

Pastor's Page – August through October 2026

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"End Time Keys" Bible Series July 12 – August 30

Theme: For unbelievers, to believe in Jesus before it is too late. For believers, to move from fear to anticipation. "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe." – John 14:29

August 23 "The Promise of Hell and Outer Darkness"
August 30 "The Promise of Heaven and God's Eternal Promises"

"Just the Basics. Just Jesus" Bible Series - September 6 – September 27

Theme: Scriptures we should know and memorize, because they are the foundation of our Christian faith taught by Christ to us.

September 6, "Saving Grace and Love"
September 13, "Overcoming Anxiety: Personal Peace"
September 20, "Guidance and Strength"
September 27, "Our Identity In and Because Of Christ"

"Living Jesus' Kingdom Parables" - October 4 - November 22

Theme: Jesus told over 30 parables in the New Testament as a way of teaching those who have ears to ear.

October 4, "The Kingdom Is Here And Then There"
October 11, "The Unsurpassing Value of God's Kingdom"
October 18, "Growing and Influencing For God's Kingdom"
October 25, "Radical Grace – God's Kingdom Generosity"
November 1, "Kingdom Lost And Found: All Things Matter"
November 8, "Neighborly Love and Responsibility"
November 15, "Prayer and Persistence"
November 22, "Building Wise Foundations"

Rev. John Wesley on Jesus' Use of Parables

"John Wesley defined parables as "apt similes or comparisons" used by Jesus to explain spiritual truths, through natural things. In his "Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament," Wesley wrote that (Jesus') teaching style drew attention, helped deep truths sink into serious hearers, and served a dual role, of justice and mercy, by hiding meanings from the proud and careless."

(www.ccel.org/ccel/wesley/notes.i.iii.v.html)

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member, please check out the "belong" series found at:
www.bellevillefirstumc.org/groups
or contact Pastor Greg.

MINISTRY

Are you looking for a ministry? Is God calling you? Then check out the "United Methodist Ministry descriptions at:
www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources
or contact Pastor Greg

**"Song-Sing and Potluck" – 5 PM
Sunday, September 20**

Song list, beverages, silverware provided You can bring food if you wish, but there's always enough so everyone can come.



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





Belleville First United Methodist Church

Making Disciples - Transforming the World

TEAM'S UPDATE – AUGUST 2026 – FOR 8-16-2026 CONGREGATION

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: Children's Sunday School will resume in September.

"Women Gathering Together" now meets regularly on Wednesday nights at 6 :00 pm in the Artley Room. Please see Joy Dubin for details.

Men's Group has been doing some fun FELLOWSHIP things this year. Next is the August 23rd Zucchini Sunday. Bring your length and a photo if you wish. Also please remember the September 12 garage sale will be happening. Please save your items and bring them that day. See Carl Marosi for questions. For more information you may talk to Carl Marosi.

Membership is Christian Education and Discipleship. Do you want to become a member? Our "belong" series is now at: www.bellevillefirstumc.org/groups, or ask Pastor Greg for information. We will be celebrating Baptism and Professing Membership on Sunday August 16, 2026. Linda Lewis is officially joining after being a part of the church for many years.

MISSIONS -- COMMITTEE

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

Missions Committee members participated in the Belleville Farmers Market on June 1, 2026, July 13, 2026 and August 3, 2026 and provided information to the community about WiHn, outreach and support efforts for the unhoused in the area and the Emergency Food Closet. Additionally, committee members and volunteers from the congregation are providing hospitality and aid for Music Lakeside at Horizon Park on Thursday evenings by hosting the event indoors during inclement weather and providing restroom access to attendees. Music Lakeside is scheduled through September 3, 2026 and sign-up sheets are available on the coffee table in the narthex for those who wish to volunteer. Kelley Anderson and Dee Groeneweg will assume co-chair positions for the Missions Committee in September 2026.

MISSIONS – EMERGENCY FOOD CLOSET

8-11-26 Ad Council Emergency Food Closet Report

January 1 – July 31, 2026:

1,868 bags & frig items distributed 115 new clients
 15 Non-Residents (served one time only) 10 Homeless
 151 more bags & frig items distributed
 from 1-1-26 through 7-31-26 than in the same time period in 2025.

Expenses: YEAR TO DATE (as of July 31): \$ 57,374.36
Income: YEAR TO DATE (as of July 31): \$ 38,534.13
 (which includes \$20,000 from Cozadd Foundation)

Simply Give Balance (July 31, 2026): 0

Chase Debit Account Balance (Aug. 1, 2026): \$60,373.41

ALL shopping is being paid for with Chase Debit Card at this time.

I received a very nice email back from Matthew Carpenter, the owner of the new Chick-fil-A. He was impressed with our food closet and we are being considered for a donation.

I've looked on the web for more info about the new Sheetz gas station at Haggerty and Ecorse. Since it hasn't opened yet, there is little information. Sheetz does have a program called Sheetz for Kids but I'll need to wait until the new station is open to find out more.

I received an email from Findley Arnett, who is the Constituent Services Director from State Rep. Reggie Miller's office, on a grant available from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and Blue Cross Complete of Michigan for the Nourishing Communities: Nutrition Access, Education and Impact grant. I am in the process of applying and it is due on August 14, 2026.

Dee Groeneweg is going to apply for a donation to the food closet from the Belleville Planet Fitness.

8 Vacation Bible School students from the 7-day Adventist Church packed 36 bags on Tuesday, July 14.

On July 21, Ken Voigt and Kathleen Springer presented a \$2,000 check from the sale of the 2026 Goat T-shirt sales.

Due to the donation of \$2,000 from a resident, \$1,000 from cans and bottle returns from the Dolot family, and the \$2,000 from the sale of Goat Day T-shirts, we have enough money to guarantee the \$5,000 to receive the \$10,000 in the Double Day Campaign (Aug. 15 & Sept. 12) in this Meijer Simply Give Campaign.

Sarah Rigg, the new Belleville Independent editor, is visited the food closet on Tuesday, July 28th.and will write a story on our work in an upcoming issue.

The food closet had a table at the Farmer's Market on Monday, Aug.3 to share what we do. Carl Marosi informed me that the Men's Club is turning over the annual garage sale to the food closet. This will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 8-4. Donations to sell are needed as are

volunteers. Set-up will start at 8 am. Donations may be dropped off then too. Many hands will be needed to help with this food closet fundraiser.

MISSIONS – WIHN / HEALTHY HABITS GROUP

On April 28th the girl scout troop 78163 helped make 300 sandwiches and pack 300 lunches for NOAH at Central in Detroit. They were delivered and served the morning of Wednesday, April 29th by girl scout leaders Jenn Mirch, Jeneen Rippey and her daughter Maddie, along with Dee, Kim Paris, and Mike and Julie Skelton. The scouts brought a few donations for the food closet.

WiHn is now meeting only twice weekly. Healthy Habits is on hold for the summer. Pickleball has resumed on Thursday mornings at 9am at the Van Buren Township pickle park. Calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Dee hosted the church's booth at the Farmers Market on Monday June 1st. She gave out information about WiHn and outreach to scout troops.

WiHn participated at Lakefest at 10am on Saturday June 27th in our church parking lot. It was a smaller crowd this year due to not teaming up with another drumming instructor but those that attended had a blast!!

The next NOAH lunch event is planned with a boy scout troop for Tuesday, September 22nd with delivery downtown the following morning.

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 the tech team for details. The best time to learn is during setup, one hour before Sunday service.

CHURCH OPERATIONS

AD COUNCIL

Greetings from your Ad Council. I hope everyone's summer is going great! Have you ever found yourself at home thinking "God has been so good to me! I wish there was something I could do for Him."? Well, there are opportunities for service on some of our committees. If the Lord is leading you into a closer relationship with Him and His church, here is your chance. Approach someone you know that is on one of our committees and say "I want to serve!" We'll find a spot for you and you'll be storing up riches in Heaven! God bless you all and we pray God blesses our church! Pete

PS – The District Superintendent has set our Church Conference via Zoom for September 16, 7:00 pm. Pastor Greg will be in his office for those who wish to join him there.

FINANCE

In June 2026, our YTD income/giving is about the same as it was in 2025. The rental income is helping, but it is a lower monthly amount than our previous tenant. Expenses are up overall with the increase salary cost, utilities, church repairs and maintenance. We are showing a loss of (\$24,000), which averages to a (\$4,000) a month shortage. We have \$113,402 in our long-term savings and it is recommended that we transfer some of that to our general fund to cover the remainder of 2026.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We are still 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. And, as always, find all the opportunities on our website, www.bellevillefirst.org/resources.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

We thank all of our staff (volunteer and paid) for their dedication to God and their service to our church and community. Please keep all of our staff and volunteers in your prayers.

TRUSTEES

Outside work continues: fighting weeds, trimming tree branches, and going after a mole that keeps travelling around the bushes. LOL. New business: Trustees have approved the installation of a lift chair, for those who find the stairs to be a challenge. Look for it in the next couple of months. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

WORSHIP

Join us and invite others! Our current worship series is our "End Time Keys" Bible series through August 30. "Just the Basics. Just Jesus" Bible Series will be in September. Our next Song-sing & Potluck will be September 20 at 5 pm. Everything is provided, so just bring yourself. There's always enough food to share, so please feel invited whether you come with food or not ready to worship.

5 Reasons to Join Choir this Year

1. *It's super fun, and the people are fun too.*
2. *You will learn new songs.*
3. *You will meet new friends.*
4. *You will increase your singing skills.*
5. *You help lead meaningful worship.*

"O come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation"

Psalm 95; 1

See Judy Weed for more information.

