

This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

MONDAY, MARCH 18

5:00 p.m. Homeplace Board, 201
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 202

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

6:00 p.m. Great Decisions discussion group, 203

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

5:15 p.m. Midweek at Belmont dinner, Community Center
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, MARCH 21

8:00 a.m. Women's Centering Prayer Group, Heather's office
1:10 p.m. Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 226

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10:30 a.m. Open Door Singers sing at Clark Memorial UMC
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

Easter egg hunt

Continued from page 3

will be handed out at church on Sunday morning, March 31, and Belmonters are invited to fill them with packaged edible goodies such as chocolate eggs, raisins, Goldfish crackers (NO nuts, please!), or crafty treats like crayons or stickers. *The filled eggs will need to be returned no later than Sunday, April 7.*



Menu for March 20: Adults and youth: Baked sausage and sauerkraut, spinach salad, red potatoes, pork-braised cabbage, rolls, and dessert. *Vegetarian option:* Lotki with horseradish sauce. *Children:* Brats and hot dogs.

Upcoming Worship Services

Third Sunday in Lent
March 24, 2019

Paul Purdue preaching 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services.
Greg Bergquist 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.

Lenten offering will support Nashville Freedom Schools

Continued from page 1

program for at-risk children of color in grades K-8.

Belmont's offering will be used to help fund the program in 2020 and support ongoing expenses of the schools. The Nashville Freedom School is the local affiliate of the Children's Defense Fund program by the same name. Freedom Schools are supported by faith-based organizations, private donors and community groups. The Nashville schools began in 2014 and have served more than 300 children. While enrollment is open to all children, the target audience is low-income, public school children who might not otherwise have access to books and educational enrichment programs during the summer, particularly African-American and Latino children from at-risk communities.

The Outreach Committee has set an offering goal of \$5,000, and we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this ministry. You can give online at belmontumc.org/lenten-offering or text BELMONT LENT to 73256 on your smartphone.



Belmont United Methodist Church NEWS For March 17, 2019

Joys and Concerns

Out of the hospital

Shirley Dodson

Christian sympathy is extended to

Sara, Rick, Hank, and Charlie Getsay in the death of their father and grandfather, Virgil Fowler, Jr.

Staci, Chuck, Connor, and Landon Gannaway in the death of Chuck's mother.

Memorials

AL REGEN

Donors:

Sandra & Bill McCord

Easter lilies

It's time to order a lily for Easter! This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Lilies will be used to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21. You may order lilies by stopping in the Iris Room on Sunday, March 24, 31, or April 7, or by calling the church at 615-383-0832. The deadline to order your lily is Friday, April 15. Lilies may be picked up following the conclusion of 10:30 a.m. worship on Easter Sunday.

ALL are welcome here.

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.



A word of hope

Testimony from Jacob Vaughn shared at the Reconciling Ministries Service of Lament and Hope on March 2 at Belmont UMC.

Friends, growing up I was taught that in order to not only serve, but in fact, to love God, I could not be who God created me to be. Thirty years of deep depression, constant prayer for "healing," going through all of the motions of the pious, and God never saw fit to "heal" the "affliction" that was me. Hearing constant reminders from the pulpit of my ultimate demise, while no one knew how much I hurt, I was willing to deny who I was in order to please God - knowing I would never meet God's expectations. I married and started a family, and still,

the "affliction" remained. Years of conversion therapy, and the "affliction" remained. Eventually, irreconcilable differences caused us to go our separate ways, and I felt hopeless. I wasted thirty years of my life trying to "fix" what I now know wasn't broken, just to be able to serve God in my wholeness.

Ten years ago, I reluctantly agreed with my partner (now spouse) to visit a United Methodist Church on one Sunday morning. I was terrified of the judgement I would receive if they knew who or what we were. I sheltered myself from any situation where someone could ask me questions that would somehow disclose who I was, and result in rebuke.

Continued on page 3

Lenten offering will support Nashville Freedom Schools

Nashville Freedom Schools will be the recipient for this year's Lenten offering. The

Freedom School is a 6-week summer reading and enrichment
Continued on page 4

Sanctuary Choir Lenten concert

On Sunday, April 7, at 4:30pm the Sanctuary Choir will present a Lenten memorial concert featuring *Requiem* by John Rutter and additional anthems by contemporary composers. The choir will be accompanied by a full orchestra of guest musicians and organist Robbie Jones. This concert will be offered to the glory of God in loving memory of Dot Anderson, Bill Turner, Judy Kohler, and Bob Seidel. It is also supported by the National Music Performance Trust Fund.

Thank you, Pastor Paul!

Below is a note written on behalf of a group of Belmont UMC members.

What is courage? Is it just bravery before the enemy? Is it standing up for yourself? Is it fighting against injustice? Yes, it is all those things, but it is also something much larger. In Christ, we see the purest form of courage: a willingness founded in love to sacrifice himself for us, for the salvation of humankind. It is the Holy Spirit who guides us on our individual path to define courage. Let us ask ourselves how we define courage, and are we living our courage day to day? How many times have we shunned courage in favour of the easy way out? How many times did we not have the courage to stop to help someone less fortunate than us?

And, how many of us did not have the courage of conviction to confront a decision that runs counter to all that we stand for?

Every Sunday, we hear Paul preach the message of love, not exclusion. We hear him preach love as the glue that binds all of us as a community in Christ. We hear him as he preaches love in the midst of a doctrinal dispute that threatens his community – our community - but also our society as a whole. Every Sunday, in one form or another, Pastor Paul's message is always about love. He often peppers that message with humor - sometimes self-deprecating - which always makes the message of love more meaningful, more intimate.

In his recent sermons, we have witnessed true courage before our eyes. Armed with the courage of his convictions underpinned with love, he has stood up at the pulpit to exclaim the message of inclusion, dignity, and community at Belmont UMC. We can see the struggle he is enduring for us. This note of gratitude is on behalf of many who feel your pain, and gratefully acknowledge and commend your cour-

Following Jesus in the Heart of the City workshop with Bishop Willimon

On March 30, West End UMC will welcome renowned preacher, teacher, and author Bishop Willimon for a time of learning and conversation. That Saturday, from 8:30am-12:00pm, you are invited to hear the Bishop Willimon's thoughts on what it means to follow Jesus in fast-changing times in a growing city like Nashville. For more information or to register, go to belmontumc.org/following-jesus.

NOAH listening sessions

Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH) would like to know how you feel about the issues facing our city and community. Belmont UMC is a member body of NOAH and is participating in a listening campaign to hear what you have to say. The campaign has just begun and will end on April 2. Belmont representatives of NOAH will be coming to your adult Sunday school classes to sign individuals up who are interested in lending their voices to this effort. You can also contact Pam Auble (pmauble@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.

Follow us!



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and you'll see photos, videos, and live-streamed events that you won't find anywhere else.

Children's choir teacher spotlight: Anne Trudel



Anne Trudel (pictured above) is one of the teachers for our Music Makers choir. She has taught children's choirs since age 22, with a few years off here and there. An editor in the marketing department at The Upper Room, Anne is married to John Trudel; they have two adult children, Daniel and Julie. Anne enjoys art museums, reading, yoga, hanging out with John, and spending time with her family, including lots of cousins.

Easter egg hunt

Save the date! On Saturday, April 13, we will have an Easter egg hunt on the church grounds at 10:00 a.m. (rain or shine). All children, ages infant through sixth grade, are welcome! There will be egg hunts for ages 3 and under, 4s—2nd grade, and third—sixth grades. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are welcome to visit while children hunt for eggs.

The entire Belmont UMC family is invited to join in the fun beforehand by filling plastic Easter eggs. Empty eggs for filling

Continued on page 4

A word of hope

Continued from page 1

I was presented with a body of people who seemed to have joy on their faces. They seemed completely happy to be there. I had no idea there were Christians who were genuinely joyful and happy to be who they are.

There were people who, it turned out, loved me more than I had ever loved myself. They welcomed me. They welcomed my family. They accepted me. They encouraged me. They studied with me. They worshipped with me. They gave me courage to go on. They gave me a chance to serve in ministry alongside them. They gave me hope. They loved me. They loved me for who I am.

I've seen a photo floating around social media depicting our cross and flame with a snuffed flame and smoke rising. Dear people, hear these words: the Holy Spirit is alive and well in the United Methodist Church. The Holy Spirit longs to rekindle that flame, and we must let it burn a fire in our bellies that drives us to action . . . drives us to fight for justice for all who are oppressed. The United Methodist Church must not become a name synonymous with oppression and intolerance, but must strengthen as a name synonymous with grace and justice for all.

Let us hear God's call: be strong and take courage! Do not fear or be dismayed. For the Lord will go before you and God's light will show the way.

Friends, I'm so blessed to serve full-time in a role where I engage with hundreds of fellow United Methodist clergy and lay people all across the connection, the vast majority of whom have been the most affirming people I've ever had the privilege of knowing, many in this very room. Look around, church. See the commitment of only a fraction of those who have answered the call to licensed or ordained ministry, and stand beside us in solidarity for an inclusive church where all may experience the joy of full inclusion in the church of Jesus Christ. If nothing else, this General Conference has inspired an army of people who were not fully engaged in the struggle before. For those of you who may be in this room and celebrating this decision, I thank you. You've inspired us to action. For those of you in this room who are hurting, feeling your church doesn't want you, hear this: four hundred and thirty-eight people do not speak for the twelve million of the rest of us who affirm you, who celebrate you, and who love you.

This is the United Methodist Church. This is who we are called to be. To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – ALL ages, ALL disabilities, ALL socioeconomic statuses, ALL national origins, ALL races, ALL religious viewpoints, ALL genders, and ALL sexual orientations.