

BELLEFONTAINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.bellefontainefirstumc.org; 937-592-9651
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs; 10 am – 12 and 1 – 2 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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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—2022

PASTOR JOE'S PAGE...



⁷ All the hard work of humans is for the mouth, but the appetite is never full. ⁸ What advantage do the wise have over the foolish? Or what do the poor gain by knowing how to conduct themselves before the living? ⁹ It's better to enjoy what's at hand than to have an insatiable appetite. This too is pointless, just wind chasing.

¹⁰ Whatever happens has already been designated, and human beings are fully known. They can't contend with the one who is stronger than they are. ¹¹ Because the more words increase, the more everything is pointless. What do people gain by it? ¹² Because who knows what's good for human beings during life, during their brief pointless life, which will pass away like a shadow? Who can say what the future holds for people under the sun? Ecclesiastes 6:7-12 (CEB)

Wow. King Solomon is having a bad day!! As he ponders over his vast riches of wealth, women and wisdom, he comes to the conclusion that life appears to be meaningless. His question, "What is the purpose of all of this?" might resonate with some of us today. Looking at the evening news can leave us heavy hearted. With the war on Ukraine, the constant changing information regarding the Covid pandemic, or the economic forecast can leave us heavy hearted about our future. I may be wrong, but I think that Solomon may have been experiencing a crisis of some sort. Something in his world has been turned upside down.

For any of us, it could mean an unexpected job change, the loss of a loved one, or a new diagnosis that starts us down the rabbit hole of despair. These times of change can be very stressful. I am not sure which is worse...the uncertainty of what the future might hold or the prospect of change that has and will continue to occur. The pandemic has taught us several things. First, we can now easily distinguish between the extroverts and introverts amongst us. Second, we are more adaptable that we thought we could be. And third, technology can continue to help us, if used properly, to function.

Continued....

PASTOR JOE'S PAGE CONTINUED

An advisor to me recently pointed out that in waves of change in our lives, we can look for new ways to do things. What does that mean for the Church? Only time will tell. But we have had to look at new ways of doing things. I was quite surprised to run the worship attendance numbers from last year and have found our average weekly worship attendance was over 320 per week. This includes those who watch us online. The application of our broadcast on Facebook and YouTube has allowed us to connect or reconnect with many people who we would not have been able to reach if we only offered in-house worship. God is good.

Our faith tells us that while the world around us is in a constant state of change, the God we worship is steady as a rock! God's love for us gives us assurance that God is working for our best. We will one day look back on this and, I hope, remember what God has done, before we remember what we had to go through. Our emotions in the moment will fade. What will be left is something altogether unimaginable. God's plan is always better than what we could hope, ask or conceive.

God is the same...yesterday, today and always,
Pastor Joe



Blood Drive **First United Methodist Church**

Fellowship Hall
201 Main N
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

Monday, May 16, 2022
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.

Come to give April 19-May 19 for your chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps 8! Plus, you'll also receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice, all courtesy of our partners at Suburban Propane! Terms apply, see rcblood.org/camper.

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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MAY BIRTHDAYS

LOUANN KELLEY	MAY 2	SHERRY ARNETT	MAY 11
PATTY MOLTON	MAY 2	JACOB DEW	MAY 11
ELLEN HAMMOND	MAY 5	JEREMY KARG	MAY 11
DOUG KILDOW	MAY 5	LINDA KNIGHT	MAY 11
DEBBIE SHELLHAAS	MAY 5	DANE DARING	MAY 17
AMY BALL	MAY 7	DOUG PUGH	MAY 19
COLEEN HOGUE	MAY 7	RANDY HEIM	MAY 20
ANGIE PEMBERTON	MAY 7	CATHY WILEY	MAY 22
BILL BUCHENROTH	MAY 8	TONYA PERRY	MAY 27
JUDY VERBSKY	MAY 9	FLORENCE WHISMAN	MAY 30
GRACE PRATER	MAY 9		
JOE ANTRAM	MAY 10		
JEFF HORNEY	MAY 10		
SAKURA KAWAKAMI	MAY 10		
DAVID LYONS	MAY 10		
SAMMY STRAYER	MAY 10		



COME AND SEE

It has been preached that living a Christian life is like “one beggar telling another beggar where the food is”. In a large sense, this is really true.

John 1:43, 45a The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, follow me. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, we have found him-

Philip was so excited about meeting Jesus that he went and found his brother to tell him that they have met the Messiah that was foretold and to Come and See.

We get excited and tell our friends about our children or grandchildren when they accomplish something we deem as important. We get excited and tell our friends when our favorite team wins or our favorite athlete excels. We get excited and tell everyone when a baby has been added to our family. We invite our friend to Come and See all these special happenings.

Have you ever invited a friend, a family member, or even a stranger to Come and See what Jesus has done for you or what Jesus can do for them?

When I was 16, just before Easter, my 14-year-old nephew led a youth meeting in the West Liberty Church of God. During this meeting we experienced what Jesus experienced including being led to the balcony representing being led to Golgotha hill where they crucified Jesus. By this “Coming to See” experience, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.

Imagine how this world would change for the better if all of us would invite someone to Come and See what our Savior can and will do in their lives?

May God bless you every day!

Ron Perry



UMM

Upcoming events: Saturday May 21st – Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW NEWS



The ladies of our UMW are planning two special events that you are invited to attend. First is our annual Mother/Child dinner on May 6th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be highlighting our missions south of the United States, serving a Mexican style dinner, and be entertained by the BMS Show Choir. Please call the office for reservations.

MOTHER CHILD BANQUET **BELLEFONTAINE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** **Fellowship hall, Friday, May 6, 2022** **6:30 Dinner & Show**

Entertainment: Bellefontaine Middle School Show Choir, Darcy Neeld, Director

Donations Accepted

All proceeds benefit FUMC United Methodist Women's programs and mission projects

Sponsored by Bellefontaine First UMW.

Call church office for reservations

Contact Janice Miller for more information

Watch future bulletins for the UMW Bake Sale on May 22 with proceeds going the UMCOR Ukraine Project.



Secondly, Susan Givler is planning a **Prayer Breakfast on June 6th at 10 am.** Everyone is welcome to join us for prayer and a Bible lesson in the Fellowship Hall.

We would like to thank Barb Dancer and to celebrate her dedication to our church and its congregation. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and extremely instrumental in getting our news out. We wish her a well deserved retirement. We will miss you!

The Doris Lyons Family would like to thank those families who gave a memorial in memory of Doris. Thank you so much.



The next Trustee meeting on Monday, May 2 at 6:00 P.M. In the lounge. Please note the time change



Blessing Bucket for May—Watch future bulletins for more details on our Blessing Bucket.

Earth's Survival Guide

May 1ST

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6

Sermon Title: "Living in Darkness"

May 8th [Mother's Day]

Scripture: Psalm 23

Sermon Title: "Shepherding At Its Best"

May 15th

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon Title: "Home Sweet Home"

---- End of series

May 22nd

Scripture: TBD

Sermon Title: " "

May 29th

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

Sermon Title: "A Man On A Mission"

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter Cross. We ate a lot of eggs this year; the cross was made of 2,400 egg shells. Thanks to all those who dyed eggs. The eggs were beautiful and sometimes so were your hands. Thanks to the elves, we were able to lay out the cross in two hours. You may not know this, but several elves stayed late to cover the cross with black plastic. It seemed appropriate for Holy Saturday and it kept the eggshells from blowing through the neighborhood.

The tradition of our Easter Cross goes back about 25 years. Like all traditions there comes a time when the tradition is passed to a new generation or passes into history. It would be nice to see the egg cross continue but for it to would be okay too. I would be glad to advise. I've had some experience. Thanks for all your help over all the years—with love & appreciation.

Susan Givler



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 GIRL SCOUTS (f.h.) 5:30 pm	3 N/A 7 pm (up)	4 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:30 pm HANDBELLS 7:30 pm	5	6 PRAYER GRP 11 am MOM/CHILD BANQUET 6:30 pm (f.h.)	7 N/A 7 pm (up)
8	9 AD. COUNCIL 7 pm (f.h.)	10 N/A 7 pm (up)	11 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:30 pm HANDBELLS 7:30 pm	12	13 PRAYER GRP 11 am	14 N/A 7 pm (up)
15	16 RED CROSS DRIVE 12-6 pm (f.h.) GIRL SCOUTS (down) 5:30 pm	17 N/A 7 pm (up)	18 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:30 pm HANDBELLS 7:30 pm	19	20 PRAYER GRP 11 am	21 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 AM (f.h.) N/A 7 pm (up)
22 UMW BAKE SALE	23	24 PRISCILLA CIR. 1:30 pm (lounge) N/A 7 pm (up)	25 IGNITE 5:30 pm CHOIR 6:30 pm HANDBELLS 7:30 pm	26 LAST THURSDAY MEAL 4:30 pm	27 PRAYER GRP 11 am	28 N/A 7 pm (up)
29	30 OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	31 N/A 7 pm (up)				