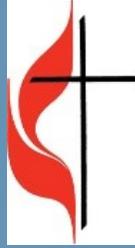
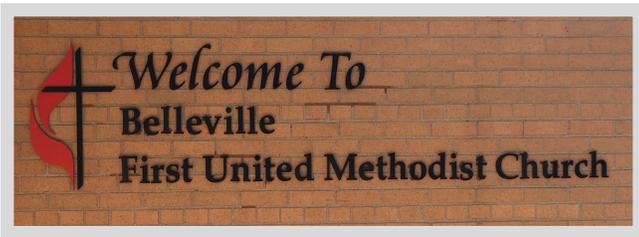


CONNECTIONS

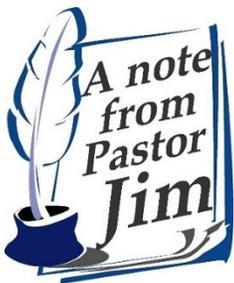
February 2019 ISSUE



**BELLEVILLE FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
417 CHARLES ST.
BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
(734) 697-9288
FAX: (734) 697-9215

Mission: *Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

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.*



Dear Friends,

Our friend, the recently deceased Ken Grice, had a minivan with only two seats in the front and a bench seat in the back, and in between there was nothing but carpeted open floor. The open spot in the van was for Jan's wheel chair when they traveled. Ken and I often went out to lunch and with me sitting in the far back, it could be challenging to carry on a conversation. When he talked as he drove I couldn't understand much while he was watching the road. When he turned around to face me as he drove, I could clearly understand him but oncoming traffic and obstacles held my attention more than his words. The Ken's lips would be moving, but I either had no idea what was being said, or my focus was on the road ahead. In that van, it wouldn't matter how

loud you talked, how sincere you were, or how important your words were. The other passenger couldn't hear what you were saying.

In Matthew 13 of the Bible, Jesus says, "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up." (verses 3-4) That seed never stood a chance. In verse 19, Jesus explains that "when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart." This doesn't say they didn't want the Gospel or that they rejected it. It says they didn't understand it.

There have never been as many Christians who have as much Christianity as we do. We have Christian everything, but we are surrounded by post-Christian neighbors, friends, and coworkers who don't know there's a Gospel, don't ever plan to go to a religious meeting to hear a religious speaker talk on a religious subject, and who don't understand our meetings or our language.

Why are we so disconnected from each other? It's easy to say, "Oh, they're rejecting the Lord." Are they

Continued on page 3

Prayer Requests

Members At Home:

Nancy Carey

Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities:

Bobbie Winters
Superior Woods

Luanne Genga
The Sanctuary– St. Joes

Pam Boughton



Holly Fitch, Daughter of Jim & Carol Fitch

Christopher Stone
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Michael Stone
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Blake
Grandson of Betty Hughey

Jared Stabnau
Grandson of Harvey & Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm



Julia Wyn Ann	Anderson	3
Carol	Leake	4
Kim	Paris	5
Anne	Jones	6
Jeremy	Rhodes	6
Angelle	Whitt	9
Amy	Lucidi	9
Brooke	Lucidi	9
Kathleen	Caldwell	10
Sierra	Clark	10
Donna	Gotts	12
Justin	Goike	13
Linda	Lewis	15
Carol	Shuryan	15
Chris	Whitt	16
Tiffany	Rhodes	17
Vern	Carlson	18
Marilyn	Wood	21
Suzanne	Stevens	22
Tara	Cleveland	24
Minette	Brownlee	25
Ralph	Bird	29



Ed and Joy Dubin	15
Lila and Dick Timm	16
Ron and Joyce Banks	9
Paul and Cindy Smith	9

Pastor Jim cont'd

rejecting the Lord, or are they rejecting our Christian language? They don't know what our words mean. It's like a mission field where the missionaries speak in their own language instead of the native language. They don't understand the words sin, believe, born again, accept Christ, or personal Savior. It's like the scene in the wind-whipped desert. They see our lips moving, but they haven't a clue as to what we are saying. It doesn't matter how loudly we present the Gospel, how sincere we are, or how life-or-death the information is. They just can't figure out what we're trying to say.

Since we do have a life-or-death message, and since we have a life-or-death responsibility to get it out, we have to translate the message - not just transmit it. To translate the Gospel means to put it into their words and go the extra mile to communicate it so they will understand. There are three challenges:

1. Love lost people in their language, and be in the places that matter to them. Find needs they have in their lives, and help meet those needs so they know you love them in Christ.
2. Live for Christ in their language. Be a better employee because you are a Christian. Be a better employer, neighbor, son, daughter, mom, or dad. Do the things that will show them the difference Christ makes in a way that will matter to them.
3. Speak the Gospel in their language. Since relationships are so important, talk about the Gospel as life's most important relationship. This is a relationship you're supposed to have, you don't have because of sin, and you can have because of Jesus, but one you must choose.

Make sure you translate the Gospel. Don't just shout it across the bridge to lost people. Many who desperately need Jesus are at the other end, unable to understand. It's too important for us to not get through. Will you move across that gap? Will you go where they are instead of expecting them to come where you are?

In Christ,



Rev. Jim Walker

The Worship Committee would like to thank the following for helping with
Hanging of the Greens:

Micky Keelan
Gabe Keelan, Marlayna, Brayden, Harper, and Quinn
Susan Walker
Sue Altobello
Diane Dzierbicki
Dan Keelan
Terri Morioka
Linda Aimone

We also wish to thank the Men's Group for financing our beautiful new Christmas Tree !

Sincerely,
Valerie Moore, Worship Committee Chair



Unhanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee would like to thank the following for their assistance in taking down the Greens:

Mark & Dee Groeneweg
Micky Keelan
Gabe Keelan, Marlayna, Brayden, Harper, Quinn
Paul McCrary

A special "thank you" to Mark Groeneweg for pulling out the storage containers from under the sound booth. This really sped up the time which was very much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Valerie Moore, Worship Committee Chair



UMCOR Mission Work Trip Opportunity:

A group from our church will be going to Baton Rouge, Louisiana February 11th -14th, 2019 to do reconstruction work on homes damaged by severe flooding from Hurricane Harvey in 2017. For more information on this trip, contact Mike Skelton at 734-697-8915.



**The Food Closet staple for the month of February is
Canned Fruit**



Communication Information

The Communications Team wants to make sure you are receiving information about all the exciting happenings at Belleville First UMC. Have you signed on to <https://bellevillemethodist.ccbchurch.com> to update your profile? Check out your account to verify your information. If you don't have a computer or don't want to sign in, complete the paper form and the office will verify your information with contact preferences.

Do you have a Facebook account? If you do, join our Belleville First United Methodist group. This is a great place to connect with members of our church who are also on Facebook. If you missed church, the sermons are now being posted on our Facebook page so you can stay connected.

Watch for more ways to stay connected as we remember

Our mission is 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.



General Conference Web Site

Special General Conference 2019

FEBRUARY 23-26, 2019

Livestream will be available

The link is: <https://gc.michiganumc.org/>





Valentine's Day Word Search

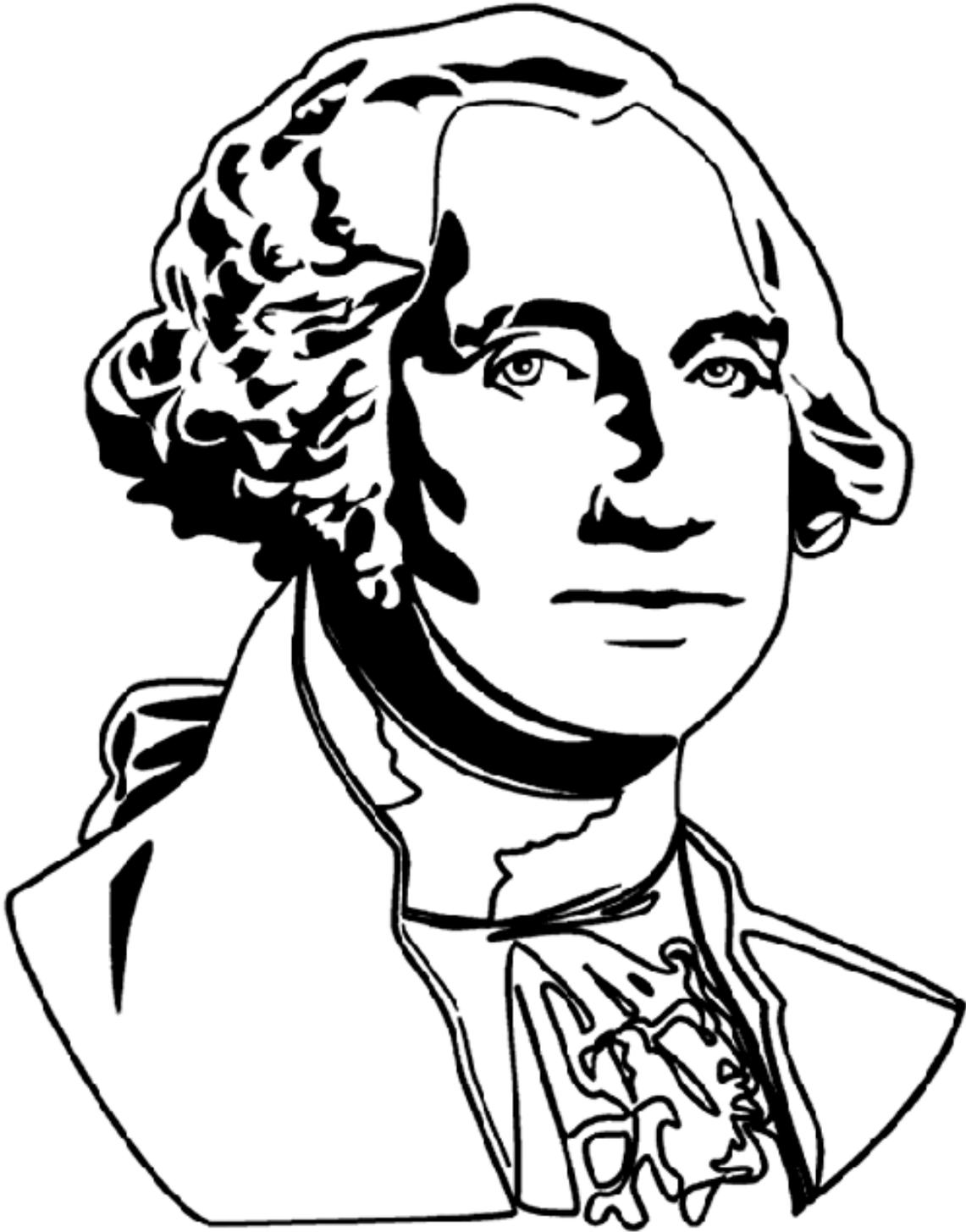
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T Z E T G R T Z R E Y I N Q T
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N A G B P R E E Y B M T C B H
F O M G T U S A R L R K U T Q
I M T M Q S K U R A U N P E H
C A R D S K A A E T W I I G U
M C D I R R M H H X E P D P N
W Q K L Y S R E W O L F J O J

CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
FEBRUARY
FLOWERS
FRIENDS
HEART

TREATS
VALENTINE
SWEETHEART
RED
LOVE
KISS
PINK
HUG



JINXYKIDS.COM



George Washington

On February 22, 1732 George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as the first president of the United States. He died in Mount Vernon, Virginia on December 14, 1799.

FEBRUARY

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))
3 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 11:00 a.m. GIFT Bible Study (AR) 12:00 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg. (L)	4 7 p.m. Comm Chorus Prac (S)	5 6 p.m. Christian Ed Comm Mtg (AR) 7 p.m. Ad Council (L)	6 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	7 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7 p.m. Teen Study Group (YR) 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)	8	9 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))
10 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 11:00 a.m. GIFT Bible Study (AR)	11 7 p.m. Comm Chorus Prac (S)	12 7 p.m. SPRC (L)	13 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	14 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)	15	16 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR)) 5-7 PJ Shin Ding (F/H)
17 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 11:00 a.m. GIFT Bible Study (AR) Noon. Finance Comm Mtg	18 Presidents Day 7 pm Comm Chorus Prac (S) 7 p.m. Garden Club (FH)	19	20 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	21 Payroll 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Bnd Prac. 7 p.m. Teen Study Group (YR) 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)	22	23 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))
24 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 11:00 a.m. GIFT Bible Study (AR)	25 7 p.m. Comm Chorus Prac (S) 7 p.m. Trustee's Mtg (AR)	26 7 p.m. Missions (L)	27 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	28 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)		