

This week at Belmont UMC

TUESDAY, MAY 12
8:00pm Dr. Lib Caldwell webinar for parents, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
10:00am Lectio Divina, Zoom
6:00pm Youth discussion, Zoom
7:15pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, Zoom
8:30pm Parent/caregiver hangout, Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 14
8:00am Women's Centering Prayer, Zoom
5:00pm Outreach Committee, Zoom
6:00pm From oral tradition to the CEB study, Zoom

SUNDAY, MAY 17
9:30am Virtual Coffee with Clergy, Zoom
1:00pm Carillon Ringers, Zoom
5:30pm Open Door Singers, Zoom
6:00pm United Methodist Youth, Zoom

"Wherever You Go" *Continued from page 1*

their duet partners. Studio musicians and the cast of "Hamilton" make this look easy, but it was a challenge! Thanks to Sarah Gresham Barr, former Chapel Choir member, for producing the video.

Stay tuned to discover how Ruth, even knowing that she might feel like an outsider, and a stranger in a foreign land, gathers courage to learn more about Naomi's faith and ends up on an incredible journey!

Create a remote sacred space

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would in the sanctuary. We will be back in our sanctuary one day, but for now, just as Abraham did, let's build an altar where we are camping.

Need something notarized?

Continued from page 3

cost. If you need a document notarized, please contact Angie (aslade@belmontumc.org) to set up a time.

Upcoming worship services

6th Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020
Paul Purdue preaching 8:15am and 10:30am worship services.

8:15am - Facebook live
10:30am - Facebook live

Reimagining Hope

God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3)

May 17 - "Hope foments Dialogue" Conversations outside the Christian camp . . . Paul in Areopagus. How do we pass through this terrible time, in part with (living/changing/evolving) hope that reimagines dialogue- not as a win-lose mentality- but leaving room for love? (Acts 17:22-31)

Joys and concerns

Continued from page 1

Memorials

HARTFORD HOOPER
CHRISTINE EARHEART
(Judith Plummer's mother)

Donors:

Mila & Bill Truan

IRENE ANDREWS
LINDA FIELDS

Donor:

Carolyn Jones

In honor of

CAROLYN PRIMM &
DALY THOMPSON

Donor:

Ruth Berabe



Belmont United Methodist Church

NEWS

 for May 10, 2020

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.



Joys and concerns

Memorials

DON HILDEBRAND

Donor:

Gene Pfothenhauer

DOT ANN BARRICK

Donors:

Jane & Bruce Kyburz

CHARLES WARFIELD

Donors:

Miranda Christy

Carolyn Jones

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A Lenten Offering thank you

The board of directors of the Family Reconciliation Center is most grateful for the generosity of Belmonsters who contributed toward our mission through Belmont UMC's Lenten offering. More than \$2,600 was raised.

The money will help the organization with the expenses of operating the West Nashville guest house available to

visitors of those incarcerated in Nashville-area prisons. Once prisons reopen to visitors, Family Reconciliation expects huge demand for the house. Without this ministry, family members are unable to afford the costs of visitation. The generous gifts will help Family Reconciliation keep the lights on, the kitchen stocked, and the mortgage paid.

Virtual Coffee with Clergy

Are you a newcomer or regular visitor at Belmont UMC? If you would like to know more about who we are as a community of faith, what it means to be United Methodist, or you are ready to join us in ministry as a member, please join us for coffee and conversation with some of the clergy on Sunday, May 17, at 9:30am via Zoom. Contact Heather Harriss (heather@belmontumc.org) for the link.

"Wherever You Go"

Some of the most beloved and well known words from the Hebrew scriptures are from the book of Ruth. Ruth tells Naomi, her mother-in-law, that she will go back with her to Bethlehem, and Naomi's people will be her people, and her God will be Ruth's God.

The upcoming children's musical, "The Truth About Ruth," written by Amy Cooper and Christy Perkey, will include the duet "Wherever You

Go" between Ruth and Naomi. This duet has been produced as a video and we encourage you to watch it! Go to belmontumc.org/wherever-you-go to see it.

Because of great talent and interest, the Chapel Choir will present the musical twice with two sets of lead roles. In the video, both Ruths and Naomis met the challenge of recording their parts by listening to the accompaniment, but without

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Darren's Prayer

During worship on Sunday, May 3, Heather Harriss read this prayer written by Darren Wright:

“God of grace and love, as this pandemic stretches on and we are unable to gather together we miss our church. We miss the sacred space of this sanctuary. We miss the familiarity of our pews with our people. We miss the light coming through the stained glass. We miss hearing our collective voices joining together in worship. We miss our Sunday school classrooms. We miss hearing our members from the Golden Triangle Fellowship worship in the chapel. We miss the hugs, smiles, laughter, warmth, and welcome we found each week from from the moment we walked in the door. We miss taking Communion together. We miss so much, God, and with these cameras and these screens and this distance, it sometimes doesn't feel like church at all.

And yet, you remind us, in the midst of all we miss, church goes on. When we stop, and breathe, and pray for each other. When we gather on Zoom for Sunday school or to practice the Lectio Divina. When we call to check in and share life together. When we listen to the Godly Play story or sing and laugh through parent/guardian and child music group. When we sit on our couch or bed or porch and join in worship each Sunday through our screens. When we write a letter to tell someone we are thinking of them or we appreciate them. When we pick up supplies and drop them off for others. When we call or write our representatives to demand care for the oppressed and marginalized. When we hold space and care for those who are grieving. When we drive by someone's home or stop to talk to someone through their window or door just to let them know they matter and we care.

Yes, God, church goes on, and gathered in this space or not, we are the church each and every day we seek and follow you in community with others. We are the church when we pray together. Amen and Amen!”

Lectio Divina

On Wednesday mornings at 10:00am, join Heather Harriss on Zoom for Lectio Divina. Each week we will read one of the scriptures for the coming Sunday using the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. This is a beautiful way to experience scripture, tune your ears to hear in new ways, and be attentive to how God is present in your life.

If you'd like to participate, please contact Heather Harriss (heather@belmontumc.org) for Zoom access information.

Lib Caldwell webinar rescheduled

On Tuesday, May 12, Dr. Lib Caldwell from Vanderbilt Divinity School will join us for a Zoom webinar titled *It's All Ok! You're not Alone! You can parent for faith expression—yours and your child's!* The webinar will begin at 8:00pm. For Zoom access info, contact Pastor Kate (kate@belmontumc.org).

For more information and handouts from Dr. Caldwell, go to belmontumc.org/lib-caldwell.

How to give: Auto draft

Over the next few weeks, we will be highlighting the different ways to make financial gifts to the church. Find the way or ways that work best for you.

Did you know that more than 80 Belmont families give a combined \$28,700 each month through auto-draft? It's safe, secure, and processed here in the church office. It's the simplest, most consistent, and most cost-effective way for the church to receive funds. Each month on the 5th or 20th, we can withdraw an amount you choose directly from your checking or savings account to the church's account. Changing your amount, date, or putting your gift on hold is as easy as writing an email to Mark. If you are interested in setting up an auto draft or learning more, contact Mark Hagewood (mark@belmontumc.org).



Graduation in isolation

We are so proud of our students who are graduating from high school, college, and graduate programs. We honor your hard work and tenacity. We grieve with you the losses you are experiencing in not being able to complete the school year and participate in the many rituals and celebrations that usually mark these important transitions. May you feel our love and our prayers and the great hope we have for each of you! May you know God is with you as you begin this next phase of your life, especially in the midst of COVID-19.

Encore Ministries survey

If you are 65 or older, be on the lookout for a letter and survey from Encore Ministries in your mailbox. As social distancing continues, we value your feedback on ways we can stay connected. Even though we cannot gather together physically, we are together in spirit. We want to know how you are connecting with your faith community as well as any challenges you are experiencing. As we live into this new time together, we are creating new ways of being the church, even when we can't gather in the sanctuary. Please complete and return your survey to the church by Tuesday, May 26.

Need something notarized?

Angie Slade is a notary and services are offered to members at no

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Daily prayer

Let us pray together each day at 4:00pm.

One of our long-time homebound members remarked, “Even though we are apart, it would be wonderful to know we were praying at the same time together each day.”

Let's join our hearts and minds in prayer each day at 4:00pm. If you would like to include our health care professionals in your prayer, please view the list at belmontumc.org/daily-prayer.

Let us also hold our graduating high school seniors in our prayers. May they feel our love and our hope for them. May they feel God's strength, wisdom and presence as they live this transition in such an unexpected way. We pray for Anna, Ben, Joshua, Audrey, Gus, Abby, Zim and Catherine.

Praying together reminds us we are a community of faith and God is with us on this shared journey. Let's pray together at 4:00pm.

Create a remote sacred space

by Mary Beth Franklyn, Worship Committee Chair

Worshiping at home, as we attempt to keep ourselves and others safe, is a new experience for us. Participating in the Sunday worship services keeps us connected with our church family and gives us spiritual strength. To prepare for and support your times of worship during quarantine, you may want to create a sacred space or home altar to provide focus during worship and other times of prayer or devotional reading.

Will you worship in your living area with a computer screen on the coffee table, in your home office, or perhaps the kitchen table with your smartphone? Choose a regular place where it will be best for you to worship and find a small location nearby that can serve as your sacred space. Do you have a cross, an icon, photograph, or a collection of shells and rocks that have meaning for you? Walk through your home and gather those simple objects that now or through the years have drawn you into spiritual reflection. Then add a candle and your Bible or prayer book. You might use a cloth napkin to spread out and define this designated area.

When you are opening or closing your day with a breath prayer or seeking solace with a Psalm or scripture passage, use your designated space as you would a sanctuary, entering and expecting to pause, pray, and ponder. Prior to joining virtually for worship, arrive at your sacred space, light your candle, and spend time meditating to prepare, just as you

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