

CONNECTIONS

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Message from the Pastor



Back to the Means of Grace

Ah! Summer...time for gathering around food, fireworks, and fireflies. Yet this year is surely different. In order to keep those we love and those we don't even know safe, we have to be careful to wear a mask, physically distance, and wash our hands constantly.

We will still have the part of summer that I love. Or maybe that is the gift the coronavirus has already given us: the gift of having the pace of life slow down and rejoining the connections that have been frayed in the hurry and scurry of life. We've just had to move those large summer gatherings where we sit around a table of family and friends connecting deeply in conversation and love to an online format.

Listen to these words:

All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke

bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:44-47 (NRSV).

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, God is calling us to create such "in common" community. So, for my first sermon series as your pastor we will be exploring The Means of Grace: Living Our Lives for God. Throughout this series we will look at Wesley's five means of grace or the five practices Wesley believed would sanctify us—grow us to maturity in Christ. Each week we will look at a way of living out our faith.

Some, we may have taken for granted. Some, we may never have realized were important. All will lead us toward a deeper faith. (This series is based on Elaine A. Heath's book Five Means of Grace: Experiencing God's Love the Wesleyan Way and a podcast on baptism entitled, Baptism, Discipleship, and Small Groups, "Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way," Episode 2.)



**WELCOME
PASTOR
MARY!**

July 4
Independence
Day Holiday

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.

Prayers and Praise



PRAYER requests

In the Hospital

Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities

Luanne Genga
Novi Lakes Health Campus

Bobbie Winters
Superior Woods

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Stephanie Boltrick
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

John MacDermid	1	Marilyn McKenna	18
Janelle Wofford	2	Charlee R Rochon	18
Bobbie Winters	3	David Daigneau	20
Jake McCrary	7	Debbie Yokley	20
Anna Dalzell	9	Doreitha Armstrong	21
Gretchen Fancher	11	Jonathan Damon	23
Lynette Jordan	11	Karen Johnston	23
Derek Reeves	13	Gina Struble	25
Kirsten Thomas	13	Claire Caldwell	27
Dulce Jacobson	14	Eddie Cleveland	27
Roger Ferguson	15	Sara Shuryan	27
Jim Fitch	15	Rose King	29
Braxton Eichel	16	Nkechi Ikpeama	30
Matthew Gierak	16	Ilene Hazen	31
Nicholas Knieper	17	Bethany Jacobson	31

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent & Sharon Richardson	1
Mike & Cristal Moyer	4
Daniel & Diane Dzierbicki	8
David & Abby Fleming	8
Mark & Rebecca Caldwell	14
Roy & Yetta Reges	17
Richard & Marlene Gamble	25
Greg & Gina Struble	28

Continued from Page 1

I will also be leading a class based on this subject via Zoom, day and times TBA. Watch your email for further details.

So please join me in enjoying the summer, building “in common” community, while learning the rhythm of the means of grace.

Blessed to be a blessing,

Pastor Mary

A Special Note From Our Pastor

Dear Friends of Belleville First UMC,

This Sunday is my first and I will be offering the experiences of the renewal of baptism as well as a Love Feast. As you watch the video of this service, please have a bowl of water and your favorite comfort meal ready. The service video will be here on this website (www.bellevillefirstumc.org) as well as Facebook and YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB8rc-UUYpHeGcmHLruZ33Q/featured>

Blessings, Pastor Mary

**Welcome
Loring
Family**





Happy 4th of July



Summer Sermon Series

The Means of Grace: Living Our Lives for God. Throughout this series we will look at Wesley's five means of grace or the five practices Wesley believed would sanctify us— grow us to maturity in Christ. Each week we will look at a way of living out our faith. Some, we may have taken for granted. Some, we may never have realized were important. All will lead us toward a deeper faith. (This series is based on Elaine A. Heath's book Five Means of Grace: Experiencing God's Love the Wesleyan Way and a podcast on baptism entitled, Baptism, Discipleship, and Small Groups, "Small Groups in the Wesleyan Way," Episode 2.)

July 5, 2020

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Sermon Title: Baptismal Living

Synopsis: Is baptism a once and done action? If so, why does it matter? If not, what more should we be doing in our faith walk? What does baptismal living truly mean? We will explore scripture, the United Methodist Book of Discipline, and the United Methodist covenant of baptism to seek clear answers.

Special Note: We will celebrate the renewal of baptism today.

July 12, 2020

Scripture: James 5:13-18

Sermon Title: Prayer-filled Living

Synopsis: Why pray? Who should pray? When should we pray? How should we pray?

These are all questions that pledge the Christian walk. Today we will see how prayer is the foundational piece of all the other means of grace. We will explore how this simple action encompasses and can change everything.

July 19, 2020

Scripture: Luke 4: 1-15 (Matthew 6: 16-18)

Sermon Title: Abstinence Living

Synopsis: There is a powerful message in the temptation that we often overlook with Jesus' scriptural defeat of the tempter. Abstaining or fasting was part of this encounter in the wilderness. What does it mean for us to fast today? Can you only fast from food? What is the purpose of abstaining? We will explore what it means to live a life of purposeful abstinence.

July 26, 2020

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5, Romans 15:4-6

Sermon Title: Scriptural Living

Synopsis: For Paul, the apostle, and John Wesley, the Methodist founder, scripture— God's Word—is transformative. If this is true, how are we to read the Bible? What is the purpose of reading the Bible? What does it mean to live scripturally? We will seek scripture and John Wesley's suggestion on reading scripture to find the answers.



Summer Sermon Series (Continues)

August 2, 2020

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon Title: Communion Living

Synopsis: We celebrate The Lord's Supper once a month in most churches, and yet, do we truly understand what it means to live out our communion? We will explore how The Lord's Supper is not a once a month action, but a daily renewal.

Special Note: We will celebrate communion today.

August 9, 2020

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 (Matthew 18: 15-20)

Sermon Title: Community Living

Synopsis: What does it take to truly live in community? Paul tells the believers at Corinth that we are to be the aroma or fragrance of Christ in the world. We will explore what it means to love one another even when we don't see eye to eye.

We know that all things
work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called
according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28, NRSV



A New Way To Give

Hello Church Family,

This Sunday (6/28), we are excited to announce an important update to giving at Belleville First UMC! As you know, your generosity and financial partnership with us is how we are able to help expand the Kingdom. We value our church family and want to make sure everyone at Belleville First UMC is aware of this exciting new giving platform, which allows for simple giving through a variety of ways, including mobile and online.

You can try it out before Sunday, and even set up an account, if you'd like!

To start, you can:

1. Visit our website at <https://www.bellevillefirstumc.org/> and select the PUSHPAY button to donate.

Or

2. Text BELLEVILLE to 77977 on your cell phone*.

These options will help us as we move closer to having in-person worship service and help us to be contactless for our offerings.

If you have any questions, reply to this email or call our Treasurer, Susan Featheringill, at 734-552-8741.

Thank you for prayers and continued support of Belleville First UMC.

God Bless,

Scott Zechiel
Finance Committee Chair

*When you send 'BELLEVILLE' to 77977, you will receive a one-time reply containing a link to give to BELLEVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1msg/request). Please be aware that Msg & Data rates may apply. For full Terms & Conditions please visit <https://pushpay.com/terms>. For the Privacy Policy please visit <https://pushpay.com/privacy>. For help reply HELP or STOP to cancel.



New Free Little Pantry

Missions has installed a 'Little Free Pantry' on Charles Street, across from the new library.

The pantry is intended to supplement the ministry of our existing Food Closet by giving people a chance to have access to an emergency meal 24/7 and by giving the community a chance to contribute and participate by leaving non-perishable items to fill the pantry. The motto on the pantry is "Take What You Need, Give What You Can".

Others who have installed these pantries report they are self sustaining. The pantry has been stocked initially by the Food Closet and people are beginning to use it. We are hoping to get good visibility and more activity once the new Library reopens. Please spread the word about this new community resource.





Thank You!

I would like to thank my family, friends and the members of Belleville First United Methodist Church for their enduring support and prayers over the years. I particularly want to thank my wife, Susan, for being so strong and supportive from the beginning and throughout the years.

BFUMC thank you all for your faithfulness and diligence to the church and the ministry. It has been a great blessing to me and my family.

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless BFUMC and Pastor Mary.

Thank you for your expressions of love.
Pastor Jim



Emergency Food Closet News

The continued support to feed the hungry from the community has been heartwarming and a blessing. Checks, gift cards to Walmart and Dollar Tree, and food items continue to be donated to the Emergency Food Closet. Since March 17th through June 10, we have had 52 new clients. 74% of these have been age 60 years or older and are either single or have families living with them. Most are living on small fixed incomes.

Last week we received a \$1,500 check from Van Buren Township that was obtained through grant money by township trustee, Reggie Miller.

We have received several phone messages and notes from people saying that during the pandemic they have been fortunate to be able to work from home and are getting paid and feel blessed that they are in that situation. They want to reach out and give back to the community.

Here is one letter we would like to share:

May 27, 2020

To the Emergency Food Closet Team:

Enclosed is this week's donation of Dollar Tree gift cards to spend in any way you need.

We are also enclosing a check. This represents our donation amount for the month of June for use for the Food Closet, so you can plan ahead.

During the pandemic, my husband and I have been very blessed in that we are both still being paid by our employers, plus getting our social security checks. My husband hopes to retire in mid-July, so his paycheck will stop. We may be able to give a smaller amount in July and then we will need to reassess our finances. Hopefully by then the churches will be back open and more people will be back to work.

Thank you for all the great work you do.

Christopher and Christina Warren

We are still operating as a "drive-thru" food pantry from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are passing out bags half full of weekly food items and giving out \$20 Meijer FOOD ONLY gift cards. As quantity restrictions are being lifted, we have been replenishing out stock downstairs. Last week, lunch meats and hot dogs were no longer restricted so we are now able to pass out refrigerated items including margarine, cheese and eggs. Bread has become available as well. We don't purchase personal care items but these are often requested by clients. Toothpaste, dish soap, Kleenex, and laundry soap are always needed if you would like to donate any of these.



News From Liberia Partners at Zacchaeus Garjay School/UMC

- Our Stewardship in Action

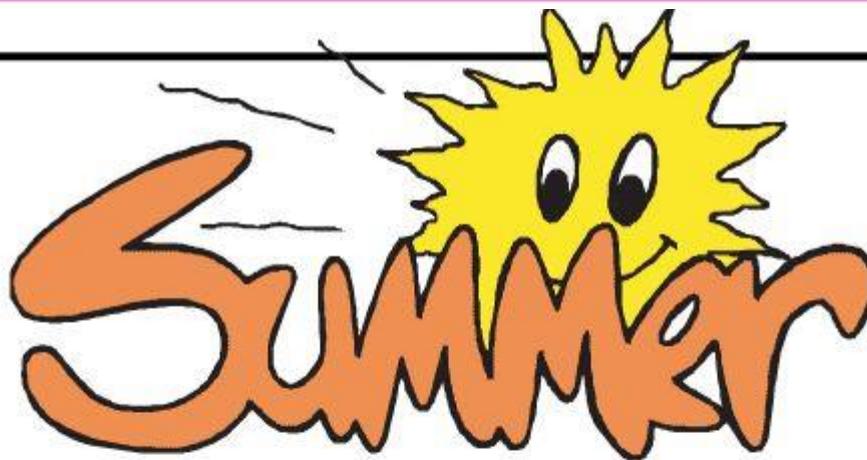
In 2017 the Belleville First UMC Planned Giving Committee approved a substantial grant to buy our partners at Zacchaeus Garjay in Liberia a pickup truck for transportation services. Under the management of Rev. Jacob Nathan, the truck has been used for a multitude of ministry purposes, including transport of expectant mothers to the hospital in Buchanan. The truck has also suffered on the Liberian roads and has needed repair multiple times. I just wanted to let everyone know that the truck is still in service and was being used May 17th and 18th to deliver food and cleaning supplies to parents of the children at the Garjay school. Since everything was shut down due to the virus, basic goods are in very short supply in the rural areas served by Garjay. The pictures show 75 bags of rice, 15 cases of cooking oil, 10 cases of soap and 5 cases of bleach in the truck. (It will probably need repair again).

Because Belleville First decided to take a risk and put our money to work in Liberia, ministry is being conducted, babies are born safely, and people are being fed. All the while, Rev. Nathan is spreading the Gospel. This is a great example of stewardship for lasting results. What else can we do?









WORD SEARCH

UQEZJYLAVEXSTFL
NOITACAVLGACYQO
QXDCCTGTTGAKVPL
ZTFUPFSUNFLOWER
HOQQTACAQXADQH
HEATCIIQLTQUCNY
BVBDQCNAEOHAVWF
FANPDECSPPEVLUS
GASKBCIFRBOPAWK
SNVEARPCCEGOINO
FSISBELJTDFMLDG
UIOTWAKJAXMQEBF
AIYSAMLFWIVNAFG
ITACEOHLNGDBYVF
TFZCGKBGOVWNPYC

BEACH
BASEBALL
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING

PICNIC
VACATION
SUNFLOWER
WATERMELON

SANDCASTLE
HEAT
BOATING
POOL

