

BELLEFONTAINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
www.bellefontainefirstumc.org; 937-592-9651
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs; 9 am – 12 and 1 – 4 pm

Our Mission: To welcome all people through the love of Jesus Christ and grow as disciples who transform the world.

Our Vision: Every person in our church and community lives a life that will make Jesus smile and others smile on their journey of life and love. Jesus smiles when every person loves God, loves one another and is engaged in transforming the world.
Every member is a minister!

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Marianne Antram, Organist/Pianist
Brenda Thomas, Keyboard Staff
Carol Burton, Choir Accompanist

Wayne Fahnestock, Custodian

TOWER NEWS

JUNE 2021



PASTOR JOE'S PAGE

¹¹ Then David addressed Abishai and all his servants: "Listen! My own son, one of my very own children, wants me dead. This Benjaminite can only feel the same-- only more! Leave him alone. And let him curse, because the LORD told him to. ¹² Perhaps the LORD will see my distress; perhaps the LORD will repay me with good for this cursing today." ¹³ So David and his men kept walking, while Shimei went along on the hillside next to him, cursing as he went, throwing rocks and dirt at him.

(2 Sam. 16:11-13 CEB)

As you might suspect by this and last month's scripture, I have been traveling through 2nd Samuel this month in my daily devotions. David, as King of Israel, tries to teach his family about forgiveness. David's son Absalom is bitter because his father withheld forgiveness from him for murdering a man who violated his sister. As a result, Absalom has made a vow to remove his father from his throne. It is never easy when someone hates us and wants to cause harm to our mental, social or physical state. The curses that he is experiencing from 'this Benjaminite' in the text above could have been solved by calling for his punishment. But David is quick to consider the possibility that God might be behind it.

This reality replays itself every day with people around us, both within and outside the church. I have often found that someone's unhealthy behavior is a result of some harm or hurt that they have experienced in their past. I choose to believe in the goodness of people and that for the most part, we seek to be the best version of ourselves possible. However, there are times when we form unhealthy behaviors that start to disrupt our relationships. Love, patience and gentle accountability are the best remedy in this situation.

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PASTOR JOE'S PAGE CONTINUED

When I was given the responsibility to lead a new group of people while working in the secular world, we had a weekly meeting to make sure that we were all on the same page. During my first meeting with this new group, I was dismayed to hear how disgruntled this team was about their suppliers and customers. After the first meeting, I was led to believe that our organization was filled with incompetent people but found this hard to be true.

After some reflection I decided to take a different approach. I secretly recorded their conversation at our next meeting. After some time, I asked what had happened to sour the attitude of the group. One of the more outspoken people in the group said, "Why do you ask that? We're not even upset about anything today?" I then pulled the recorder out and asked them to take some time to listen to their speech for five minutes or so. I can say that hearing their own voices from just a few minutes ago as an outsider was sobering. They had not realized that they had even started down this road. Just a little self-awareness allowed this group to see a new possibility in how they approached their work each day.

As you might suspect, this does not always work. If we are not close to the person who needs to hear, we need to build up some trust to gain the confidence to understand the pain in someone's life. It is only in acknowledging and helping another through the pain that healing can start to begin. Sometimes that means taking the slings and arrows without retaliation, In David's case, it came too late. He would lose his son to a battle with unforgiveness. The details of which are found in 2 Samuel 18.

If you are in the midst of a battle that involves unjust persecution, know that God has been there with you. God suffered to the point of death that we might find His forgiveness enough to heal the wounds of battle in this life. And in doing so, we can have new life eternally in Heaven. Can you start believing in 'the better' that can come in the future, even when it seems like cursing, rocks and dirt are reigning down everywhere around you? Can your pursuit of healing begin to resolve the divide around you? Can you be Christ-like and start to transform the world around you?

I pray that this is what God wants from all of us.

Blessings to you in the journey,

Pastor Joe



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 3	GREG PENHORWOOD	JUNE 14	SAMUEL HEIM
JUNE 6	CLIFF KINDLE	JUNE 19	TRACY YOESTING
JUNE 8	CAROLYN WYSE	JUNE 22	PEYTON ROBBINS
JUNE 9	LAURA MITCHELL	JUNE 23	DONNA HOWELL
JUNE 11	CINDY DARING	JUNE 24	ELLIE HEIM
JUNE 12	LINDA ENGELHAUPT	JUNE 24	GARY CARNES
JUNE 14	JORDAN REED	JUNE 25	SHERRI HEIM



Blood Drive
First United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall
201 Main N
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Tuesday, June 15, 2021
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org,
sponsor code: FirstUMCBellefontaine.

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give June 14-30, we'll send you a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together.

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UMM

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Although the early disciples had been with Jesus for three years and witnessed all his miracles, they were still skeptical when others told them about seeing and talking to Jesus after he rose from the dead. Even Thomas, one of the disciples which wasn't present when Jesus first appeared to the other disciples stated that he wouldn't believe unless he put his fingers into the nail prints of Jesus' hands.

Today we have the word of God, the Bible, to teach, lead, and guide our daily lives. It is available in written form, on our telephones, via the computer, etc. for us to read and see; but do we really read and study what it has to say for our daily lives? Is it something for the preacher to share with us on Sunday and forget about it the rest of the week? Is it only for the preacher to read and study to be enlightened or is it our responsibility to also read it and study it for our enlightenment? Are we too busy to spend time daily with our God for instruction or are we afraid of what he might want us to do, to change in our lives for his ministries to others?

These are questions we need to ask ourselves. Do we see and believe not? Do we believe we can make it through this life without the mercy, grace, and strength from our Lord Jesus Christ? Do you believe we will not be held responsible for our thoughts and actions while we live on this earth?

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I confess that I have not read and studied as I should have many times; but he gently reminds me who he is and that he loves me. I think of the lyrics from the song "Remind me dear Lord".

"Why he loved me I can't understand
Roll back the curtain of memory now and then
Show me where you brought me from and
Where I could have been
Just remember I'm human and humans forget
So, remind me, remind me dear Lord".

Future events: Save the dates

Saturday, June 19 – Tentative Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am

Friday, Oct. 29, Saturday, Oct.30 – Men's Retreat at Camp Wesley (More to follow)

A special thanks to Ray Hartline, Brian Hartline, Tom Gatchel. Mike Angle, Alan Sell, Tajana MacDonald, Ed Beale and the youth of the Church for working at Camp Wesley on Saturday May 8th.

Ron



You are invited!

First United Methodist Church

UMW Prayer Breakfast

Where: 1st United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

When: Monday, June 14, 2021 @10:00 a.m.

Message by Susan Givler

*"If we let the words of Christ abide in us,
they will stir us up in prayer."* -R.A. Torrey



***WEAR A MASK**

***PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCE**

***PLEASE CALL 937-935-2777 TO RSVP**

THANK YOU

To First United Methodist friends, Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. A simple act of kindness has a beauty all its own.

Hank Kies

*Note:: Hank really enjoyed the card shower. Loved hearing his chuckles!
Thank you sooo much!*

Hank's children—Jennie, Hal and Jeff

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY Morning Fellowship is back. Right now we are offering coffee, tea and juice. If conditions continue to improve we should be able to add cookies, doughnuts, etc. this summer. **Times: 8:30 & 10:45 am**

Come! Enjoy! Talk to each other in person!

Reconnect! Share! Bring others! Meet and Greet!

Get excited about something pleasant!

MEXICO MISSION TRIP

Have you been interested in taking an international mission trip but are worried about the expense and whether you have what it takes? Pastor Joe will share his experience over the past six years in traveling to Mexico. As one of the six trips that the West Ohio Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Mexico leaders, you can learn first hand what becoming a missionary for a week entails. If you are curious or interested, Pastor Joe will present what this ministry trip is all about on **Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 in the Sanctuary.** There is no need to sign up to learn more about this opportunity. The trip is scheduled for September 18th -25th.

Friday Morning Prayer Group

invites you to join their prayer time on Friday mornings at 11:00 am.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Beginning **Sunday, July 4th and continuing through Sunday, August 1st,** Family Ministries will be offering "Song & Craft Time during the Ignite Service.

Children **3 1/2 and up** are invited to leave the Ignite Service after the Children's Moment. They will go downstairs where they will learn/practice traditional Children's Sunday School songs, talk about what the song (s) mean and do a craft related to one of the songs. Susan Givler is co-ordinating (937-599-6223)

Martha Circle will be selling brownies for the UMW Mission projects on Sunday, June 13.

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 N/A 7 pm (upstairs)	2 DULCIMER GRP. 9 am (f.h.) IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIE 7 pm	3 KIWANIS 12 noon (f.h.) BIBLE STUDY 6 pm (f.h.)	4 PRAYER GRP. 11 am (f.h.)	5 N/A 7 pm
6	7 TRUSTEES 8 pm (f.h.)	8 MEXICO MTG. 7 pm (sanc.) N/A 7 pm (upstairs)	9 DULCIMER GRP. 9 am (f.h.) IGNITE 5:30 pm	10 KIWANIS 12 noon (f.h.) BIBLE STUDY 6 pm (f.h.)	11 PRAYER GRP. 11 am (f.h.)	12 N/A 7 pm
13 UMW BROWNIE SALE!	14 UMW PRAYER BREAKFAST (f.h.) 10 am	15 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 12- 6 pm (f.h.) N/A 7 pm (upstairs)	16 DULCIMER GRP. 9 am (f.h.) IGNITE 5:30 pm	17 KIWANIS 12 noon (f.h.) BIBLE STUDY 6 pm (f.h.)	18 PRAYER GRP. 11 am (f.h.)	19 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 am (f.h.) N/A 7 pm
20	21	22 N/A 7 pm (upstairs)	23 DULCIMER GRP. 9 am (f.h.) IGNITE 5:30 pm	24 KIWANIS 12 noon (f.h.) LAST THURSDAY MEAL 4:30 pm—drive thru BIBLE STUDY 6 pm (f.h.)	25 PRAYER GRP. 11 am (f.h.)	26 N/A 7 pm
27	28	29 N/A 7 pm (upstairs)	30 DULCIMER GRP. 9 am (f.h.) ONE ON ONE (lounge) 9 am-4 pm IGNITE 5:30 pm	PASTOR JOE VACATION JUNE 10-21		