



Bellevue Methodist Church

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

Covenant Sunday—4 January 2026...

January 4th is a special day in our house because, almost six years ago now, on the 4th of January, Cassie and I stood before God, our families, and our spiritual community and made a covenant to be husband and wife for as long as we both shall live. Now, after six years, two addresses, and one child, we love each other as much as ever and gladly share in both the joys and challenges of life together. Praise be to God, life is good. So why, after church on January 4th, will I be using a few days off to celebrate this anniversary with Cassie? What is so special about January 4th when we are doing the work of marriage the other 364 days as well?

Really, you can think of any special day like this. Why celebrate Independence Day when America exists all year round? Why celebrate Easter if the tomb is still empty? The simple answer is that we are all naturally forgetful. Amidst the demands of ordinary time, we often lose sight of our rights, duties, and privileges as citizens, of the truth and power of the resurrection, and, yes, even of the commitments we made at our wedding and the love which compelled us to make them. It isn't as though they aren't there or aren't deeply important, but perhaps they aren't always as fresh on our minds as we would like.

It just so happens that this year, **Sunday, January 4**, we will not only be a special day for our family, but also for our church. As the day when the church around the world remembers Jesus's baptism, we will have the opportunity to welcome new members into our covenant community through baptism, confirmation, and transfer of membership. And whenever we welcome new people into our covenant community, the church is also given an opportunity to renew the vows of baptism and membership that it has taken.

Last year, we began calling this celebration **Covenant Sunday**. On that day we baptized and confirmed one youth, and confirmed two adults, one of whom was a new member as well. We also provided all in attendance with an invitation to recall and celebrate their membership covenant through a faith commitment form (see next page).

This form contains suggestions for how you can renew your own commitment to support this church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service. By taking the time to renew and celebrate your commitment, you will help our community continue to steward our mission well and support you in your own growth in grace. The forms are collected and confidentially reviewed by the Pastor (me), the Lay Leader (Steve Hill), and the Staff-Parish Relations Chair (Darwin Kuhl) so that we can support you in your relationship with God through prayer and encouragement, and so that we can make informed decisions about the ministry opportunities and finances of our church.

As a result of last year's commitments, we were able to staff our summer Vacation Bible School, launch our discipleship team, and create a strategic budget based on a reliable projection of our annual operating income. Furthermore, we committed to pray for 27 unchurched or de-churched households and are already seeing the fruit of those prayers.

Every so often, we need to remember and celebrate the gift of being in a covenant with God. And so, on January 4th, we are asking you to make a commitment to God in Faith as a Member of Bellevue Methodist Church. If you are not yet a member, please join us for the "Methods" Sunday School Class starting at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall on November 30th. And if you are a member, would you ask God to show you how He is inviting you to invest in your relationship with Him as a member of this church? I hope you will say "yes" to this invitation to celebrate what God is doing in our church together, and please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about this opportunity.

Yours In Christ, Pastor Ben

My Commitment to God in Faith as a Member of Bellevue Methodist Church

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

*As a member of Bellevue Methodist Church, I renew my sacred vows to support this local expression of Christ's Body through my **prayers**, my **presence**, my **gifts**, my **service** and my **witness** by...*

- **Praying**

- My prayer for our church in 2026 is: _____
- I will commit to praying for this ____ times per week.

- **Participating**

- Participating in ongoing discipleship through (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Joining a Home Group* and/or Life Transformation Group**
 - ☐ Tuesday Bible Study and/or Sunday School
 - ☐ Other: _____

- **Giving**

- In 2026, I will commit to giving God ____% of my monthly income which amounts to \$_____ per month.

- **Serving (Check all that you are interested in)**

- ☐ Discipleship Team
- ☐ Counting the offering after church
- ☐ Serving at the Free Store
- ☐ Other: _____

- **Witnessing**

- In 2026, I will invite ____ people to a worship service or a Bible study.
- In 2026, I am praying for the following 5 people who either do not know Christ or are not connected to a spiritual community: _____

** A Home Group is a group of 6-12 people who meet weekly to make disciples in our community through prayer, Bible reading, and a shared meal. In 2026, the discipleship team will host 2 or 3 of these throughout the week. If you'd like to start your own, please consider joining the discipleship team this year.*

***A Life Transformation Group is a group of 3-6 believers of the same gender who meet weekly for prayer and accountability. See Pastor Ben for more information.*

| Monthly Income | Monthly Giving Beyond Tithing (12%) | Monthly Tithing (10%) | Working Toward Tithing Monthly (8%) | Working Toward Tithing Monthly (5%) | Working Toward Tithing Monthly (1%) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$ 500.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 40.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 120.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 80.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 240.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 160.00 | \$ 100.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 360.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 240.00 | \$ 150.00 | \$ 30.00 |
| \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 480.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 320.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 40.00 |
| \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 250.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| \$ 6,000.00 | \$ 720.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 480.00 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 60.00 |
| \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 900.00 | \$ 750.00 | \$ 600.00 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 75.00 |
| \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 800.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ 100.00 |

**Our Daily Bread
Devotionals**

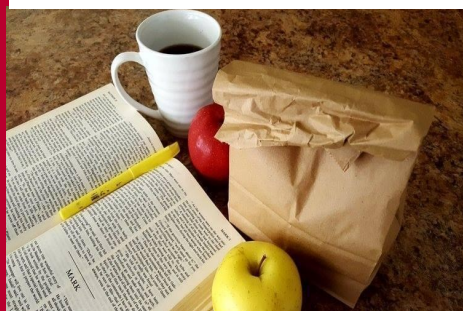


*Booklets are available at the
church parking lot entrance.*

*Pick up your copy today
and reflect daily in
HIS WORD!*

**Lunch Break
Bible Study**

**Grab your lunch
and join Pastor Ben
on Tuesdays at Noon
for a Lunch Break
Bible Study**



Good Samaritan Food Pantry

November / December Collection



**Canned Kidney Beans
Ramon Noodles
Cream of Mushroom Soup**

**Good Samaritan Food Pantry are really in
need of the above item!**

**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 Samaritan Food Pantry Hours:
Wednesdays 3 pm—6 pm**

**Good Samaritan
Thanks-4-Giving Dinner**



Sunday, 2 November 2025

4 pm—7 pm

Bellevue Elementary School

Tickets required for entrance

Children & Youth Christmas Craft Day

Join us in making a special Christmas gift for someone special in your life, such as a parent, grandparent, friend or neighbor.

Additional crafts will be made available for extra gifts.

Food! Fellowship! Fun!

Parents and Parishioners are encouraged to stay and help!

21 December 2025

Following services — 3 pm

Bellevue Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Please sign-up in the fellowship hall (so we can provide enough food and crafts) or contact Jessica Baker in the church office.

Let's Get
CRAFTY!



Bellevue Good Samaritan Wish-Upon-A-Star Project

The Bellevue Good Samaritan “*Wish-Upon-A-Star*” Project will again provide a Christmas Basket and a \$20 gift for children in our local community.

Stars for the children’s gifts will be available at the following local businesses:

**Bellevue Hardware
Independent Bank
Village Hall**

Please help us put a smile on a local child’s face.



Pick up a star from the above local business (*gift ideas will be on the star*), shop and return your unwrapped gift from where you picked up the star. Gifts need to be returned by **10 December**.

If you have questions or would like to become involved with the Bellevue Good Samaritan organization, please contact Laura Lee Kelly at 269-763-3285.

Movie Night at the Church!



All are welcome to join us on the following Saturdays:

**29 November 2025
&
27 December 2025**

Supper will be provided at 5 pm & the movie will begin at 6 pm.

Bring a friend or two or more!

Contact Steve Hill at 269-719-0850 for details.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Outreach Committee will be providing a free & lovingly made meal for:

- Those in Need -
- Those Unable to Provide a Thanksgiving Meal -
- Those who will be Alone this Thanksgiving -

Join Us in Fellowship, Good Food & Love as we come together to give thanks and provide hope to all.

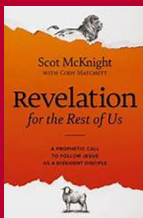
27 November 2025 11 am—3 pm

Bellevue Methodist Church



Pastor's Library

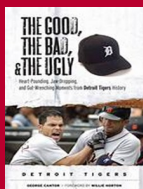
What I am Reading...



Revelation for the Rest of Us, Scot McKnight: I confess I am not actually reading this...yet. It is currently in my online shopping cart based on a recommendation from a close friend and colleague. But, I love Dr. McKnight's other work on New Testament Discipleship and plan to use this book in preparation for both an upcoming sermon series and our Tuesday Bible Study, so pick up a copy if you want a look behind the scenes.

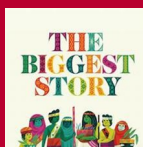


The Intentional Father, Jon Tyson: Jon Tyson is one of the public Christian leaders whose ministry I look to for wisdom and ideas. In this book, he lays out a strategy for moving from being an "involved" parent to intentionally cultivating faith, courage, and character as the father of boys. When I was a kid, my dad picked up a book called *Raising a Modern Day Knight*, by Robert Lewis, that helped set him on a journey of intentionally fathering my brother and I. Tyson has set out to do the same for a new generation and I can't wait to read more.



The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly, George Cantor: A birthday present from Cassie and Joel for an avid sports fan (yours truly). Cantor covers the highs and lows across the full breadth of Tigers history. This book fills a niche I call "easy reading" and is part of my evening routine to wind down at the end of the day without sitting in front of my phone or the TV.

What I am Listening to...



"The Biggest Story Podcast", Crossway Publishing: It is surprisingly difficult to get much reading done with a one-year-old at home. But a few weeks ago, Joel and I listened to "The Biggest Story", a short family-oriented podcast that re-tells portions of the Bible in language kids can understand. In less than fifteen minutes, I was able to share a hands-free morning quiet time in the Bible over Cheerios with Joel. Consider sharing with your grandkids next time they come over or putting it on in the car on the way to school.



"What's News", The Wall Street Journal: I always say that our news consumption is like a diet. To maintain a healthy lifestyle, it's essential to have variety. The Wall Street Journal's daily news podcast is just one of the sources that "puts some color on my plate". I usually find it to be objective and astute in its coverage of a variety of topics and across the political spectrum. If you need recommendations for non-sensational news from a variety of perspectives, you can also check out Allsides.com. This website compiles stories from a variety of different outlets to present a more holistic picture of the events in the news.



"Waiting Songs", Rain for Roots: The Holidays are around the corner, and while we have lots of great Christmas songs, we don't have many "Advent Songs". In this album, Rain for Roots has composed several original, scripture-based tunes that will get your whole family in the spirit of "Advent" and ready to deck the halls.



Our Children's & Youth Programs are thriving!

Children's Church
(K-5th grades) available during Sunday services.

Youth Group
(6th-12th grades) join us Sunday afternoons following church at the parsonage—we'd love to welcome you into the fun, fellowship, and faith.

December Youth Group Event—
Stay tuned for more details on a potential outing, skating or Christmas party.

Children & Youth Christmas Craft Day—
21 December following services

Visit our website for photos, updates, and upcoming events!

Spring Break Mission Trip
We will be taking a group of youth and adults (and Joel) to Chicago from **March 29-April 3** to spend a week serving with Jesus People USA, an intentional community of believers working together to alleviate poverty, serve the unhoused, and share the love of Jesus on the Northside of Chicago. Contact Pastor Ben if you are interested in attending or in financially supporting a youth missionary.



Operation Christmas Child

Tis the season for giving...

The Bellevue Methodist Church is collecting Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts for children in need around the world, such as **Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Fashion Accessories, Stuffed Animals, Dolls, Toys, Personal Care Items, Clothing, School Supplies, Games, Crafts, etc.**

Each shoebox is prayerfully packed full of unique items and heartfelt prayers.

In addition, these shoeboxes provide an effective way for our local church partners across the globe to share the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with their communities.

Monetary donations for shipping and the Greatest Journey Discipleship Program can also be gifted.

Information table and shoeboxes are available in the fellowship hall. All shoeboxes and/or donations must be at the church by **17 November 2025**.

Our goal is 55 Shoeboxes!

Point of contact is Jessica Baker at 269-763-9421.

It's All About Jesus!



Discipleship Training—8 November

Join Pastor Ben from 8 am—3 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Pastor Ben will be holding a one-day training, open to all who are interested in learning more about starting a discipleship group with their friends and neighbors. *Breakfast and lunch will be provided.*



A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, our health—and on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of bounty those less fortunate. And may your love consume us all that we might share in your glory.

Amen.



Blanket Sunday

December is Blanket Sunday Month!

This mission provides blankets to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises

(including homelessness and poverty).

For a donation of \$5 or more, you can purchase a quilt square ornament which will provide a warm blanket for someone in need.

Donation envelopes and quilt square ornaments will be in the Fellowship Hall next to the "Giving Tree".

Please put the donation envelopes in the basket and hang your ornament on the tree. Your ornament can be collected at the end of month. Contact Dawn Bordner at 269-763-9854 for information.



Bellevue Methodist Church
invites everyone to:

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service—7 pm

A time for the whole family to worship together allowing children to get nestled all snug in their beds at an hour for visions of sugar plums to dance in their heads.

PJs welcome! Cookies and Cocoa following the service.

Candlelight Service—8:30 pm

A traditional service including hymns, a Christmas homily, and communion, ending in candlelight.

All are welcome to join us for one or both services and fellowship!

Advent Sunday School

Interested in baptism, confirmation, or church membership?

Mark your calendar for "**Methods**" a five week study on following Jesus in the Wesleyan tradition.

Starting **November 30** and running through **December 28**.

See Pastor Ben for details.



BELLEVUE METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve Cookies & Cocoa



Everyone grab some sugar and an apron and start baking those Christmas Cookies.

Don't forget the sprinkles!

We need lots of yummy, sugary cookies for

Fellowship time held

between the 7 pm (Family Service) and 8:30 pm (Candlelight Service) Christmas Eve services on 24 December.

Cookies can be dropped off during church office hours prior to the 24th or brought in when you come for services.

Let's make our fellowship time warm and welcoming! We also need volunteers to help host the fellowship, so please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

Who & What makes up the Bellevue Methodist Church Council



The Church Council (or its equivalent governing body) is comprised of Nominations, Lay Leaders, Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, and other committees as needed and shall provide in the planning and implementing a ministry of evangelizing and spreading scriptural holiness through nurture, outreach, witness and resources in the local church. It shall provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan implement, and annually evaluation the mission and ministry of the church as well as function as the agency of the charge conference.

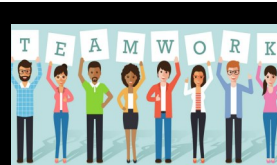
¶443 2024 Book of Doctrines & Discipline

Information on the Church Council is located on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office.

Church Council Chair—Steve Hill

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Lay Leaders Lay Member of Annual Conference Reference ¶442 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering awareness of the role of laity both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world, and finding ways within the community of faith to recognize all these ministries. Continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the church's reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the church's mission Regularly discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry with Pastor and assisting in advising the church council of opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective ministry of the church through its laity in the community. | Lay Leader— Steve Hill Board Members are Alternates to Annual Conference |
| Nominations & Leadership Development Reference ¶444 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor is Committee Chair, Lay Leader is Vice-Chair and any other members as deemed necessary. The responsibility of this committee is to identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for the local congregation. Guide the church council on matters regarding the leadership (other than employed staff) of the congregation, so as to focus on mission and ministry as the context for service; guide the development and training of spiritual leaders; recruit, nurture, and support spiritual leaders; and assist the church council in assessing changing leadership needs. | Pastor Ben Palmer |
| Pastor-Parish Relations Reference ¶445 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of the Committee Chair, Lay Leader and any other members as deemed necessary. Advisory role with Presiding Elder. To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and the respect the Pastor and Staff and their families. To promote unity. To confer/counsel Pastor/Staff on matters pertaining to effectiveness in ministry, assessing abilities, prioritizing use of gifts, skills and time, relationships with congregation, health and self-care while interpreting the congregational needs, values and traditions to the Pastor/Staff. Evaluate the Pastor/Staff annually. Oversee annual appointments/renewal of Lay Personnel. Consult on matters pertaining to parsonage, pulpit supply, and compensation expenses to include pensions, insurance, and continuing education. | SPRC Chair— Darwin Kuhl |
| Trustees Reference ¶446 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of the elected Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, secretary and at least 2 more professing members Oversight and care of all property and equipment (Church, Parsonage, Free Store) Annual audits of all buildings (Accessibility and Maintenance) Receive, Administer and invest (as applicable) all Bequests/Trusts Building Use Policy | Trustee Chair— Jessica Baker |
| Finance Reference ¶447 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of the Committee Chair, Pastor, Council Chair, Pastor-Parish Relations Chair/Rep, Trustees Chair/Rep, Lay Leader, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Church Administrator and any other members as deemed necessary by the Council. Oversee the stewardship of financial resources, financial requests, plans, and budgets. Establish policies and annual audit. Record, Deposit, Payment all contributions received and expended. | Finance Chair— Helen Hill Treasurer— Laura Lee Kelly |
| Other Program Committees Reference ¶448 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorials Missions & Outreach Nurture & Discipleship Methodist Men Worship Committee Prayer Coordinator Church Administrator | Memorials—Laura Lee Kelly Missions & Outreach—Steve Hill & Jessica Baker Nurture & Discipleship—Pastor Ben Palmer Methodist Men—Paul Haist Worship Committee—Jessica Baker Prayer Coordinator—Cassie Palmer Church Administrator—Jessica Baker |

If you would like to be part of the church council or one of its committees please contact Pastor Ben Palmer.





Bellevue Church Charge Conference

30 November

Following Sunday services

What is Charge Conference?
And why does it matter?

In the simplest terms...

Think of Charge Conference as your church's "annual check-up" - a time to celebrate what God has done, plan for what's ahead, and make sure all the important administrative details are handled properly. The forms and reports help tell your church's story and keep everyone connected and informed.

All are welcome to attend!!!!



4U Free Store

Temporary Relocation:

The 4U Free Store has *temporarily* moved into the basement of the Bellevue Methodist Church.

Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3 pm—6 pm

Building Upon a New Location

(vacant lots at 217 N. Main):

Almost done!!!

Visit our website for updates
as we finish up the final phase of this building project!



Please contact Steve Hill if you can
offer your time, craftsmanship,
and hospitality!
And continue to keep the workers
in your prayers!

Prayer Room @ 4U Free Store:

Looking for a place to connect
with God during the week?

Need prayer for yourself
or a loved one?

Want to get involved in
praying for our
community?

Visit us at the Free Store Prayer
Room on Tuesdays from
3:30—5:30 PM.



Contact Information

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 9am—1pm

Pastor's Office Hours:

Thursdays: 9am—3pm

Additional hours available by appointment

Phone Numbers:

Church Office—Jessica Baker

Phone—269-763-9421

Email—office@bellevuemethodist.org

Pastor Ben Palmer

Church Office—269-763-9421

Cell—269-303-4457

Email—pastorbenpalmer@gmail.com



Bellevue Methodist Church Mission Statement:

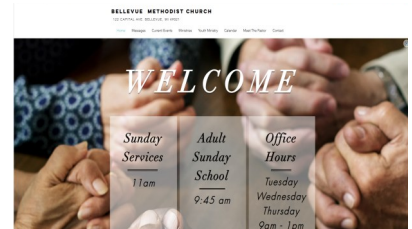
**“Ignite God’s Love In Our Lives
As We Reach Out To The World.”**

Website:

www.bellevuemethodist.org

Check out our website:

- Listen to our Sunday Messages
- See our Current Events and Happenings at the Church
- See what our Ministry Groups are up to
- Read our latest Newsletter and Calendars
- And find out any other information



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BellevueMethodistChurch

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/bellevuemethodist

Church Directory Updates!

We want to hear from you!

With 2026 just around the corner, it is time to update our Church Directory so we can stay in touch.

Any changes (*including missing information*) to addresses, phone numbers,

emails, birthdays and anniversaries, please update the directory in the fellowship hall or contact the church office by the end of the year.

HELP US
UPDATE THE
**CHURCH
DIRECTORY**



Good Housekeeping is Everyone's Job...

- * 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 use of the church (meetings, committees, groups, fellowship, activities, etc.)
- see checklist in Kitchen
- * Lock all doors

Just a reminder...

...and it promotes safety!



2025



2026