



### **“When Christians Get It Wrong” by Adam Hamilton**

We will be starting a new sermon series and conversational groups this month based on the book “When Christians Get It Wrong”.

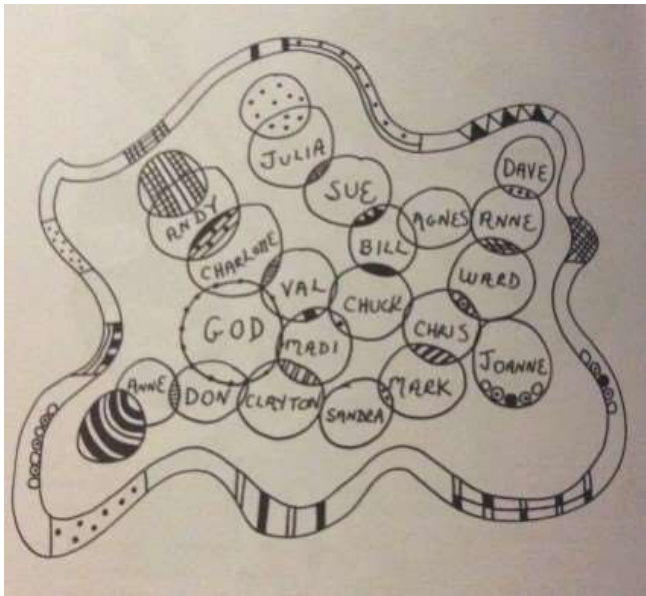
“The Main Idea: The critique of non-Christians that they perceive us to be judgmental, hypocritical, and unloving should serve as a warning that many of us have become the very Pharisees Jesus preached against. We get it right when we love rather than condemn those who are outside the church.”

This series will help us gain a different way of understanding the issues that keep people away from Christianity and keep Christians from living a more compelling faith.

We hope you will join us for a conversation group. Information on the groups will be sent out soon. We will be sharing our thoughts on life as well as thoughts about the book.

To God be the Glory. Have a Blessed month,  
Pastor Shawn

## PRAYING IN COLOR



### *Thoughts by Kay Smith*

How do you pray? Do you struggle with how to pray? Do you believe your prayers are heard? I recently heard about another way to pray. It is called "Praying in Color, Drawing a New Path to God" by Sybil MacBeth. It is an active, meditative, prayer practice. The process involves a re-entry into the childlike world of coloring and improvising. You don't have to be an artist. The result is a colorful design or drawing that is a visual reminder of the time spent in prayer. Can you doodle? Like those squiggles or lines that you write in the margins of pages when you are bored in a class or meeting. They don't have to be beautiful or great drawings. I repeat; no skill is required.

So why am I sharing this with you? I was looking for a way to make my prayer time more intimate with God. I tend to get distracted quite easily. God does not

need eloquent words, but He needs quality time with me. I usually pray in color in the morning. Many times I review it at night and carry a blessing with me to bed.

What do you need to do this? You need paper, a pen, colored pencils or markers. It doesn't need to be elaborate. To prepare for prayer, you may want to read a passage from Scripture, sing a verse of your favorite hymn, or take several deep breaths and release the "To Do list" that is stuck in your head. Just begin drawing a shape and then write a name in it.



You may add a note about what the need is. Then draw another shape and insert another name. As you pray you may want add a border to the shape or color to

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**PRAYING** *Continued from page 2.*

the area. This slows your brain down so that your prayer can be more meditative. The color or shape will stick with you during the day providing the opportunity to remember and pray again during the day.



So how do I use this? I woke up one morning and God told me to use fabric. I love working with fabric and I have tons of it. So God pointed to me to some fabric to use instead of a piece of paper. I have a bin with other bits of fabric that already have a fusible on the back so all I have to do is cut a shape and iron it on the background fabric. I use colored pens for writing on fabric. This was my first one. I use it for a week and I have to write really small. Each day I outline my designs or add doodles as I pray. My plan is to create a book for this year. Most importantly, my prayer time has been awesome!

**Retirement**

It is with sadness that we announce the retirement of our church Office Administrator, Carol Swanson. She will be here until the middle of January to train her replacement Karyn. We are glad that Carol will still be an active part of the congregation as Administrative Council Secretary for we would miss her outgoing personality.



Carol took over after long time secretary, Pam McWhite, retired. As we changed from one pastor to another, she had to pick up the job that had become second nature to Pam without the benefit of having a pastor who knew the ropes in our church. She's done an admirable job.

We will miss seeing you in the office Carol. Best wishes on enjoying your retirement. Don't be a stranger!

We encourage you to drop off cards for her at the church.

**Church Office Hours**

Beginning January 11th the office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to Noon Monday through Thursday. Closed on Friday.







### What is your passion?

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

I am an amateur silversmith that creates jewelry out of silver. I love using the torch to create and feel that many times it is God creating for I am amazed at how some of the things turn out.

I first started with wire wrapping pendants and stones because I felt a need to sit with Will more in his blindness (otherwise he would sleep too much). During this time, we would listen to his reader and discuss many different topics. He would come and sit in the garage while I was arranging things to be torched and we would talk but when the torch flamed we were both quiet (the torching didn't take long it was the setting up that took so long).

Will then started dialysis which took about three hours at the dialysis center. During that time, I taught a couple gals once a week how to torch. Since then they come every Saturday morning to torch and create. We have formed a group in which we share and learn from each other. One of the gals had a cancer scare last year and we used our time for prayer. Since that day it has been a great blessing for we acknowledge God is in our midst by talking about a blessing or prayer request.

## Prayer & Witness



### JUST PRAY

Anyone who is having troubles should pray. Anyone who is happy should sing praises.

James 5:13

### When God Whispers Your Name

by Max Lucado

Do you want to know how to deepen your prayer life? Pray. Don't prepare to pray. Just pray. Don't read about prayer. Just pray. Don't attend a lecture on prayer or engage in discussion about prayer. Just pray. Posture, tone, and place are personal matters. Select the form that works for you. But don't think about it too much. Don't be so concerned about wrapping the gift that you never give it. Better to pray awkwardly than not at all. And if you feel you should only pray when inspired, that's okay. Just see to it that you are inspired every day.



The final council meeting of the year was on December 15th. Pastor thanked all members for their service during this difficult past year. Several members will be stepping down and new members will take their place in January.

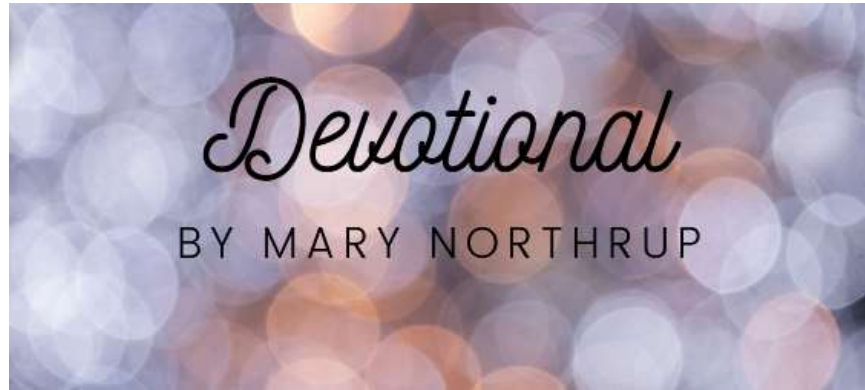
Pastor, along with Sharon Leino, reported on staff changes taking place in December. Karyn Veternik will be replacing retiring secretary Carol Swanson. Roberta Brandt will be the pianist, filling in for injured Susan Leighton.

Ed Long told council that the renovation on the sanctuary is progressing. The wiring has been brought up to code and the stage is being put back in place. All the work is being done by several members who have generously donated their time and labor. This has helped to keep the costs down. Trustees are working getting rid of the pews. If anyone is interested, please contact Ed Long for details.

Pledge cards and letters were sent out in December. The expense of keeping the bills paid has continued during the pandemic even though offerings have been greatly decreased. Please respond by mailing in your pledge card as soon as possible. The finance committee has worked hard to eliminate or decrease what expenses they could. It is important that they receive your pledge cards so they can have a better idea of what the new year will bring.

The council wishes to give a special thank you to Evelyn Day for her faithfulness in serving as council president. Her love of this church and its ministries has been evident throughout her time as president. She has agreed to serve on SPRC in the coming year.

On behalf of the council, we hope you all had a blessed Christmas with your loved ones and wish you a better New Year to come.



## A New Year

So it begins: a new year. What is it about January 1st that sets expectations in us that we can and should see a difference in our days as opposed to the days we left behind in December?

Obviously tradition plays a part in this. I never was one for New Year's resolutions. I do believe it's better to start a diet after the holidays than before them. Who wants to set themselves up for failure before they even start?

We've had a year of it. I've often thought "I can't wait for this year to be over."

**WHO** is going to make this a better year?

It's up to **US** to make this a better year; for ourselves, for others.

Our church is doing exactly that: making life better for our community through our ministries.

The question is: What are we going to do for ourselves?

2 Chronicles 18:4

Then Jehoshaphat said, "But before you do anything, ask God for guidance."

Proverbs 11:14

Without good direction, people lose their way; the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances.

As for me, I'm starting with self-care.

Mark 6:31

The apostles then rendezvoused with Jesus and reported on all that they had done and taught. Jesus said, "Come off by yourselves; let's take a break and get a little rest." For there was constant coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat.

Self-care begins with getting a little fresh air and sunshine every day. Our bodies and minds need nature. We need exercise of some sort and nourishing food. There are many paths to follow from there. I encourage you to choose a path that nourishes your soul.

## Time passes

Barely the day started and... it's already six in the evening.

Barely arrived on Monday and it's already Friday.... and the month is already over.... and the year is almost over.... and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed... and we realize that we lost our parents, friends and we realize it's too late to go back...

So... Let's try, despite everything, to enjoy the remaining time...

Let's keep looking for activities that we like...

Let's put some color in our grey...

Let's smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.

And despite everything, we must continue to enjoy with serenity this time we have left.

Let's try to eliminate the afters...

I'm doing it after...

I'll say after...

I'll think about it after...

We leave everything for later like 'after' is ours. Because what we don't understand is that:

Afterwards, the coffee gets cold...

Afterwards, priorities change...

Afterwards, the charm is broken...

Afterwards, health passes...

Afterwards, the kids grow up...

Afterwards, parents get old...

Afterwards, promises are forgotten...

Afterwards, the day becomes the night...

Afterwards, life ends...

And then it's often too late...

So... Let's leave nothing for later...

Because still waiting see you later, we can lose the best moments, the best experiences, best friends, the best family...

The day is today... The moment is now...

We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone what needs to be done.

# FINANCE NEWS

## From the Finance Committee – Our Record of Faithfulness

### Scripture Thought to Ponder –

Psalm 37:16-17

English Standard Version

16 Better is the little that the righteous has

than the abundance of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,

but the Lord upholds the righteous.

November 2020 – 8,753 Online – 161 in-person

November 2019 – 489

Giving and Operational Expenses		
	November 2020	Year-to-Date
Giving	\$ 10,182.78	\$ 141,325.29
Operational Expenses	\$ 15,296.74	\$ 192,865.30
+/-	\$ 5,115.96-	\$ 51,540.01-

Year-to-date our giving has totaled \$141,325.29 while our operational expenses totaled \$192,865.30 leaving us a year-to-date deficit of \$51,540.01.

## *Covenant Prayer*

*From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780*

*I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*





### A New Year Prayer

Thank You Lord for giving me the brand-new year ahead. Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend, give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend. The year ahead is empty. Help me fill it with good things. Each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings. Amen

### 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.



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



### *A gift in memory of*

~ Two donations were given from Danny and Cindy Polcyn in memory of their granddaughter Keyra De Moray and in memory of Danny's mom and step-dad Millie and Dick Powers.



### The Thrift Shop

#### Hours:

Monday 9am – 12pm

Thursday 9am – 3pm

Friday 9am – 3pm

Saturday 9am -12pm

*located behind the church*

# Let's Celebrate!

## January Anniversaries

John & Chari Standhart	01/01
Pete & Carol Pauze'	01/14
Ken & Jean Winstanley	01/15



## January Birthdays

Betty Otto	01/01	Shirley Eck	01/15
Christine Gibbs	01/05	Perry Springer	01/21
Harry Medlock	01/05	Tami Locklear	01/23
Sandra Hoyt	01/07	Samantha Ewart	01/27
Stan Ross	01/07	Joseph Backowski	01/29
Melicent Versteeg	01/07	Doris Pitts	01/29
Leia O'Trimble	01/11	Cindy Monroe	01/30
Luke O'Trimble	01/11	Robert Moran	01/31
Barbara Saley	01/14		



From the Editor:

Please submit your articles for the February 2021 BelleRinger newsletter to [bellevuebelleringer@gmail.com](mailto:bellevuebelleringer@gmail.com) or leave them in my mailbox outside the church office. All articles must be submitted by Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
Mary Davis

“For I know *The plans*  
I have for You,”  
declares the *Lord,*  
“*plans to prosper.*  
You and not to harm You,  
*plans* to give You  
*hope* and a *future.*”  
Jeremiah 29:11



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1 New Year's Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Church Closed for Winter Break						
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9-11:30am Food Pantry 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-thru meal	<b>14</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>15</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>16</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>17</b> 10:30am Worship <i>BelleRinger Deadline for February 2021</i>	<b>18 MLK, Jr. Day</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-thru meal	<b>21</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>22</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>23</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop
<b>24</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>25</b> 9am-12pm thrift shop	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9-11:30am Food Pantry 5pm – 6pm Open Table Drive-thru meal	<b>28</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>29</b> 9am-3pm thrift shop	<b>31</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30am Worship						

Bellevue United Methodist Church  
PO Box 567  
Bellevue, FL 34421

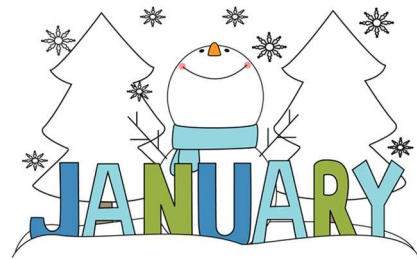
*Current Resident*

**Bellevue 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.bellevuemc.net](http://www.bellevuemc.net)



**January Worship Schedule**

Worship 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall,  
reservations required)

Open Table Drive-Thru Meal  
Wednesday 5pm – 6pm (outside  
Fellowship Hall)