

## This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:15 a.m. *Wondrous Mystery* Advent study, 206

4:00 p.m. Service of Lament and Hope, chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

*Church offices closed for Christmas holiday*

3:00 p.m. Building opens for Christmas Eve worship

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service, sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

*Church offices closed for Christmas holiday*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

*Church offices closed for Christmas holiday*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

5:00 p.m. Room in the Inn, Community Center

## Upcoming holiday closings

During the Christmas holidays, the church and its offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 (the building will open at 3:00pm for the Christmas Eve service), Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26.

In January, the church and its offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, for the New Year's Day holiday and again on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King day.

If you need to reschedule a meeting or practice, please contact Angie Slade (aslade@belmontumc.org).

## Sunday school holiday schedule

Please note that there will be no children's or youth Sunday school on December 29 or January 5.

## Christmas Miracle Offering

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The goal this year is \$25,000.

Adcock and OTN work to help locate housing for the homeless, to connect them to social services, and to provide support in dozens of ways. As Nashville grows more prosperous, the homeless are being left behind, almost like those who cannot find a place to sit in the old childhood game of musical chairs. OTN, Krinks says, is working to "get more chairs in the game."

## Upcoming worship services

*1st Sunday after Christmas  
December 29, 2019*

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

Wisinee Lwe preaching 10:30 a.m. worship service in the chapel.

8:15 a.m. - Communion in the chapel

9:15 a.m. - Sunday school

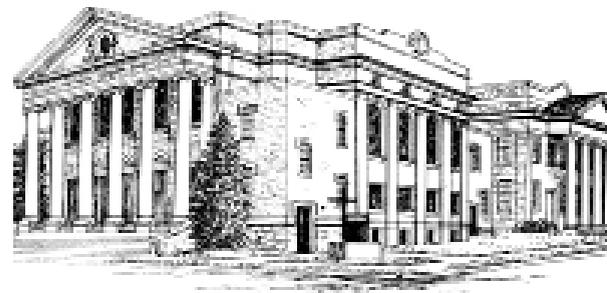
10:30 a.m. - Worship in the sanctuary

10:30 a.m. - Worship in the chapel

Sunday school classes collecting the offering for December: Harbison Jessie Rustin Fellowship, Delta/Kairos, Graham-Inquirers

## November giving statements

You should have received your November giving statement in the mail this week, documenting all your financial gifts to the church through November 30. Thank you for your generosity so far this year! As usual, we still need to collect 100% of our pledge commitments before December 31. Please help us by reviewing your statement, completing your pledge, and giving a little extra if you are able, so that we can end the year strong. You can bring your contribution to a worship service, deliver it to our business office (please note the dates we will be closed in the "Upcoming holiday closings" article), put it in the U. S. mail, or donate online at [belmontumc.org/give](http://belmontumc.org/give) by Tuesday, December 31. For questions, please contact Mark Hagewood (mark@belmontumc.org).



## Belmont United Methodist Church NEWS for December 22, 2019

### Service of Lament and Hope today

Sorrow and grief often accompany the season of Advent and Christmas. It can be a time when we are reminded of the many changes and losses in our lives. Join us this evening in the chapel at 4:00 p.m. for our Service of Lament and Hope, a time to experience the light of Christ in our lives, even in the darkest night. You are invited to this service of contemplative music, scripture, and prayer. After the service, those interested are invited to go to Hopdoddy (across the street) for dinner together.

### Belmont UMC on YouTube

If you search for "Belmont UMC Nashville" on YouTube.com, you will find a surprise. It's a video starring Belmonsters about how welcoming our church is. Check it out, then share it with friends on Facebook, Twitter, and email!

## 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.*



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

### Christmas Miracle Offering

Belmonsters are being asked this Advent to help one of the most extraordinary street ministries in the country. Open Table Nashville (OTN) works to "break the cords of oppression," says Lindsey Krinks, co-founder and interim-co-director of OTN.

Krinks encouraged Bel-

monsters to donate generously to Open Table Nashville, which she says is "not about transactions, but about relationships." Belmonsters' contributions to the 2019 Christmas Miracle Offering will help fund the position of Susan Adcock, a street outreach and resource navigator for OTN.

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### Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

Luke's telling of Christ's humble birth reminds us that "the glory of the Lord shone around them." On Christmas Eve, we come to carol, remember Jesus' simple birth, receive Communion, and light candles in celebration of the light that shines into our world and lives.

On Tuesday, December 24, join us on this holy night at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will receive and celebrate the birth of Christ in our traditional service of word, carol, Communion, and candlelight.

Our Christmas Eve Communion offering will support Open Table Nashville, a non-profit, interfaith community that disrupts cycles of poverty, journeys with the marginalized and provides education about issues of homelessness.

Preschool child care will be available. There will also be a "cry room" area in room 122 on Thomasson Hall for any parent desiring to stay with restless children while still hearing the service on video livestream.