



# BELMONT NOW

*May 2023*

***This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!***

Those words come from Psalm 118: 23. What a powerful reminder that each day is precious and has been made by the Lord. We are to rejoice and be glad! Some days we may not wake up feeling like rejoicing. Some days our joints may hurt, or we haven't gotten enough rest. We may have so much on our minds that there is no way we want to rejoice. However the Psalm doesn't say: rejoice if you feel like it or want to. Hmm.. could it be that the Lord knows that in our rejoicing and thankfulness our spirits will be transformed.

We need to live lives full of thankfulness and gratitude. We need to rejoice and celebrate the blessings the Lord has so graciously given to us. When we look at life in this way it changes everything. It really does.

I have shared various times that my parents were great teachers of being thankful and counting blessings. They didn't hesitate to remind me when situations may have seemed bleak to me that I had a lot to be thankful for. I learned to live my life being thankful and I have so much to be thankful for. In the midst of life's trials, the Lord has never abandoned me and I have found that being thankful and opening my eyes to the blessings in front of me has created even more!

***O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!***

The above is the first verse of Psalm 118. Being reminded of the Lord's steadfast love is huge. We are loved unconditionally by the Lord always, everyday, and in all circumstances. The Lord is faithful and will never abandon us. Another reason to give thanks and rejoice!

May the new life we see all around us remind us of the goodness and faithfulness of our Lord. We have been given new life in Jesus! When we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, asking Him to forgive us of our sins, our sins are forgiven. We become new creations in Him! Hallelujah! Amen.

Love and Blessings,  
Pastor Jan

## **Successful Women's Retreat**

This past Saturday women gathered at Belmont UMC for a wonderful time of teachings, fellowship, food, and more! Based on John 3:16, we had the opportunity to Explore the Wonderful World of God's Love through our journey to the seven continents. We were led by the Kindness Krafters who had spent several months planning and putting this event together.

Many thanks to each person who made this retreat possible!

## **Legacy Fund Loan Paid in Full**

In our April Meeting, the Church Council voted to pay off our Legacy Fund Loan per recommendation of the bank. Our interest rate had grown to 8%, making our payments per month over \$600.00, just covering the interest. It was difficult for us to pay these payments and the rates are expected to continue to rise.

We still owed over \$97,000.00 on the loan. The monies to pay this off came from the Legacy Account. The Lord has blessed us greatly and continues to bless us, for which we should be thankful.

Belmont UMC has a purpose greater than ourselves for the building of the Kingdom of God, both here on earth and in heaven. Our mission is given to us by the Lord. We see it in Matthew 28:18-20: **And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

We need to put the Lord first in all that we do as Church and as Individuals. The Lord will never let us down and will supply all of our needs when we put our trust in Him.

Let us rejoice and be thankful!

## **Night of Worship and Prayer**

Come and join us for a night of Worship and Prayer, led by our Praise Team and Choir on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM, in the Sanctuary of Belmont UMC.

Mark your calendars for this special night!

## **Round Tables**

In memory of Millie Cowan (Pastor Jan's Mom) twelve round tables were given to Belmont UMC for the purposes of gathering together, breaking bread, fellowship, and growing in Christ.

My Mom loved Jesus and said when she accepted Him at the age of thirteen, her life was changed forever. May others find their lives changed forever with Jesus. (Pastor Jan)