

This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, MAY 24

4:30pm Open Door Singers, Zoom
5:00pm United Methodist Youth, Zoom

MONDAY, MAY 25

Church offices closed for Memorial Day holiday

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

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

THURSDAY, MAY 28

8:00am Women's Centering Prayer, Zoom
6:00pm From oral tradition to the CEB study, Zoom

SUNDAY, MAY 31

4:30pm Open Door Singers, Zoom
5:00pm United Methodist Youth, Zoom

Post-worship connect groups *Continued from page 1*

you would be willing to be a group facilitator or have questions, please contact Pastor Kate (kate@belmontumc.org).

Book discussion via Zoom *Continued from page 2*

If interest is sufficient, other one-time book discussions of literary works of moral and theological significance will be offered.

Family Pentecost bags *Continued from page 3*

cost bags are for Kindergarteners through 6th grade because they have candy in them, however, three and four-year-olds are welcome to have one too, but parents may want to remove the candy. The Children's Ministry is super grateful for Ellen Haber who put together these wonderful Pentecost bags!

Upcoming worship services

Pentecost Sunday

May 31, 2020

Darren Wright 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 31- Pentecost. "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:1-21)

Follow us on social media

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

Find us on Facebook at BelmontUMC.Nashville, and on Twitter and Instagram at belmontumc.

Joys and concerns

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Memorials

SALLY SPANN

Donors:

Melissa & Bill Eckert
Helen Ewers
Patty Murphy

IRENE ANDREWS

Donors:

Karen & Don Marler



Belmont United Methodist Church

NEWS for
May 24, 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

TILLMAN HARRIS

Donors:

Shirley Dodson
Betty Jane & Larry Taylor

DOT ANN BARRICK

MARTHA & TILLMAN HARRIS

HARTFORD HOOPER

CHARLES WARFIELD

Donors:

Melissa & Bill Eckert

DOTTIE GLAUS

Donors:

Jan & Stephen Davis

Helen Ewers

Robert McNeilly

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Upcoming holiday closing

The church and its offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Ministry updates

Over the next few weeks, we will share updates from various ministry areas. This week we start with update from Pastor Paul, new Weekday School director Bobbie Worthington, and Financial Administrative Coordinator Mark Hagewood.

From Pastor Paul: First, I want you to know what an honor it is to lead a team of such hardworking, adaptive, dedicated and kind staff.

I am amazed to see the ways Kate, Darren, Heather, Gayle,

Amy, and others are finding ways to keep us connected, growing, serving and worshipping in this time of fasting from physically gathering. In addition to normal pastoral care and preaching work, I am working closely with the task force laying detailed plans for a safe and spiritual return. Worship will be different so we are laying detailed plans for entrance and exit, safe seating spacing, masks, cleaning, and many other.

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Post-worship connect groups

During this time of virtual connection, we are creating an opportunity for folks to come together on Zoom after the 10:30am worship service ends. Much like joining in conversation with friends after church, we'll gather in groups of six people for 30 minutes each Sunday after worship. Led by a group facilitator, there will be a structured format of questions

that the six people can reflect on together.

We are currently looking for group facilitators who have their own personal Zoom account (a free version of Zoom is available and allows for a 40-minute meeting). They would also be asked to welcome folks, ask the provided questions, and keep the time. If

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Ministry updates *Continued from page 1*

er factors. We want each step of our return to model safe practices and build a culture that keeps us all as safe as possible. This work is unprecedented, challenging, and dynamic. I am grateful to partner with Jennifer Bagwell, Jeff Sheehan, Angie Slade, and Susan Fagan who are leading this work.

I am also working closely with our Weekday School Covid Planning Team to consider the many issues of reopening the school after ten weeks of closure. We are proceeding with the utmost concern for everyone's safety, family needs, child development, teacher's needs, and the school's resources. We rejoice to welcome Bobbie Worthington and her 15 years of preschool administration to our staff. I am deeply grateful for the wise and experienced lay leadership provided by Rachel Parker.

Indeed, these past nine weeks of not gathering in person for worship have perhaps been our church's toughest hour, and I have no doubt we will emerge from this difficult season ready to do the work that God has called us into.

From Bobbie Worthington: I began work as the Weekday School's new director on May 11, and was able to meet parents via Zoom calls in my first week. We also said goodbye and thank you to our interim director, Josie Robins, who was been an incredible asset to the school over the past several months. We are diligently working to make decisions and preparations that will be best for the children, families, and staff during this unprecedented time. Keeping safety and guidelines is a top priority for all in the planning process. The teaching staff continues to provide content for the children (i.e. reading books, art projects, singing songs, daily lesson plans, etc.) thru virtual means. Please keep the Weekday School in your prayers as we navigate through these times.

From Mark Hagewood: The business office continues to receive and deposit your donations. We are grateful that Belmonsters continue to give faithfully. We are happy to receive your gifts through the mail, online through our website, through the Realm app, or by texting BELMONT to 73256. We have worked to be responsive to online giving needs, including setting up online giving forms for the Covenant Class "Gloves for First Responders" project and payments for the youth plant sale. We continue to closely monitor our income and expenses. The business office has been especially busy applying for federal and state financial assistance to help us continue to pay our church and weekday school employees in light of the loss of our weekday school tuition income. These forgivable loans and grants do require extra financial reporting and record-keeping. Please contact Mark Hagewood (mark@belmontumc.org) for any questions about giving.

How to give: Text to give

Over the last few weeks, we have highlighted the different ways to make financial gifts to the church. Here's one more:

Texting has become a nearly ubiquitous way to communicate. I'll text my wife to see if I need to pick up anything at the grocery store, or I'll text my friends to see if they're up for an online game night. I've even texted to share my opinion with my representatives in Congress!

One other use of texting is to make a quick donation to the church. It's so simple! Just text BELMONT to 73256. You'll immediately receive a text back with a link to our online giving site. Click the link, fill out the amount, choose the fund, enter your payment info, and click give. You can even choose to save your payment info so your next text gift will be even quicker! For more information, visit belmontumc.org/give or contact Mark Hagewood (mark@belmontumc.org).

Book discussion via Zoom

Join us for a Zoom discussion group of Albert Camus' *The Plague*. This group will meet on Tuesdays June 2, 9, and 16 at 6:00pm and will be led by Pat Ward, emerita professor of French and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt. The book is available on Amazon, Kindle, and Audible. In preparation for the first meeting, you are encouraged to read parts one and two. Each session will last 45-60 minutes.

To sign up, contact Kate Fields.
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New resource available for Tennessee tornado survivors

An innovative project of the Tennessee Conference is virtually linking hands with survivors of the March 3 tornadoes in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Recovery Connection (TRC), funded by a grant to the conference from the Middle Tennessee Community Foundation, provides a listening ear for those who have experienced a variety of tornado-related losses, connecting callers to resources for their immediate needs. The project will also capture survivors' long-term losses, those things they cannot immediately fix, that they will need to fully recover.

Fourteen volunteer and paid outreach workers are staffing 615-270-9255 to talk with survivors about their immediate and long-term needs, including how the COVID-19 virus is impacting their ability to recover.

Go to tnumc.org/new-resource-available-for-tennessee-tornado-survivors to learn more.

Family Pentecost bags

Pentecost is Sunday, May 31, and we want to be ready with Pentecost bags for children! Bags may be picked up at the church Sunday, May 24, or next week, Tuesday, May 26, through Saturday, May 30, anytime between 8:00am-2:30pm. On May 24, the bags will be located in front of the Community Center. Beginning May 26, they will be placed inside the Iris Room entrance doors. These doors stay locked, so please call the custodian whose number is posted on the door to have the door opened for you. These Pente-

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Happy Birthday, Ruby!



On May 20, friends celebrated Ruby's birthday with a car parade at Homeplace. There was lots of honking, singing, and love!