



# *The United Methodist Town Crier*

## **Belvidere United Methodist Church**

219 Hardwick Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823

**April 2022 Vol. LXXV No. 4**

**The Reverend Evan Rohrs-Dodge, Pastor**

**Dean Tshudy, Lay Leader**

Office Hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm/Telephone: (908) 475-4065/Fax: (908) 475-4006

E-Mail: [Church@BelvidereUMC.org](mailto:Church@BelvidereUMC.org) Website: [belvidereumc.com](http://belvidereumc.com)

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### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends,

Easter is coming. I love the Easter story as told in John 20. Mary's despair, shock, and then joy at discovering her savior, risen and whole, is palpable and speaks to us. Malcolm Guite, great English poet, captures it beautifully here. May you, too, be captivated by the truth of Easter.

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

+Pastor Evan

April 2022

**PASTOR :**  
Rev. Evan Rohrs-Dodge  
**EDITOR:**  
Liz Burkat  
**PRINTING:**  
Carolann Ficarra  
**REPORTERS:**  
**FINANCE:**  
Rose Haller  
**MISSIONS:**  
Jan Lee  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**  
Becky & Tim Driscoll  
**UMW :**  
Paula Hilliard  
Nancy Brown  
**WORSHIP :**  
Marilou Tshudy  
**YOUTH GROUP:**  
Rev. Evan Rohrs-Dodge  
**FAMILY MINISTRIES:**  
Debbie Perelli  
**CIRCULATION:**  
Linda & John Benton,  
Lois Hampshire, and  
Fran Oldehoff

**BULLETIN  
SPONSOR**

The cost of sponsoring bulletins is \$25 per month. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (908) 475-4065.

**APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

*Janice McCrostie has been appointed to Belvidere UMC*

Janice McCrostie has served as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at Denville Community Church for the last seven years. She is a graduate of Drew Theological School and received her M.Div in the spring of 2021. Prior to answering her call, Janice worked in theatre, receiving a Bachelor of the Arts from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an MLitt in Play Writing from the University of Glasgow.



Janice has worked with the Search for Christian Maturity and the 4th Day Reunion Retreats since 2002, and continues to serve on the Search Retreat as a spiritual advisor.



# Holy Week



**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Belvidere United Methodist Church is an open door, open heart, open minded Christian community.

Our mission is to:

- \* Become true disciples of God;
- \* Share the love of God through ministry;
- \* Mature in Christian faith; and
- \* Serve the constantly changing needs of our community and the world.



## Because We Care

Please include these persons in your daily prayers

*"Listen to God with a broken heart. He is not only the doctor who mends it, but also the father who wipes away the tears."*

— Criss Jami



**Nancy Ainsworth**

**Edith Ballard**

**John & Linda Benton & Family**

**Family & Friends of Joan Caskey**

**Janet Cline**  
*Helen Grauso's daughter*

**Carol Conley**

**Ed, Carollynn, & Sarah Conley**  
*Carol Conley's son, daughter-in-law, & granddaughter*  
*Family & Friends of Joan Caskey*

**Sean Conley**  
*Carol Conley's grandson*

**Gary Diciak**  
*friend of Skip Detweiler*

**The family and friends of Darren Daniello**

**Debbie & William Dodge**

**Phyllis Downing & Family**  
*Carol Conley's sister*

**Tom Evans**  
*Barbara & Don Loock's son-in-law*

**Judy Farmer**

**Matthew Germain**  
*Frank & Murnie Dragotta's son-in-law*

**Marge Guerrazzi**  
*Friend of Walter & Alexis Burkat*

**Ken & Paula Hilliard**  
*705 Oxford Street*  
*Belvidere, NJ 07823*

**JoAnn Holland**  
*62 Ridge Rd., Hackettstown 07840*  
*(Marilou's sister-in-law)*

**Linda Krychowecky**  
*Christine Howard's sister*

**Richard Lauer Sr.**  
*Rich Lauer's Dad*

**Connie Krueger**  
*112 Kensington Court*  
*Belvidere, NJ 07823*

**Olivia Leigh**

**Laura Levine**

**Becky Long**  
*PO Box 279 Martins Creek PA 18063*

**Barbara & Don Loock**  
*7971 Little Creek Rd*  
*Bangor, PA 18013*

**Louise Manning**

**Kyra Marsh**  
*Nancy Higgins's granddaughter*

**Betty Merring**  
*833 Lopatcong street*  
*Belvidere, NJ 07823*

**Paul Merring**

**Tracy Mooney**  
*Barbara & Don Loock's daughter-in-law*

**Fran Oldehoff**

**Dominick Puelo**

**Shirley Pulsinelli**

**Margie Riedel**  
*Adella & BJ Wauhopp's daughter*

**Tim & Mary Rue**

**Cindy Rufe**  
*Mike Benton's mother-in-law*

**Teri Rumore**  
*8520 West Price Blvd.*  
*North Port, FL 34287*

**Barbara Scillitoe**

**Eileen Smith**  
*Friend of Jan Lee*

**Betty Slater**  
*Kathi Luton's sister*

**Charlotte Fiduk Snow**  
*Friend of Liz Burkat*

**Marie Sweet**  
*139 Cedar Lake Road*  
*Blairstown, NJ 07825*

**Bev VanAlthuis**  
*34 Race Street*  
*Belvidere, NJ07823*

**Cliff VanKirk**  
*Linda Benton's brother*

**Nancy Wassil & Family**  
*Barbara Loock's sister –in-law*

**Jody Liegel**

**Nicole Carroll & Family**

**Laurie Ritz Dragotta**

**baby Logan**

**Ray**  
*Fran Oldehoff's nephew*

**Chris**  
*Fran Oldehoff's nsister-in-law*

If you have a loved one, family or friend, who can be removed from the prayer list, please call the church office (908) 475-4065 or email [church@belvidereumc.org](mailto:church@belvidereumc.org)

*The risen Christ is celebrated in every opened flower, in every beam of nourishing sunlight, in every humble patch of green beneath our feet.*



**SPRING PAINT DAY** is Sunday, April 3 from 12:30-2:00. Doors open at noon. Instruction, materials and lite refreshments are all for only \$25. Sign up in the fellowship hall. Contact Debbie Perelli at 610 905-8409 with any questions. Save your seat by 3/27.

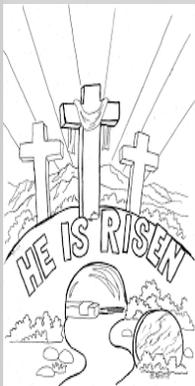


Our annual BUMC Family **EGG HUNT** for ages 1-13 will be held in the park on Sunday, April 10, after the worship service. If you would like to donate candy-filled eggs and or prizes please bring them to fellowship hour by 4/3. Thank you in advance.



Brad Koller will be back in town on Sunday, April 24 from 12-3 to offer a **WALKING STICK WORKSHOP** for physically-able BUMC friends and family ages 12 and up in the park weather-permitting; otherwise, in the fellowship hall. Instruction and all materials provided for only \$25. Space is limited! Contact Debbie Perelli at 610 905-8409 by

3/13.



*Today we Remember- the moment when Jesus laid down his life for our sins, we were redeemed by the sacrifice of our Lord & Savior.*



Our annual BUMC trip to an **IRON PIGS BASEBALL GAME** at Coca Cola Park in Allentown, PA, is on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:35 pm. Tickets are \$37. We will have a meeting room with food and soft drinks included. Covered seats outside the bar and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Payment is due by April 24. Checks payable to BUMC. Contact Debbie Perelli at 610 905-8409 with any questions.



Our annual Sunday School **CHURCH PICNIC** in the park is on Sunday, June 5, after the worship service. Rain date is 6/12. A covered dish sign-up sheet will be available in early May.



Please Mark Your Calendar

**LITURGISTS**

Please check email for the verses.

April 3 / Communion	Marilou Tshudy
April 10	Terry Call
April 17	Linda Benton
April 24	Barbara Call

**Greeter Schedule**

April 3	Kathie Luton
April 10	Jim & Lisa McAleer
April 17	Rose Haller
April 24	Maritza Baakman



**Giving: We thank you so much for continuing to support the mission and ministries of the church and ask that you continue to give as you are able.** You

can continue to support BUMC online through our website (visit [www.belvidereumc.com](http://www.belvidereumc.com) and click the green "give" button on the home page of our website), through your online banking (designating the church as a payee), or by sending in your check to the church.

**Friends & Relatives Called to Serve Our Country**



Maj. John Henry, U.S. Marines	Friend of the Grogan family
Lt Col Christopher O'Connor, U.S. Marines	Brother-in-law of Victoria & Kevin Call; Phil Bronico ; Jim & Tricia Bronico
Captain Neil Bucken, U.S. Marines , San Diego	Neighbor of the Harts
Mitchell Lango, U.S. Army	Neighbor of the Harts
SPC Phillip Hampton, US Army	ERF 14.4 ATTN: SPC Hampton, Phillip, B CO 2-5 Cav, Unit# 36250, APO AE. 09016-6250; Son of Bill & Theresa Hampton
Cooper Kornegay, US Army	627 5th Street Belvidere, NJ 07823
Michael Jago, US Army	
Tech Sgt Russell J. Stanley	433 Rt # 46 Belvidere, NJ 07823 ; ; Son of Evelyn Stanley

We are updating this listing as of May TC . If anyone who has a serviceperson that they wish to be on the prayer list or if there are changes to the above list, please email Liz or the church office.....

**Average Budget**



March budget	\$15,424
April budget	\$15,424



### ShopRite gift cards!

Once again, we have Shoprite gift cards for sale.

Until we find a person to handle this every Sunday, you can leave a message on the church office phone if you would like to purchase some, and we will have them ready for you on Sunday. Also, we have a volunteer who will bring them to your home."

### Prayer Squares

Thank you Kathie Luton and Pam Pizzuti for making the Prayer Squares AND for starting the project of Prayer Pockets for Ukraine.



**W.e.l.c.o.m.e**  
  
**New Members**

*Interested in joining Belvidere UMC as a member?* Pastor Evan is hoping to welcome new members in February or March. ***If you are interested in joining BUMC, please contact the main office.***



*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."*

~ Nelson Mandela



You can find us on the web at:  
[www.belvidereumc.com](http://www.belvidereumc.com)

**Follow us on Social Media!**  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/belvidereumcnj](https://www.facebook.com/belvidereumcnj)  
Twitter: @BelvidereUMC

# Food Pantry Stats

Below you will see the number of community members served each month.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	128	171	207	209
February	129	141	233	202
March	98	125	240	
April	135	110	251	
May	141	124	246	
June	156	115	199	
July	161	167	219	
August	161	137	206	
September	144	157	211	
October	149	197	232	
November	170	188	163	
December	171	152	233	

## PASTORAL VISITATIONS

If you would like a visit from Pastor Evan, please call the office at 908-475-4065. In case of emergency, or if the church office is closed, you may call 973-615-4804.



to all who supported Good News Home for Women on March 20

We were blessed to have the women participate in worship yesterday and share during our luncheon on Sunday, March 20. We are still accepting donations to this vital ministry. You can put "Good News Home" in your check made out to the church.

## Administrative Council Leadership Team Update ~

Our leadership Team met on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Trustees / Building & Grounds reported that the work on the girl's bathroom in the education wing continues (it is being made Handicap Accessible); a leak has been discovered and a proposal for repair is being obtained. Through the generosity of the Stokes (Wes & Robin) the black rubber mulch was totally removed from the back of the parsonage area; trees that needed tending were taken down, debris was removed, and a fence separating the yard from the neighbors' was taken down to be repaired and painted. The Stokes are also donating money to construct another garden bed for the BWA Food Pantry Garden.

SPRC (Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee) reports that, utilizing the Leadership Team members, transition plans for property and program needs regarding the change of ministers are underway.

If you are curious as to who is on the Leadership Team... here is a list: Pastor Evan, Rose Haller, Barb Call, Betty Merring, Donna Paradise, Marilou & Dean Tshudy, Wes & Robin Stokes, Debbie Perelli, Liz Burkat, Craig Spencer, Jan Lee, and Paula Hilliard.

## Christian Friendships

Thank you Pastor Tanya Huff (Bushkill United Methodist Church) for sharing your message on *Christian Friendship* with the United Methodist Women in March. True Christian friends will build each other up emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Friends like to be together simply because it feels good. We receive strength, encouragement, and love. We talk, we cry, we listen. But at times we also have to say the difficult things our dearest friend needs to hear.



EARTH DAY MISSION FUNDRAISER! The Confirmands and Sunday School children will be selling Earthwise **REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS**. The large ECO Friendly Laminated, Water-Resistant, Foldable Totes sell for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Fifty percent of all proceeds will be donated to [pureearth.org](http://pureearth.org). Pure Earth with governments, communities and industry leaders to identify and implement solutions that stop toxic exposures, protect health, and restore environments. *These bags will be sold after worship services beginning on March 20 until supplies last.*

Why not multipurpose and use them as Easter or Mother's Day gift bags?

*"Unless there is Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday."*

### PASTORAL VISITATIONS

If you would like a visit from Pastor Evan, please call the office at 908-475-4065. In case of emergency, or if the church office is closed, you may call 973-615-4804.



Many thanks to the following families and groups who hosted fellowship time over the past few weeks: the UMW, Paula Hilliard, and Nancy Brown. Thank you again for your kindness and good food.



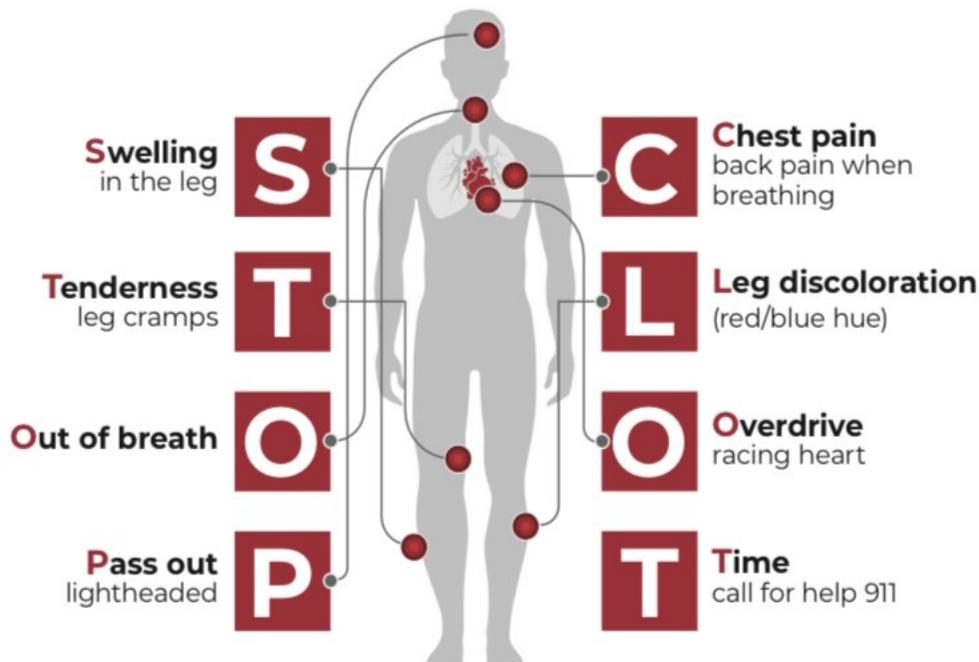
Hi! My name is Megan Sloyer and I'm a member of BUMC and I was recently made a STOP THE CLOT® National Blood Clot Alliance Thrombassador. I am a pulmonary embolism survivor and have two blood clotting disorders. As a Thrombassador I will be spreading awareness about blood clots; how to recognize them and prevent them.

Please see the infographic below with information on recognizing a potential blood clot. Please share this information to help potentially save a life. Also, if you'd be interested in a presentation on blood clot symptoms and prevention in a group you take part in, please email me at [megansloyer@gmail.com](mailto:megansloyer@gmail.com). Thank you! 🙏

Megan E. Sloyer

# STOP THE CLOT®

BLOOD CLOT AWARENESS: KNOW THE SIGNS & SYMPTOMS






 @stoptheclot  
[stoptheclot.org](http://stoptheclot.org)



Learn more about blood clots here



# Happy Birthday



To me  
 birthday  
 means  
 the presence of  
 an individual  
 in our lives."  
 Meena Bajaj

- 2 Danielle Bronico
- 6 Matthew Bronico
- 7 Sharon Smith
- Charles Tatarian
- 9 Nicholas Jones
- 10 Joshua Cooke
- 12 Victoria Call
- Lisa Hart
- Dennis Lee
- 13 Sarah Bronico
- 14 Stacy Dalrymple
- 15 Elizabeth Burkat
- 16 Brian Resch
- 17 Madeline Durr
- Rebecca Wilkerson
- 19 Adam Jones
- Tyler Lutsky
- 21 Alyssa Resch
- Emma Serrano
- 22 James Lovering
- Dawn Sella
- 23 Nicholas Jones
- 25 William Hazelton

- 26 Melissa Duckworth
- Josh Long
- 28 Nathaniel Kober
- Allie Tiedemann
- Sean Call
- 29 Stephanie Lee
- 30 Aaron Hill



## Wedding Anniversaries

- Frank & Muriel Dragotta  
 April 10, 1965*
- Robert & Linda Ritchie  
 April 21, 1990*
- Jim & Tricia Bronico  
 April 5, 1997*
- Michael & Beth Viglianco  
 April 18, 2009*



## Church Membership Anniversaries

70 Years	Patricia Fotopoulos Marie Sweet
68 Years	John Kovalsky, Jr.
62 Years	Linda Alampi Robert Hildebrant, Jr. Paula Hilliard
60 Years	James Cook Marjorie Cook Mildred Harris
54 Years	Bruce Hildebrant Carol Howell
48 Years	Adella Wauhop
34 Years	Victoria Freilich
33 Years	Elizabeth Scott
26 Years	Daniel Wilkerson Jennifer Wilkerson
24 Years	Sharon Smith Michele Lake
22 Years	Alexis Krych June Erhard Helen Kaufmann Christina Freilich
18 Years	Gail Vliet Tricia Bronico Stacy Dalrymple
13 Years	Craig Spencer Dee Spencer

**THE MARK  
OF AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH  
IS NOT HOW MANY  
PEOPLE COME**

**BUT**

**HOW MANY PEOPLE WHO  
LIVE DIFFERENTLY AS  
A RESULT OF HAVING  
BEEN THERE.**

*God did not promise days without pain;  
laughter without sorrow; sun without  
rain. But He did promise strength for the  
day, comfort for the tears; and light for  
our way.*



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT, GIFTS AND LOVE  
DURING SAGE'S FIGHT AGAINST  
RHABDOMYOSARCOMA.

THE LOVE YOU HAVE SHOWN HAS  
GIVEN US GREAT COMFORT DURING  
THIS DIFFICULT TIME. IT IS DEEPLY  
APPRECIATED AND WILL FOREVER  
BE REMEMBERED BY OUR FAMILY.

*love,*

BRAD, NATALIE, SAGE & LANDON



## Rose Haller

~ Special Mission Recognition ~



Rose Haller is being recognized today by virtue of her countless hours of dedicated service to Belvidere United Methodist Church. She has remained a constant and vital member of our leadership team since the 1980s. As a true disciple of Christ, Rose remains a humble contributor to the smooth operation, functionality and prolongation of our church. She performs a multitude of essential tasks in collaboration with our pastor and administrative committees.

Rose helps to keep our treasury solvent and in order, by maintaining thorough and accurate records. With determination and diligence she handles financial transactions in a timely manner.

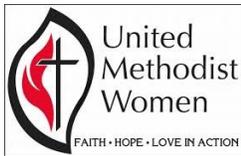
During this pandemic she was instrumental in processing our application for the PPP (Payroll Protection Program). She was successful in securing loans and forgiveness during the earliest stages of COVID 19.

Throughout the year she plans numerous meetings, prepares agendas, provides resource materials, and occasionally, records the meeting minutes too.

Rose is extremely conscientious and caring, especially when she keeps us updated on our shut-ins, infirmed and convalescent members. She never hesitates to offer assistance whenever and wherever needed.

Not only is Rose our church treasurer she is also the president of our United Methodist Women's group. In this role she seeks to advance spiritual growth, education, enrichment, and outreach with its members and others.

In addition, Rose is involved in our community as an active participant with the Belvidere Wellness Alliance which promotes the STIGMA FREE movement. On Fridays she delivers lunch to shut-ins for the local senior center.



## Betty Merring

### Extra Special Mission Recognition



Betty has been a member of the Belvidere United Methodist Church since 1958. Her faith has always been extremely important to her and the center of her core values. She raised her children in the church and was an active member of various committees and activities including Christian Education and Social Justice Concerns. Betty has also been a member of the United Methodist Women since 1980. Over the years, Betty has served as our local president and local vice president. She has also served as the president of the Skylands District UMW. Currently, she has (what we consider to be the hardest job in the district) which is in charge of Nominations. That is the committee that has to fill all of the positions in the district!

Elizabeth Anne Pickell Merring, known as Betty by her friends, was born on September 29, 1930.

Betty graduated from Wilson College and then started working for GE where she had several interesting positions. She began as a researcher calculating trajectories for missiles, and then worked at their Atomic Power Lab where she edited technical reports. She also had to write a manual at an eighth grade reading level for soldiers to learn how to refuel submarines.

She worked at Bell Labs where she edited technical writing. At the Aberdeen Proving Ground she wrote a math ordinance facility newsletter. She also worked as a social worker for the Warren County Welfare Department.

Betty is a lifelong learner, and she continued her education earning a Master's Degree from Farleigh Dickinson in Human Development and a second Master's Degree from Montclair College in Environmental Education.

A lifelong advocate for children and families, Betty was a New Jersey Public School teacher for 33 years. Betty has also been a lifelong environmentalist, and she shared her love and respect of nature with her students. She developed a 3-day environmental program at Stokes State Forest for the Belvidere School District. In addition, Betty has been a member of the local environmental commission and has been a diligent advocate for clean air and clean water.

Elizabeth "Betty" Merring continues to be an integral presence in the lives of her friends and family, as well as, her church and community. She continues to be the "heartbeat" of our local Belvidere United Methodist Women. For that we are all blessed and infinitely grateful.

We appreciate her many contributions. She is an inspiration to all of us.



# Rev. Dr. Evan Rohrs-Dodge

## United Methodist Women

### Extra-Special Mission Recognition Award

The Belvidere United Methodist Women are presenting Rev. Dr. Evan Rohrs-Dodge with a Special Mission Recognition Award acknowledging, with great thanks, his community outreach. This outreach has included spiritual care, public speaking, presentations, music, visitations, crisis intervention, and support for the community and local missions.

In particular, we would like to especially thank Pastor Evan for his support of the following: Belvidere and Skylands District UMW, Belvidere Wellness Alliance, Goodwill Fire Company, Belvidere Ambulance Squad, Belvidere School District, Belvidere Area Food Pantry, People Helping People, Feeding the Homeless, Good News for Women, Residents of Brakely Rehab, Community Center@Belvidere, Veterans Home in Glen Gardner, Warren County Family Promise, Warren County Habitat for Humanity, DAASAC, and our Belvidere Police.

Pastor Evan conducts himself with humility, openness, courage, knowledge, and understanding. Billy Graham is quoted as saying, "The most important characteristic of any pastor is a



heart for God, a deep desire to live for Christ, and to

see others come to know



## ***United Methodist Women***

### ***~ Special Mission Recognition ~***



Tim and Becky Driscoll have been attending Belvidere United Methodist Church for over five years. They have a son and daughter both under five years of age. It did not take long at all for them to assume leadership responsibilities at our church. Both are our Sunday School Superintendents and have followed through with many different church projects.

Becky is a faithful and committed preschool, primary, and elementary Sunday School teacher. She gives of her time, talents, and patience while sharing Bible lessons, prayers, crafts and songs in the classroom. She graciously assists with the preparation of our annual Christmas Pageant each year.

Tim is a dedicated and able volunteer who has completed numerous tasks. He tirelessly organizes the annual Day of Help where he and the church youth help with the fall yard and patio clean-up of those in need of assistance in our community. In late spring he helps facilitate our annual church picnic in the park. He is also very good at enlisting the aid of his father-in-law and brother-in-law whenever needed. ☐ In addition, Tim has accomplished several building and maintenance projects in the church and education wing. He is responsible for the Meeting Room renovation and the painting of the walls and floors in the hallway of the education wing. He never hesitates to donate necessary materials.

Together Tim and Becky Driscoll are two faithful disciples in Christ who selflessly and humbly give of themselves to make Belvidere United Methodist Church a better place to worship. They truly help our church family and community thrive. We are grateful and blessed to have them with us.

*"Christ the Lord is risen today, sons of men and angels say.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heavens and Earth reply."*

*~ Charles Wesley*

Updated information for the Belvidere Food Pantry.

**Current operating hours are:**

Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00pm and

Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30am.



\*Current operating hours are:\*Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00pm and Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30am. \*Donations can be dropped off beginning at 4:30 pm on Wednesdays and 9:00 am on Fridays, up until closing. If one of these times isn't convenient for you. please call the church office at 908-475-4065 and we will be happy to arrange another time.\*

***Please do not leave donations on the parsonage porch or outside the church.***

Our current donation needs are: razors (men & women), paper towels, conditioner, liquid hand soap, dish soap, small bottles of laundry detergent, ketchup, tea bags, hot chocolate, sugar 16oz, canned pasta meals, pretzels (8oz), potato chips(8oz), hearty soups, spam, canned pasta meals and canned chili. Also if you are unable to make it to the store but would still like to help, we also accept monetary donations (please make checks payable to the Belvidere Food Pantry). We again thank you for all of your very generous donations as they have been wonderful in helping us to help others!! We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who work so hard all week to make the pantry continue.

### **Community Blend**

Community Blend is a relaxed café to gather with friends, work remotely, or sit and read. Free coffee, Wi-Fi, snacks, and books. Various programs and Bible studies are offered. Operated by Jewell Utt, our fellow Woman of Faith.

384 Rt. 57 in Washington, NJ  
Inside The Chapel

Open Wednesday—Friday  
9 AM—2 PM

Open Saturday  
9 AM—Noon

### **Community Blend**

From our friend and fellow Woman of Faith, Jewell Utt, an invitation to join her at the Community Blend for a fundraiser on May 7th from 3 PM to 6 PM. There will be entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts as well as a Silent Auction.

Suggested donation is \$10.00.

RSVP by text or phone to 908-310-0116.

Please come and show your support.

## ***Dates to Remember***

Each **Friday** (unless otherwise noted) 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry. **Social distancing and wearing masks is MANDATORY when delivering donations or receiving food.**

*April 1 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*April 2 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **April 3 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service with Communion**

*April 3(Sun.) 12:30 PM Spring Paint Day*  
*April 5 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group*  
*April 6 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online*  
*April 6 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*April 8 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*April 9 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **April 10 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service with Communion / Easter Egg Hunt**

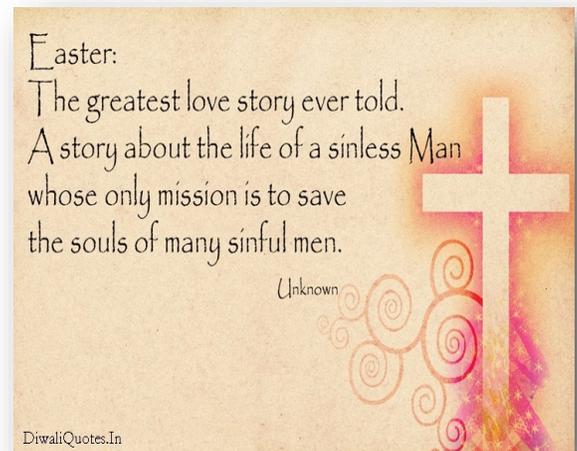
*April 12 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group*  
*April 13 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online*  
*April 13 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*April 14 (Thurs.) 7 PM Holy Thursday Service*  
*April 15 (Fri.) 7 PM Good Friday service*  
*April 15 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*April 16 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **April 17 (Sun.) 7 AM Sunrise Easter service in the park** **10 AM Worship Service with Communion / Easter Egg Hunt**

*April 18 ( Mon.) 7 PM UMW Meeting*  
*April 19 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group*  
*April 20(Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online*  
*April 20 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*April 22 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*April 23 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*

### **April 24 (Sun.) 10 AM Worship Service with Communion**

*April 24 (Sun.) 12 PM Walking Stick Workshop*  
*April 26 (Tues.) 8 PM AA Support Group*  
*April 27 (Wed.) 8:30 AM Daily Devotional online*  
*April 27 (Wed.) 5 PM Food Pantry*  
*April 29 (Fri.) 8 PM NA Support Group*  
*April 30 (Sat.) 10 AM AA Support Group*





  
**Bible**  
Readings *for the Month*

**April 3, 2022**  
**5th Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126 (UMH 847)  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

**April 10, 2022**  
**Palm Sunday**

*Palm Service*

Luke 19:28-40  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

*Passion Service*

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764)  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56  
or  
*Luke 23:1-49*

**April 14, 2022**  
**Holy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837)  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 15, 2022**  
**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22 (UMH 752)  
Hebrews 10:16-25  
John 18:1-19:42

**April 17, 2022**  
**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
John 20:1-18  
**or**  
*Luke 24:1-12*

**April 24, 2022**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32  
*Psalm 150* (UMH 862)  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

*Festival of God's Creation*





BUMC Missions:  
People Helping People

We have distributed the last of our hats and scarfs for this year. Sorry to say that this mission is over. All of our crochet and knitting people have moved on to other things. I am looking forward to what God has planned for me next.

At the request of Debbie Perelli, Pam Pizzuti and I are crocheting prayer squares for our church members. These will be distributed during lent starting on Ash Wednesday.

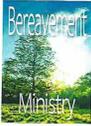
I wanted to remind everyone that as of May 1st the ban on plastic bags goes into effect in New Jersey. There will be no more plastic or paper bags in our stores. The town of Belvidere has to date recycled near 20,000 lbs of plastic since we started this mission in 2018. Thank you for playing a part in this.

In doing this project over the past 4 years I have received many donations of yarn, new yarn, used yarn, leftover yarns and some really old yarn. In one donation there was yarn I had never seen before. It had a price sticker on the label from Woolworth's for \$1.69. I contacted Coats & Clark who manufactured it and gave them all the information. Turns out that they stopped making it in the early 90's making the yarn at least 25 years old. In making the prayer squares I have been using the little balls of leftover yarns people donated. Some people would take the leftover yarn and wrap it around a piece of cardboard or paper. One ball was wrapped around a folded envelope addressed to Mrs. Luella B. Madren in Reidsville, NC postmarked 1968 with a 6-cent stamp and Christmas stickers all over the envelope.

Just wanted to say thanks for supporting this mission, not just with yarn but also with your kind words.

Blessings, Kathie





## Journey Through Grief

When we lose a loved one, our world changes forever and we are overwhelmed with sadness, loneliness, fear and perhaps anger.

The mission of the Bereavement Ministry is to help those who grieve find that there is life after loss. "Journey Through Grief" is an invitation to come together to find ways to go on living and healing, and to discover paths toward peace.

The Bereavement Group will be offered as a series, for eight consecutive weeks from 6:30-7:30pm. We will meet in the St. Patrick Hall addition, known as "The Little White House" it is located at 327 Greenwich St. Belvidere, NJ. The Meeting House can be seen straight ahead on the right as you pull into the parking lot behind St. Patrick Church.

We welcome anyone who is grieving to join us, irrespective of religious beliefs. Please register and call Peter Lombardi with any questions (973) 722-2611

Please complete this registration form and email Peter Lombardi at [plombardijeweler@gmail.com](mailto:plombardijeweler@gmail.com) or drop registration form off at the parish office.

*Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse                      \_\_\_\_\_ Child                      \_\_\_\_\_ Relative

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent                      \_\_\_\_\_ Friend

\_\_\_\_\_ Sibling                      \_\_\_\_\_ Companion

*4<sup>th</sup> COUNTY LIBRARY - APPOINTMENT NEEDED*



## FREE TAX PREPARATION

**No fees. No gimmicks. No contact. No problem!**

United Way of Northern New Jersey and its partners have launched a FREE and SECURE online tax preparation site for low- and moderate-income households. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our **IRS-certified tax preparers** are committed to safely delivering our signature top-notch preparation and filing service to maximize your tax refund.

**Tax Filing Opens February 1, 2022**

Visit [uwnnj.org/freetaxprep](http://uwnnj.org/freetaxprep) to access everything you need:

- ✓ Easy-to-use, secure online tax portal
- ✓ Checklist for documents to upload
- ✓ Answers to frequently asked questions
- ✓ Information about common tax credits
- ✓ Access to free self-filing software

### OUR RESULTS

- 6,000+ returns filed annually
- \$6.6 million in tax refunds annually
- 98% return acceptance rate
- 7-to-10 day return completion

For questions or if you need additional assistance, email [UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org](mailto:UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org) or call 973.993.1160, x521.






## Financial Status

To give you an idea of where we are now compared to the last 2 years, I am sharing the below information.

Amount needed weekly per year	Amount received as of week # 13	Budget surplus or shortfall as of week # 13
2022 - \$3856	\$41,893	-\$8,234
2021 - \$3703	62,167	+\$14,028
2020 - \$3595	\$57,840	+\$11,105

As I mentioned last month in church, we were **very fortunate** to receive a PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) loan in 2020 for \$24,098 and one in 2021 for \$24,787. Both of these loans through PNC Bank and the Small Business Administration were 'totally forgiven'.. we **did not** have to pay them back! Having that money allowed us to continue our payroll obligations. We are very appreciative of this government opportunity, and I am very appreciative of the assistance from Barb Call, Dee Spencer, and Pastor Evan in helping me file for the loans and for 'forgiveness'.

As of today, March 28, 2022, I can safely say that all of our bills have been paid to date, which includes our payroll commitment for April 1st. Our employees are paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> monthly. Thank you all so much for your tithes and gifts which have allowed us to meet our financial obligations to date.

**This past month we collected a total of \$653.83 for the UMCOR work in Ukraine.**

**You can continue to support BUMC online through our website (visit [www.belvidereumc.com](http://www.belvidereumc.com) and**



# **CLOTHING DRIVE**

to benefit the  
Missions of the United Methodist Church

Drop off through the end of 2022

**Drop off location**

**United Methodist Church**

**219 Hardwick St, Belvidere, NJ 07823**

*In plastic bags:* Clean, wearable clothing, coats, shoes, boots, belts, purses, backpacks, suitcases, towels, linens, blankets, curtains, suits, gowns, stuffed toys & small clean toys, bikes, Car seats (only together with base) and strollers,

*Donations are not shredded!*

*Donation receipts available*





**ATTENTION!**

## **Greater New Jersey Scholarships Available...**

Be aware... the deadline to apply is the end of March. Contact Pastor Evan if you are interested in applying.

**A few years we were very proud that James Bronico won a Conference Trust Scholarship for his studies at NJ Institute of Technology.**

### **Conference Trust Fund Scholarships**

Scholarship assistance for undergraduate students exhibiting financial need, academic merit and are active United Methodists of Greater New Jersey.

### **Rev. Ralph A. Kappler Memorial Scholarship**

Annual award or awards will be given to undergraduate students who are United Methodists of Greater New Jersey. The applicants are nominated by a local church. *Each church may nominate one student annually.* The recipient can use this scholarship for continuing education after high school in any field that he or she desires. Financial need shall be one consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.

### **Emily S. Garrison Nursing Scholarship**

A scholarship is awarded each year to a student preparing for a nursing career and is enrolled or enrolling in a program leading to a B.S. degree in nursing. The applicant must be a United Methodist of Greater New Jersey. This scholarship is sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Greater New Jersey.

### **Frances Nelson Scholarship**

Annual award or awards will be given to undergraduate students who are United Methodists of Greater New Jersey. Applicants must have a goal of full time Christian service following graduation. Yearly application is required, but previous recipients will be given priority up to four years of college. Financial need shall be one consideration in awarding this scholarship. This scholarship is sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Greater New Jersey.

### **Doris and Arthur Mandeville Scholarship**

The Doris and Arthur Mandeville Scholarship Fund was created through a generous gift by Doris and Arthur Mandeville to the Epworth United Methodist Church of Palmyra. The purpose of the gift is to further Christian Education within the United Methodists. The scholarship program is jointly administered by the GNJ Board of Higher Education and the Epworth UMC. Awards are made to full-time graduate students who are United Methodists of Greater New Jersey and are preparing for careers in ordained ministry or Christian Education with the United Methodists. Applicants are asked to demonstrate financial need to qualify for these awards.

Scholarship form follows 3 pages down....



New Jersey will ban the distribution of single-use plastic bags and certain types of takeout food containers starting on **May 4, 2022**.

BUMC's Sunday School and Confirmands are selling reusable grocery bags. Half of all profits will go to [pureearth.org](http://pureearth.org). Get yours while they last! \$5 each or 5/\$20 Not only good for reusable grocery bags, but good for gift bags too!!



Our Youth have been busy!

Belvidere School recently put on the production of Frozen, Jr.  
Great job Actresses Grace and Lily Duckworth! Great work also to Andrew Duckworth,  
who was behind the scenes working on the sound boards!



Way to go Eli Spencer....  
Great job on your STEM Project!



Country Gate Theater is back up and running!  
Owen Gately did a great job in the recent  
production of Pippin!



**2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
**BELVIDERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Belvidere United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church Board of Trustees would like to provide a scholarship for an institution of higher education to a deserving member of our church community who has been active during their high school years.

In order to evaluate applications, we need the following information about the pledge you too at confirmation: a pledge of talents, gifts, and service. In the form below, please identify which categories apply to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School now attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Institute of Higher Education: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSIC:**

- participated in choir
- special music during worship
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDCARE:**

- helped with nursery
- helped with Sunday School/VBS
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**READING:**

- served as liturgist

**TEACHING:**

- Sunday School Teacher
- Vacation Bible School Teacher/helper

**Gifts:**

- Contributed to Sunday school and/or Church

**SERVICE:**

- attend worship regularly
- served as usher
- served as acolyte
- helped with CROP Walk
- helped with Church Dinners
- helped with served on a church committee
- participated in Youth Group
- participated in Student Sunday
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_



## HEADS UP .....



BUMC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN are spearheading a Health/Hygiene Kit Project this year... We will be collecting ....

**Hand Towels** (not kitchen towels, not microfiber towels)

**Washcloths** (not dishcloths, not microfiber cloths)

**Combs** (must have at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs , no picks)

**Toenail or Fingernail Clippers** (no emery boards, no metal nail files)

**Bath sized soap** ( Must be in wrapper, No Ivory or Jergens soap)

**Adult toothbrush** ( must be in original package, no personal advertising)

**Adhesive bandages** ( ¾ by 3 inches)

**More info will follow next month!!!!**

## DAVID

Sight & Sound

Wednesday, April 27th

\$120 Adult; Child (3-12) \$95



Kitchen Kettle Village

Board 137 Roseberry Street, Phillipsburg NJ

8am Return 6:30pm

**BUS WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATECOMERS!**

Contact Camille 908-319-2719

## Easter Flowers

Orders are being taken for "Easter Flowers" to be set on the altar on Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Flowers may be taken after the service on Easter.

You may send or drop off your order at the church, or call Marilou Tshudy (475-3275) or the Church Office (475-4065) to place an order.

Lilies = \$10  
Daisies = \$10  
Daffodils = \$10  
Tulips = \$8  
Hyacinths = \$8



*Deadline for Orders is April 3<sup>rd</sup>!!*

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### Flower Order:

Flowers:	Cost:
_____	= \$ _____
_____	= \$ _____
_____	= \$ _____
_____	= \$ _____
Total Amount	= \$ _____

Please list your dedication below: **(Please circle one:)**

*In loving memory of:*      *In honor of:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH YOUR ORDER!!**

## **FAQ | GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE**

### **How is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responding?**

UMCOR's work in Ukraine is being funded with gifts to Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations—Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia—to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence. In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, a global faith-based coalition working in 120 countries around the world. These grants are providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, clothing, shelter and other necessary supplies.

We are in continuous dialogue with UMC entities and other partners throughout Europe to identify additional ways UMCOR might assist. The situation in Eastern Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead.

### **How can I support those still in Ukraine and those fleeing the violence?**

At this time, all gifts to UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance will be used to assist those who remain in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence to neighboring nations.

Feel free to mail a check ( to BUMC) marked "Ukraine" in the memo portion.

### **Will UMCOR be sending kits and other supplies?**

UMCOR does not ship relief kits or other supplies internationally. While the need is great and it is tempting to assist by shipping clothes, shoes and diapers, the cost is high. Instead, we encourage you to help us assist our partners in securing supplies in Europe.

### **Can I volunteer?**

Thank you for your willingness to serve. UMCOR does not recruit international volunteers to assist in emergencies globally. Instead, we work with partners who employ people or recruit volunteers locally. While UMC partners on the ground have indicated that they look forward to the time when they can receive volunteers, they now need to devote themselves to assisting

### **How can I host refugees in my U.S. home?**

The U.S. is not yet receiving Ukrainian refugees, except in cases of family reunification. When it does, UMCOR will be working with its long-standing partner. This is less costly than shipping supplies, helps local economies and ensures that materials received are the materials needed at any given time. Your gift will allow us to procure materials and supplies locally. Refugees and their immediate needs do not have the capacity to provide for the logistic and linguistic needs of volunteers. In time, there may be opportunities for volunteer teams to assist with rebuilding or help in other ways. Months from now, UMC leadership in these areas may send out a call for volunteers.

**Church World Service (CWS)**, to resettle those granted permission to enter the country. In the interim, CWS would welcome your help resettling Afghan refugees.

### **Our church wants to have a direct relationship with a UMC congregation in Ukraine or Eastern Europe. Can you provide us with contact information?**

As a general best practice, Global Ministries does not refer people to our partners on the ground during a disaster because they are busy responding to the crisis at hand. We do facilitate mission partnerships with churches around the world through the In Mission Together (IMT) program. To learn more about the IMT networks in Eurasia, visit [umcmis-sion.org](http://umcmis-sion.org) and search for In Mission Together. Staff of Global Ministries and UMCOR are open to speaking with congregations, mission committees and other groups about our work, virtually or in-person.

### **Is The United Methodist Church active in Ukraine? In Russia? In surrounding regions?**

Ukraine covers over 233,000 square miles, extending from the borders of Poland and Romania to the west, bordering Russia on the east and south and touching on Russia and Belarus on the north. The majority of the Ukrainian population—more than 40 million people— is affiliated with Eastern Orthodox Christianity, through both the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Roman Catholics, Muslims, Jews and Protestants are a small minority of the population. The UMC expanded in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989. New United Methodist congregations and student ministries emerged, assisted by missionaries, mission volunteers and teams.

Although Ukraine declared its independence from Russia in 1991, relations have not been easy. In 2014, for example, Russia seized and annexed Crimea, resulting in the loss of five Ukrainian UMC congregations which were transferred to the South Russia Annual Conference.

Now there are 10 United Methodist Churches in Ukraine, strategically located in larger cities, with a combined membership of approximately 500 people. The Ukrainian-

Moldova Provisional Annual Conference is part of the Eurasia Episcopal Area, which includes seven nations: Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Bishop Eduard Khegay is the bishop of the Eurasia Episcopal Area.

There are three other episcopal areas in Europe: Central and Southern Europe Area (Bishop Patrick Streiff); German Area (Bishop Harald Ruckert); and Nordic and Baltic Area (Bishop Christian Alsted.) All of these episcopal areas are welcoming refugees from Ukraine.

### **What prayer can I lift up for the people of Ukraine?**

This intercessory prayer was written for World Day of Prayer by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, on February 25, 2022:

God of the past, the present and the future,

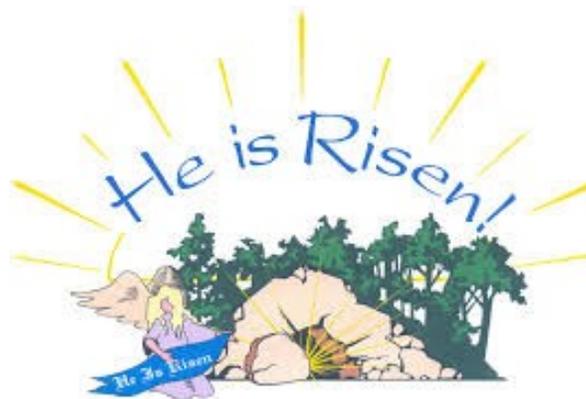
Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress.

We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression.

We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred, peace will conquer war, hope will replace despair and that your plans for the region will be fulfilled,

God, in your mercy Hear our prayer.

**The General Board of Global Ministries** is the global mission, relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church. The work of Global Ministries includes 17 programs organized around four missional priorities: Missionaries, Evangelism and Church Revitalization, Global Health and Humanitarian Relief and Recovery, which includes the United Methodist Church.



## Holy Week Reflection

Once again we reflect back in time.  
The Cross is draped in Purple garment,

Now the Palm branches are  
Strewn over the cross,  
And once again the events of  
This week are set in motion.

The Celebration is over,  
The loud Hosanna's are  
Fading in the distance.  
The hardness of the world,  
At the times, is filtering in,  
And gaining a foothold.

The reality of our beliefs,  
The hopes and promises  
That we believe in  
Are on trial,  
Now in our generation.

What do we really stand for?  
How do we believe?  
What does the future hold?  
What can we do?  
To bring about  
A better outcome?

We know the outcome  
In Jesus time,  
When he walked the way  
Of the Via Dolorosa.  
The sacrifice made  
Because of fear,  
Jealously, uncertainty,  
Disappointment, in times of  
Persecution.

Mingled with doubt, shame and grief.

But alas, with Easter  
Came the Eternal spring of  
Hope & Renewal  
Through the gift of Salvation.

As Spring arrives and life  
Stirs around us,  
May we come out of  
Our cocoons, re-energized,

Share the message of  
Our Faith anew, in Our daily living.  
Inspired by our Higher Power,  
Put Positive Actions into motion.  
We can make a Difference!

Lay the ground anew with  
seed, nourish and cultivate,  
Let Blossoms of Blessings  
Spring forth in our personal lives  
and bear fruit to reflect  
God's love and light,  
In a darkening world  
Around us.

This can be a better world,  
But it takes all of us to  
Make a difference.  
The time is now!!!

-Carol Conley

## U.M.W. News – April, 2022

U.M.W. has a busy lineup of activities for April. All ladies of our church and their friends are welcome to attend.

We will host our Palm Sunday Soup and Bake Sale on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Nancy Brown at [NancyBrown0804@gmail.com](mailto:NancyBrown0804@gmail.com) to donate soups or baked goods. Join us after church in Fellowship Hall to purchase reasonably priced food items that will help UMW support our church's and mission projects plus provide scholarships.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 followed by our regular meeting in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. Pastor Even will be leading our program. .

UMW will be having an Earth Day Coffee Sale on Saturday, April 23. Come out and support this event while trying some unusual coffees and teas.

Tanya Huff will be hosting a "Tea Party" in Fellowship Hall at 1 pm on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. No hats or gloves required but will be fun. Invite your family and friends to join you.

We would like to thank Tanya Huff for presenting our March program on Christian Friendships. UMW was pleased to donate \$ 250.00 to Good News for Woman and \$150.00 to Family Promise.



## SPRING'S ARRIVAL In 2022

By Carol Conley

For the first day of spring's arrival,  
I listened to the beautiful melody  
Of the bird's singing outside my window  
Time to wake up Carol!  
Then I looked out my bedroom window  
And behold my rabbit is back enjoying  
some  
Sun then partaking of some  
breakfast.

Now I am off to feed my purring cat her  
breakfast!  
That tiny bit of sunshine has long disap-  
peared, and the  
Skies are once again gray, and the warm  
temperatures  
Of yesterday are gone, hopefully to re-  
turn soon.

Yesterday I noticed the beautiful faces of  
my  
Yellow daffodils, and the crocus aren't far  
behind!  
Just received a text from my neighbor  
that her  
Snowbells are blooming and the house  
wrens are  
Driving her cat crazy as she looks out the  
window!  
Yes Spring has officially arrived! How  
does the old  
Saying go? March winds, April showers  
bring  
Forth May flowers!

## The Search for Peace in 2022

We search the world for  
Peace, traveling here and there,  
As Ukraine knows, in this  
Year of 2022,  
Peace can disappear quickly  
When we least expect it!  
For them this year  
Nowhere was  
Peace to be found.

I looked inside myself,  
Then reflected upon  
God's love,  
To pull me and others out  
Of our despair for this hurting Country,  
Prayers have gone out To Ukraine and  
Their president, and to neighboring coun-  
tries,  
Along with our own country,  
For wisdom, strength, knowledge  
How to handle the continuing situation,  
for  
Healing, recovery, and guidance for those  
escaping  
The terrors of an unjust war! In many cas-  
es having  
To leave their men and family, and friends  
behind  
To continue to fight for freedom and stop  
the invader.  
Be with them Lord, they need your near-  
ness and love.

- C. J. Conley

## People Helping People

As we wind down our mission of making hats and scarves for the homeless, I have prayed to God for a new direction for us to go. God has answered my prayers and taken us in a whole new direction. We are making Prayer Pockets for the Ukrainian people. We will fill them with prayers of hope and encouragement. If you have a favorite prayer, poem, Psalm, or Bible verse you want to send them, please share them with us. We will send these Prayer Pockets to the UECC Ukrainian center to be shipped to Ukraine. There they will add their prayers in the native language before shipping.

Many of you may remember Jewell Utt, who came to visit us at a UMC women's meeting. She has opened a café called Community Blend at the Chapel on Route 57 in Washington. You can go there for coffee and pastries and find various Christian books to read or participate in a number of programs or a Bible study. All at no charge in an effort to bring people together in Christian fellowship. There is a wonderful group of ladies there who are also making Prayer Pockets for our mission.

We are back meeting in the fellowship hall on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. Come join us. If you would like to help, we need people to gather the prayers, to fill the pockets, to pack the pockets for shipping. We also need yarn and donations towards shipping costs.  
Thanks Kathie

