \$1,675 **Total: \$3,225**

**2020** Food Only gift cards May-July 249 x \$20 = \$4,980

Each client received ½ bag of food & a gift card due to pandemic, 2 baggers received double (due to lack of items on shelves and quantity restrictions – with no exceptions at stores)

Food Only gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas 220 x \$20 = \$4,400 **Total: \$9,380**

**2019** Food Only gift cards Thanksgiving & Christmas 75 x \$30 = **\$2,250**

This was the 1<sup>st</sup> year we didn't pass out special food bags at Thanksgiving & Christmas due to cost of food for the bags

**Total spent on Food Only gift cards from 2022-2019: \$15,955**

At one time we had over \$40,000 in our Chase account. Our Meijer Simply Give account continued to rollover and build due to low client numbers. Our "surplus" in cash and Simply Give cards has been spent due to increasing client numbers, the cost of food, and the purchasing of Food Only cards over the past four years.

# The Simply Give Campaign

Runs

December 31 -  
March 30, 2024



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 Simply Give cards at the store check outs. For each \$10 you donate, Meijer will issue a \$10 food card to the food closet. **Double Match Day** – On Saturday, March 2 and Saturday March 23, 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