

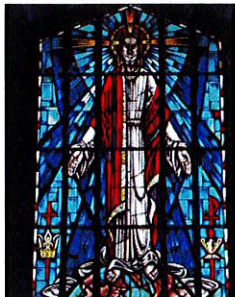


*Pastor's
Page for July
- August
2024*

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



"Spreading Good News" Series - July 7 - July 28

Theme: By request, this series is going to help us revisit our evangelistic skills by following THE evangelist himself. We can learn much about where the Holy Spirit may be leading us! Where is the Gospel most needed?

- July 7 "Holy Spirit First Steps" (Paul's First Missionary Journey)
- July 14 "Holy Spirit Trying Again" (Paul's Second Missionary Journey)
- July 21 "Rekindling the Holy Spirit" (Paul's Third Missionary Journey)
- July 28 "Sharing the Spirit in Rome" (Paul's Fourth Missionary Journ.)

"Truth About Heaven" Series - August 4 - October 20

Theme: For believers, finding hope in the last days and in God's promises. Using "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" (David Jeremiah book) this series discovers how believers will experience heaven.

- Aug. 4 "Intro: What's Up with Heaven"
- Aug. 11 "Where Did They Go?"
- Aug. 18 "Heaven Won't Be Boring"
- Aug. 25 "We Will Have Heavenly Bodies"
- Sept. 1 "We Will Get Rewards We Give Back to God"
- Sept. 8 "New Jerusalem - Capital of Heaven"
- Sept. 15 "Meeting the King"
- Sept. 22 "New Heaven and New Earth"
- Sept. 29 "Millennium Time"
- Oct. 6 "God Loves Children, Period"
- Oct. 13 "Being Ready For Heaven"
- Oct. 20 "Conclusion: Everything is Up with Heaven"

"Message" Bible Study (covering Sunday's messages) - starting July 10 (Wednesdays)

10 am - Artley Rm and 7 p.m. - via Zoom (email or text Pastor Greg for link)

Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) Discernment Update

As of June 2024, the Ad Council has discerned that the SAS structure is not the best course for Belleville First UMC at this time. To continue moving forward, we will study and apply everything we have learned so far. But at this time, we will be staying with our current leadership structure. A big thank you goes out to everyone, including our Ad Council, for their prayers and discernment. See Pastor Greg or Mark Groenweg with any questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS UPDATE

as of 7/14/2024



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.

Ministry Teams

Missions - WiHn is planning to offer childcare at a session in the fall. The Easter offering raised \$4815 and will again be sent to John Dean Town Hospital in Liberia to pay for Nurse Comfort's salary. Thanks to everyone's generosity as we meet a tremendous health-care need.

Food Closet - 250 more bags went out last year from January 1 - June 30, 2023 than during the same time period this year but bags were distributed weekly. This year during the same time period, we have had 39 more new clients.

Christian Education - Our "Message" Small Groups on Wednesdays have started with a 10 a.m. Wednesday morning class in the Artley Room, and an evening Zoom virtual class at 7 p.m. Email pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com for the Zoom invite. This young adult-adult class will use the outlines from the Message Notes on Sundays. And even during summer, volunteers remain ready to help on Sundays if we have any children attend. If you would like to volunteer, we could use one more. See Terri if you're interested.

Tech - We're continuing to record our full services and post them online. We've made efforts to improve both the video and audio quality throughout the process so there's fewer distractions from the worship music or listening to the message. Check out our archive If you've missed a week, or would like to refresh yourself with past sermons. Videos are linked through our website: www.bellevillefirstumc.org/sermons .

You can search for the YouTube page directly at:

"www.youtube.com/@bellevillefirstunitedmetho6875"

or even scan the QR code with a smartphone on this page.



Worship - We are currently doing the "Spreading Good News Series" on Paul's Missionary Journeys. This series is going to help us revisit our evangelistic skills by following The Evangelist himself. In this series, we can learn much about where the Holy Spirit may be leading us! Where is the Gospel most needed in our day and time? And then in August, we'll be starting the "Truth About Heaven" series which will last through October. Learn all about what heaven will be like for us believers, and why we should be inviting others to believe as well.

Church Operations

Finance - The Finance Team thanks everyone for their generosity and discipleship around their giving. With our current financial situation, 1) Our income is down for the year. We are utilizing the rental house income as well as the \$50,000 deposit from UMF funds in June of 2023 for cash flow purposes. 2) Ministry shares (including the Greater Detroit District shares) are being paid monthly for 2024. In 2023, we paid all the ministry shares in September-December. And 3) We are trusting that God is still using us for his will to be done here in Belleville. Please pray and give as you are able and as the Spirit leads. As of May 2024, we have a negative (\$4,587) as our cash available for ongoing ministry. \$124, 494.22 is available in the United Methodist Foundation, and \$55,906 is in designated funds, which now includes the Roof and Elevator Repair fund.

Trustees - The Trustees, Finance, and Ad Council published a "Belleville First UMC Roof and Elevator Project" update about our needs for current roof and elevator repair. All three of these teams have been working hard at trying to find options. We are currently in the "Need for Grants and Generous People" stage before we look at further financing. Current bids are about \$80,000 to fix the roof and \$400,000 to replace the elevator. Currently gifts (over and above giving to the unified general fund) can be given to "Belleville First UMC - Roof and Elevator Fund." (The update, which is in this newsletter, was sent out by email May 15, and placed in the bulletins on May 19 and May 26.)

Staff-Parish Relations Committee - Our Church Conference will be October 17, 2024 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The SPRC team has started working on the documents. Please keep them, and all our staff, volunteer and paid, in your prayers. We are blessed are to have them.

Nominations and Leadership Development - Our next big volunteer leadership need will be for our Mission's team. Mike and Julie Skelton will be stepping down as our chairpersons even though they wish to continue with the team. We want to thank both as they have served over eight years! Please pray, and let Pastor Greg know if you're interested, or have suggestions.▲

Ad Council News

The Pathway Ahead –



Your Administrative Council is trying something new! We have started a journey toward discerning our next steps as a congregation. In order to have the time for this important task, we have revamped our regular agenda to include; Ministry Reports, Regular Business, and a Workshop session.

Our Ministry Reports are submitted to everyone a week ahead of time, so we are all familiar with what is happening, and we save time in recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of our ministry teams together.

Our Regular Business includes what the book of discipline calls ‘the church’s temporal affair’.

Our Workshop Sessions will give us time to learn, create, dream, and discern our future as Belleville First, moving forward together in Christ. Over the next 12-18 months, we will practice some deep listening for the Spirit’s direction to answer these questions:

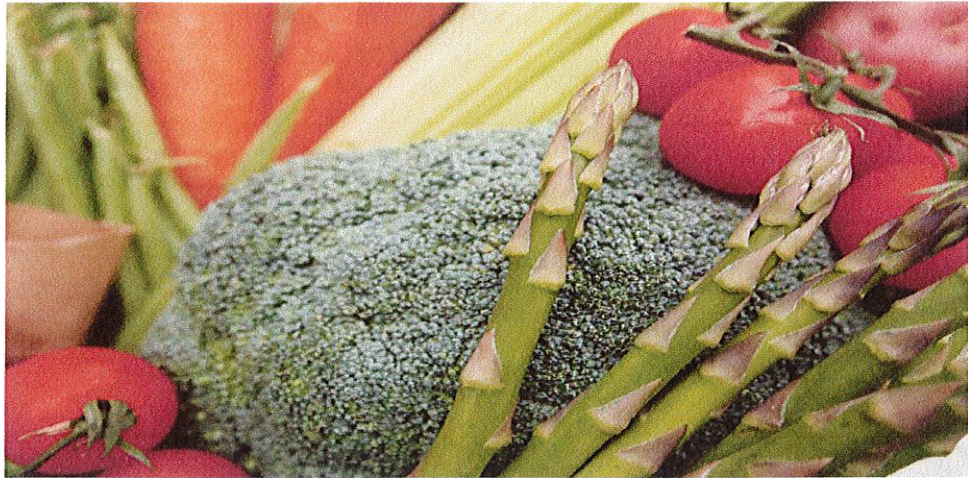
- Who are we?
- What are we called to do?
- Who is our neighbor?

Only then, we will be able define what actions to take to get us headed in the right direction.

I believe we are all aware of our challenges right now, regarding finances, demographics, and member engagement levels, as well as the cultural shift in how Christianity is perceived in our nation. You can help the Council chart our path by praying for us and joining in a time of listening for God’s guidance. We will be attempting to devote 10 minutes a day in silence, listening for God’s ‘still small voice’. Please join us on the journey. Feel free to send Mark any feedback or comments. mgroe@comcast.net

Prayer - Deep Listening

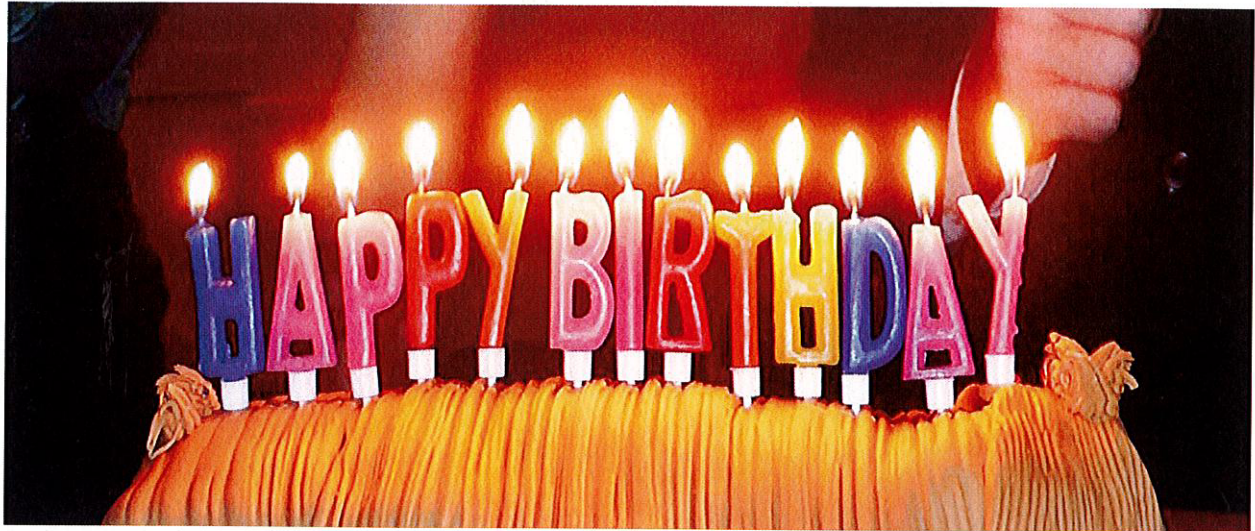
God of silence and God of all sound,
help me to listen.
Help me to do the deep listening to the sounds of my soul,
waiting to hear your soft voice calling me deeper into you.
Give me attentive ears
that begin to separate the noise from the sounds that are you;
you who have been speaking to me
and through me my whole life,
for so long that you can seem like background noise.
Today help me hear you anew.



If anyone has an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables from their gardens and would like to share with our food closet clients, it would be greatly appreciated and welcomed! They can be dropped off at the church parking lot entrance any Tuesday morning before 9:45 a.m.



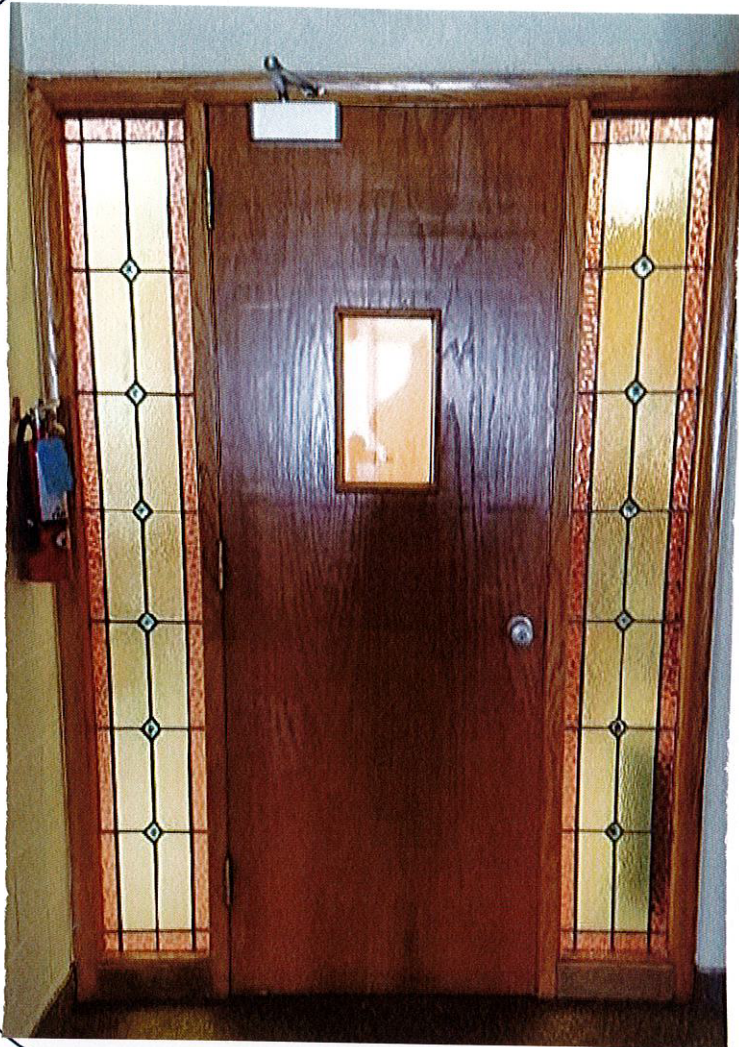
Personal care items such as laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, and Kleenex are always needed too. They are \$1.25 each at all Dollar Tree stores. The Dollar Tree store on Sumpter Rd. in the large strip mall has been very accommodating.



- John MacDermid July 1*
- Jake McCrary July 7*
- Roger Ferguson July 15*
- Jim Fitch July 15*
- Marilyn McKenna July 18*
- David Daigneau July 20*
- Doreitha Armstrong July 21*
- Nick Groeneweg July 22*
- Bill Lipke July 30*
- Lila Timm Aug 1*
- Betty Shaw Aug 15*
- Ron Banks Aug 27*
- Jim Wilson Aug 27*



Dee Groeneweg and her WiHn Cardio Drumming group made an appearance at this year's Lake Fest in Horizon park. It was a drop-in group but well attended. It looks like they all had fun.



Esther Deering

The late Ester Deering was an historian, DAR member, teacher, wife and mother of four daughters. Ester and her husband, Henry belonged to BFUMC for many years. When the old church was torn down the stained glass windows were taken to the dump. When Ester heard this, she sent Henry to the dump to rescue them. They now have a place of honor as sidelights to the Lounge door. Thank you Ester.



Our own AnnMarie participated in The Walk for Hearing on a hot June afternoon. AnnMarie is in the second row the second from the right, in sunglasses and ballcap. The Walk4Hearing is to give hope and encouragement to help families and individuals with hearing loss thrive and to raise awareness.

Have a great rest of
the Summer!