



Belvidere Evangelical Covenant Church's Monthly Newsletter

The BEACON

July 2026 www.becov.org

Happy Birthday!

2—Dan Schirmer
4—Joe Young
4—U.S.A.
6—Frank Weyhrauch
6—Tim Rathburn
13—Shawn Ainsworth
15—Linda Randecker
16—Wayne Lowrey
18—Gary Hulstedt
19—Bob Bowley
21—Don Hildebrand
28—Judy Frykholm
29—Carla Shewmon

Happy Anniversary!

2—Gordy & Jill Ellingson
13—Deen & Karen Hulstedt
20—Dan & Cari Schirmer
23—Darrell & Heather Dunlap
24—Dan & Vicki Redner

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New Pastor Townhalls

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming townhall meetings with Pastor Darrell and Heather. Why? Our goal is to get to know you, you to get to know us, to answer any questions, and to discuss the future@BECC. Sign up by emailing pastor@becov.org or by filling out a Communication Card on Sundays, writing "Town Hall and the date," and then attend ONE townhall meeting at the church:

Tuesday, July 7 @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 16 @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 22 @ 6:30 pm

We want everyone who calls BECC their church home to attend one of the Townhalls, so sign up today. Don't wait until they fill up.

Concerts in the Park

We are excited to once again host concerts at the Old Baltic Mill in Belvidere Park! These evenings of music and fellowship are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy time together with friends, family, and our community.

Please feel free to bring a blanket or lawn chair, or you are welcome to use one of the chairs we provide. In the event of rain, the concerts will be moved to the church.

We will have plenty of flyers available, so please help us spread the word! Take one to share with a friend or post on a bulletin board at a place you visit regularly. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming performances:

July 19 – Trinadora

July 26 – Assemblymen

August 2 – Higher Power Quartet

We look forward to seeing you for these fun evenings of great music and community! Email (Trudi.Ainsworth@gmail.com), text (608) 698-3745 or fill out the Communication Card on Sundays to sign up to serve.

New Pastor, New Season, Same Jesus

Just think of it. At 117 years old, Belvidere Evangelical has been around 47% as long as the United States of America! A lot has changed over that time. The building has changed. The community has changed. The people have changed and the pastor has changed. But one constant among all that change? Jesus Christ—the same yesterday, today and forever. The Gospel hasn't changed. It has remained constant for over 2,000 years. We are saved through faith in Jesus Christ and not through any work of our own.

We are excited to join you on this next leg of the journey reaching our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, loving God and loving each other more every day. We hope you're as excited as we are about what God has ahead for us. We know His plans are awesome, good plans for each of us and for our church family. We hope you'll get involved. We long for you to use your gifts, talents, passion, time, resources and heart to serve alongside us proclaiming what a great Savior we have in Jesus Christ! We have much work to do to revitalize our church and its ministries and need everyone doing their part. You're never too young and you're never too old to serve the Lord. We are always available if you need anything. Much love in Christ to all, Pastor Darrell (815) 997-2543 and Heather (858) 248-0445.

Chair's Corner

Here in the United States, we are celebrating 250 years of independence, dating back to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. I hope this sesquicentennial provides opportunities for reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to the progress and future of our nation.

Perhaps you will celebrate by attending a parade, watching fireworks, sharing a picnic, displaying a flag, wearing red, white, and blue, or enjoying special television programming featuring patriotic songs and celebrations. Whatever your tradition may be, I hope you experience the spirit of gratitude and pride that comes with celebrating the United States of America.

Our church has also experienced its share of celebrations over the past month. Some have come with sadness, yet they are still moments worth recognizing and honoring. Others have been filled with joy and hope as we look toward all that God has in store for us. **There is much we can accomplish through God's strength and guidance.**

There is a renewed sense of excitement within our congregation—a feeling that has not been present for some time. I continue to hear many positive comments about our worship services. People are looking forward to Sundays and gathering together as a church family. Pastor Darrell shares God's Word in a way that is clear and understandable, helping us see how Scripture applies to our lives.

This is the Lord's church, and we can celebrate what God has done through our congregation while looking ahead with faith and anticipation to what He will continue to do.

Who will you invite to join us? What role will you play as we move forward together? Why do you come to BECC? Share that with someone. How will you become more involved? Are you investing time in prayer for our church?

I am thankful you are part of this body of believers. Let us celebrate God's faithfulness to our 117-year-old congregation and look forward with hope to the future He is preparing for us.

God bless BECC and God bless the United States of America.—Karen

Thanks Trustees Team!

Special thanks to the trustees team and everyone who served with them to prepare the church/parsonage for Pastor Darrell, Heather & Belle. It was a great deal of work, and we are thankful for each of you.

Congratulations & Thanks to Carla!

Join us in congratulating Carla Shewmon on her retirement from BECC after 18 years serving as our custodian! Carla has done an amazing job keeping the church fresh and clean for all of us and our visitors. Be sure to thank her when you see her! She's not leaving our church family, only our staff. She and Mark will remain with us except when they are vacationing.

Volunteers Needed at the County Fair

We will once again have our Rest Tent at the Boone County Fair from August 11–16. We will be in our usual location, offering fairgoers a cool drink of water, a place to rest, and a shady spot to relax during their time at the fair.

A signup sheet will be available in mid-July for those who would like to volunteer for a shift at the Rest Tent. This community outreach ministry, also known as **servant evangelism**, takes many hands—not only to cover all the time slots during the fair, but also to help set up and take down the tent.

We hope you will consider being part of this opportunity to serve our community. Whether you can help for a few hours or assist with setup or cleanup, your time and presence make a difference.

Thank you for helping us provide a welcoming place of hospitality at the Boone County Fair! Email (Trudi.Ainsworth@gmail.com), text (608) 698-3745 or fill out the Communication Card on Sundays to sign up to serve.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

We are learning about spiritual gifts on Sundays, and it's time for each of us to discover our spiritual gifts and passions. Pick up a spiritual gifts assessment on the table at either exit in the sanctuary, fill it out and return it to Pastor Darrell or Heather. We will tally it for you and get back to you with a list of your gifts and explanations of each gift. **Yes, it takes some time to do it.** (about 15-20 minutes), but it is so worth it to you, the church and His Kingdom! So, please work on your assessment and return it over the next couple of weeks. We would like everyone who attends BECC to complete an assessment. If you need help, please let us know; we are happy to help you complete it.

Where Are You Serving?

Everyone makes a difference in their own way serving the Lord at BECC! Consider one of these service opportunities and see or email Pastor Darrell or Heather with questions. Or fill out the communication card on Sundays, write the team you are interested in, give it to any usher, and we will be in touch with you.

Special Events Team – Help make special events around here “special.”

Worship Team – Can you sing or play an instrument? piano?

Media Team – Like computers and gadgets?

Ushers Team – Like making people feel at home?

“Concerts in the Park” Team – Like music, fun, fellowship and serving?

County Fair “Rest” Booth Team – Like loving on those in our community?

New Senior Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Darrell and Heather have moved into the parsonage.

Please add their contact information to your church family directory:

Pastor Darrell (pastor@becov.org) cell (815) 997-2543; birthday April 15.

Heather (heatheradunlap@gmail.com) cell (858) 248-0445; birthday March 26.

Austin cell (858) 248-7702; birthday May 17. (UW-Whitewater)

Mailing Address: Rev. & Mrs. Darrell Dunlap,

204 E. Harrison St., Belvidere 61008