

This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

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. United Methodist Youth, Community Center

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

5:15 p.m. Midweek at Belmont dinner, Community Center
5:40 p.m. Children's Chimes, 226
6:00 p.m. Yoga, Parker Hall
6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service, sanctuary
6:15 p.m. Children's choirs, Faith Finders hall
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, choir room

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:00 a.m. Women's Centering Prayer Group, 206
6:00 p.m. Ministry Council, Parker Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

11:30 a.m. UMW lunch featuring Garlinda Burton, CC
1:30 p.m. Carillon Ringers rehearsal, 226
5:30 p.m. United Methodist Youth, Community Center

Communion offering will support UMCOR

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Go to the UMCOR Sunday webpage (umcsgiving.org/UMCOR) to learn more or to give online.

Join in a conversation on racism with Garlinda Burton

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ing this event) with discussions on Wallis' book. This event will afford us an opportunity to consider aspects of racism and white privilege we may never have thought about before.

The lunch and program will take place at 11:45 a.m. in the Community Center. The cost for lunch is \$10 and reservations are required. Make your reservation by calling 615-383-0832 no later than Wednesday, March 6. Donation baskets for Nashville Freedom schools will be placed on each table.

Upcoming Worship Services

First Sunday in Lent March 10, 2019

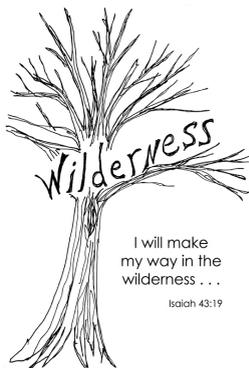
Paul Purdue preaching 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.
Darren Wright preaching 10:30 a.m. worship service in the chapel.

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 offering for March: Kairos, Graham-Inquirers, Delta.

Lent Sermon Series

Perhaps nothing is more counter-cultural than Lent. It begins with ashes and moves to the wilderness, foot-washing, the Lord's Supper, and anguished garden prayers until ending at the cross. Lent speaks the unfamiliar language of redemptive suffering. Perhaps God's grace placed General Conference a week before Lent, so we might remember Jesus who suffers with us and brings redemption through the cross. Join us as we enter the wilderness - confident that God will make a way for us.



Menu for March 6: Adults, youth, and children: Pizza night: assorted pizzas, vegetarian and meat, Italian salad, and ice cream sundae bar with cherries, whipped cream, brownies, and cookies.



Belmont United Methodist Church News

March 3, 2019



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 Nancy Crutcher in the death of her brother, Marlon Crutcher.

Congratulations to

Ha Mwee and Paw Nee on the birth of their daughter, Jessica Ne.

Memorials

AILEEN ROGERS

Donors:

Betty Brooks
Pat & Joel Tellinghuisen

ANN TUCKER

Donors:

Pat & Joel Tellinghuisen

Upcoming concerts

Save the date for these upcoming concerts at Belmont UMC:

Sunday, April 7, 4:30pm, the Sanctuary Choir with full orchestra presenting *Requiem* by John Rutter.

Sunday, April 14, 3:00pm, the Vanderbilt Chorale and Oratorio Orchestra present *Requiem* by W. A. Mozart.

A message from the Administrative Board and Pastor Paul

Dear Belmont Friends, as the General Conference of the United Methodist Church was concluding, our executive committee gathered Tuesday night at Belmont to begin discerning how to respond to the actions taken in Saint Louis. Although we are still reviewing the full implications of what transpired, we believe that the Traditional Plan is incompatible with Belmont's mission, our Welcoming Statement and the Gospel. Frankly, we, like many UMC leaders, are

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Communion offering will support United Methodist Committee on Relief

Offerings left at the Communion rail today will support UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. The funds from this special UMC offering cover the operating costs of United Methodist Committee on Re-



lief (UMCOR) so that in times of crisis, 100% of donations go directly for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

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Ash Wednesday worship

The season of Lent begins March 6. This Wednesday, join us at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary for our family-friendly Ash Wednesday worship service. Darren Wright will be preaching. Children's choirs will meet as usual, and the children and teachers will join the service at the end for ashes. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey of 40 weekdays till the eve of Easter.

A message from the Administrative Board and Pastor Paul *Continued from page 1*

utterly stunned and deeply saddened, and we share in the hurt, anger and sorrow that we know many of you are feeling. Perhaps God's prevenient grace placed General Conference a week before Lent, for surely the special session on human sexuality and church unity gives us much to repent and turn away from.

Our take away from the discussion is our commitment to Belmont and our witness of God's inclusive love to ALL people. Our Welcome Statement is unchanged. We will not stop advocating, fighting and working until our church is able to welcome ALL people fully with no reservation. We continue to believe in our core that ALL means ALL. It will take time and prayer to figure out how we live out that mission whether within, or apart from, the denomination that we scarcely seemed to recognize this week. We are disheartened but we will not waiver from our understanding of what Jesus calls us to do.

We need you to continue to stand with Belmont, worship with Belmont and support your church home as we offer a witness of full inclusivity to our village, our city, and our world. The best way for Belmont to come out of our denominational struggle still being Belmont is for us to support our congregation with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

When tragic events occur, families come together. Last Wednesday evening, we invited our church family to gather in the Community Center to share, reflect and be in fellowship as we process what occurred. Members of the executive committee were on hand to help process our hurt and share our feelings - and most importantly to listen to all. We are still Belmonsters. We still believe in fully including every single person in God's grace and love, and that is a constant that will not change. Let us gather together and begin our own way forward.

Rick Keuler, Administrative Board Chair, and Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor.

Lent with C. S. Lewis

In 1941, as WWII was darkening the world, C. S. Lewis wrote an ironic novel, *The Screwtape Letters*. You are invited to read and discuss this book as a means to reflect on the nature of the Christian life as we, too, as individuals are caught in a dangerous and complex world, but deal mainly with the issues of our daily lives, forgetting the spiritual forces at work around us. Questions and scriptures for Lenten reflection will also be distributed. The group will meet on Wednesday evenings March 13, 20, and 27, at 6:00 p.m. (location TBA). Read letters 1-11 for the first meeting. Patricia (Pat) Ward, who has a background in literary studies and in the history of spirituality, will lead this program.

Children's choir teacher spotlight: Sarah McWhirt-Toler



Sarah McWhirt-Toler (pictured above) is one of the teachers for our Joyful Noise Singers (4-5 year olds). She is a United Methodist deacon who worked in the music business before turning to ministry. Sarah loves being a part of sharing God's love with some of our youngest churchgoers through song. In her spare time, she plays the mountain dulcimer, crochets, and listens to Braves baseball on the radio.

Join in a conversation on racism with Garlinda Burton



Garlinda Burton

On Sunday, March 10, join other Belmonsters for lunch and a talk that will enrich our understanding of the continuing implications of racism in our church and our world. Garlinda Burton is a United Methodist deaconess and a frequent and dynamic speaker with broad experience across the church. She is executive director of the Nashville Freedom School Partnership, a literacy/enrichment program for under-served urban children, created by Marian Wright Edelman and the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D. C.

A specialist in race, gender, and class issues, Ms. Burton frequently conducts training in combating racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism/homophobia. Her first book, *Never Say N*gger Again*, an antiracism study guide, was published in 1995. That book or Jim Wallis' book, *America's Original Sin*, would serve as good reading before the session if you like. Some Belmonsters have already participated in some recent United Methodist Women's programs (who are sponsor-

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Upcoming events for Lent/Easter 2019

Wednesday, March 6

Family-friendly Ash Wednesday worship service, 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Wednesdays, March 13 - April 17

Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus Lenten Bible study, Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Donna Harrison's home.

Wednesdays, April 3 and 10

Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets and Rebels Midweek book discussion, 6:00 p.m. in room 124.

Sunday, April 7

Sanctuary Choir with full orchestra will present *Requiem* by John Rutter, 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Thursday, April 11

Gayle Sullivan organ concert, 12:00 p.m. at West End UMC.

Saturday, April 13

Easter egg hunt, 10:00 a.m. at Belmont UMC.

Palm Sunday, April 14

Vanderbilt Chorale and Oratorio Orchestra *Requiem* concert, 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday, April 18

Midweek dinner moves to Thursday, 5:15 p.m. in the Community Center; Maundy Thursday worship service, 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Good Friday, April 19

Good Friday worship services, 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; Stations of the Cross, at 6:15 p.m. in the chapel.

Easter Sunday, April 21

Church-wide Easter breakfast, 8:30 a.m. in the Community Center.