

## 9:00 A.M. Traditional Service

### WELCOME AND GREETING

**PRELUDE** "From an Old Hymnal" by Thompson

**CALL TO WORSHIP** David McIntosh

L: The LORD is good! Give thanks to Him, Whose steadfast love endures forever.

**P: We who are redeemed from trouble and gathered in together give Him thanks!**

L: Cry to the LORD in your trouble, seek Him in your distress.

**P: He rescues we who turn to Him. He heals us and delivers us from destruction.**

L: Wonderful are the works of the LORD to humankind; give Him thanks for His steadfast love.

**P: Let us sing of His great works with joyful song. Thanks be to the LORD, our God!**

**OPENING HYMN** "How Can We Name a Love (Melody - This is My Father's World" UMH #111

### OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful God, when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, You offered us new life in Christ. When we were following the course of this world, You offered a way to life eternal. When we were disobedient and enslaved to passions, You liberated us to serve Your Kingdom. Let us never turn from You, instead following You all of our days. AMEN**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Draw Me Near the Cross" by Patti Brennan

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERING AND ENGAGING OUR FAITH

### \*DOXOLOGY

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 12:28-44 David McIntosh

**SERMON** "Wrestling with Loving Others" Raph Guenther

**REFLECTION SONG** "Pleading Savior" by Martin

**CLOSING HYMN** "What Wonderous Love is This" UMH #292

### BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** "Praise!" by Nordman

## Messenger News

### PASSIONATE WORSHIP

**PRAYER GROUP** is meeting on every Friday at 11a.m.

### INTENTIONAL FAITH FORMATION

#### **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM** -

All children, age 4 through 5th grade are invited to join our wonderful teachers downstairs to learn more about Jesus! WE HAVE ENROLLED IN A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM. Come check it out this Sunday from 10:00 to 10:30

#### **PRISON MINISTRY PRAYERS NEEDED**—

The blessing bucket this month will help support the financial needs of the Epiphany Prison Ministry in March. There is another way that you can support this ministry...Pray, Pray, Pray. There are sign-up sheets on the prayer table in the Fellowship Hall and in the back of the Sanctuary to pray for a half hour slot during the week-end. You only need to list your first name and set a reminder in your phone.

**2024 UWF SPRING SPIRITUAL DAY** will be held Saturday, April 13th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Charlotte Hefner will be the speaker. Breakfast will be served. Come, Reconnect, and Make New Friends! Please call Sheila Rowe at 419-230-5361 to RSVP by April 8th.

**UMM BREAKFAST** will be held on Saturday, March 26th at 8:30 a.m. Any and all men are welcome to join!

## Announcements

### RISK TAKING SERVICE

#### **INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?**

-There are several opportunities for you to get involved. Please indicate your interest on the attendance card and someone will get in touch with you to discuss more details with you:

Opportunities:

- Sunday Morning Cafe prep or clean-up
- Lead Discipleship Ministries
- Lead a new small group
- Lead Congregational Care Ministries
- Serve as an Usher or Greeter
- Teach a Sunday School Class on the third week of the month

**RED CROSS** will be held at our church on Monday, March 11th from noon– 6 pm. If you wish to donate blood, please visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-REDCROSS(733-2767) to make an appointment.

### EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

**THE BLESSING BUCKET** will be passed around during the final hymn. For the month of March, we will be supporting the Elementary School Nurse program.

**ALTAR FLOWER OFFERING**— The altar flowers this week are given by Barabara Trowbridge in memory of her husband, Micheal Trowbridge.

## 10:30 Contemporary Worship

### WELCOME AND GREETING

**OPENING SONG** "Your Love Awakens Me" **Ignite Band**

**OPENING PRAYER** **Raph Guenther**

**PRAISE SONG** "Holy Water"

### ENGAGING OUR FAITH

### PASTORIAL PRAYER AND THE LORDS PRAYER

**REFLECTION SONG** "What Wonderous Love Is This"

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 12:28-44 **Robin Harrington**

**SERMON** "Wrestling with Loving Others" **Raph Guenther**

### COMMUNION AND OFFERING

**REFLECTION SONG** "Reckless Love"

### BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** "Your Love Awakens Me"

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, March 10

9:00 a.m. Online and In Person Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Online and In Person Worship Service

### Monday, March 11

12:00 p.m. Red Cross (FH)  
4:30 p.m. Trustees  
5:30 p.m. Worship & Planning

### Tuesday, March 12

1:00 p.m. UWF Executive Meeting  
7:00 p.m. N.A.

### Wednesday, March 13

### Thursday, March 14

### Friday, March 15

### Saturday, March 16

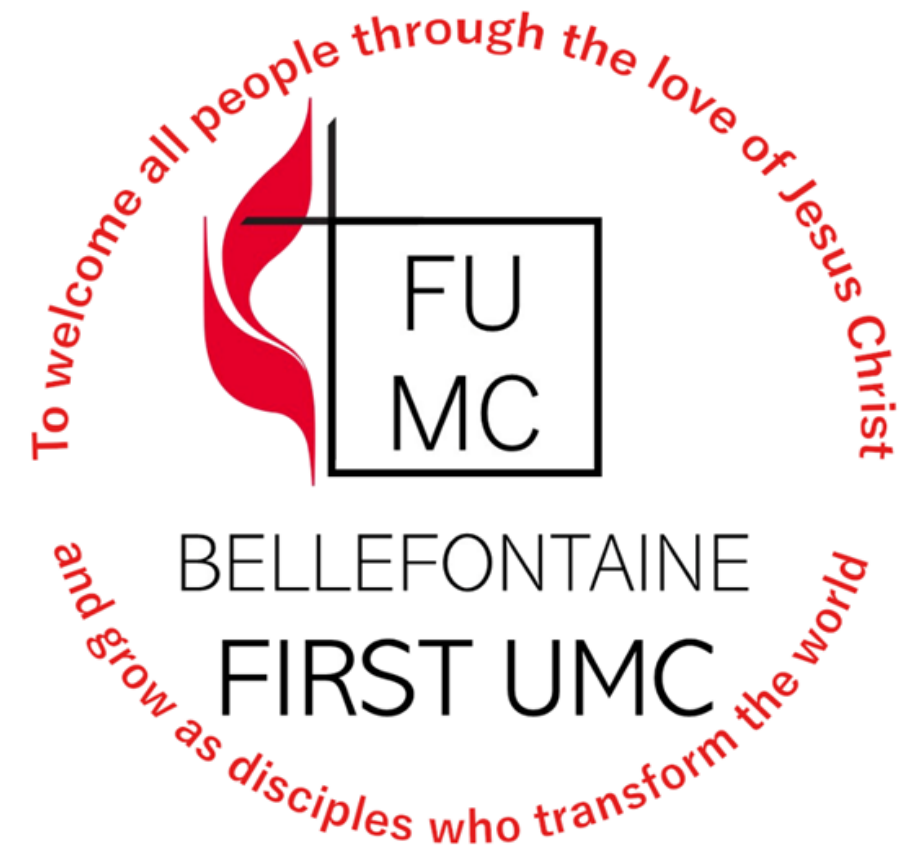
8:30 a.m. UMM Breakfast  
7:00 p.m. N.A.

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

Tyra Bell, Office Secretary  
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  
Kathy O'Conner, Keyboard Staff  
Carol Burton, Choir Accompanist  
Wayne Fahnstock, Custodian



**March 10, 2024**  
**9:00 Traditional**  
**10:30 Contemporary**

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

**Our Vision:** *To be an intentionally inviting Christian community.*

***Every member is a minister !***

Church Address: 201 N. Main  
Church Telephone: 937-592-9651  
Web Site: [www.bellefontainefirstumc.org](http://www.bellefontainefirstumc.org)  
E-Mail: [office@bellefontainefirstumc.org](mailto:office@bellefontainefirstumc.org)  
[www.bellefontainefirstumc.org](http://www.bellefontainefirstumc.org);  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs; 10am-2pm

## Mark 12:28-44(CEB)

28 One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

29 Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, 30 and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 31 The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

32 The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. 33 And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "Why do the legal experts say that the Christ is David's son? 36 David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said, The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool.' 37 David himself calls him 'Lord,' so how can he be David's son?" The large crowd listened to him with delight.

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41 Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. 42 One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. 43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who's been putting money in the treasury. 44 All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on."

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# Draw Me Near the Cross

by Patti Drennan

Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
there a precious fountain,  
free to all, a healing stream,  
It flows from Calvary's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever,  
till my raptured soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

I am thine, O Lord,  
I have heard Thy voice,  
and it told Thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to Thy bleeding side, Thy bleeding side,  
Thy precious bleeding side.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever,  
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