

Salem (Bellemans) Church
3540 Bellemans Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit # 1
Reading, PA 19612



Bell Notes

Salem (Bellemans) Church
3540 Bellemans Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Services every Sunday at 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE



Details Page 6

WORSHIP SERVICE

December 2020

Rev. David W. Blitch, Pastor
Oliver Blatt, Interim Church Musician
James Fitterling, Administrator
Church Office: 610-926-0461
Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net
Web Site: bellemanschurch.org

Pastor's Ponderings

A very Merry Christmas to all.
Christ our Savior is born!

This has been a tough year. But the promises of our Lord, born in a manger, are still alive and ours to enjoy! What better time can there be to remember the joy of Christmas than this year!

I'll be spending much of December, and maybe a bit of January, I'm not sure, giving you all a call on your phone with a Christmas prayer. I hope to get to everyone. Either we'll talk, or I'll leave a message.

What I'd like to ask of you is to share with me in that phone call, a Christmas Blessing. Tell me a bit of what Christmas means to you. How the birth of Jesus has changed you, and your family. Share a Christmas joy. If we talk in person, that's great! Otherwise you can call the church back and leave a message on the answering machine.

I've used this poem a few times as a Pastor, because the message just moves me so much. It ties it all up. It proclaims that this baby is not only special, but is God incarnate. I hope you are as moved as I am.

"Joseph's Lullaby", Author: Ronald Allan Klug

Sleep now, little one.

I'll watch while you and your mother sleep.

I wish I could do more.

This straw is not good enough for you.

*Back in Nazareth I'll make a proper bed for you
of seasoned wood, smooth, strong, well-pegged.*

A bed fit for a carpenter's son.

Just wait till we get back to Nazareth.

I'll teach you everything I know.

You'll learn to choose the cedar wood, eucalyptus and fir.

You'll learn to use the drawshave, ax and saw.

Your arms will grow strong, your hands rough – like these.

*You will bear the pungent smell of new wood
and wear shavings and sawdust in your hair.*

*You'll be a man whose life centers
on hammer and nails and wood.*

But for now,

Sleep, little Jesus, sleep.

Blessed Christmas, Pastor Dave and Karen

Church Board Highlights November 16, 2020

Treasurer, Larry Henne reviewed his report with the board and noted that income has been dropping off. James Fitterling noted that documentation has been provided to the church stating that our PPP loan has been forgiven.

There was discussion about the pay amount for the fill in musician Sunday's following Linda's Retirement and prior to Oliver assuming the Interim Musician role. After discussion it was approved to pay \$80 for each service played.

The Fundraising Committee reported that the Bazaar was a success despite the adjustments made to this year's event. The finalized report wasn't available as of the meeting.

The Music and Worship Committee suggested plans for Christmas Eve services. James reviewed the plans which would include indoor services at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and an outdoor live nativity service at 4:30 p.m. (Since adjusted to 4:00 p.m.) There were concerns about seating for the indoor services. It was suggested to setup the Fellowship Hall for overflow seating and to live stream the service to there if needed. Additionally, it was suggested to ask people to let us know which service they are planning to attend. This would not be required to attend but would give us an idea how many people to expect. Communion at the indoor services will again utilize the prefilled cup/wafer combos. For the outdoor nativity, Pastor Dave suggested the possibility of utilizing a Moravian Love Feast in place of communion at that service. After discussion, this was approved. There was some additional discussion about various other details of the services. With that, it was discussed about moving up the December Board Meeting to give more time to coordinate needed helpers for Christmas Eve day setup. It was approved to move the next meeting to December 14 at 7 p.m.

Two items were forwarded from the Council and Consistory to the Board for consideration. First, documents were received from the Covenant Association and East Berks Mission District for the annual Benevolent giving to them. The Council and Consistory suggested to give \$100 to each. The Board authorized this donation. The Council and Consistory also suggested that with the current situation and the limited number of congregants coming in person, to freeze the current Board, Endowment, Council and Consistory positions set to expire at the end of 2020 for a period of 3 months. This would give a bit more time to fill these positions. This was approved.

The Personnel Committee met to do the annual interviews of the church staff. Due to finances, there are no anticipated salary increases for 2021.

Treasurer Larry Henne reviewed some possible adjustments to the budget for 2021 including the Director of Music Ministry position which is currently in an interim phase. The suggestion was to budget \$15,000 for the position in 2021. Larry still needed information to add the pastor's pension and insurance amount which will change for 2021. The suggestion was that once Larry has the budget completed that it will be emailed out to the Board for approval prior to the December 6 Congregational Meeting.

Michael Holcombe reported that he has been in touch with Oliver Blatt concerning the purchase of a new digital piano to be purchased in memory of Ella Hix. The suggestion was to set a budget so that if a sale comes up that the purchase can be made. The board approved to purchase a new digital piano for up to \$1,500. As was reported from the discussion with Ella's family, the remainder of the bequest would go toward the Organ through the Capital Campaign.

As a follow-up to last meeting's discussion, it was discussed about trying to allow voting at the Congregational Meeting for any members not able to be in attendance due to Covid protocols. After some discussion, it was suggested to email a ballot out for anyone watching the live stream. A certain time window will be allowed for members to submit their vote via email. This will be communicated the week prior as a heads up to members that this is a possibility. The Board approved to allow this extra voting for the December 6, 2020 and January 31, 2021 meetings.

Bernice Hartman sent a letter that she will be resigning from her duty of selecting the lectors for the Sunday services as of December 31. Bernice is thanked for taking care of this all the years she has. There was some additional discussion about covering this duty. Additionally, it was mentioned that Sandy Gring will be resigning from the Endowment Fund and the Consistory. These positions will need to be filled at some point.

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**We still need your help!**

There are still three openings (2 Lutheran and 1 UCC) on Church Board for terms beginning in 2021. If you are interested in serving and helping to lead Belleman's into the future, we would love to have you aboard. Please let James know in the office (610-926-0461) if you are willing to serve!

**Belleman's Joint Board**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 20,259.21 |
| Income            | \$ 11,221.11 |
| Expenses          | \$ 17,258.34 |
| Ending Balance    | \$ 14,221.98 |

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Attendance/Offering

| | 9:00AM | Offering |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 1 | 62 (Church), 124(Facebook) | \$4,750.00 |
| Nov. 8 | 75 (Church), 270(Facebook) | \$2,876.00 |
| Nov. 15 | 57 (Church), 100(Facebook) | \$4,191.00 |
| Nov. 22 | 55 (Church), 136(Facebook) | \$2,157.00 |
| Nov. 29 | 73 (Church), 115(Facebook) | \$2,743.00 |

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**Jingle Offerings**

- December 6, 13 Smoker Family Missionaries in Guatemala
- December 20, 27 Belleman's Smile Fund

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Christmas Card Shower

2020 has certainly been a challenging year for everyone. Here at church, Covid restrictions and protocols have made it hard to make visitations to shut-in members by both Pastor Dave and the Parish Visitor Committee.



With Christmas right around the corner, we are looking to brighten the Christmas for our shut-ins who look forward to those missed visitations. This is where you come in! We are asking that anyone who is willing and able to please send Christmas cards to members on our shut-in list.

All you need to do is contact the church office via phone (610-926-0461) or email (salembellemans@frontiernet.net) and James will provide you with a copy of the shut-in list. What a great way to spread some Christmas Spirit!

Christmas Eve 2020



We will celebrate Christ's birth with three worship opportunities on Christmas Eve, **Thursday, December 24th**. There are some **new things happening** this year!

Planned service times are as follows:

1:00PM - Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

4:00PM - Outdoor Nativity Service in the Grove
This will include a live animal nativity and Love Feast.
This service will be ideal for families and children.
Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided!

7:00PM - Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

*** While reservations will **not** be required for the indoor services, congregants are encouraged to let the office know which service you plan to attend so that proper seating arrangements can be made. Overflow seating may be available in the Fellowship Hall with the service live streamed if needed. ***



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**In the case of inclement weather**, information regarding any possible church service cancellations will be on the church (610-926-0461) answering machine, Facebook page, the 69 News website and WEEU. Thanks!



Belleman's very own **Maura Wesner** and **Nikailyn Madden** will be singing in a YOUTUBE Christmas video of **Handel's Messiah** to premier at **4:00 p.m. on December 20** on the **Reading Choral Society ( RCS ) YouTube channel**.  
Please plan to tune in!

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Cemetery Logs and Wreaths

Troop 154 will have wreaths and logs available this year for placement on cemetery graves. We can also place them on Belleman's (Fairview) Cemetery for you. Selections are listed below.

Call Larry Henne for additional information, 610-926-0461

CHRISTMAS WREATHES – NEW ITEMS!!

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------|
| 6" X 10" Cemetery Log with Live Greens & Velvet Bow..... | _____ | @ \$13.50 |
| 6" X 18" Cemetery Log with Live Greens & Velvet Bow..... | _____ | @ \$20.00 |
| 18" Live Greens Wreath w/ Velvet Bow by Potts Nurseries..... | _____ | @ \$13.50 |
| 18" Live Greens Wreath w/Velvet Bow & Stand by Potts Nurseries..... | _____ | @ \$15.00 |
| 24" Live Greens Wreath w/ Velvet Bow by Potts Nurseries..... | _____ | @ \$18.00 |
| 24" Live Greens Wreath w/Velvet Bow & Stand by Potts Nurseries..... | _____ | @ \$20.00 |

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## Poinsettias

Rejoice in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by placing poinsettias in church for the Christmas season. Order forms will be in the Sunday Bulletin for your use, or you can see Linda Henne at Church or call her at 610-926-4506. Plants are available this year @ \$8.00 each and will only be available in red this year. They can be placed in honor or in memory of loved ones as we have always done in the past.

**Orders should be placed by December 13. Thank you.**



Poinsettias

## Calendar of Events

- Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
12/13 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)**
- Mon. 7:00PM Board Meeting  
12/14
- Tue. 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting  
12/15
- Sat. 9:00AM – 10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
12/19 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
- Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
12/20 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)**  
Confirmation Class Meeting and rehearsal for  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Outdoor Nativity after Worship
- Thu. Christmas Eve  
12/24 1:00PM Worship Service with Holy Communion  
4:00PM Outdoor Nativity service in the Grove  
7:00PM Worship Service with Holy Communion**  
(For Worship details please see page 6)
- Fri. Christmas Day  
12/25 "Merry Christmas"**
- Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
12/27 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)**
- Fri. (1/1) Happy New Year! 2021!
- Sat. 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting  
1/2 in the chapel
- Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
1/3 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)**
- Sun. Holy Communion  
1/10 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
(Virtual and in car worship options remain)**
- Sat. 9:00AM – 10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
1/16 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
- Sun. Holy Communion  
1/17 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
(Virtual and in car worship options remain)**  
Confirmation Class Meeting after worship

## 2021 Proposed Budget

|                                | 2018 Proposed       | 2019 Proposed       | 2020 Proposed        | 2021 Proposed        |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Administration</b>          |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Pastor Salary                  | \$44,712.00         | \$44,712.00         | \$45,600.00          | \$45,600.00          |
| Pastor Housing                 | \$18,000.00         | \$18,000.00         | \$18,000.00          | \$18,000.00          |
| Pension / Health Insurance     | \$33,886.00         | \$35,559.00         | \$36,637.00          | \$37,317.00          |
| Social Security                | \$4,800.00          | \$4,800.00          | \$4,872.00           | \$4,872.00           |
| Mileage                        | \$4,000.00          | \$3,500.00          | \$3,000.00           | \$3,000.00           |
| Professional Reimbursement     | \$500.00            | \$500.00            | \$500.00             | \$500.00             |
| Administrator                  | \$24,732.00         | \$24,732.00         | \$25,224.00          | \$25,224.00          |
| Secretary – Part Time          |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Sexton                         | \$7,680.00          | \$7,680.00          | \$7,680.00           | \$7,680.00           |
| Payroll Taxes (FICA)           | \$3,902.00          | \$3,902.00          | \$3,992.00           | \$3,992.00           |
| Salary Reduction Expenses      |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| <b>Benevolence</b>             |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Regular                        | \$6,000.00          | \$6,000.00          | \$7,000.00           | \$7,000.00           |
| Other                          | \$1,500.00          | \$1,500.00          | \$1,400.00           | \$1,300.00           |
| <b>Worship</b>                 |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Organist                       | \$18,888.00         | \$18,888.00         | \$19,272.00          | \$15,000.00          |
| Musicians                      | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00           | \$2,000.00           |
| Supply Pastors                 | \$400.00            | \$400.00            | \$400.00             | \$400.00             |
| Worship Materials              | \$2,700.00          | \$2,700.00          | \$2,700.00           | \$3,000.00           |
| <b>Program</b>                 |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Committees & Departments       | \$1,000.00          | \$1,000.00          | \$423.00             | \$415.00             |
| Outreach                       | \$3,000.00          | \$3,000.00          | \$2,000.00           | \$2,000.00           |
| <b>Property</b>                |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Maintenance                    | \$11,000.00         | \$11,000.00         | \$11,000.00          | \$12,000.00          |
| Telephone                      | \$2,000.00          | \$2,200.00          | \$2,200.00           | \$2,200.00           |
| Electric                       | \$8,000.00          | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00           | \$4,500.00           |
| Insurance W/C                  | \$1,400.00          | \$1,400.00          | \$1,400.00           | \$1,200.00           |
| Insurance Fire/Boiler          | \$12,000.00         | \$12,000.00         | \$12,000.00          | \$12,000.00          |
| Church Propane                 | \$7,000.00          | \$7,000.00          | \$8,000.00           | \$5,000.00           |
| Property Taxes                 | \$4,700.00          | \$4,700.00          | \$4,700.00           | \$4,700.00           |
| Office Equipment & Maintenance | \$3,700.00          | \$3,500.00          | \$3,400.00           | \$3,000.00           |
| Office Supplies                | \$5,500.00          | \$5,500.00          | \$5,500.00           | \$5,000.00           |
| Postage                        | \$2,000.00          | \$2,027.00          | \$2,100.00           | \$2,100.00           |
| Miscellaneous/Unplanned Exp    |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| <b>Fellowship Hall</b>         |                     |                     |                      |                      |
| Hall Electric                  | \$3,500.00          | \$3,300.00          | \$3,000.00           | \$2,500.00           |
| Hall Propane                   | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00          | \$2,000.00           | \$2,000.00           |
| Hall Maintenance               | \$4,000.00          | \$4,000.00          | \$4,000.00           | \$4,000.00           |
| <b>Totals</b>                  | <b>\$242,500.00</b> | <b>\$242,500.00</b> | <b>\$ 243,000.00</b> | <b>\$ 237,500.00</b> |

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**  
**AS OF 11/30/20**

|                                                                      |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Contributions, Projects, Endowment<br/>and Dissolved Accounts</b> | \$322,951.55 |
| <b>Monthly Contributions 2019</b>                                    | \$5,102.00   |
| (November Collection = \$1,321.00)                                   |              |
| Donations in memory of Ella Hix                                      | \$1,220.00   |
| Donations in memory of Donald Miller                                 | \$50.00      |
| Donations in memory of Marlene Miller                                | \$25.00      |
| Donations in memory of Donald Dautrich                               | \$50.00      |

**Fundraising Projects (2020)**

|                    |          |            |
|--------------------|----------|------------|
| Organ Restoration  | On-going |            |
| Chicken BBQ        | March    | \$2,554.04 |
| Easter Candy Sales | April    | \$2,536.60 |
| Chinese Auction    | November | \$1,150.00 |

**Grocery Gift Cards**

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| Sold   | \$ 214,705.00       |
| Profit | <u>\$ 10,897.90</u> |

Cash Total \$346,537.09

**Interest Paid**

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Fairview Interest Paid | \$15,875.00 |
| Total VIST Interest Paid     | \$22,044.20 |

**Loan Balances**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Fairview Cemetery Company | \$84,000.00 |
| VIST Bank Loan            | \$30,936.56 |

**Total Principal Balance Owed \$114,936.56**

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Donations for the Capital Campaign are always accepted through the mail. Please send your donation to:

Salem Belleman's Church - Capital Campaign Fund
3540 Belleman's Church Road, Mohrsville, Pa 19541

The first Sunday of the month collection continues to be a great way to donate to the fund as well.
Thank you for your continued support!

Support Our Organ Restoration

During the season of giving, a great gift to give would be to make a donation as a gift to our pipe organ restoration fundraiser.

See reverse side for more details.



Some Facts about our fundraiser:

The total cost for the restoration is: \$94,100

- \$89,500 pipe organ work
- \$ 2,800 for refinishing of the console exterior
- \$ 1,800 for incorporation of the carillon

The parts of the organ which need your support:

- We have 11 ranks which include the following sounds: Violin Diapason; Clarabella; Dulciana; Salicional; Vox Celeste; Twelfth; Oboe; Principal; Rohrflute; Trumpet; and Pedal Bourdon.
- The ranks are comprised of anywhere from 61 to 85 pipes.
- In addition to the ranks we have 21 tubular chimes.

If you have been doing the math to figure out how many pipes which are part of our organ you will come up with approximately 700. You are close. There are 762 pipes. Each of these pipes were cleaned, rebuilt, and carefully restored to their prideful position.

How can you help:

- You can donate in many ways:
 - You can become a rank donor for \$8,137 a rank and choose which one you would like to donate.
 - You can donate a note, or two or three for \$117.50 each. Sorry, we are unable to designate specific pipes.

Your name or the name of those you will be dedicating your donation to will be placed in an "Organ Restoration Dedication Book."



It's easy....

To support the Organ Restoration Fundraiser, fill out the form below along with your check made payable to Belleman's Capital Campaign Fund and give to Linda Henne or James Fitterling.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Yes, I would like to support the Organ Restoration Project with the following donation:

___ Rank Sponsor *Name of Rank _____

___ Pipe Sponsor Number of Pipes _____

How would you like to see your donation recognized in our Dedication Book?

*We cannot guarantee your rank will be available. First-come, first served.



Dear Belleman's Church, Thank you for your congregation's gift to Phoebe! (\$103 Jingle Offering) Your support is more important now than ever as we continue to serve those most vulnerable during these challenging times. Your generosity helps us to continue offering quality and compassionate health care services for over 15,000 older adults annually. Again, thank you for your commitment to Phoebe and the residents we serve.

With gratitude, Stacey L. Prohaska,
Executive Director of Philanthropy



To our Belleman's Church Family, We want to thank you for the beautiful Peace Lilies that were sent to us! We appreciate all the love, support and the cards at this difficult time!

Thanks Again, Love,
Brenda and Robert Eisenhower, Oscar Miller



Dear Belleman's Church Family, We would like to thank you all for the beautiful plant and rose we received for our 65th Wedding Anniversary.

God Bless, Lloyd and Ruth Barnett



Endowment Fund

Belleman's Church Endowment Fund was established for the preservation of our church. Tax-deductible gifts are available by completing the following information:

IN HONOR or IN MEMORY OF:

Your name (Donor): _____

Your address: _____

Gift of \$ _____

Payable to: Belleman's Church—Endowment Fund
3540 Belleman's Church Road,
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8916

Birthdays

December

16th Michele DeBoeser,
Ryan Bausher
17th Linda Imbesi, Sharon Borkey,
Brenda Nelson
18th Mason Strohl, Richie Spatz,
Elizabeth Cichowicz,
Douglas Troutman
19th Joyce Strause,
Elizabeth Veres, Bethany Werley
20th Brian Reynolds, Alex Paris
21st Carol Spatz
22nd Jackie Lynn, Nathan Hill,
Karla Lawrence
23rd Fern Fisher, Kylee Cammauf,
Cydney Lawrence,
25th Kimberly Smyre, Mary Miller
26th Robert Fenstermacher,
Brianna Schoen
27th Harold Spatz, Alyssa Kriner,
Carlene Kissinger
29th Anthony McCloskey,
Ashlie Dreibelbis
30th Diane Klopp, Whitney Shurr,
Nicole Jacoby
31st Amber Blatt

January

1st Elisha Zimmerman
2nd Gena Runge, Carl Hein
3rd Dana Screffler
4th Alex Younker,
Weston Troutman
5th Robert Flay, Jr.
6th Linda Henne,
John Rausch
Gavin Haas, Angela Potts
Susann Cammauf
7th Carolina Blatt, James
Blatt
8th Shelby Dougherty
9th Justin Cox, Larry Henne
10th Marian Gordon,
Pamela Haas,
Thomas Noecker,
Rex Kissinger
12th Mica Kornfeind,
Connor Kunkle
13th Archer Kauffman
14th Phillip Smith,
Nathaniel Shatto,
15th Michael Dailey

Anniversaries

December

31st Lindel & Karen Hahn

January

2nd Paul & Annabell Leshar
9th Randy & Cathleen Phillips

Belleman's Military Members

CWO2 Josh Linderman
Andrew Potts
1LT Bradley P. Hoppes
SGT Andrew Cichowicz
Nathan P. Stump
SGT John R. Wesner

MAJ James Fluck
Kevin Mohn
SGT Phillip Spatz
Alfred Cross
Cydney Lawrence

What is the Pastoral Relations Committee?

The ministry of any pastor, and congregation, is strengthened when there exists a small group of persons who act out of mutual concern for the pastor, and congregation. This mutual ministry becomes specific in such ways as:

DID YOU KNOW?

- (1) Open communication concerning the attitudes and conditions within the congregation;
- (2) Early warnings of misunderstanding within the congregation;
- (3) A "listening post" for the pastor, and the congregation;
- (4) Conflict resolution;
- (5) Appraisal of the ministry of the pastor, and the congregation;
- (6) Sounding board for the pastor in time of personal or professional stress;
- (7) Identifying continuing education that would assist the ministry of the pastor and the goals of the congregation;
- (8) Concerns for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the pastor.

Through listening, interpreting, advising, conferring, evaluating, recommending, affirming, and forgiving, the ministry of the pastor is strengthened as well as that of the congregation.



**Pastoral Relations
COMMITTEE**

Current members of Belleman's Committee: Dawne Clay (Chair), Brenda Weyandt, Jim Holcombe, Phil Kistler. Two members will be added in January, after consultation and approval of the Church Board. If you have questions or concerns about Pastor Dave, please reach out to him, or to any member of the committee.