



I am so excited to be introducing myself to the BUMC family! I will share a little bit about myself so that you may get to know me better.

I grew up in Chicago, Illinois. We moved to Florida in 2010. We live only 7 minutes from the church near the Belleview Middle and High Schools. I have 7 children, 4 biological and an adopted sibling group of 3.

I have been a practicing Lutheran my entire life. I was involved in church youth groups and also attended a parochial school through 8th grade. I attended SIU for a little over a year and then over the years took classes at community colleges.

Over the years I have planned, organized and worked hard to make a difference. I have been a foster mom and a Guardian Ad-Litem. In these roles I was able to show children signs of hope and love, which I prayed made a difference in their lives. One of my favorite endeavors was a backpack drive for children being put in the foster care system. All the children brought to our home came with nothing of their own. It broke my heart. I distributed a letter to family, friends and local business owners asking for help in providing backpacks and items needed for children going into a foster home. I filled backpacks with toothbrushes, underwear, coloring books and crayons, stuffed animals and other appropriate items. These backpacks

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brought many smiles and a small sense of comfort to these children during a very traumatic time.

I also did a Hershey candy bar fundraiser for a dog I rescued that was beaten with a baseball bat and had to have his eye removed. The money raised paid for his surgery. He was named Hershey and lived a long happy life.

I have been a member and volunteer at a Lutheran Church and School while my older children attended the school. I was very involved with altar guild, vacation bible school, office help, helping in the classroom and the list goes on. I was also employed as an administrative assistant at a church. I was involved in almost every aspect of the church. I truly enjoyed this job. I am so looking forward to being able to do this work again at BUMC!

The few times I have been at BUMC, I must say I felt so welcomed. I immediately felt a good connection with Pastor Shawn. I can't wait to work with him and all of you. If there is anything I can ever do for any of you, my door is open and I will try my best to help in whatever way I can. I truly believe with my current skills and experience, excellent work ethic, passion for helping others, and the love of our Lord I will be a positive addition to BUMC. Looking forward to meeting all of you!  
Blessings,  
Karyn



We would like to welcome Roberta Brandt as our new pianist. Susan Leighton, our former pianist, broke her arm. She will be out of action for an extended time. You will enjoy getting to know Roberta. She has a glow that only comes from loving service for the Lord. She in turn is looking forward to getting to know all of you.

Roberta is a Florida native who has lived in Florida most of her life except for a few childhood years in South Carolina. She and husband, Richard Toothaker, live in the Cobblestone development here in Belleview with son, Mitchell. Her daughter Kelly, resides in Indiana.

Her career background spans 20 years in the mortgage industry. She retired after the last 15 years as a wholesale account executive.

She began taking piano lessons at the age of five or six. As a teen, she was invited

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to be the pianist in the church where her father was minister. She’s been the pianist for several ministers since that time. Teri was pleased to find out that Roberta has a fine singing voice and is willing to sing harmonies with her.

“I love music and the Lord. I am happy to have the opportunity to be part of the Belleview United Methodist Family. I look forward to helping Pastor Shawn and Teri.”

She is an avid crafter enjoying sewing, making jewelry, machine embroidering, and many other crafts as well as loving to read.



The first meeting of the Administrative Council was held on January 7th. Pastor Shawn welcomed the new Council members, as well as those returning members. The Council also welcomed a representative from each of the following to the meeting: Thrift Store, the Food Pantry and Open Table. In addition, the Council approved making these representatives voting members of the Council.

With the increase number of cases of COVID in our area, Council felt the safest

way to resume church services was to have drive-in services again. Services will resume on January 24th at 10:30 AM in the grassy area by Rt. 484 that faces Belleview Elementary School.

Council also approved reopening the Thrift Shop, Food Pantry and Open Table drive-through. Those ministries are needed for the good of the community. The Thrift Store will reopen on Monday, January 11th, Food Pantry on Wednesday the 13th and Open Table on the 20th. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Ed Long reported the work on the sanctuary slowly continues to progress. Construction of the new stage is completed and installation of the new flooring will begin this week. All of us are anxious to get back into the sanctuary but the progress has been slow. We have to remember that all this work is being completed by volunteers from our congregation, as their time allows. If you have some free time and construction experience, and are interested in helping, please contact Ed or the BUMC Office. If you know anyone who might be interested in having some old pews, please let Ed or the office know that as well.

Please continue to pray for the Administrative Council for wisdom and the Lord's guidance in making decisions for our church.

Praying for a blessed and better new year ahead.

## Prayer & Witness



## Ministry

WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2021 AND;  
THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

PSALM 118:24

We continue to meet or share prayer requests online. Please continue sharing your prayer concerns with me, Luanna Harris, or Juanita Applegate, Barbara Bowers, Sharon Leino, Cheryl Kenyon, Ila House.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7

Trust in the Lord with your whole heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

### Each Day

A new year just beginning,  
Each day a fresh, new start,  
To fulfill your hopes  
And pursue the dreams  
Sustained within your heart.  
Put God in charge;  
He'll plant the seeds  
Of affection, love and care.  
Like a garden, your life will grow  
With kindness flowering there.  
And as you face the wonder  
Of each day's mysteries,  
You'll see God's hand  
Unfolding, daily, possibilities!  
And as each day comes to a close,  
Dream a dream or two,  
Then with a prayer thank dear God  
For each day given to you.

Poet, Gael Phaneuf



The BUMC Trustees continue to work on the renovation of the church sanctuary. The old stage and choir loft have been removed along with the electronic organ. The piano has been removed from the stage but will be lifted back into its normal position once construction is completed (it's heavy!!). The new stage platform has been completed to the plywood surface stage. The next step is covering the new platform with the flooring that has been selected. The door that was at the top of the old choir loft has been blocked up and will be stained to match the existing block.

The old electrical switches and wiring systems have been removed and the wiring analyzed and is in the process of rewiring. The switches that used to be on the old stage will now be located at the back of the sanctuary in the sound booth so that the lighting can be controlled from the back of the room. There is some wiring remaining to be completed and is in process. Part of the wiring that remains to be completed is outlets for band instruments for the Praise Band, which is partially completed already. We understand the original wiring and we're working to adapt it to the desired new configuration. We will also be realigning the wall mounted projector-type spotlights in the near future.

The pews have been approximately two-thirds removed and are being removed from the premises. There are still some pews remaining in their original state so if anyone wants one or more of them speak immediately or they will be disassembled and destroyed. Three or four pews will remain in place in the rear of the sanctuary but the remainder of the sanctuary will be filled with chairs to make our most important space much more flexible and also allow planned spacing for safety until the risk of COVID-19 has diminished.

While the project is running a bit slowly, that is mostly due to the amount of hours available by the crew to get it done. Due to jobs and other commitments we can't be there every day. We have a good plan, we know what we are doing and we have a very skilled team so the risk of serious problems is very small. It is just taking time to complete. If any of you would like to help complete the work please let us know (Ed Long, Rick Matheny, Randy Leighton or David Gibbs) and we will be glad to have you help us. The cost of the project so far is about \$3500, which is much, much less than if we had contacted it out. If you would like to help with defraying the cost of the project it would be much appreciated, especially during this difficult time!

Once the project is completed we will have a wonderful new configuration of our sanctuary that will serve us well for many years. Praise God for His help in all things we're doing and praise Him for giving us the skilled people that are working on the project!

— Ed Long, Trustee Chair

**LENTEN DEVOTION** by Juanita Applegate

During Lent, I will conduct a devotion based on "On Calvary's Hill" by Max Lucado and "The Promise of Lent" by Chris Tiegreen. I will email the devotion each day. If you want to participate in this study, please email me [jjtapplegate@yahoo.com](mailto:jjtapplegate@yahoo.com). If you have any questions, please contact me.

**What is your passion?**

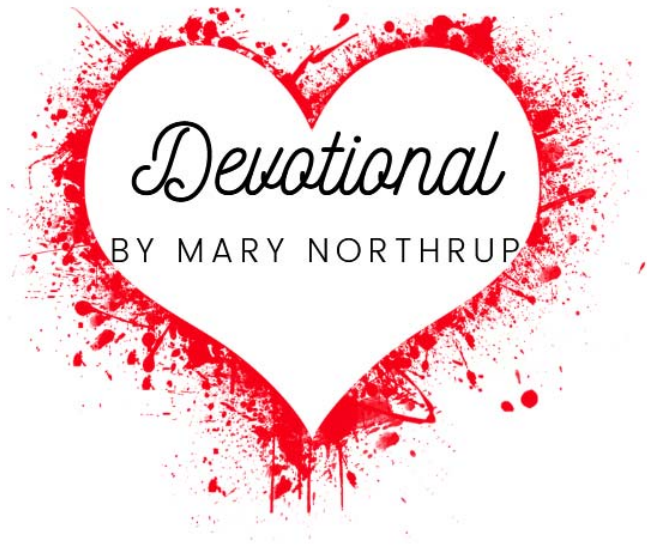
Members of BUMC were asked the question – What is your passion?  
Here's what Cindy Polcyn said:

**Cindy Polcyn:** I was not always a dog person. One day I noticed a car throw something out. My life was about to change. Lying in the road was a very old dog. The dog was in bad shape. Sadly, the sweet dog was too old, too injured to be helped. I could not get this out of my mind that someone could do this to an innocent animal. This led to us getting a puppy that needed to be rehomed.

I started looking into shelters and we have always had four rescue dogs since then. Each of our dogs through the years showed us love daily even the ones that had been abused.

In recent years I have learned so much about people abusing dogs, puppy mills and fronts for puppy mills. I pray things will change. This is my passion: to provide a good, loving home to shelter dogs, try to shut down puppy mills and fronts for puppy mills, and raise awareness. We need people willing to raise awareness, help with peaceful protests, attend meetings, adopt, foster, volunteer, and donate to shelters/rescues. Dogs are not THINGS. They are living, breathing, loving, companion animals.





Anyone want to have a pity party with me?

COVID19 is on the rise. The vaccine is not available to all of us. Our country, including family and friends, is divided on many issues. Our church is closed. I can't travel to see my family. We haven't been to concerts, shows or movies in forever. I miss my friends. I NEED HUGS! Seriously, I do.

By the way, it's okay to have a pity party as long as you don't stay there. It's actually healthy.

I complained to my counselor one day, describing an event that had just happened. She tipped her head and said "Let's see... How can we reframe that?"

I stopped, looked at her and said "In other words: put a positive spin on it."

"Well, yes."

Life is like that, more often than we would like. Things happen that we really

don't want to deal with. It might not be a truly bad situation but a recurring one that we are sick of. Many situations boil down to "just deal with it".

At the time we might not see it but, yes, you can put a positive spin on many situations. If not, maybe you learn not to be in that situation again. Maybe you learn a better way to deal with it, next time. Maybe... you find it doesn't bother you anymore.

Last month I asked "What are we going to do for ourselves?" to make life better. I started with self-care. That was my goal for January.

Here we are in February. Guess what? I have a new goal. We can break the year down into manageable parts. Each month can have a different focus. Hopefully we won't let go of the gains from the previous months!

Exodus 15:2 The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.

Psalm 34:4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

PS: I am still working on my self-care. This month my focus is finishing a project I started years ago. My husband's goal is replacing old light fixtures. (No, that wasn't at my suggestion. Honest.) What will your focus be for February?

**Wash Day** *Author unknown*

Monday Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday Cooking Day

Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday The Lord's Day

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.



From the Editor:

Please submit your articles for the March 2021 BelleRinger newsletter to [belleviewbelleringer@gmail.com](mailto:belleviewbelleringer@gmail.com) or leave them in my mailbox outside the church office. All articles must be submitted by Sunday, February 21st.

Thank you, Mary Davis



Dinners are free and available for pickup each Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm.



# FINANCE NEWS

**From the Finance Committee – Our Record of Faithfulness**

**Scripture Thought to Ponder –**

1 John 3:17

But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

December 2020 – 9,676 Online Church 123 In-person Church

December 2019 – 882

<b>Giving and Operational Expenses</b>		
	<u>December 2020</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Giving	\$ 11,974.29	\$ 153,299.58
Operational Expenses	\$ 14,360.39	\$ 207,225.59
+/-	\$ 2,386.10-	\$ 53,926.11-

Year-to-date our giving has totaled \$153,299.58 while our operational expenses totaled \$207,225.59 leaving us a year-to-date deficit of \$53,926.11.



*A gift in memory of*

- A donation was given to the Open Table Ministry from Cindy & Danny Polcyn in memory of Ray Stowell.
- A donation was given to the Open Table Ministry from Cindy & Danny Polcyn in honor of daughter Samantha Owens who is a teacher, working with autistic students.
- A donation was given to the Food Pantry Ministry from Cindy & Danny Polcyn in honor of son Adrian Lewis who works in law enforcement for 16 years.
- A donation was given to the general budget from Cindy & Danny Polcyn in memory of all who have lost the fight with Covid-19.

# Let's Celebrate!



## February Birthdays

Jody Moore	02/01	Kathy Bailey	02/15
Zara O'Trimble	02/01	Ron Bowers	02/17
Eddie Barry	02/04	Helen Tracy	02/19
Lowell Hubbard	02/04	Betty Hall	02/21
Cindy Brodie	02/05	Arlene Cartwright	02/23
Linda Neisler	02/08	Luanna Harris	02/23
Susan Tracy	02/08	Terry Howard	02/24
David Gibbs	02/09	Cheryl Kenyon	02/24
Elaine Gillam	02/10	Cecil Neisler	02/24
Peg Wilkens	02/12	Scarlett Burgess	02/28

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

### **Food Pantry**



### **Ministry**

The Food Pantry Ministry at BUMC is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 9am to 11:30am. Please bring in non-perishable items on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.



### **The Thrift Shop**

#### **Hours:**

Monday 9am – 12pm  
 Thursday 9am – 3pm  
 Friday 9am – 3pm  
 Saturday 9am -12pm

*located behind the church*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-Thru	<b>4</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>5</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>6</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>7</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 10:30am Worship	<b>8</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9am-11:30am Food Pantry 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-Thru	<b>11</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>12</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>13</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>14</b> <i>Valentine’s Day</i> <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i> 10:30am Worship	<b>15</b> <i>Presidents’ Day</i> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-Thru	<b>18</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>19</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>20</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship <i>*BelleRinger Deadline for March 2020</i>	<b>22</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9am-11:30am Food Pantry 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-Thru	<b>25</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>26</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>27</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship						

Belleview United Methodist Church  
PO Box 567  
Belleview, FL 34421

*Current Resident*

**Belleview United Methodist Church**  
*Live Out Faith 🛎 Serve with Love 🛎 Change Our World*

Rev. Shawn O'Trimble

Phone (352) 245-2100  
Fax (352) 245-2130

Website: [www.belleviewumc.net](http://www.belleviewumc.net)



**February Worship Schedule**

Sunday Worship 10:30 am.

Wednesday Open Table Drive-thru  
from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.  
(Outside of Fellowship Hall)