

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 4 p.m. – Nine Lessons and Carols**

**“Stewardship: Give Thanks” Series**

Theme: Thankfulness overrides everything!

- November 2 “Thankful for the Empty Cross and Empty Grave”
- November 9, “Thankful for the Opportunity to be Generous”
- November 16, “Thankful for Family and Friends”
- November 23, “Being Thankful Means Everything”

**“Down To Earth Christmas” Series**

Theme: “A virgin birth. God’s son...a helpless baby. Fleeing certain death. Nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary.”- Slaughter

- November 30, “Down to Earth: Choose Love”
- December 7, “Down to Earth: Humility”
- December 14, “Down to Earth: Lifestyle”
- December 21, “Down to Earth: Obedience”
- December 24, “Down to Earth: Be Loved. Do Love.” - 4:00 p.m.
- December 28, “Down to Earth: Be Faith. Be Hope. Be Joy.”  
(Communion will be shared.)

**“Giving God All of 2026” Series**

Theme: With a fresh start, a clean slate, and a willing mind, we dedicate 2026 to God’s will being done in and through us.

- January 4, “New Beginnings” – Paul Smith  
(no Communion shared until February 1)
- January 11, “Believing: Beginning & Baptism”
- January 18, “Following Jesus Everywhere”  
“Song-Sing and Potluck – 5 p.m.”
- January 25, “Repenting & Discipling”

**“Having A Healthy Heart” Health Series - February 1 – February 22**

**“Resurrection Preparation” Gospel Series – March 1 – April 5**

**Pastor’s Page**

**November 2025 – January 2026**

“Pastor Greg” Buchner

o: 734-697-9288

c: 734-252-9110 pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com

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



**“BELONG”  
Membership Classes**

- *Meaning of Baptism*

- *Meaning of  
Membership Vows -  
Meaning of Holy  
Communion*

- *Why Belong to  
Belleville First UMC*

*Save the Date:  
January 2026*

*Watch for dates and  
times in the bulletin.*

**“Song-Sing and Potluck”  
Sunday, January 18**

**5 p.m. - Song-Sing**

**6 p.m. - Potluck**



**Add to your calendars!**

**Invite and Bring Others!**





### ***"Searing for Trusted Normal" Series***

Theme: We can trust God for everything!

Verse: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." (Psalm 20:7)

- September 7 "Build the God Foundation"
- September 14 "Grow"
- September 21 "Activate Faith"
- September 28 "Accept God's Promises"

### ***"The Power of Christ-Centered Music" Series***

Theme: ALL music and worship can soothe the mortal soul.

Verse: Ephesians 5:19 – "...Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord..." (Ephesians 5:19)

- October 5 "Worship and Praise"
- October 12 "Healing and Hope"
- October 19 "Joy Over Sorrow"
- October 26 "Peace Over Distress"

### ***"Stewardship: Give Thanks" Series***

Theme: Thankfulness overrides everything!

Verse: "...Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever..." – Psalm 136:1-26

- November 2 "Thankful for the Empty Cross and Empty Grave"
- November 9, "Thankful for the Opportunity to be Generous"
- November 16, "Thankful for Family and Friends"
- November 23, "Being Thankful Means Everything"

### ***"Down to Earth Christmas" Series***

***November 30 – December 28***

***Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m.***



### ***"BELONG"***

#### ***Membership Classes***

- Meaning of Baptism
- Meaning of Membership Vows -
- Meaning of Holy Communion
- Why Belong to Belleville First UMC

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays  
ZOOM (September 17 – October 8)

8:30 a.m. Sundays  
(September 21 – October 12)

October 19 – Baptism-Affirmation of Faith – New Members join.

### ***"Song-Sing and Potluck"***

***Sunday, Oct 19, 2025***

***(5 p.m. - Song-Sing  
6 p.m. - Potluck)***



**Add to your calendars!  
Invite and Bring Others!**

## ***Pastor's Page***

***September - November 2025***

***"Pastor Greg" Buchner***

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***c: 734-252-9110 pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com***

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## **TEAM'S UPDATE**

emailed 11-4-25 in bulletin 11-9-25



**Belleville First United Methodist Church**  
Making Disciples - Transforming the World

**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 life long journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.**

***"Moving Forward in Christ Together"***

### **Ministry Teams**

#### **Christian Education**

Our children's ministry will remain available each Sunday meeting the hallway/narthex just after the first song. See Terri if you're interested in finding out more or perhaps to volunteer.

#### **Missions - Committee**

The Missions Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The Missions Committee hosted a tent at the Belleville Harvestfest on October 11, 2025 with information about the Emergency Food Closet, resulting in a new volunteer. On October 26, 2025, the congregation joined in assembling 200 bag lunches for Hope Clinic, which Mark Groeneweg delivered. The Advent Giving Tree to support the residents at Girlstown Residential will launch on November 22, 2025. The Living Nativity is scheduled to coincide with Belleville's Winterfest Parade on December 6, 2025. Conversations continue around establishing a Thrift Shop under the guidance of Mike Skelton.

#### **Missions – Emergency Food Closet Report**

- January 1 – October 31, 2025: 2,571 bags and frig items distributed; 163 new clients; 334 families served; and 689 more bags and frig items distributed in 2025 than in same time period in 2024!
- October has been our busiest month – 296 bags and frig items distributed, 20 new clients with 10 of these the week of October 26-November 1. Expenses for the month are \$9,768 (296 x \$33-average cost of bag and frig items)
- Chase Account Balance (October 31, 2025): \$48,469.76  
Simply Give Balance: (from Winter SG campaign – as of October 31, 2025): \$2,000
- January 1 – September 30, 2025 Food Expenses: \$61,239.74 (\$49,417.93 spent at Meijer with SG monies) + \$11,821.81 spent from Chase account (Aldi, Kroger, Walmart, and Jiffy plant). An additional \$3,035.45 spent at Dollar Tree for toilet paper (Chase). \$1,028.33 spent on ads, stamps and bags (Chase). TOTAL: \$65,303.52
- As our numbers continue to grow, as do food prices, we may need to limit some food choices like hamburger and lunchmeat to once a month. Depending on income, we may have to go to distributing to clients ONCE a month starting in January, 2026.

- Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, there may be "a limited availability of funds" to pay the 42 million recipients of SNAP next month. This will have a big impact in the state since nearly 13% of households, or roughly 1.4 million people, receive the benefits in Michigan. I'm sure we will see another increase in new clients.
- Jack Keelan and Brian Shephard have repaired the dumb waiter but it has developed a new problem. Hopefully, it can be repaired soon. We will be packing bags in the Artley room until we can use the dumb waiter.
- I have not received notification of when we may be included in the next Meijer Simply Give Campaign. Hopefully, it will be in their holiday campaign.
- Clients will be notified verbally and with notes in their bags that the food closet will be closed December 21st through January 4th. Clients may come the 1st and 2nd, 1st and 3rd, or 2nd and 3rd weeks in December. (November 11, 2025)

### **Missions – WiHn Group**

For more info, please check out the office calendar and search on Facebook for "WiHn" at [www.facebook.com/groups/791547715163419](http://www.facebook.com/groups/791547715163419).

### **Tech**

Tech - We're looking for help in the AV 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, 1 hour before Sunday service, or during Praise Band practice (currently Thursdays at 6 pm)

### Church Operations

#### **Ad Council**

Hi Hello everyone. I missed the last Ad Council meeting due to some personal issues, however that doesn't mean things didn't happen. A lot is going on behind the scenes.

Our church has a new Security committee. These people will be looking at ways to assure that our church is a safe place. God definitely watches over us and keeps us safe, but we also need to help ourselves. We want to make sure that people feel safe and comfortable, and that they want to come to church.

I had asked you to pray about our church, and I want to thank you all for your prayers. As you'll see when you look at the financial portion of our reports, God provided a donor that helped our church finances come out in the positive for the first time in several months! Believe that God hears and answers prayers! It's not just something we say.

I ask again for your prayers, for our finances, for our congregation, for our safety. Our church can be packed to the doors again. Just pray and trust God.

Our teams are doing wonderful things, Many of the teams have many things happening to reach out and fill needs in our community. We will be continuing to explore new ways to increase our attendance and to improve our financial picture.

Please continue to pray for our church, our leaders, and our efforts to improve our church.

And by the way, have you asked someone close to you, be it friend, family, or co-workers, to come to church? Have you asked someone in the past week, month, year? This is not to fill the seats. This is to share God's love and message with as many people as we can.

Thanks to you all for the wonderful, loving atmosphere that you have created in our church!  
Pete

### **Finance**

As of September 2025, we have a checkbook balance of \$60,225 and \$119,141 in our designated funds, including \$35,577 designated toward elevator. Our United Methodist Foundation Funds (our long-term savings) we have \$105,443. Thanks to our generous donors, this past month we took in more money than we spent, expenses remain stable.

### **Nominations and Leadership Development**

We are so thankful for all our volunteers! We are now looking for someone to help us write and follow up on grants. Please see Pastor Greg if you're interested. Please check out our online resource, ([www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources](http://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/resources)) "United Methodist Ministry Descriptions." Each ministry's hard copies are also available to loan from Terri or Pastor Greg.

### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

Please be sure to say thank-you to anyone who serves at Belleville First UMC. We are thankful for ALL our staff, paid and volunteer, who work extremely hard to make sure ALL is done well.

### **Trustees**

Our committee is coming up with ideas for better usage of space. Also, we are implementing a security plan to keep our church safe. Fall projects are coming such as landscaping clean up and the removal of our big tree. We continue to extend our big thanks to those who have helped in the past. If you see anything that needs attention, please contact Micky Keelan at 734-740-3700.

### **Worship**

Our "Stewardship: Give Thanks" series continues with our Consecration Sunday being Nov. 23, when we turn in our estimate cards for 2026. And the "Down To Earth Christmas" series will be Nov. 30 – Dec. 28. The Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" Service, Dec. 24, will be at 4 p.m. this year. Communion will be served on Dec. 28, but not on Jan. 4.

## Food Closet Happenings

**With** the recent failure of our government to pass a budget, more and more people have been short of food to feed their families. The Emergency Food Closet has seen an increase of people coming for help, the Food Closet has also seen an outpouring of help from this congregation, local businesses, service organizations and individuals. What amazing blessings we have received.

**Girl Scout Troop 77515, Cub Scout Pack 793, and Boy Scout Troop 231** along with parents, siblings and their troop leaders delivered 476 bags and boxes of food to the Emergency Food Pantry on Saturday, November 8. The scouts were excited and worked very hard! Over a period of 4 hours, the food was sorted, date checked for "freshness", and stored by 27 scouts, parents, and leaders.

A big thank you goes out to Terri, Lori, Cindy, Mark, Dee, and Micky for giving up their Saturday morning to help. The food was donated from 14 sub divisions and continued to trickle in to church all week.

This is the most food collected by the scouts in recent years. It will help fill many food bags and the Little Free Food Panty on Charles St. for several months. Thanks to everyone who participated!

**Steven Dolot, a non-verbal adult with multiple impairments, has been** sorting and recycling the pop bottles/cans that our congregation and community members have donated.

Since the fall of 2020, Steven has donated \$11,805 to the food closet!!! That's a lot of cans! This fundraiser has not only benefitted the food closet but has also helped Steven with attaining job skills and giving a purpose to his daily routine.

Thanks to everyone who has donated bottles and cans. Keep them coming!

**Purpose Dental** located at 45520 Tyler Rd, Belleville under the direction of Dr. Nicholas Kizy, regional manager Summer, and office manager Tania delivered 60 children's dental bags and 60 adult dental bags to the food

closet on November 5. Each bag contains a tooth brush, tooth paste, dental floss and an information card about the services offered at the practice. They hope to do this again at Christmas and then every 3 months!

On Wednesday, November 5, Terri received a surprise phone call from a trucking company that had two pallets of 5 lb bags of potatoes that needed a home. At 11:15 the semi carefully, with Pastor's help, backed up to the garage. Calls for help were made and many hands arrived to help unload and store the bags in the garage. I think we received over 300 - 400 bags!

Some were taken to the Helping Hands store in Romulus where they will prepare Thanksgiving dinner bags and are being distributed now. Some went to Hope Clinic for their hot meal program, some to migrant workers in the area. The rest were given to our food closet clients. Mashed potatoes for everyone!

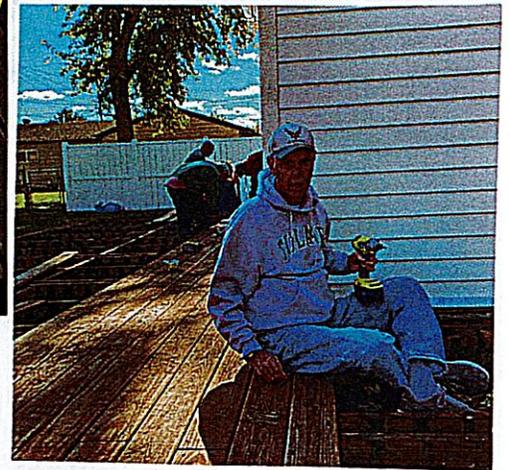
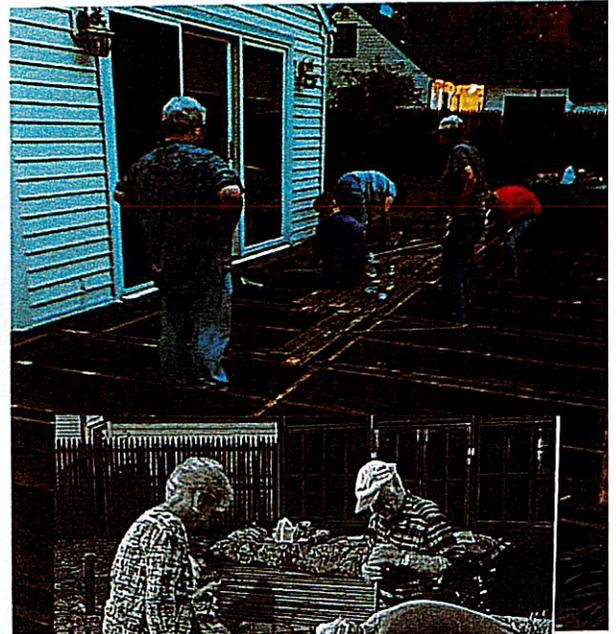
Once a year, the employees and staff at the Belleville Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. select a local charity to receive a \$10,000 donation which will be used to help the local community. On Thursday, November 13th, the Emergency Food Closet was presented a check at the Meijer store for our work in feeding those who are experiencing food insecurity in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville. Marilyn stated, "We are so grateful and blessed to receive this money. It will fill many, many bags with food. Without the support, partnership, and philanthropic philosophy of Meijer and its Simply Give Program, we could not provide the help and support we give to community residents."

Pictured: Pastor Greg and Food Closet volunteers: Kelvin Brooks, Terri Morioka, Marilyn Wood, Lori Summer, Micky Keelan, Meijer Rep- Sarah Johnson, Steve Lazere, Nancy Boltrick and Scott MacShara.



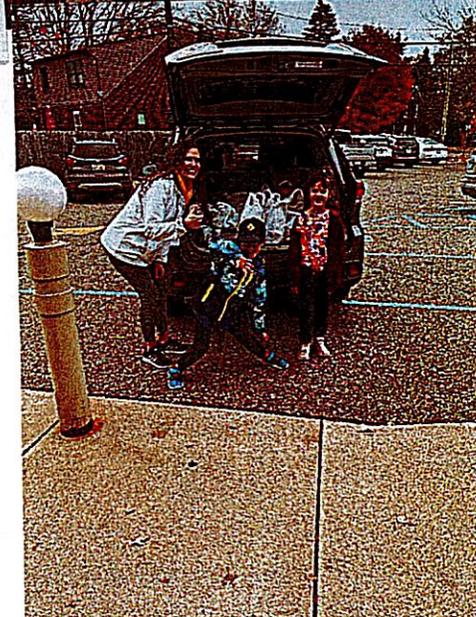
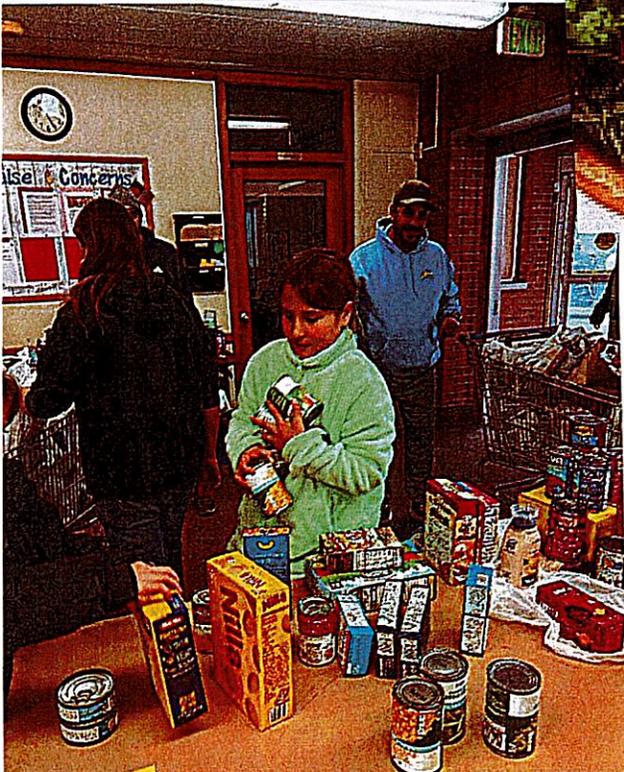
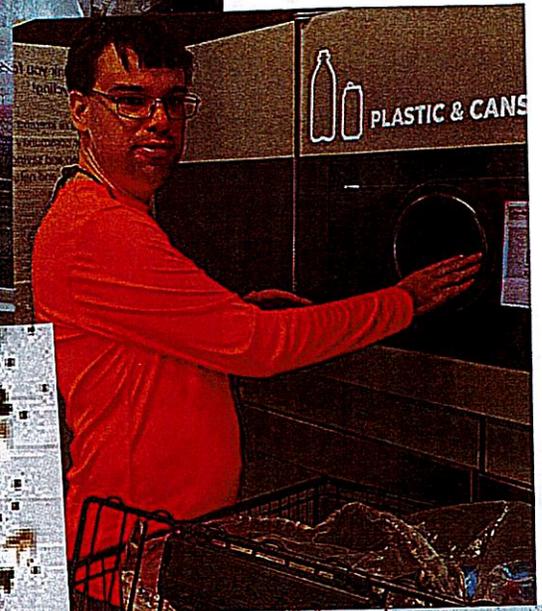
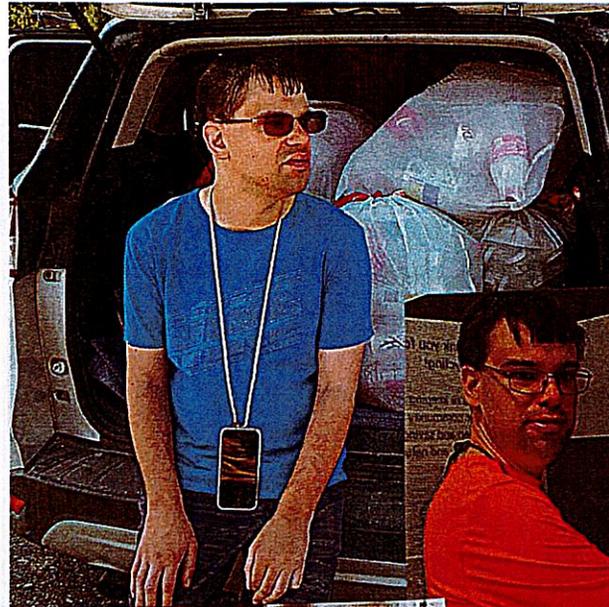
In August the Food Closet was given a small freezer, by the Belleville Robotics Team. Shortly thereafter we had a few power failures at the church, this made us see the need for generators at church to protect the food stored there. Micky had the idea to ask the congregation if anyone had a generator they weren't using to donate to the Food Closet. On Saturday, October 18, and Monday and Tuesday, October 20 and 21, many BFUMC Men's Club members and some BFUMC women, ripped out Donna Collins back deck and replaced it with new wood, in return Donna donated her generator to the food closet.

Thank you Carl & WynAnn Marosi; Anne, Liam, & Avery Jones; Pastor Greg, AnnMarie, and Matthew Buchner; Mark Groeneweg; Vern Carlson; Jim Wilson; Frank Hayes; Mike Skeleton; and Ed Paris for making this happen! Donna provided a delicious lunch for all on Monday! The food closet is grateful and now will be prepared for our next power outage!



On Saturday, September 11, Lisa and Kevin Martin and Marilyn Wood set up a display about the Emergency Food Closet at the court next to the historical museum for Harvest Fest. Many stopped by to look at the display board and pick up a brochure. Children got Halloween erasers, squishy pumpkin balls, honey balls, book marks, and candy.







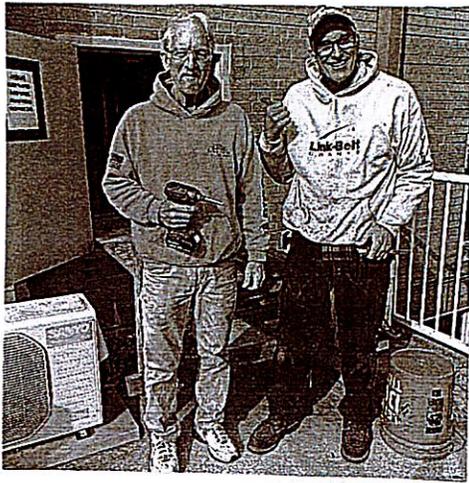
The Staff Parish Relations Committee celebrated Pastor Greg at a coffee hour. Thank you Pastor Greg, for all you do to keep us focused on our goal of serving God.



We had a good turnout for our Fall Song-Sing and Potluck. About 30 people came to sing and eat some delicious food. A wide variety of songs were sung and everyone had a good time... even though some were only listeners.

This time our dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall, the plan for our January potluck is to serve dinner in either the Narthex or the Lounge. We hope to see you there.





Our dumb waiter is fixed, again, at last. After Jack and Brian spent several days working on it and got it running for us, it started making a banging sound. The men came back and figured out the problem, but then work and illness got in the way.

The Food Closet adapted and took over more space. Then, the parts arrived and Jack and Brian were both healthy...at the same time.

So "thank you, thank you, thank you" to these two men for your perseverance in getting the job done.

On Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, FUMC had another Hope Clinic packing day. Following Service we packed 200 shelf stable lunches per Hope Clinic's instructions. These lunches are given to the homeless when they come for the hot meal. They are all items that can be opened and eaten in between the daily hot meal.

Mark Groeneweg reported that three quarters of The lunches were handed out the first week.

