

This week at Belmont UMC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:15am Worship service with Communion, Facebook live
9:30am Children's Sunday school, Zoom
10:30am Worship service, Facebook live
1:00pm Carillon Ringers rehearsal, sanctuary
2:45pm Youth choir ensemble rehearsal, sanctuary
3:30pm Youth bell ensemble rehearsal, 226
4:15pm Youth choir ensemble rehearsal, sanctuary
5:15pm United Methodist Youth, Zoom

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:00am Regathering Team, Zoom
5:30pm Flow yoga, Zoom
6:30pm Belmont LGBTQIA group, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

10:00am Lectio Divina, Zoom
Church offices close at noon

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Church offices closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church offices closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:15am Worship service with Communion, Facebook live
9:15am *Almost Christmas* Advent study, Zoom
9:30am Children's Sunday school, Zoom
10:30am Worship service, Facebook live
1:00pm Carillon Ringers rehearsal, sanctuary
5:15pm United Methodist Youth, Zoom

Preparing for Advent

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and Christmas services will feel different as we will miss crowding into the pews for the Feast of Lights and Christmas Eve services. However, next Sunday, November 29, Advent begins and so continues our waiting and our longing. Wreaths will be hung on our doors, the evergreen circles reminding us of Christ's unending, ever present, love. Candles on the Advent wreath will be lit. Be sure to pick up your Advent bags from the Community Center. We will keep our eyes and hearts open, searching for light in the darkness, and hope in the wilderness.

Upcoming worship services

*1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020*

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

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

Searching for the Light

November 29 - Practicing hope (Psalm 80)

Christmas Miracle Offering will benefit Malawi

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tims until it too collapsed. It is the last remaining unrepared Methodist church hit by that cyclone. The Malawi UMC estimates that it will take approximately \$8,000 USD to rebuild that church.

The second project, an adult literacy initiative, is by God's grace particularly timely. The adult literacy rate in Malawi is 70%, but for women it is closer to 50%. Improving those figures is critical for the development of the Malawi UMC as well as the country as a whole. We can partner in this effort with the German UMC which, in concert with our Malawi partners, is currently developing a practical plan for this initiative.

There are three easy ways to make a donation to the Christmas Miracle Offering. You can mail a check to the church (P.O. Box 120098, Nashville, TN 37212) made out to Belmont UMC with "Christmas Miracle" in the memo line, give online at <https://onrealm.org/BelmontUMC/give/Christmas>, or text BELMONT CHRISTMAS to 73256 to give using your mobile device.



Belmont United Methodist Church NEWS for November 22, 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

Out of the hospital

Nancy Wahl

Christian sympathy is extended to Jennifer Pettit, Homeplace staff and board members, family, and friends in the death of Ruby Truette.

Memorials

CHUCK FEDERSPIEL

Donors:

Patricia Ward

Sally Wright and family

TINA HAZELWOOD

Donors:

Eleanor & John Kennedy

Upcoming holiday closings

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church and its offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 25, and remain closed through Friday, November 27.

2020 Christmas Miracle Offering will benefit Malawi

In keeping with our tradition of dedicating Belmont UMC's Christmas Miracle Offering to our overseas mission partners in even-numbered years, the Outreach Committee has determined that this year's offering should benefit two important projects in Malawi. Our goal is to raise at least \$15,000.

The first project is to raise funds to rebuild the Methodist church in Phala, a village in the flood lands of the Lower Shire River area of Malawi. The church was destroyed by a cyclone in March, 2019. After



most of the nearby houses were destroyed, the church served as a shelter for displaced vic-

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Preparing for Advent

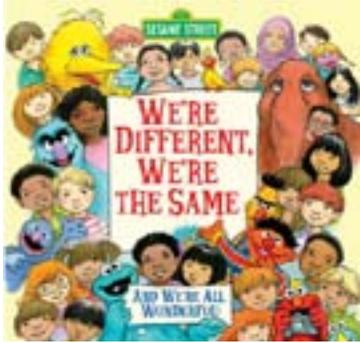
The liturgical year and our spiritual practices help to remind us that even with so much turmoil in our lives, God is with us. Today we gaze upon the beauty of the Christmas tree, filled with symbols of the history of our faith and of God's unending love for each

of us. The tree is up a week early this year because filming is now underway for the Feast of Lights. This is a welcome accommodation in the midst of the many other changes that we are encountering.

Our Thanksgiving, Advent,
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UMW Christmas project: Book donations for children of color

Belmont UMC's United Methodist Women would like your help in collecting books for the Dare to Dream Child Development Center at Community Care Fellowship. This two-year-old program currently serves eight children of color, ages 3-5. The books will be included along with other gifts in Christmas packages for each child's family. Extras will be donated to the center's library.



Please drop off your donation at Belmont UMC's Community Center pre-event area before Friday, December 11. Thank you for your participation!

***Searching for the Light* Advent scavenger hunt**

At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus brings God's big light into darkness. This year in particular, it feels like we are especially in need of this light. We believe that if we look carefully and pay attention we might find a lot of little lights that remind us of God's big light. You are invited to search for the light this Advent by solving clues which will lead you to four different ways that the little lights all around us help us to wait for God's big light revealed in Christ on Christmas. From November 29—December 24, we will have an Advent scavenger hunt around the grounds of the church building. We will send out clues via e-mail, social media, and the newsletter to help you find four special boxes hidden around the outside of the church.

***Almost Christmas* Advent study begins next Sunday**

Beginning next Sunday, November 29, join us on Sunday mornings in Advent at 9:15am via Zoom for our *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience* study. This study will be led by Jim Strickland and Kate Fields. Go to belmontumc.org/almost-christmas to learn more.

Christmas stockings

Due to the pandemic, Beersheba will not hold their annual Christmas party for the children of Grundy county, so we will not be putting together Christmas stockings this year. We look forward to resuming this tradition next year.

Advent around a fire

On Sunday, December 6, at 5:30pm, you are invited to gather much like the ancient church did - around a fire. Though we cannot gather in person, we will do so via Zoom. To prepare, consider lighting a fire in your fireplace, sitting outside by a fire pit, or just lighting a candle. This gathering will take place in the dark as we come together to prepare our hearts for the waiting of Advent with somber and sacred Advent hymn singing and reciting liturgy.

If you would like to participate in this service by reading or leading us in song, that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Pastor Kate (kate@belmontumc.org) to sign up.

Tomorrow is last day to order wreaths and poinsettias

On Sunday, November 29, wreaths will be placed on our exterior doors, and on Sundays December 6 and 13, poinsettias will be placed around the altar—all given in memory or honor of loved ones.

To download an order form or get more information, go to belmontumc.org/wreaths-and-poinsettias. The order deadline is tomorrow, Monday, November 23.