

Bellville Methodist Believer

SUNDAYS

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (sanctuary)
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (MAC)

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

JESUS: THE BEST PRESENT

Sunday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Worship (sanctuary)

Come listen as the Children's and Chancel Choir present their combined Christmas Cantata!!



If you would like to order a poinsettia to be placed in the worship areas, please contact the church office.
Cost: \$20

They may be dedicated in honor or memory of a special friend or loved one.





IN OUR PRAYERS...

Marilyn LaRose	Weldon & Eunice Frank	Doug Lottridge
Mary Ann English	Susan Crutchfield	Molly Lottridge
Walt Haralson	JoAnn Hinze	Avis Pouncy
Pam Jones	Sharon Dyer	Josh Samford
Jerri Hurta	Mary Gibson	Shirley Wendt
Joyce Koehn	Mike & Pat Aldredge	Vince Ruffino, Sr
Bobby Spiers	Katie Huebner	Gene Wiestruck.
JoAnn Fergeson	Janice Engelking	
Delores Parr	Winifred Walentine	
Bill Moebes	Kennedy Maderer	
Billie Grounds	John Grube	
Irene Herreth	Sally Schaefer	

PRAYER
changes things

SERVING OUR COUNTRY

John & Barkley Donaho (Ed & Peggi Bryant's daughter & son--in-law)
Hunter Morris
Chad Holloway
Sean Whitfield
Gregory Hill
Mitch & Emily Bruce
Zachary & Cassidy Jones
John Lanier
David Anderson
Dalton Flannigan
Jesse Worthen
Rachel Hoag
Cheryl Munoz
Rachel Munoz
Ryan Tull



All the men/women serving our country and their families

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday, December 2
8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Garage Sale

Sunday, December 3 -Advent begins
5:00 p.m. Church Family Advent Celebration

Monday, December 4
6:30 p.m. Bible Study potluck

Tuesday, December 5
1:00 p.m. Fun & Fellowship (204)
7:00 p.m. Methodist Men (204)

Wednesday, December 6
BLAST party (last Blast of 2023)

Sunday, December 10
Children's SS PJ Day

Tuesday, December 12
Ruth Circle Christmas Party (off campus)

Wednesday, December 13
3:45 p.m. Children's Choir
No BLAST
5:30 p.m. Missions project (MAC)

Sunday, December 17
9:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata

Monday, December 18
MDO Christmas Breakfast

Wednesday, December 20
NO Children's Activities
No Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 21
10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Cookie Baking (311)
6:00 p.m. Longest Night Service (sanct)

Sunday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
10:00 a.m. Live Nativity & Candlelight
5:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight
7:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight
No Youth Activities

Monday, December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Office closed through January 2

Sunday, December 31
10:00 a.m. One Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL

RUTH CIRCLE

JOYFUL BEREAN CLASS

CHILDREN

Rm 304 – Nursery
Rm 302 – 3's - Pre-school
Rm 308 – K – 3rd grade
Rm 309 – 4th & 5th grade

YOUTH

Rm 217 – 6-12th grades

ADULTS

Rm 204 – Joyful Berean Class
Rm 206 – Seekers Class
Rm 208 – Disciples Class
Rm 211 – Salted Butter Class

Come support the
Ruth Circle
Fabulous Baked Goods
Fundraiser
(cakes, cookies, pies,
candy, breads)

Saturday, Dec 2
9:00 AM to Noon

Located at the Bishop Pavilion
at the Farmers Market

We meet in Room 204 and
all ages are welcome.
Missy Graham is the
teacher. We discuss the
sermon, study Isaiah, and
tie it all into current events.

HELP NEEDED

Meals on wheels is looking
for help delivering meals
Tuesday – Friday.

If interested, please call
979.885.4188

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

First Tuesday each month
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Room 204

Games & Light Refreshments

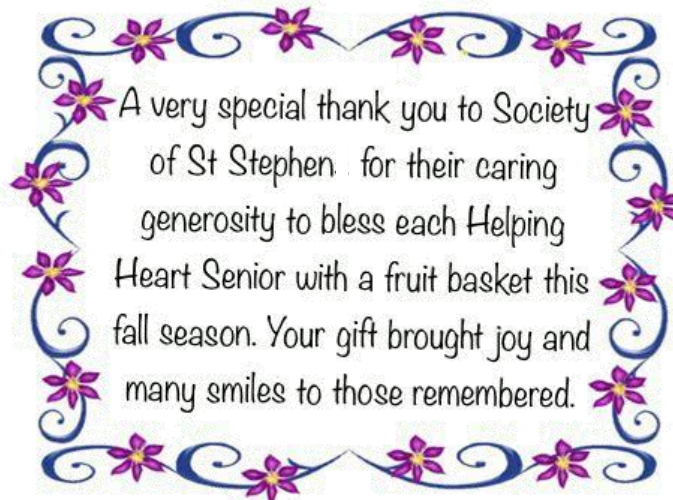
Adults of all ages welcome

For more information:

Dianna Norton
979-270-5075

diannashippmannorton@gmail.com

Next date: December 5



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (sanct)
10:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (MAC)
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
4:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Scripture & the Wesleyan Way (ends December 17)
5:00 p.m. MYF

Mondays
8:00 a.m. Mother's Day Out
7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesdays
Noon AA (206)

Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. Mother's Day Out
3:45 p.m. Children's Choir (311)
5:00 p.m. BLAST
6:00 p.m. Scripture & the Wesleyan Way (ends December 13)
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (102)

Thursdays
10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study (CBS)
6:30 p.m. AA & AI Anon (206, 217)

Fridays
10:30 a.m. Bible Study (204)



BELLVILLE METHODIST KIDS

In November, we finished up the book of Genesis in both Sunday School and BLAST! It has been incredible to watch our kids learn God's Story from the beginning and see how it all points to Jesus! Speaking of Jesus! We look forward to focusing on Him during this Christmas season with both meaningful and fun events! We will be providing and encouraging families to participate in the Jesse Tree Activity this Advent season. Packets will be available in the Welcome Center beginning November 26. Keep an eye open for details on all of our great events happening in December!

December Happenings!

December 3: Church Family Advent Celebration + Dinner and Caroling to Follow

December 6: BLAST Christmas Party

December 12: Children's Church and Sunday School....Christmas Movie and PJ day

December 15: Family Mission Night...help prepare food for the Food Bank

December 17: Birthday Party for Jesus during Sunday School

December 21: Christmas Cooking Baking and Decorating

BELLVILLE METHODIST YOUTH

Bellville Methodist Youth continues to have a great fall semester. We have a lot of fun on Sunday evenings as we seek to encourage one another and grow stronger in our relationships with Christ and each other. Our group continues to grow as our regulars invite friends, which is wonderful to see happening. We look to continue strong as we move into 2024. Thank you for all of the support that you show this ministry and please keep it in your prayers.

Upcoming Dates:

12/03/2023: Family Advent Celebration

12/10/2023: Gingerbread Competition

12/17/2023: Youth Christmas Party (3pm gift exchange at church, 4pm dinner at church, 5pm depart for Monument Hill Trail of Lights in LaGrange, 8:30pm arrive back at church)

12/24/2023: No youth activities

12/31/2023: No youth activities

MISSION PROJECT

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 p.m.

Come help our Missions Committee fill bags to be given away during the December Food Pantry distribution.

We will be putting together "bonus bags" filled with food for a Christmas Dinner, cleaning & hygiene supplies, and a children's gift bag.

Everyone is welcome to help, there is something for all ages.

METHODIST MEN HAMBURGER PROJECT

HOA Meals on Wheels of Austin County is based out of Sealy, Texas, and provides meals to individuals in need Monday through Friday each week. Currently 39 meals are brought to Bellville for distribution. Several BMC members are involved in this program and deliver meals regularly.

Many years ago, the Methodist Men decided to deliver a hamburger, chips, and drink to some of the recipients of the Meals on Wheels program to help them on the weekend when they did not receive a meal. The Methodist Men cover the cost of the burgers with help from donations and Sunday School class members deliver them. The number of burgers delivered has fluctuated over the years.

As of today, 18 burgers are delivered each week. The Disciples Class, the Seekers Class, and the Joyful Berean

Class members each have a route assigned to them. Their class members rotate to make sure the burgers get delivered.

At one point the Missions Committee stepped in to add a snack bag to be delivered along with the burgers. This was to allow them to have a little something extra through the week or for Saturdays.

Steve Lackey serves as the Hamburger Project Coordinator along with help from 3 others that take turns throughout the year picking up the burgers from DQ and getting each bag together to be delivered.

This is an excellent project to meet community needs.

GARAGE SALE

Bellville Methodist Men are having a garage sale on Saturday, December 2 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. You will find them in the storage building across from the food pantry here on the church property.

The church has accumulated quite a few things that we no longer need to store, and it is time to move some of these things out!





MOTHER'S DAY OUT

During November we discussed the many ways that we are thankful. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast was a potluck attended by family and friends. The children sang their blessing before the meal... so sweet! They proudly decorated the tables with their fall crafts. We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!



Mother's Day Out Thanksgiving Feast



ANGEL TREE

Each year, Society of St. Stephen partners with Austin County CPS (Child Protective Services) to provide gifts to children in their custody.

The tree located at the Welcome Center desk has angel tags you can take that have children's first names along with their wish list printed on them.

Return the gifts with the tag so it will go to the correct child by December 18.

Please do not wrap gifts.



Christmas Wish List

Each year you are given an opportunity to prayerfully consider an additional gift to our annual Christmas Wish List. For many years, this successful program affords our church members to make year-end designated gifts to specific capital items that are not part of our church budget..

Watch the mail for your contribution statement which will include a letter listing the items chosen for this year's wish list.

Thank you for your continued generous support of Bellville Methodist Church.



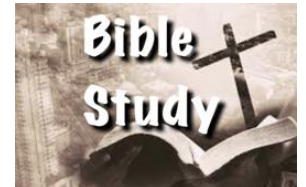
BIBLE STUDY

Please plan to join us for an overview class on the Catechism of Christian Faith and Doctrine of the Global Methodist Church. John Reasons will lead this discussion on Wednesday, January 17 at 6pm. The GMC is placing much more emphasis on church doctrine and the Catechism is an important tool for insuring that all of our members understand the theological foundations of our faith.

We plan to start in-depth (12 weeks) study of the Gospel or Mark beginning in January on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm and Sunday afternoons at 4 pm. John Reasons and Scott Maddox will facilitate these sessions; we are tentatively

planning to start classes on Jan 24 & Jan 28. The study's author is Dr Brad Johnson, from Asbury Seminary, and it is part of Seedbed's OneBook Daily Weekly study series. Please let the church office know if you would like to join us.

Watch your email for an upcoming survey of church members to gather your input on future Bible study content, and preferences for days and times for future Bible study classes.



BACKPACK BLESSINGS MINISTRY

On January 1, 2023, we officially changed our name from Backpack Buddies to Backpack Blessings. Our ministry continues to deliver food bags on Fridays to the O'Bryant Primary, O'Bryant Intermediate, and Bellville Jr High schools. The bags contain nourishing foods for meals and snacks for the low-income children who need food on the weekends. We are currently serving 73 children and anticipate the numbers could rise with the economic situation.



This ministry would not be possible without the generous donations from our church members, Sunday school classes, church groups, and the community. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We are also blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers who pack the bags and deliver them to the schools. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!

If you would like to make a donation at any time, please designate your check in the memo line to: Backpack Blessings Ministry.

BLUEBONNET OPRY

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry hold events at the Silver Wings Ballroom in Brenham the third Thursday of each month. Tickets sold at the door are \$8.00. This is a non-profit organization benefitting the local Brenham Hospice branch. Each month features a show filled with incredibly talented musicians!

BMC takes the church bus for anyone who wants to ride. Please call the church office to reserve your seat.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Friday, December 22 through Tuesday, January 2.

If you need to reach us, please call and leave a message on the church cell phone— we will check daily. 979-270-0668.

If you need to drop something off, there is a drop box located on the far left door at the front of the building.

Bellville Methodist Believer

Bellville Methodist Church
234 S. Masonic
PO Box 188
Bellville, TX 77418

Phone 979.865.5976
Fax 979.865.0701
office@bellvillemethodist.org
www.bellvillemethodist.org



*Changing Lives
By the Power of
Jesus Christ*



*Bellville Methodist Church
PO Box 188
Bellville, TX 77418*

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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR BELLVILLE METHODIST STAFF!!

FROM PASTOR JOHN...

As we move into the Advent and Christmas Seasons, I want to make sure you are aware of our special services.

Sunday December 3, we will have our Church Family Advent Celebration at 5 pm. It is a time where we sing a few carols, hang an ornament representing your family on the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary gathering area, and have a brief devotional. We will follow that up with a light dinner and then take groups caroling out into the community.

Thursday, December 21 is our Longest Night Service at 6 p.m. Christmas is a joyous time, but it can be a hard time - especially if you have experienced a loss or are just overwhelmed by the season. This is a quiet service, with readings and candle lighting. It is a great service to sit in the healing, comforting presence of the Lord.

On Christmas Eve itself, we will have three services. In the morning, we will have one service at 10 a.m. that will include a live nativity as well as the lighting of candles while we sing Silent Night. Yes, it is the morning - but it's also Christmas Eve. That evening, we will have our Communion and Candlelight services at 5 & 7 p.m.

I hope you will take advantage of these special opportunities to worship God, connect with others, and celebrate the birth of our Lord!

Blessings, John

BELLVILLE METHODIST
**CHURCH FAMILY
ADVENT CELEBRATION**
DECEMBER 3RD

**SERVICE 5:00
DINNER 5:45
CAROLING 6:30**

Service: Please bring an ornament for your family to share on our tree.
Potluck Dinner: A-H Dessert I-P Salad R-Z Soup (Suggested)
Caroling: We will bring Christmas Cheer around town. Please
RSVP Hillary@bellvillemethodist.org if you and/or your family plan to join.