

# The STEEPL

## Bellaire Community United Methodist Church

September 2017



Dear Friends,

I have been having trouble with my glasses lately. They were a pretty good pair two years ago when I first got them, but my vision has changed, and now my glasses do not help me see as clearly as they used to. I admit, I have delayed making an appointment to see the optometrist, but the inevitable is coming soon: if I want to continue to have good vision, I need to change something.

It is like that in a church, as well. One vision does not maintain a church's ministry forever. People change. We grow older. (Yes, even I do!) Culture changes. Technology changes. Structures change. Think about what this church did over one hundred years ago. Could they imagine now our technology, with digital keyboards, microphones, speakers, and computer-projectors? Probably not!

The purpose of the church does not change. We are here to build God's kingdom by **making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**. The Author and Perfecter of our faith is the same Jesus who has been worshiped for over 2000 years. No matter where and when the church exists, there will still be singing, praying, preaching, baptizing, and celebrating Holy Communion. These practices have stood the test of time, even if their form has changed.

However, a **vision** is what a church uses to direct the congregation in accomplishing its **purpose**. Therefore, I am excited that this month a team of people will be convening to discuss the vision of the church. We will take two Saturdays to work through material provided by the United Methodist Church and the West Michigan Annual Conference to discuss how ministry is done in Bellaire, what changes are needed, and how we can refresh our vision to match what our community needs. We will consider how things have been done. What has worked? What has not? How do we grow disciples? How do we seek justice and love and mercy in Bellaire? I do not know the answers to these questions. It is up to the congregation to decide.

Once the vision team has finished their work, we will present our findings to the congregation and ask you all to vote on whether or not to affirm our vision and future goals. It is not enough for a small group of people to create a flashy vision statement and print it on a T-shirt. The whole congregation must agree on the core values of our church and the short and long-term goals we have set. If we lack unity, the vision team will start over, trying to figure out what we have missed.

I am asking each and every person who reads this newsletter to stop right now and pray this simple prayer, "God, help us be the church you want us to be." I welcome comments and advice as we move forward. There is still time to join the vision team. We will meet on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM to noon. Also, our **Annual Fall Church Conference will be at Traverse City Mosaic UMC (formerly T.C. Christ UMC) on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM**, when we will also present the vision of the church. An unofficial pre-conference meeting will take place on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 AM at BCUMC. Please plan to join us as we make decisions that will impact the future of our congregation.

*Love, Pastor Eric*

# News You Can Use

## Upcoming Messages

**September 10<sup>th</sup> — “Why Read the Bible?”**  
(Psalm 119:105-112) *Sunday School Rally Day.*  
*All 3rd Graders will receive free Bibles.*



### “Hard Questions”

*We do not have all the answers, but we know God does. This series will focus on how we approach some of the most difficult questions in the Christian faith.*

**September 17<sup>th</sup> - “Why Does God Allow Suffering?”**  
(Job 1:6-22)

**September 24<sup>th</sup> - “Why Does God Get Angry?”**  
(Romans 1:18-32)

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - “What Are Heaven and Hell?”**  
(Luke 16:19-31) **\*\*Winter Worship Schedule Begins—**  
**ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM\*\***

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - “Is Jesus Really the Only Way to Heaven?”**  
(John 14:1-14)

### “Stewardship”

*Using Paul’s 2nd letter to the Corinthians, we will discover how generous and joyful giving helps us thrive.*

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - “The Privilege of Sharing”**  
(2 Corinthians 8:1-15)

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - “Eager Givers”**  
(2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5)

**October 29<sup>th</sup> - “Sowing for the Harvest”**  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

## WINTER WORSHIP CHANGES:

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, will be the last Sunday of our SUMMER SCHEDULE with two services. Starting **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will hold **one blended service at 10:30 AM**, with coffee hour following at 11:30 AM. The choir, organist, and praise band will all assist with the music in worship. Our summer worship schedule (with a Hymn service and a Praise service) will resume again on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## Summer Camp Wrap Up:

*BCUMC sent 20 campers and 5 counselors to three different camps this year. Through your generosity, we gave over \$1,800 in scholarships. Thank you for your continued support of summer camping! Here are the 2018 camp dates for Lake Louise:*

Holy Ground Senior High—June 24-30, 2018

Middle School Camp—July 8-14, 2018

Elementary Bear Camp—August 5-11, 2018

*See Pastor Eric for registration forms or go to [www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org)*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Fall Church Conference

**Saturday, October 28th**

**4 PM—7 PM**

**at Traverse City Mosaic UMC**

1249 3 Mile Rd S, Traverse City, MI 49696

At the annual fall conference, we celebrate our ministries of the previous year, vote to affirm our direction and vision for the coming year, and vote on necessary business items, such as our leadership teams and the pastor’s salary. Only full, professing members of Bellaire Community UMC are allowed to vote, but anyone can attend. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Eric.

A pre-conference informational meeting with take place on Sunday, October 22nd, at BCUMC, after worship (11:30 AM).

## Financial Update

*as of August 27*

**General Fund Giving to date: \$ 110,916**

**Goal to meet our budget: \$ 107,100**

**Surplus: \$ 3,816**

*This reflects 35 weeks of giving. By comparison, our shortfall at this time last year was (\$ 6,560).*

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>2</b>  8pm AA
<b>3 Communion</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School	<b>4 Office Closed</b>   <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>5</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study  12pm Al-Anon  <b>6:30pm Worship Team Meeting</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>7</b>	<b>8 Office Closed</b>  <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>9 9am-12pm Vision Mtg.</b>  8pm AA
<b>10</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School  <b>5pm Youth Group Mtg. &amp; Dinner</b>	<b>11</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library)  <b>6:30pm Council &amp; Finance Mtg.</b>	<b>12</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study  12pm Al-Anon  5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>13</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Brand	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>16 9am-12pm Vision Mtg.</b>  8pm AA
<b>17</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:45am Adult Bible 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School	<b>18</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library)	<b>19</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study  12pm Al-Anon  5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>20</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>21</b> 1:45pm Meadow Brook Chapel (Pastor Eric preaching)	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>23</b>  8pm AA
<b>24 Noisy Offering</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School 5pm Youth Group  <b>October 1<sup>st</sup> Winter Schedule Begins: One Worship Service at 10:30am</b>	<b>25</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library)	<b>26</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study  12pm Al-Anon  5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>27</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9am Staff Mtg. 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>28</b> <i>Pastor Eric at DCOM</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>30</b>  8pm AA

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:45am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour <b>Crop Walk 1PM</b>	<b>2</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library) 6:30-9pm Antrim Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>3</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study 12pm AI-Anon 5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Basement) 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>7</b> 8pm AA
<b>8</b> 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School <b>11:30am All Church Potluck</b> 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>9</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library) 6:30pm Antrim Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>10</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study 12pm AI-Anon 5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>11</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Basement) 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>14</b> 8pm AA
<b>15</b> 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library) 9am-8pm D.S. One-On-Ones 6:30pm Antrim Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>17</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study 12pm AI-Anon 5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Basement) 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>19</b> <i>Pastor Eric at DCOM</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Reach Summit in Grand Rapids</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Reach Summit in Grand Rapids</i> 8pm AA
<b>22</b> 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour <b>11:30am Pre Church Conference Mtg.(Sanctuary)</b> 5pm Youth Group	<b>23</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study <b>6:30pm Trustee Meeting (Library)</b> 6:30pm Antrim Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>24</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study 12pm AI-Anon 5:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>25</b> 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Basement) 9am Staff Meeting 1pm Bible Study 6pm Choir 7pm Praise Band	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	<b>28</b> <b>4-7pm Church Conference at Christ UMC, 3 Mile Rd, Traverse City</b> 8pm AA
<b>29</b> <b>Noisy Offering</b> 9:45am Adult Study 10:30am Worship w/ Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour	<b>30</b> 9am Ladies' Bible Study (Library) 6:30pm Antrim Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>31</b> 10am Ecumenical Bible Study 12pm AI-Anon 5-7:30pm Halloween Hospitality				



**Bellaire Community United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 235 (401 N. Bridge St.)**  
**Bellaire, MI 49615**

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 \*  
 \* **Sunday Worship at 10:30am** \*  
 \* ***Final 8:30am Early Service: 9/24*** \*  
 \* **Office Hours:** \*  
 \* **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday,** \*  
 \* **9:00am-1:00pm.** \*  
 \* **(The office is closed Thursdays.)** \*  
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**OUR STAFF**  
**Pastor, Eric Falker**  
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**Office Manager, Pam Whynot**  
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**Organist & Choir Director, Connie Bartsch**  
**Custodian, Roger Rainey**  
**[www.BellaireCUMC.org](http://www.BellaireCUMC.org)**