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ONLY ONCE IN MY LIFE

I have worshipped every Christmas Eve for as long as I can remember – almost 60 years. Ever since my time serving as a seminarian at my home church in Cincinnati and as an ordained clergyman in the United Methodist Church, I've NEVER missed a single Christmas Eve Service! As a matter of fact, for many years I attended three services every Christmas Eve. That covers nearly 40 years! This has been all been true with the exception of 2022. Ugh!

It was with great angst and regret that our leadership team at Bellpoint decided to cancel this past Christmas Eve's services. This is partly evident in that it took us till about 40 minutes before the first scheduled service to cancel. Please accept our apology if this untimely notice caused you any inconvenience. We are truly sorry. This can be assigned to me alone. I couldn't imagine not celebrating with you the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I was hoping for a miracle I suppose and that ODOT would have all the streets and highways adequately

plowed by 5:00 and things wouldn't turn to ice as the sun went down. But it was not meant to be.

At January's Administrative Council Meeting we spent some time processing what happened and all agreed that we needed to formulate a predictable procedure for cancelling church services and other activities. So, here it is. Please commit it to memory.

- If the county declares a Level One Snow Emergency we will worship or meet as planned. This applies as well to Sunday morning services.
- If the county declares a Level Two Snow Emergency we will cancel all activities, as this advisory comes with a strong recommendation for people to travel only if it is absolutely necessary.
- If Delaware County declares a Level Three Snow Emergency we will likewise preempt all church functions as this warning prohibits all but essential personnel from venturing out in the bad weather.

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In addition to watching public service announcements, please check your email as well as the church website. We will post closing information at these locations at least two hours before the cancellation of a scheduled event. (If you believe you need to update your email information, please contact Brooke at our church office.) I might add that we are also going to look into adding mass texting, in case you'd like to receive closing information on your cell phone. (Again, if your contact information needs to be updated, please call the church office. (740-369-5956)

We sincerely hope we won't have to cancel in the future, but that possibility does exist, living in central Ohio. However, our greatest concern is for the safety of our members. It might be different if we all had sleighs and teams of reindeers to carry them, or a reliable snowmobile.

Now, if I might share two brief additional notes; the first concerning our disaffiliation process. Just in case you didn't receive Dianne May's recent update, I'd like to share with you that we have registered for that special addition meeting required by The West Ohio Conference of the UMC. It is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 PM at Glenwood UMC down in Columbus. I will be attending with three of our committee chairs. The gathering will be for the purpose of explaining the logistical procedure for disaffiliating. (There have been so many inquiries into disaffiliation that conference officials have become overwhelmed with answering questions. Understandably, they thought it best to have one or two meetings and invite interested church to attend rather than conduct dozens of separate meetings around West Ohio.) It will not present reasons for staying or leaving the UMC. This has been addressed already with our numerous congregational meetings and our evening with the conference rep, Rev. Marcus Atha, back in October.

We have been assured that once we attend this meeting and our initial paperwork is complete, we will be assigned a date for our special Charge Conference for the purpose of voting to remain with The UMC or to disaffiliate and unite with The Global Methodist Church. As soon as we receive this date, we will let every member know so they can get it on their calendars.

Finally, as a reminder: While we have not included financial/budget information in bulletins or The Peal for a number of years now, we want to make you aware that this information is always available to our members if they are interested. Please, just contact our church office and request a copy of the latest financial report or budget and we will be glad to furnish you a copy.

Praying For No-Snow Sundays For The Remainder Of The Year,

Pastor Paul



Contact Us

740-369-5956

office@bellpointumc.com

bellpointumc.com

Pastor Paul McCullough

pastor@bellpointumc.com

Like us on Facebook!

facebook.com/Bellpoint

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

February 15

Children's Council Meeting
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

February 16

Breakthrough Prayer
7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

March 5

Congregational Spaghetti
Dinner
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Committee News

Worship Services

Traditional Service - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:35 - 10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service - 10:30 a.m.

K-4th graders, come join us in Bible Adventures during second service, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Bellpoint Community Church Groups (all groups meet at church unless otherwise stated)

- **Adult and Children/Youth Sunday School:** 9:35 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Teen Disciples:** Sundays from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (see Children & Youth page for details)
- **Adult Bible Study:** Mondays at 10:30 a.m. (weekly home rotation)
- **Men's Bible Study:** Meets every other Monday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the church.
- **Emerging Adults** (high school seniors through early 30s): Meets once per month. Contact Kelly Solli at 740-816-9383 for date, time, and location.
- **Young Family:** Small group study meets biweekly at the Kraicks' home. Contact Holly Kraick at 317-670-5725 for date, time, and location.
- **The Founders' Speech to a Nation in Crisis by Steven Rabb:** Contact Larry Hopper at 614-551-3832 for additional information.

February Birthdays

Feb 1	Doug Sayer
Feb 3	Andy Prior
Feb 5	Matthew Kraick
Feb 9	Cindy Michael
Feb 12	Kara Haney
Feb 13	Laura Tiller
Feb 16	Dorsey Gilliam
Feb 18	Tim Kelleher
Feb 21	Barbara Kirk-Chapa
Feb 28	Elizabeth Finley Patty Womeldorf

Happy Anniversary

February 3

Mark & Belinda Davis

Married 32 years

February 9

John L. & Sandra Davis

Married 66 years



Committee News

Children's Council

- ◆ Children's Council is looking for volunteers for the Nursery and Bible Adventures during second service. There need to be two people for each so we continue following Safe Sanctuary rules. Teens can be volunteers as well! Volunteers for Bible Adventures do not necessarily have to be the teacher, you can be the secondary person. The lessons will be ready along with any supplies for the teacher. Please see Susan for any questions or to sign up as a volunteer.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School will be held July 10 - 13th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Yes, we are holding VBS for 4 days. Will the theme be Heroes or Space? That is to be determined! The official announcement will be in the March Peal. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please see Susan.
- ◆ Children's Council meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Calling all kiddos from K-4! Join us for Bible Adventures during second service. We will join in the worship music at the start of service, 10:30, then head down to the Bible Adventures room located in the back hall of the church. Parents pick up is at the room after service.

Missions and Outreach

The Missions and Outreach Committee is making plans! We are hoping to help Habitat for Humanity in a March project. An Adult Mission Trip will coming up in June or July (week of June 10th-17th or July 15th-22nd). More details to come! If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Paul or Susan. Next Missions meeting will be Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.



Disaffiliation Update

Dear Bellpoint,

It's been a while since I've updated you on our progress with the disaffiliation process. As you probably remember, the United Methodist Conference and District level folks took a break during the month of December, so it might have seemed like no progress was being accomplished. You probably also remember Pastor Paul telling us that our leadership is being required to attend an additional meeting concerning the disaffiliation process before we would be given a date for our vote on whether or not to disaffiliate. We have received the date of that meeting and on Tuesday, Jan. 31, Pastor Paul, Bob Himes (Lay Leader) and I (Administrative Council Chair) will be attending this meeting in Columbus. My understanding is that this will add details of what to expect as we move forward in the disaffiliation process. After we have attended, we will be assigned a date to hold our vote. Please remember that this is an "in-person only" vote for Bellpoint members per Conference directives. We're still hoping to have our vote in March, so we can have everything ready to turn in for the Annual Conference in June if the vote is to go ahead with the disaffiliation. As soon as we know the date for our vote, we will be announcing this date to the congregation.

I really appreciate the support of the folks who have attended the various disaffiliation meetings so far and those who have shared questions and concerns with me or other members of the Administrative Council. I know this is a very difficult and emotional decision for us. Please continue to ask God's guidance for this decision, and remember this is a personal decision for each member of our congregation, regardless of the decision made by the vote for the direction Bellpoint Community Church will take. Please continue to feel free to reach out to me or any other member of the Administrative Council with any new questions or concerns.

In faith,

Dianne May

Teen Disciples

6 - 12th grades

Meet Sundays at Church

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

February 5: Teen Disciples

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

February 12: Super Bowl

Party 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

February 19: Teen Disciples

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

February 26: Teen Disciples

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Potluck
Dinner - Parent Meeting to
follow, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



New Prayer Requests:

- * Carol Evans – former Buckeye Valley teacher and coach whose parents passed in a house fire on Klondike Road this past Sunday (West)
- * 25-year-old – recovering from a car accident involving a guardrail (Ritchie)
- * Ellerbrocks' Neighbor – diagnosed with breast cancer after having a double mastectomy

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

- * Doris – moved to hospice (Lori McCullough's Aunt)
- * Brian Worth – taking treatments for lymphoma in hopes of reducing the very large tumors in his abdomen that are pressing on his kidneys, severe kidney damage is a big concern (Kidd)
- * Vicky Spellman – experiencing a lot of pain, please pray for comfort and physical relief
- * Sara – experiencing hard times
- * David Clark – 2-year-old recovering from heart surgery
- * 5-year-old – struggling in school (Barker)
- * Janet Artz – cancer treatments (Kidd)
- * Beth Savage – stage 4 pancreatic cancer (Finley)
- * John Cordell – has leukemia and isn't doing well (Rutherford)
- * Nancy Boyd – uterine cancer
- * Dawn – lung cancer
- * Gail Aumend – heart issues (Sayer)
- * Maryann – undergoing radiation (Watkins)
- * Cathy – myeloma (Wirz)
- * Belinda Daugherty – health issues

150th Anniversary of Bellpoint Community Church

In July, we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary as a church and we would like your help in planning various activities as well as your help in bringing this celebration to life. Below is a list of suggestions for activities to do during our month-long celebration. We may not use all of these ideas, but this list might bring other ideas to mind. We'd like for individuals or groups to take ownership of an activity and be in charge of all the planning, organization, and facilitation of that activity. If you have a different activity in mind that's not on the list, please share your idea(s) with Vicki Kidd or Dianne May.

Here are some of the activities we're considering:

- ◆ Talent show
- ◆ Potluck meal, possibly with games after
- ◆ Outdoor worship service
- ◆ Concert
- ◆ T-Shirts commemorating the occasion to have for sale during the month
- ◆ Church picture
- ◆ Pictorial directory
- ◆ Blood Drive as an outreach to the community
- ◆ Church cookbook
- ◆ Inviting former pastors to join the celebration
- ◆ Memories of Bellpoint
- ◆ Historical Bulletin inserts

Celebrating 150 years

Community News

Thank You

The family of Ryan and Jessica Ulmer-West would like to thank everyone for your prayers as well as those who donated and served the luncheon following the memorial service for their twin boys, Max Raymond and Joseph Terry West. Your love and support is greatly appreciated.

Prayer Chain

Are you looking for a way to serve Bellpoint Community Church and our community? Prayer is a powerful way to make an important difference in someone's life. The Prayer Chain is always looking for new members for this vital ministry, so please call the church office if you are interested.

If you hear of a concern or praise there are multiple ways to share the information with our Prayer Chain:

- ◆ Complete a paper prayer request located on the back of each chair.
- ◆ Post to the online prayer wall at bellpointumc.com/prayer-wall.
- ◆ Contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager, by phone at 740-369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointumc.com.

The Peal

If you do not have access to the internet or email, or simply prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you each month, please contact Brooke Williams, the church office manager at (740) 369-5956 or by email at office@bellpointumc.com.

Just a Reminder...

Please email all articles, pictures, and content for the January Peal to Rachel Kapraly at peal@bellpointumc.com by Friday, February 24.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

