

This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 1:30 p.m. Carillon Ringers rehearsal, 226
- 3:30 p.m. Wesley Ringers rehearsal, 226
- 4:30 p.m. Open Door Singers rehearsal, choir room
- 5:30 p.m. Advent Festival, Community Center

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 2:00 p.m. UMW "America's Original Sin" discussion, PH
- 5:30 p.m. Youth girls basketball practice, Community Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 6:00 p.m. Homeless Ministry Team, 201
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees, 202

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:30 a.m. Weekday School Committee, 202
- 10:00 a.m. Behold! Advent book study @ Donna Harrison's
- 5:15 p.m. Midweek at Belmont dinner, Community Center
- 6:00 p.m. Midweek Readers Book Club, 120
- 6:00 p.m. Wesley Advent Study, 124
- 6:00 p.m. Yoga, Parker Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth discussion group, 3rd floor
- 6:15 p.m. Children's choirs, Faith Finders hall
- 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, choir room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 8:00 a.m. Women's Centering Prayer Group, 206
- 1:10 p.m. Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 226
- 5:30 p.m. Youth boys basketball practice, Community Center

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

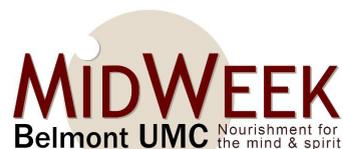
- 10:00 a.m. Parent and Child Music Group, 213
- 5:00 p.m. Room in the Inn, Community Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 9:00 a.m. Feast of Lights rehearsal, sanctuary and chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:00 p.m. Feast of Lights, sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Feast of Lights reception, Community Center



Menu for December 5:
Adults, youth, and children:
Pizza, Italian salad, and
dessert.

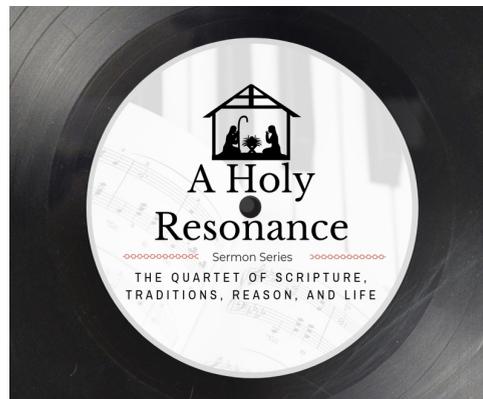
Upcoming Worship Services

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018**

Paul Purdue preaching 8:15 a.m. and
10:30 a.m. worship services.
Darren Wright preaching 10:30 a.m. wor-
ship in the chapel.

- 8:15 a.m. - Communion in the chapel
- 9:15 a.m. - Sunday school
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship in the sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship in the chapel

Sunday school classes collecting the of-
fering for December: Harbison Jessie
Rustin Fellowship, Delta/Kairos, Gra-
ham-Inquirers



How do we comprehend the mystery of Christ coming at Christmas? What renews the hope we find in advent hymns? The ancient scriptures become our stories as we allow God's Spirit to tune our hearts with the instruments of tradition, reason, and experience. Join us next Sunday as we explore how God spoke through the experiences of Jesus' great aunt Elizabeth and Zechariah. (Luke 1:5-11 and 67-79).



Belmont United Methodist Church News



December 2, 2018

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We commit to Jesus' example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. Therefore, as God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ.

Joys and Concerns

Christian sympathy is extended to Lynne, Sonny, Grant, and Avalon Collier, Neal Anderson, and Scott Anderson in the death of their mother and grandmother, Dot Anderson.

Congratulations to

Leigh and Bent Adams, Kathy and Pat Nevill, and Kaitlin and Kyle Nevill on the birth of their daughter, granddaughter, and niece, Zoey Hope Adams.

Communion offering will support apportionments

Your Communion offering today will help us fulfill our commitment to pay our fair share of conference askings. By combining our money with that of other United Methodist churches each year, we are able to help support over 900 missionaries around the world, provide meals for over 3 million people each year, and help children, youth, and adults.

2018 Christmas Miracle Offering My experience in Mexico

by Victoria Rebeck



Your gifts will help purchase low wood-burning stoves that use 90% less wood and produce 90% less smoke than open fires.

Four years ago when I went to the Methodist Church of Mexico's "Give Ye Them to Eat" mission site, I sought exposure to a different culture, and an opportunity to help others. What

I experienced was much greater than this! The Training Center, near the tiny town of Tlancualpican, is where persons in poverty learn to lead just, integrated, and

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Feast of Lights is next Sunday!

by Eve Hutcherson

The story of Christ's birth will be shared in word and song at Belmont UMC's annual lessons and carols service, the Feast of Lights, at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, in the sanctuary. The service, an Advent tradition at Belmont UMC for decades, will feature readings of the Christmas story and music of the season offered by many of the choirs in Belmont UMC's robust music ministry, from young children to youth and adults, as well as the Carillon and Wesley Ringers. The musical selections, accompanied by an orchestra, are different each Advent, though one tradition remains the same: The choirs will lead a ceremony of candle lighting symbolizing the miracle of the season as the congregation joins in singing *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Silent Night*. The service is family-friendly, and childcare is available for pre-schoolers. The service is open to the community; all are welcome!

Charge Conference is December 16

Make plans to attend the Charge Conference with District Superintendent Rev. Scott Aleridge on Sunday, December 16. The meeting will take place in Parker Hall immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Along with other reports and agenda items, the Charge Conference will vote to set the compensation package for appointed clergy for 2019. Meal reservations are required and can be made through onrealm.org or by contacting Mark Hagewood (mark@belmontumc.org) no later than noon on Wednesday, December 12.

Cocoa, coffee, cookies and carols

Join us in Parker Hall on Sunday, December 23, at 9:15am to sing Christmas carols while enjoying refreshments and fellowship. Bill Cooper will be the pianist for this singing celebration and you will be welcome to request your favorite carol. Feel free to bring Christmas goodies to share!

Christmas piano concert

On Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. join us in the sanctuary for a Christmas concert. Pianist Amanda Dembiec will present a concert of original arrangements of familiar carol tunes.

Join us for the Advent Festival tonight

Belmont UMC's Advent Festival is a craft workshop for the entire family that will take place this evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Center. Donations to cover the cost of a light supper served by the youth are requested. Proceeds will go toward youth activities and scholarships for trips.

The festival is open to all ages. If you want to go, just show up. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Heather Harriss (heather@belmontumc.org).

A Light in the Darkness contemplative worship service

Despite the jolliness of the season, many people feel sadness after losing a loved one. A contemplative prayer service on Wednesday, December 12, will aim to provide comfort to those in need. It will be a gentle time to feel God's tender love for you and to be a part of a loving community.

Our *A Light in the Darkness* service will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel. For more information, contact Heather Harriss (heather@belmontumc.org).

2019 mission trip to Mexico

February 22—March 2, 2019, a team from Belmont UMC will be going to the "Give Ye Them To Eat" ministry in Mexico, and YOU are invited! For complete details of this 9-day mission experience, go to Belmontumc.org/mexico-mission-2019. You are invited to attend an informational gathering at the Garcia's home on Tuesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. to learn more!

Wesley Advent study

Advent is a season of hope and expectation. It is a time when we prepare our lives and hearts to welcome Jesus anew. This season, which also marks the beginning of our liturgical year, offers us an opportunity to recenter our lives on Jesus and live into the realities of hope, love, joy, and peace that the Christ child brings.

Beginning this Wednesday, December 5, you are invited to join with other Belmonsters as we journey together through this season with the poetry and hymns of Charles Wesley. *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* is a book of devotions that features daily meditations, scripture, prayer, and the hymns of the Rev. Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist movement. For more information or purchase options, go to belmontumc.org/wesley-advent-study.

December 30 newsletter will be published early

Due to the Christmas holiday, the December 30 issue of the Belmont News newsletter will be published early. Items for the December 30 issue (as well as the December 23 issue) will be due by 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 18. Send your articles and announcements to Angie Slade (aslade@belmontumc.org).

Advent quiet retreat

On Saturday, December 15, from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in Parker Hall, give yourself the gift of quiet and calm in the midst of the busy Christmas season. We begin with Lectio Divina and centering prayer, followed by a time for exploring, walking the labyrinth, listening for God's voice, or simply resting in God's holy silence. The retreat will conclude with Communion and a blessing for hope and peace. For more information, contact Heather Harriss (heather@belmontumc.org).

Give to Belmont UMC through Amazon Smile

Belmont UMC is now registered as a non-profit with Amazon Smile, a program that allows us to receive a portion of Amazon purchases back when customers choose us as their charity. When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will make a donation to Belmont UMC. Sign up today!

Order a poinsettia in honor of memory of a loved one

Poinsettias (\$10 each) will be used as altar flowers on Sunday, December 16, and then delivered to homebound members. The deadline to order poinsettias is Monday, December 10. Call 615-383-0832 to place your order.

My experience in Mexico

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self-determined lives through sound methods of farming, construction, preventative health practices, and even cook stoves, by using the renewable resources available to them. Belmont UMC's Christmas Miracle Offering will strengthen and expand this ministry!

I was also deeply impressed with what they taught us! Through their sustainable practices, they are more able to determine their own futures and well-being, plus share it with their neighbors. Indeed, they are building the Realm of God!

I invite you to help make more miracles AND consider going with the team in March!