

CONNECTIONS



CHURCH EVENTS

Living Nativity
12/7

Comm. Chorus
Concert
12/8-3p

Come Doubles
Caroling
12/13—6:15p

Cookie Walk
12/15

Cookies &
Caroling w/
Joyful Noise
12/18 4p

Comm. Band
Concert
12/20-7:30p

Christmas Eve
4:30p
Children's Svce
10p
Candlelight Svce

Dear Friends,

As you read this issue of the newsletter, Merry Christmas to you and your family! I pray this Christmas Day and these holidays are days of deep connection; personally in your own relationship with Jesus, but also with family and friends.

Through the years, many people have asked me, "How can we make Christmas special?" Here are a few practical tips for family time over the holidays:

1) Take time to read the Christmas Story together. You can read a modern day version or a children's version, but recounting the story connects you to one another and God's purpose for Christmas. You can read the story from Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-2 or Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20, or find it on this website.

2) You can get creative and act it out. The kids can act out the parts of the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

3) Take just a moment to thank God for all He has done this past year. Just going around the room and saying one thing you are thankful for is always a boost of encouragement. If and when you do a gift exchange, before someone can open a gift have them answer a question like, "What are you thankful for?" or "Name a thing Jesus has done in your life this year?" That makes the gift exchange have a little more life in it and creates a connection to each other while opening gifts.

4) Sing Christmas carols. The great thing about the internet is that you can get all the words to your favorite songs and print them and pass them around. Some of my favorites are *Come All Ye Faithful*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, and *Oh come, oh come Emmanuel*. Make sure you have copies of the lyrics. It gets a little funny when not everybody is able to sing together.

5) Take a moment to pray for someone who you know is lonely or doesn't have family, and if you do have the freedom, pray for one another as well. Those times of bringing Jesus in on Christmas Day always creates great grace.

6) Here are some additional conversation starters that are both serious and fun for young and old:

- If you had to give all of your possessions away for Christmas, which would be the hardest and why?
- What has been a new relational highlight in 2019? Someone you are significantly closer to than you were a year ago.
- What was one favorite memory in 2019?
- What is one characteristic of another family member you would like to grow in next year? (This could turn into an encouragement time.)
- What were your highlights and lowlights of 2019? How did God use them to teach you more about Him and what did you learn about yourself?



Prayers and Praise

PRAYER REQUESTS

In the Hospital:

Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities:

Bobbie Winters
Superior Woods

Luanne Genga
Wellbeing of Novi

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

Cord Ford-Aimone
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm



Wagner	Jim	1
Matthews	Amy	1
Lewke	Susan	2
Thomas	Isabelle	2
Reeves	Chase	2
Genga	Luanne	2
Banks	Joyce	5
Goike	Bob	6
Altobello	Nicole	6
Hyde	Carolyn	12
Shuryan	Eric	13
Moore	Jamie	14
Smith	Paul	18
Aimone	Mike	20
Riggs	C. Genevieve	25
Conley	Martha	26
Fitch	Carol	27
Hendrickson	Eleanore	28
Gamble	Marlene	28
Nurnberger	Robert	28
Keelan	Jack	28
Woestman	Marilyn	30
Murphy	Frank	31
Pepper	Kelly	31



David and Rachel Murray	3
Joyce and Frank Murphy	5
Ed and Michelle Johns	10
Mike and Lynda Aimone	13
Mark and Dee Groeneweg	17
Leonard and Doreitha Armstrong	27
Jim and Pam Boughton	29

Continued from page 1

- With those of you that have little ones going on road trips to relatives, you could play a game called “What to do when?”
 - What is the first thing we do when we get to their house (meaning- how do we greet them)?
 - What do you do when you are offered something to eat that you do not care for?
 - What do you do when something inappropriate is being watched on TV?
- Come up with a plan to deliberately honor the elders in your family.

I hope this is a wonderful Christmas for you and your family! More than anything, He truly is the reason for the season.

As the people of God, when we honor and celebrate Him in the midst of our family life, we will find the true richness that God so desires in and through our lives.

In the grip of His love,



Rev. Jim Walker

Poinsettias are on sale NOW!
Red or White \$10 each in memory or in honor of your loved one. You may pick up your plant after the 10:00pm Worship on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday! Order blanks are in the back of the sanctuary.



Come Doubles Caroling



The “Come Doubles” will be having their annual Christmas Caroling event on Friday, Dec. 13th at 6:15 p.m. Call Martha Conley at 734-697-7772 for more information.



**PLEASE JOIN US IN SHARING THE TRUE MEANING
OF CHRISTMAS TO OUR COMMUNITY -
“LIVING NATIVITY”**

On Saturday Dec.7th, immediately following the parade, join us in reaching our community with the real meaning of Christmas! There's a place for you to participate. There are casting roles available. We also need help behind the scenes with costumes, food for cast, crew on Sat. Dec. 7, putting away the set on Sun. Dec. 8. Or simply come. A prayerful, Godly presence during the performances would be greatly appreciated. We need each of you to reach our community for Christ.

Contact Susan Walker for more information at (734)-250-0485.

Volunteers are still needed!

Community Events



BELLEVILLE COMMUNITY CHOIR PRESENTS

CAROLS IN CANDLELIGHT

with the Childrens Chorus

Sunday, December 8th, 3:00 p.m.
Belleville First United Methodist Church

A warm, glowing background featuring two lit white candles, pine branches, and pinecones, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

Belleville Community Band

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a very special evening
of great Christmas music in our sanctuary.

A large, shiny red Christmas ornament hanging from a gold ring, set against a dark background with white stars.



Flowers for Shut-Ins:

December 8, 2019 will be our delivery date for flowers for shut ins and seniors. Please take your pick from the list and deliver the flower along with a small treat. Remember to plan on staying for a while to talk with them.



Annual UMW Cookie:

The Annual UMW Cookie Walk will be held **Sunday, December 15th**. We suggest three dozen homemade cookies per family. They will be sold before and after second services. Cookies will be \$5.00 per lb. This is a great way to have a variety of treats for the holidays. Please bring cookies Sunday morning. The money earned will benefit Missions. If you require additional information, please contact Martha Conley, at 734-697-7772.

Cookies and Caroling with Joyful Noise:

The UMW Annual Cookies and Caroling with Joyful Noise will be held **Wednesday, December 18th** at 4:00pm in the Lounge. All are welcome to attend.



Coffee Hour:

Also we are still in need of people to do coffee hour between services. Most of December is filled, but there's still plenty of room in January, February, March, April and May. Please call me, Yvonne Pierce, at 734-645-5800 or see me at Church. I will be leaving in December and would like to have the calendar full. I will call you the Friday before your Sunday as a friendly reminder.



December 24th Christmas Eve Services



4:30pm Children's Service with Drama (Family)

*10:00pm Candlelight with
Pastor Jim Walker Speaking*

What's new in the Food Closet in 2019?

- Currently have 25 volunteers who shop, pack, and distribute bags on a regular basis and are serving approximately 65 families.
- Due to lack of clients on Thursdays, the **Emergency Food Closet (EFC)** hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- February - new coordinators – Minette Brownlee and Marilyn Wood
- March – a data analysis was done to see who the **EFC** is serving
- April – a new Emergency Food Closet logo was created; T-shirts for distributors of bags and shoppers were handed out; a new brochure was made as a community resource; stationery was created for correspondence; a new client letter was written for distribution to our clients about the **EFC** - (design work done by David Brownlee)
- May – Post Office Food Drive – 10,296 pounds of food was received. 60 people helped over 4 days sorting, checking dates, boxing, and storing the food.
- Received a \$5,000 check to the **EFC** from Meijer because their business did so well in 2018.
- Church website was updated.
- **EFC** client intake form was revised.
- A list of Food Pantries in surrounding communities was created for clients.
- Work has begun with Evan Basnaw to create a video about the **Emergency Food Closet** to present to the community on the local cable station.
- August 18 – September 28: a successful **Meijer Simply Give Campaign** was held with \$17,080 raised of which \$10,000 was donated from Meijer on its two **DOUBLE MATCH DAYS**. \$2,262 was donated and used on the last **DOUBLE MATCH DAY** from the yard sale held at the home of John and Debbie Juriga during the city wide garage sale weekend.
- Fall – letters, newspaper articles, flyers were mailed and delivered to inform local businesses, community members, and churches of our presence, location, purpose and ways to support the **EFC**.
- The Belleville Presbyterian Church volunteered and is donating personal care products on a monthly basis.
- Thanks to the efforts of David Brownlee information and an ad will appear on the local cable station about the **EFC** and in the *Van Buren Today* publication starting with the next issue.
- Thanks to Rosemary K. Otzman, *Independent* Editor, and her staff for their continued support of **EFC** by publishing letters, articles, the Simply Give flyer, and the publishing of the **EFC** ad on a weekly basis, as a public service announcement at no cost to the **EFC**.
- An upcoming Food Drive is to be held at Atchinson Ford with all donations being given to the **EFC**.
- Post cards are being designed to be placed in the library, township hall, local schools, and churches as a community outreach to let residents know of our presence, hours, days, and purpose.
- Distribution of **Food Only** gift cards each in the amount of \$30 to clients in place of Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday bags will be passed out on clients' regularly scheduled weeks for weeks that the **EFC** is closed.

Thanks to the Boy Scouts Food Drive for the Belleville Emergency Food Closet

A big “Thank You” to the Boy Scouts of Troop Boy Scout Troop #231 out of Trinity Episcopal Church of Belleville for the bountiful food drive held on Saturday, November 9th. The Troop collected 77 bags of food for the Belleville Emergency Food Closet.

When all was unpacked, it filled four 8 foot tables and then some. Way to go Scouts!

Our thanks also to all those who donated food and to the Scout Leaders Mike Holmes, Eddy Fulton and Tammy Hall who helped make it happen.

Minette Brownlee & Marilyn Wood
Food Closet Coordinators



Troop 231



Tables of food sorted after the collection (1 of 2)



2 of 2

**December Food Closet Item of the Month:
Canned Vegetables**

What is BUDDY-TO-BUDDY?

Buddy-to-Buddy is a peer-to-peer program designed to help Michigan service members and veterans deal with any challenges they are facing. GET HELP WITH: finances, benefits, legal issues, education, health, family, and emotional concerns.

It is completely voluntary, totally confidential, and entirely free.

If you are a veteran willing to donate your TIME to an amazing cause, the Buddy-to-Buddy Program is looking for you.

Call: 1-888-82-BUDDY www.buddytobuddy.org. www.facebook.com/BuddytoBuddyProgram

BUDDY ★ TO ★ BUDDY

Volunteer Veteran Program

***Outreach and Support
for Michigan Veterans***





2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 UM Student Day 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 11:30 a.m. Photo Shoot (AR) 12:00 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg. (L)	2 7 pm Comm Chorus (S)	3 6 p.m. Christian Ed Comm Mtg (AR) 7 p.m. Ad Council (L)	4 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 1 pm Food Closet Mtg (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	5 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH) 8 p.m. Living Nativity (L/AR Prep)	6 5 pm Comm Chorus Rehearsal (S) 6 p.m. Living Nativity (L/AR Prep)	7 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 10 a.m. GA (AR) 2 pm Comm Band Rehearsal 3 p.m. Living Nativity (L/AR)
8 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10 am NOAH Sandwich Making(FH) 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 3pm Comm Chorus Concert (L/S)	9 Payroll	10 7 p.m. SPRC (L)	11 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	12 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)	13 8:30 pm Come Doubles Caroling Event(L)	14 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 10 a.m. GA (AR)
15 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 am Children's Choir (FH) 11:30 a.m. Photo Shoot (AR) UMW Cookie Walk 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class Noon Finance Comm Mtg (L) Noon Comm Band Rehearsal (S)	16 6 pm Comm Chorus Bd Mtg (AR)	17 Payroll	18 4pm Cookies & Caroling (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)	19 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac. 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)	20 7:30pm Community Band Concert (S)	21 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 10 a.m. GA (AR)
22 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	23 6 p.m. Trustee's Mtg (AR)	24 Christmas Eve Noon Office Closed 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Svc 10:00pm Candle-light Svc	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed 10 a.m. AA (FH) 8 p.m. AA (FH)	27	28 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 10 a.m. GA (AR)
29 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	30	31 New Years Eve		Food Closet Item of the Month: Canned Vegetables		