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Message from the Pastor

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

38



4/1/21 – 7pm Maundy Thursday Zoom Worship

4/2/21 – 7pm Good Friday Zoom Worship

4/3/21 Easter Sunday

4/5/21 Church Office Closed

4/18/21 Native American Sunday

4/19/21 - 1pm Blood Drive Fellowship Hall ¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way. Colossians 3:12-17MSG



I have a love-hate relationship with spring. I love the warmth and the breezes. I love all that is coming to life. I love gazing out at Belleville Lake once again from the parsonage's front porch. What I hate is not knowing what to wear when I walk out the door, especially if it's going to be a long day. It's cool in the mornings and warm to hot in the afternoon. So layering, sure that's the way to go. Sometimes I have a bag for all my work and a bag for all the layers.



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



In the Hospital

Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities

Luanne Genga Novi Lakes Health Campus

> Bobbie Winters Superior Woods



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 Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm



Joyce	Forest	1
Yvonne	Pierce	1
Mike	Antic	6
Diane	Ferguson	9
Mike	Bournival	11
Richard	Gamble	11
David	Fleming	13
Hannah	Baynesan	14
Wyn Ann	Marosi	17
Doris	Crocker	18
Tom	Taylor	18
Nancy	Boltrick	21
Bruce	Lewke	21
Elizabeth	Knieper	24
Lynda	Aimone	28
Lauren	Cook	29



Cliff & Debie Chris & Kelley Gurkin 6 Anderson 8

Continued from Page 1

Then I read about how God has picked out, especially for me, this basic, all-purpose garment I am to wear each and every day. No more thinking about what to wear! Hooray! This God gathered garment helps me to live with compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, and discipline. It helps me to forgive while being content with second best and remaining even-tempered, even when things in my life aren't so even keel. This year-round piece helps me to stay in tune with Christ and with those around me, seeing Christ in every eye I make contact with while masking up for all. When things aren't making sense, it helps me to have common sense, because my life is full and run by the Word of Christ—the Message. And best of all, when I don this specific wardrobe piece, it leads me to sing out my heart.



So now imagine with me that all of us, every single last one of us, has been offered this perfect outfit from God. The beauty of spring could not compare to all of us receiving this gift and wearing it non-stop. God in God's incredible graciousness loves us and offers us that love to wear like any other frock in our wardrobe. But here's the thing. When we all wear love, then the love we wear attracts the attention of others, and they want to know the latest about our apparel choice.



Spring is here, and love is in the air and in each of us. Let's accept this gift of love that God has for us, and live a life that sings of God's love forever.

Blessings full of love, Pastor Mary



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship

This year the worship committee decided to offer two Zoom worship services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The link below will help you enter the Zoom worship space. Zoom offers a chance to have live experience in a safe way during the pandemic. We pray that you will attend these meaningful worship offerings.

APRIL 1, 2021—Maundy Thursday 7pm Zoom Worship

Mary Loring is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Maunday Thursday Worship Time: Apr 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83051914034?pwd=VGpxWGVlbkNESUEzV2xZQVUz MExYZz09

Meeting ID: 830 5191 4034 Passcode: 373918 One tap mobile +13126266799,,83051914034#,,,,*373918# US (Chicago) +16465588656,,83051914034#,,,,*373918# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) Meeting ID: 830 5191 4034 Passcode: 373918 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbhnfLRQif



APRIL 2, 2021—Good Friday 7pm Zoom Worship

Mary Loring is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Good Friday Worship Time: Apr 2, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054364248?pwd=TmpHOHp1OTJWeWV3SXVQY3 BjVFNuZz09

Meeting ID: 880 5436 4248 Passcode: 265183 One tap mobile +16465588656,,88054364248#,,,,*265183# US (New York) +13017158592,,88054364248#,,,,*265183# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 880 5436 4248 Passcode: 265183 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbOvROIfOI



APRIL 4, 2021-EASTER @ 10am

April 11, 2021 Dave Fleming will preach

New Sermon Series:

Living Gratefully

One of the steps on the spiritual pathway is gratitude and generosity. In this series we will explore what it means to live gratefully and to give thanks in everything. Pastor Mary will be basing this series on Diana Butler Bass' book, Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks.

<u>April 18, 2021</u>

_ <u>,</u> _, _,	Scripture:	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
	<u>Title:</u>	Upside Down Gratitude
	<u>Synopsis:</u>	From Magi to Blessed to Light, we will explore the essence of gratitude from God's angle.
<u>April 25, 20</u>)21	
	Scripture:	Psalm 95:1-2
	<u>Title:</u>	More Than Just Autopilot
	<u>Synopsis:</u>	"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of lifeIt makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates vision for tomorrow." (Grateful, 49) We'll go past just talking about gratitude to forming intentional practices of gratitude.

Events & Activities



May 2, 2021—Camp Sunday and Communion Sunday							
	Scripture:	Romans 15:7-13 MSG					
	<u>Title:</u>	The Contagion We Want and Celebrate Together!					
	<u>Synopsis:</u>	Gratitude is contagious, and once we are on the path of intentional praise, we cannot help but praise together.					
<u>May 9, 2021</u>							
	<u>Scripture:</u>	Genesis 22:15-18 MSG					
	<u>Title:</u>	Blessed to be a Blessing					
	<u>Synopsis:</u>	Gratitude changes us, and when we see everything through a grateful lens, then we can in turn change the world around us.					
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Cł	nurch Office is	Monday, April 19 th – 1pm					
	closed						
	wyw.						
	monday	BLOOD					
	Apríl 5th						

Spiritual Formation



CHRIST IS RISEN!!! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!!!

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Easter people!!! It is so exciting to be with the Belleville First church family on this lifelong journey of discipleship, having come through the desert of Lent, and to witness the resurrection of Jesus the Christ, our center. I am blessed again to be sharing the love of Jesus with you in April. I mostly look forward to the time when we are together churching again, as I continue to learn about all the various ways that you share the love with others, as we experience more and more fellowship and grow in relationship with each other.

I hope you enjoyed our time in March when Pastor Mary opened her sacred home space in the parsonage through virtual worship and shared some of her spiritual practices through several sermons, including her journaling and Bibles. The children's Sunday School Growth Group that meets on Sunday mornings received a journal in their Lenten bags and used it to record prayer requests and other things during our time together over the last month. Again, if anyone would like a journal, please don't hesitate to let me know.

If you are looking for a spiritual practice to go to, now that Lent is behind us, read from the Gospel of Mark each day, and check out the book, Soul Shift: The Measure of a Life Transformed, by Steve DeNeff and David Drury. Journaling as you go through this practice, and setting aside intentional time each day to pray while spending time in silence and solitude as you pray, are a few more steps on the Belleville First Spiritual Pathway. Another source for theological reading options that might be perfect for recognizing April as Arab-American Heritage Month, can be found here: 18 Arab Female Theologians and Christian Leaders You Should Know About | Grace Al-Zoughbi Arteen and Graham Joseph Hill (theglobalchurchproject.com).



Don't forget, the upcoming summer semester of Growth Groups (starting in mid-June) will be a time when each group will offer something different for content. My group will specifically focus on expressing our faith through generosity. We will study the Saving Grace Wesleyan based financial practices. Another will be based on expressing faith through influence, as you engage in articulating your faith story and sharing it with others. There will be a group led by Pastor Mary that is open to the tough questions... whatever questions folks may have... NO HOLDS BARRED!!! Is there something you've always grappled with faith-wise that you really want to sort through??? Areas of the Bible that just don't make "sense" to you??? Come and have some Pizza with the Pastor, and sort these things out. If an answer is not available on demand, it will be researched and revisited!!! A few more topics may be offered as well, and by the time we are again on a church wide study this fall, we will all had the opportunity to walk each and every step of the BFUMC Spiritual Pathway . If you want to know more about what this pathway involves, please don't hesitate to let me know. If you'd like to see more for yourself, you may find it posted through a slide on the homepage of the website (Home | Belleville First UMC).

Lastly, if you are looking for ways to express your faith through service, there are many possibilities coming up!!! Come up with a children's message for a Sunday service, including props and a story to go along with the scripture for the week. I am looking for intergenerational perspectives to share wisdom and faith with our children. Getting the children themselves to teach other children would also be fabulous, so get with the little ones in your life and record their inspirations!!! (Please note all recordings must be submitted by no later than the Monday before the Sunday service they would be included in.) Consider volunteering in rotation to teach our children in their Sunday School Growth Group or this summer for VBS!!! Just contact me to sign up or get more information!!!

I am so thankful, as Spring is upon us, that we are together an Easter people fully realizing the resurrection and the power it offers us. How will you be living out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world this month??? In whatever way you find, I thank you as always, for your faithful presence, prayers, witness, gifts, and service, especially during times such as these. Take good care, God bless, and please do share your story!!!

Jill

Jill B. Sestok Belleville First UMC Director, Spiritual Formation Phone: 313/948-7050 E-Mail: JBSestok@GMail.com Michigan Conference

General Church

A message from Michigan Area Bishop David Alan Bard



For the healing of the Nations:

A pastoral letter on violence against Asian-Americans

Dear Friends in Christ in The Michigan Conference,

Earlier this week, the soul of our country was deeply wounded again as a twenty-one-yearold young man shot and killed eight people, six of them Asian-American women, in a killing spree at massage parlors in Georgia. This heinous act of violence is only the latest in a series of verbal and physical attacks against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals, which have accelerated since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. I am aware that the past year has seen an increase in violence of many kinds. Murder rates and other violent crimes have increased in several major cities in recent months. All such violence is to be decried, even as we seek solutions for it.

The violence that targets specific groups of people, violence rooted in racism or misogyny, is particularly pernicious and must be called out. Some may question the role anti-Asian racism played in this recent violence. The shooter was obviously a troubled person who had been a customer at some of the establishments he later terrorized. His motives may have been tangled, but among the tangle was murderous intent directed at Asian-American women. Whatever his reasons, his actions have deepened the fear and anxiety among Asian-Americans in this country, fear and anxiety fed by hatred and violence directed toward them since the beginning of the COVID crisis. While the coronavirus may have emerged in China's human community, to take our frustrations out on Asian-Americans, to blame them and direct hatred and violence toward them is intellectually dishonest and morally obtuse.

At the heart of our Christian faith is a belief that all persons are created in the image of God, that no matter the hue of our skin, the particular facial features we display, the weave of our hair, the place of our birth, the ancestry of our families, we carry within us the image of God. To fail to see the image of God is to fail to live our faith. The love of God we know in Jesus Christ is a love for all people, for all the nations. The Bible begins with the creation of humankind in the image of God and ends with a vision of the heavenly city through which the river of the water of life flows. On either side of the river is the tree of life, the leaves of which are for "the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2). The healing of the nations, healing offered to all people. God extends God's love to all the nations and calls us to do the same. (Continued on next page)

Connections

General Church





Michigan Conference



For the healing of the Nations: A pastoral letter on violence against Asian-Americans

Continued from Page 10

We have been reminded too often in recent months of our failures to see the image of God in all and to love with the expansive love of God. Such failure is sin, and we are to struggle against sin wherever it is found, whether in our hearts, in our policies, in our cultural artifacts, or in our systems. Let us offer prayers for our Asian-American family members, members of our human family. Let us listen to their stories. Let us join together with all God's people and pray the words of the hymn rooted in Revelation 22:2: "For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, help us rise and pledge our word."

Grace and Peace,

David & Bank



David Alan Bard ∕lichigan Area Bishop

New Ministry Opportunity: Hugs of Love

Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? Would you like to spend time with others who do? Would you like to offer your creations as gifts to those who are recovering from illness, have lost a loved one, or are new parents in the community? Would you love to pass on your craft to the next generation? Then imagine your creation being prayed over by the faith community at BFUMC prior to being offered as caring hugs to those in need.

In the midst of planning a ministry for those who are grieving, this idea of having a group make lap quilts, afghans, or crocheted throws for those in need bubbled up. This is a ministry for those within the BFUMC family but also for those the BFUMC family know and love who are in need. As the discussion deepened, the idea of offering either blankets or booties to new parents arose as well as this being an opportunity for a multi-generational gathering where veteran crafters mentored the next generation.

We are just starting this ministry, so right now we need to know who of the creatives out there would be interested in creating these gifts of love. If you would be interesting in the Hugs of Love team, please call the church office.

This ministry works during COVID because each creation is made by individuals. If you're not comfortable in person, you can still work on your creations at home and then deliver them to church. If you'd love to have the social interaction with others, the team could meet in the fellowship hall, socially distanced and masked.

Once the team is in place, we'll need the rest of BFUMC to offer names of those who could benefit from Hugs of Love. You can also call the church office to offer names of those in need. This would also be the time for those interested in learning how to knit, crotchet or quilt to join in on the fun. Call the church office if you'd like to be mentored in Hugs of Love.

Finally, as the creations are finished, they will be prayed over on communion Sundays as the Hugs of Love become blanketed in prayer.

So don't wait, do not hesitate, call the church office (734-697-9288) or Yvonne Pierce (734-645-5800) today and become part of Hugs of Love.





Welcome and Thank You!

We have four new packers! Gary Held and Roy Reges are packing for week 1 and Frank and Cindy Hayes are packing for week 3. Doug Cook is helping with unloading large food orders and transporting to the basement and restocking the shelves. Your service to the food closet is appreciated!

Final Meijer Double Day

The final **Meijer Simply Give Double Day** will be **Saturday**, **April 3rd**. The Meijer at 9701 Belleville Rd. will double match your Simply Give donation. A \$10 purchase will result in a \$20 match from Meijer for a total donation of \$30. The **only** day that Meijer will **double match** is on **Saturday**, **April 3rd**. If you purchase a card any other day, it is only worth the card's face value or what you load on it. The Simply Give campaign ends on Saturday, April 10th. Thank you for supporting the Emergency Food Closet!

Medical Supplies

Thanks to everyone who donated incontinence supplies. If anyone is need of these, please stop by the church on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to noon and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 to 1. Don't forget we have wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and a set of hand rails for a toilet seat. There is also a vinyl coated bathtub cover available but due to its size please call 734-751-4985 (Marilyn Wood) for this. It slides over the top of any standard size bathtub to prevent an individual from falling into the tub. All of these aids can be signed out for as long as needed.

Weekly Bag Numbers

Since January 1, 2021 all food closet recipients are able to receive food on a weekly basis. In January, 105 were distributed and 11 new clients were registered. In February, 67 bags were distributed and 1 new client was added. The lower numbers were likely due to the cold weather and snow.

Easter Blessings

For Easter our clients will not only receive their regular food and personal care items but a \$20 Meijer Food Only Card that can be used to buy a meat for their Easter dinner.

Marilyn Wood, Emergency Food Closet Coordinator



Food Closet





The **Meijer** Simply Give Campaign

Runs February 14th through April 10th

Reader's



The Belleville Meijer store is partnering with the Emergency Food Closet housed at the First United Methodist Church to provide food for area families. You can be part of this effort by purchasing food cards at the store check outs. For each \$10 you donate, Meijer will issue a \$10 food card to the food closet. **Double Match Days** – On March 13th and April 3rd. Meijer will **double match** your donation. A \$10 purchase on those days results in \$30 of food cards for the Emergency Food Closet



Please help feed the hungry in Van Buren and Sumpter Townships and the City of Belleville



Reader







N.O.A.H. Sandwiches – Thank You



A huge thank you to everyone who baked cookies, helped make sandwiches, and assemble the lunch bags and donated socks for the N.O.A.H. Project in Detroit. Mike and Julie were able to hand out the sandwiches and lunches in N.O.A.H.'s pandemic modified brown bag lunch area within Central UMC in Detroit. Belleville First supplied enough food for 300 sandwiches and lunches for those in need in Detroit. In addition, we delivered socks which are in high demand by folks who are NOAH's clients. This was a great demonstration of showing Jesus' love to those in need in Detroit. Check out N.O.A.H.'s website at https://noahprojectdetroit.org/ for more info on N.O.A.H.

Missions



John Dean Town Clinic Story

A cornerstone of healthy communities: The Clinic

Check out this story on John Dean Town Clinic. It is nice to participate in God's work both near and far away!

https://umcmission.org/february-2020/a-cornerstone-of-healthy-communities-theclinic/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Engage_20 210311%20(1)&utm_content=&spMailingID=6680375&spUserID=MzUyMzUyMTAwMzU wS0&spJobID=1220308011&spReportId=MTIyMDMwODAxMQS2

Blessings,

Dee & Mark G.



Missions







Youth & Children



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4	s	G	R	0	т	u	L	1	Ρ	s	в	F	т	H
1	w	P	т	н	J	A	c	1	к	0	н	F	н	0
1	G	R	0	w	т	н	0	J	R	Ε	т	0	D	w
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Name		
	Easter S	Scramble
How	many of these Easter words can you	u unscramble?
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2.	aduySn	. geg edy
3.	nubyn	12. eraEts
4.	nuht	3. eradap
5.	sarsg	14. hecacootl
6.	pho	15. edihnd
7.	yejllneab	16. trbabi
8.	rgnpis	17. hckci
٩.	elocdro sgeg	l 8. rahd-iedolb
		<u>How many words did you unscramble?</u> 1 - 5 words - Hop to it! You can find more! 6-10 words - You did an egg-cellent job! 11-15 words - You're growing bunny ears! 16-18 words - You win the golden egg!

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Westingsbory Filts (Processing)	4/11 National Pet Day			<i>l Maundy Thursday</i> 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 10am AA	2 Good Friday	3 The second sec
4 Easter 10am Worship (O) 10am SS Growth Group	5 Office Closed 10am Bagpipes (Bell)	6 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 10am—1pm Food Closet (N) 7pm Ad Council (Z)	7 12:30pm Can /Bottle 10am Food Closet (N) 6:30 Praise Band National Walking Day	8 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 10am AA	9	10 National Siblings Day
11 10am Worship (O) 10am SS Growth Group 1pm Worship Mtg <u>National Pet Day</u>	12 10am Bagpipes (Bell)	13 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 10am—1pm Food Closet (N)	14 12:30pm Can /Bottle 10am—1pm Food Closet (N) 6:30 Praise Band	15 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 10am AA TAXOAY Income Tax Due	16	17
18 10am Worship (S) 10am SS Growth Group Native American Sunday	19 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 1pm Blood Drive	20 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 10am—1pm Food Closet (N)	21 12:30pm Can /Bottle 10am—1pm Food Closet (N) 6:30 Praise Band	22 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 10am AA	23 12pm—8pm Prep for Baby Show- er	24 11am-1pm Prep for Baby Shower 1pm—4pmBaby Shower (FH) World Healing Day
25 10am Worship (S) 10am SS Growth Group 11am Finance (L) <i>World Malaria Day</i>	26 10am Bagpipes (Bell)	27 11am Tai-Chi (FH) 10am—1pm Food Closet (N) 5pm Missions Mtg	28 12:30pm Can /Bottle 10am—1pm Food Closet (N) 6:30 Praise Band	29 10am Bagpipes (Bell) 10am AA	30	