

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!

Joe Ziraldo, Senior Pastor,
jziraldo@bellefontainefirstumc.org; 937-651-6227

Barbara Dancer, Office Manager
office@bellefontainefirstumc.org; 937-592-9651

Greg Knight, Treasurer & Bruce Norris, Financial Secretary
Finance@bellefontainefirstumc.org; 937-651-6226

Raph Guenther, Music Minister
Mike Suman, Choir Director
Joe Antram, Adult Handbell Director
Marianne Antram, Organist/Pianist
Brenda Thomas, Keyboard Staff
Carol Burton, Choir Accompanist
Wayne Fahnestock, Custodian



TOWER NEWS

2021

¹The LORD God's spirit is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me.
He has sent me
to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ to provide for Zion's mourners,
to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the LORD to glorify himself.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (CEB)

These words from the scroll of Isaiah were the ones that Jesus read while at the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. After reading these words, he says in the “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” In the fourth chapter of Luke. After some interactions, the local members of the community’s hearts change from awe to anger when he points out that many do not see Him as he is. How quickly the message that Jesus brings in the Gospels offend his hearers, and many turn away. As I read these familiar words this morning from Isaiah, the thought occurred to me that I too have been anointed by the Holy Spirit. But have I been anointed for the same purpose? And the Holy Spirit answered, “Why not?” If we are truly ambassadors for Christ, we are called to represent what Jesus stood for and taught each day. We are called to re-present the Savior Himself the best way that we can.

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PASTOR JOE'S PAGE CONTINUED

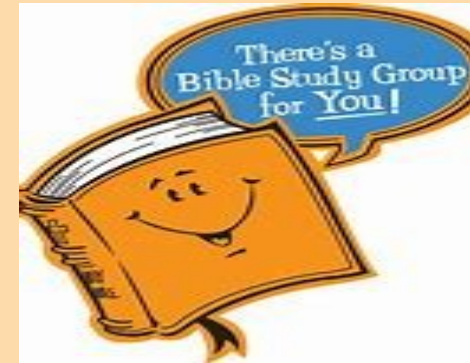
When I compare this idea with the scriptures, I see a similar pattern to those who Jesus interacted with. Jesus spent time with the Sadducees, Pharisees, scribes and legal experts, as well as the marginalized. He called common fishermen and tax collectors to lead the future of what would become the Church. He healed the sick, the lame, the possessed, the dying, and people of low social standing and status. He came to preach the same message to all these—

“You no longer need to be held captive in your past mistakes, rebellion and shortcomings. You are no longer slaves to your desires that tend to give short term joy and long-term discomfort and pain. This is the year that God looks favorably and can restore you into full membership. In other words, you can start to have a whole new life filled with a prosperous nature. I [God] will be with you as long as you allow me to.”

After considering this, I wonder what my life communicates to others. I can be easily swept up in the culture of doom and gloom. I can allow anxiety to rule my nights and weariness, my days. Or I can see each day as an opportunity to see and share the blessings of God with the world. I don't need to submit to the temptation of joining in the thinking and conversations around, “Who's side are you on?” Or I can seek to look on those who see things differently as an opportunity to learn something new.

Take a moment to consider what your heart projects to the world. Does it seek to re-present the very person and nature of God? Or do we need a new perspective in which to live each day? Do we need to increase our circle of associations to reach up and down the social spectrum to share the Good News? Is God leading you into new and dangerous territory? Me too. Let's take this trip together.

Pastor Joe



YOU ARE INVITED!!

**The Pastor's Bible Study will resume
on Tuesday evenings from
6:30 – 7:30 PM.**

We will begin our study of the **Book of Acts on Tuesday, September 14th. Feel free to join us as your schedule permits. All you need is a bible and an inquisitive mind.**

What Makes Us a Christian?

Sept 5th

Scripture: Romans 10:9-13

Sermon Title: Name IT and Claim IT

Sept 12th

Scripture: John 14:6-10

Sermon Title: One and Only Lord, King & Savior

Sept 19th

Scripture: John 3:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Sermon Title: Something All Together New

Sept 26th

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Sermon Title: Against the Norm

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 2	Marilyn Hare	September 19	Bret Stahler
September 3	David Guajardo	September 20	Nancy Angle
September 5	Alisha Strayer	September 20	Cheryl Mitchell
September 8	Ann Bush	September 21	Ryan Sebring
September 8	Heidi Reser	September 22	Nick Tillman
September 8	Brad Wilkins	September 23	Emily Pool
September 10	Carol Burton	September 24	Chuck Earick
September 16	Frances Brown	September 25	Ruth Stayrook
September 17	Jenny Ziraldo	September 27	Riley Penhorwood
September 18	Mike Suman	September 28	Chuck Blair
September 19	Julie Kurtz	September 28	Sharon Brown
September 19	Madison Miller	September 30	Jennifer Tillman-Engle



September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:45 pm HANDBELL 7:45 pm	2	3 PRAYER GRP 11 am	4 N/A 7 pm (up)
5	6 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	7 N/A 7 pm (up)	8 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:45 pm HANDBELL 7:45 pm	9	10 PRAYER GRP 11 am	11 N/A 7 pm (up)
12	13 BIBLE STUDY 9:30 AM (lounge) AD. COUNCIL 7 pm (f.h.)	14 N/A 7 pm (up)	15 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:45 pm HANDBELL 7:45 pm	16	17 PRAYER GRP 11 am	18 N/A 7 pm (up)
19 EPIPHANY MTG. 2-5 pm(f.h.)	20 RED CROSS 12-6 pm (f.h.)	21 DULCIMER GRP 1 pm (f.h.) N/A 7 7 pm (up)	22 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:45 pm HANDBELL 7:45 pm	23 HANNAH CIRCLE 6:30 pm (lounge)	24 PRAYER GRP 11 am	25 N/A 7 pm (up)
26	27	28 DULCIMER GRP 1 pm (f.h.) N/A 7 pm (up)	29 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:45 pm HANDBELL 7:45 pm	30		