

Bellevue Methodist Church



In this newsletter you can expect:

VBS

Memorial Parade
Need Volunteers!

Legacy Planning Workshop

Movie Night

People Care

Highlights from the the Youth Mission Trip

Contact Us!



What are Jesus People?

During this year's Spring Break, our church sent four students, two adults, and four luggage totes strapped to the back of an SUV to the North side of Chicago for a week of service and learning with Jesus People USA. About 50 years ago, a small group of long-haired, peace-loving, traveling evangelists broke down in Chicago and were invited to stay in a local pastor's basement until their bus got fixed. Except, they fell in love with the city and the work God was doing there and never left. Instead, they invited others to join them in sharing the love of Christ through service, art, and evangelism and in living as a Christian community under one roof. That community is still sharing in Christ today, and for a week, we got to be a part of it. Our group sorted donations, cleaned up trash at a local church and homeless shelter, prepared and served dinners for people hungry for a warm meal and the good news of Jesus, and learned so much about the city of Chicago.

As our group's leader, a lot of my time was focused on ensuring everyone was having fun, working hard, and being safe. But now that I have had some time to reflect, I recognize some of the things God was teaching me about being "Jesus's People" in whatever community we call home. Here are just three.

[Jesus's People believe in new beginnings.](#) Sure, we say "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation". But how far does that go? Is it just a nice sentiment, or do we really believe that Jesus radically transforms people's lives, including our own? Almost all of our students said the most impactful project they worked on was serving a meal at The Bridge. The Bridge is a program that helps connect people in Rehab facilities and Halfway houses to local churches. What amazed the students was that people who the world considered "rough", "criminal", and "hopeless" were hungry for Christ and seeking his life-changing power with open hearts and minds. Not only that, but they were eager to share their testimonies with the students and welcome them with joy and warmth, despite being guests themselves at the event.

[Jesus's People love everybody.](#) Yep. You read it right. Everybody. Weird, smelly, disagreeable. Everybody. People from all lifestyles, people groups, and places. Friends and Enemies. Neighbors and Strangers. Everybody. There is no getting around it in the teaching of Jesus. During the week, our students encountered so much diversity in the city and even in the JPUSA community and what they always saw from our ministry partners was Christian love and hospitality. As followers of Jesus, we have a calling to live in accordance with God's commands, but his greatest command was to love Him and to love every person we meet.

[Jesus's People hold all things in common.](#) The delineating feature of JPUSA is that its members live together under one roof. 100+ people share their kitchen, laundry facilities, and even their income as a means of sharing in Christ, entrusting their lives to his care, and living in his service. If you think this is strange, it is. But it is also rooted in the teaching of Scripture, especially the book of Acts. While I don't know that everyone is called to share in the same way the folks at JPUSA do, I know this: everything we have has been entrusted to us by God. The question we must ask ourselves about all of these resources is, "how can I hold this for my community so that God can use it?" If you want to find this principle explored from a Methodist perspective, look up John Wesley's sermon "The Use of Money."

Whether you ever go on a mission trip or ever live in an intentional Christian community like JPUSA, I hope our team's experience encourages you to live as Jesus's People wherever you find yourself today.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ben



JOIN US ON A TROPICAL TREK!

VBS is 26-28 June!

1st - 6th Graders

Friday: 6-8 pm / Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm /

Sunday: 9-11 am

Contact the Church Office to register your child or grandchild. Volunteers needed to lead stations, help with snacks, and run security. See Pastor Ben for details.

VBS Team Training Dates:

17 May from 12:30-3 pm

7 June from 12:30-3 pm



Bellevue Family Camping



SAVE THE DATE!

2-7 August 2026

Winding Creek
Campground,
Hastings, MI

Check out our photo galleries to see all the fun, food, and fellowship we partake in each year!

www.bellevuemethodist.org/family-camping

Devotions every mid-morning

Come out for the day or join us for the week!

Contact Paul Haist at 517-983-2146 for details and reservation information.



Memorial Day Parade

25 May 2025—10 am

Bellevue Methodist Church will once again take part in the community's Memorial Day Parade, and we are looking for helping hands to make our presence meaningful and welcoming.

We are seeking:

- **A volunteer to take point on overseeing event**
- **A volunteer with a vehicle and trailer**
- **Volunteers to help decorate the trailer**
- **Volunteers to walk alongside or ride on the trailer during the parade**

As we travel the route, we will be sharing pencils, kindness coins, and invitations to Vacation Bible School.

Parade line-up begins at 9:30 am at Jefferson Park. The parade will start at the intersection of N. Main St. and Ellsworth St., proceed south on Main St. to Jackson St., continue along Jackson St. to West St., and follow West St. to the cemetery. Along the way, the parade will pause for several memorial observances, concluding with a ceremony at Bellevue Riverside Cemetery.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.



Experience the praise and worship, spiritual encouragement, important information, relational connection, and excitement of a continued fresh chapter in the Jesus Mission!

Great Lakes Annual Conference

9-13 June 2026

Greenlake, WI

Be on the lookout for information regarding the livestream of the conference via our church Website and Facebook platforms.

CREATING A LEGACY OF CHANGE THROUGH CHARITABLE GIVING

Legacy Planning Workshop

31 May 2026 at 12:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Scan the QR code to
RSVP for the workshop

SPONSORED BY THRIVENT



Good Samaritan Food Pantry

** MAY / JUNE COLLECTION **

- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Handsoap
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned Chicken

Donations accepted all month long and can be dropped off at the church (Shopping Cart in Fellowship Hall) or the Bellevue Good Samaritan Building, 205 N. Main St. on Wednesdays between 3 pm—6 pm.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING IS EVERYONE'S JOB...

Just a reminder...

Pick up tissues, wrappers, & bulletins in the pews

Turn off lights

Shutting off sink facets

Turning off AC Units & ceiling fans

DO NOT OVERRIDE the thermostats ...they are preset

Clean up after using church facilities (meetings, committees, groups, fellowship, activities) - see checklist in Kitchen

Lock all doors

...AND IT PROMOTES SAFETY!





Operation Christmas Child

Let's start working on 2026!
Our Goal is 60!

Year-round collection ideas are posted on the bulletin board or contact Jessica Baker at the church office for ideas.

TIP! Seasonal items go on sale as the seasons change - take advantage!

TIP! School Supplies start going on sale around mid-summer - take advantage!

TIP! Consider getting items in bulk at your favorite places to shop so you can fill multiple boxes and save a little in your pocketbook.

TIP! Work on those homemade gifts, such as knit hats & gloves, sewn dresses or lovies, so they are ready by November!

Celebrating with Pastor Ben + Cassie



As Pastor Ben and Cassie prepare to welcome their second child - a sweet baby girl, Eden Margaret - many of you have kindly asked about the church hosting another baby shower. While they deeply appreciate the love behind these offers, they have shared that they do not wish to have a shower this time.

However, for those who feel led to bless their growing family, Pastor Ben and Cassie would warmly welcome diapers or prepared meals as the baby arrives in the latter half of July. With a newborn and an energetic toddler at home, simple acts of support will be especially meaningful during those early weeks.

Thank you for surrounding them with such generosity, prayer, and care as they enter this joyful new season.

People Care

People Care is a gathering of parishioners from the church who remember those in our church and community that are facing personal challenges, home bound, celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, and have achieved goals and accomplishments.

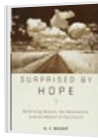


We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month a 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone can be a part of this gathering and everyone is welcome!!

Donation of cards are always welcome. We are in need of Christmas Cards by November.

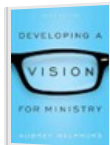
Pastor's Library

What I am Reading...



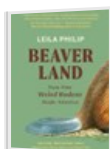
SURPRISED BY HOPE
 N.T. Wright

I have recommended some of Dr. Wright's other work before. Here, he examines the true meaning of Christian Hope in Scripture. A timely word for our "Heaven" Sermon Series.



DEVELOPING A VISION FOR MINISTRY
 Aubrey Malphurs

I cannot express how pleased I am with the work God is doing in our church and how far he has brought us. Now I am asking, "What do you want to do here next?"



BEAVER LAND
 Leila Phillip

I just started this book, so no spoilers. Phillip combines two of my favorite subjects: Natural History and American History, in a detailed look at the impact of the beaver. What's not to like?

What I am listening to...



WELLSPRING CHURCH SERMONS

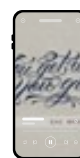
I am always excited when I can recommend another Methodist, even one in Mississippi. Dr. Ayars recent book on Holiness was recommended to me, now I get to recommend him to you.



OH! GREAT IS OUR GOD

EP,
 The Sing Team

A family favorite. 5 songs rooted in Scripture and the Christian tradition, reimagined and beautifully rendered for today's church.



YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE

Zac Brown Band

To be clear, I don't recommend all of ZBB's music, but I was recently asked by our Youth what music I listened to in High School, and in the summertime, this was it.





BELLEVUE METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

**“IGNITE GOD’S LOVE IN OUR
LIVES AS WE REACH OUT TO
THE WORLD.”**

Our Daily Bread Devotionals



Booklets are available at the church parking lot entrance. Pick up your copy today and reflect daily in HIS WORD!



Explore our Church Website:
www.bellevuemethodist.org

- Listen to recent Sunday Messages
- Stay up to date on current events and church happenings
- Learn what our ministry groups are doing
- Read the latest newsletter and view monthly calendars
- Find helpful information about our ministries, missions, and ways to get involved

Thank you for reading!

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAY / WEDNESDAY /
THURSDAY: 9 AM - 1 PM**

**PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS:
THURSDAYS: 9 AM - 3 PM**
additional hours available by
appointment

Church Administrator - Jessica Baker
Phone - (269) 763-9421
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