



Pastor's Page – April through June 2026

"Pastor Greg" Buchner

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

"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" – MIRACLE SUNDAY

"Being Christian Citizens" Series May 24-July 5

Theme: The Bible has a lot to say about how we're supposed to support our communities faithfully through love, service, volunteerism, voting, and of course through peace and justice. The Kingdom of God is not of this world, but it is for this world.

We are Christian first, then citizen second, especially Memorial Day through July Fourth.

- May 24 "Freedom Is Still Not Free"
- May 31 "Pray Always, Pray for All"
- June 7 "Vote Your Values – Responsibly"
- June 14 "Becoming Informed Sheep"
- June 21 "Sharing With Others In Love"
- June 28 "Old Testament Citizens"
- July 5 "New Testament Citizen Servants: Keep God the Theme"

"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.

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

**Sundays 8:30 am
Artley Room
Bring Your Own Breakfast
April 12 – June 21
(homework or during class)**

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 – APRIL 2026 – FOR 4-14-2026 AD COUNCIL MEETING
(as of 4-9-2026)

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

Sunday School: Sunday School is offered weekly for pre-school through 5th grade. Terri Morioka, Kelley Anderson and Lori Summer, Dee Groeneweg and Carol Shuryan all rotate to cover the teaching responsibilities. Teachers will gather the children each week during the second praise song and escort them to class.

Bible Sunday is scheduled for May 10th (Mother's Day). Typically, we give Bibles to those in 3rd grade. If you have an older child that has never received a Bible and would like one let us know and we will make sure to provide an age-appropriate Bible. Please let one of the teachers know if you have a child who wants a Bible and we haven't already contacted you. Dee will be reviewing a workbook on how to use your Bible with the children on Bible Sunday and be sending them home with both their new Bible and workbook that they can finish completing with their parents at home.

The GriefShare Class and Support Group (griefshare.org) is meeting on Saturdays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am in the Lounge through May 2. Please see Joy Dubin Leilani Jones.

“Jesus Did It Anyway” Sunday 8:30 am Bible Study in the Artley Room. April 12-June 21. Bring your own breakfast! 😊 Pastor Greg will be leading.

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Mission Committee members have presented information about Nurse Comfort Flomo and her work at the John Dean Town Clinic for the five weeks preceding the Easter Offering. Planning continues for the Pancake Breakfast on May 25, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., participation in the Belleville Farmers Market on June 1, 2026, July 13, 2026 and August 3, 2026 and providing hospitality to the community during Music Lakeside on Thursday evenings from June 18th to August 20th. Volunteers are needed for all community engagement activities and sign-up sheets will be circulated. Submitted April 1, 2026.

MISSIONS – EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

January 1 –March 31, 2026: 806 bags & frig items distributed.
52 new clients; 9 Non-Residents (served one time only); 4 Homeless.

166 more bags & frig items distributed from 1-1- 26 through 3-31-26 than in the same time period in 2025. We also had 23 more new clients.

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

The exercise class is making plans to participate in Lakefest again this year. We will be drumming in the church parking lot on Saturday June 27 at 10am.

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 Easter from the Ad Council.

Our Mission statement at the Belleville FUMC, printed at the top of every Ad Council agenda, is: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Let’s admit it, most of us don’t jump up from church and go witness to a neighbor!

If you get a chance though, do a couple of things. Go to our church's website, bellevillefirstumc.org, and click on Food Closet when it comes around. Watch the video, and see how active we are in the community, and how much the community helps us.

Then look at the teams reports in this bulletin. Look at the exciting things these small groups or committees of the church are doing. We have a new renter that will help our finances, and we have people coming to our church for the first time, as well as some coming back to us. I've talked to people that are here because they attended a grief class, or because we have Sunday School classes, or they helped at the food closet.

We have been praying, and God has been answering! Now it is our chance. You don't have to go door to door to witness and share God's love. You can just fight off your shyness, and go say welcome to those new people in our church. You can be one of Jesus' disciples right in your own church!

If you feel inspired to be more active in your church, volunteer, or check the website. If you don't feel you can give any more of your time than Sunday, then get up and go tell those new people how glad you are they are here. If you can't make it to church, pray for your church's wellbeing. There are many ways each of us can make a difference!

FINANCE

In February 2026, we brought in \$15,043. We spent \$20,749 in expenses, so we had a net loss of (\$5,706). We still have \$108,425 in our long-term savings that we will need to use to cover the increased month expenses in 2026. We are showing a (\$10,637) total loss for 2026 as of the end of February.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We are looking for folks who are willing to be on our tech team. Training will be provided. See Pastor Greg or Evan for more information or to volunteer.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

In celebration of Administrative Professionals Day, we will be honoring Terri Morioka during coffee hour on Sunday April 26. During our monthly meetings, we continue to review and update job descriptions for our staff.

TRUSTEES

We have established our new rental agreement and have welcomed, Solid Rock of Belleville, to our building. They had their first service on April 5th, Easter Sunday. I would like to thank Ed Paris for his plumbing skills. He fixed a toilet in the Sunday school room and a leaky urinal in the basement men's bathroom. Also, would like to thank Jack Keelan for fixing one of the heat pumps in the boiler room. That repair maintains the heat in the Sanctuary. Burned light bulbs have been replaced in the Narthex and in the basement. We strive to maintain our building in good condition. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

WORSHIP

Starting April 12, using our new United Methodist vision, "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously" we will be joining 30,000 congregations worldwide to raise vital support for 500 clergy a year through The Endowment for Theological Education outside the U.S. through a special Miracle Sunday planned for May 17. Each week will be seeing videos of those who will be most effected by our generosity. Our next Song-sing & Potluck will be May 24 at 4 pm. Praise songs and hymns are included. Join us!