

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

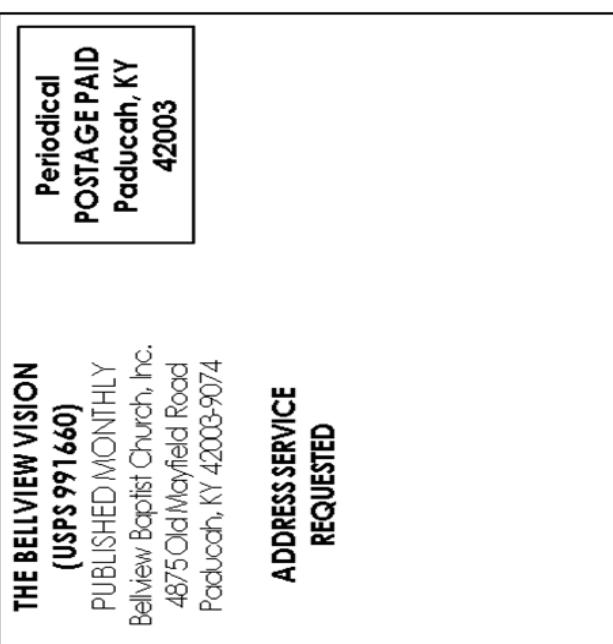
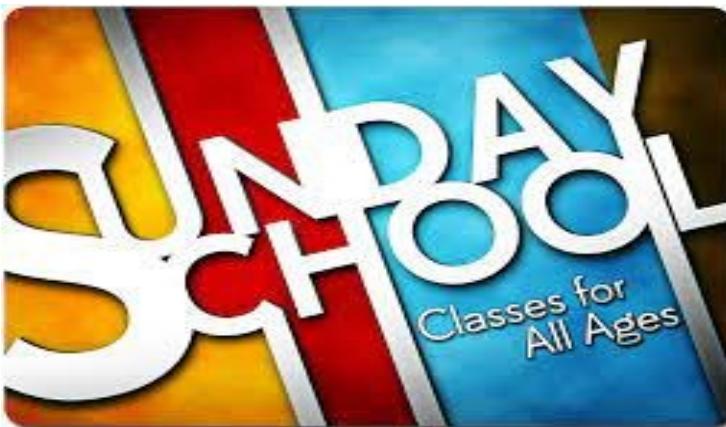
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TOGETHER

Post Office
Opens
December 7



Church Goal
\$5,000

Total to Date Received: \$4,000!



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Bob Whitter
(859) 962-0080

Sandy Leidecker,
Administrative Assistant
(270) 210-6960

Matthew Deweesee,
Music Director
(270) 775-2172

SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday Bible Study – 9 AM
Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM
Sunday Evening Service – 6 PM
Wednesday Night Service &
Children's Activities – 6:30 PM



Where It's All About Jesus

Volume 54 February 2026 Volume # 2

www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Donate SOUP to the food pantry by Sunday, February 8!



FACEBOOK UPDATES!

You may catch updates and info about Bellview on our Facebook page daily and weekly... just search [@bellviewbaptistpaducah](https://www.facebook.com/bellviewbaptistpaducah) and like our page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Splash of Joy

Queen Esther, Heroine of the Jews



Saturday, March 28

Cost: Ticket with meal - \$25; Ticket only - \$15

Meal - 5:30 PM; Program - 6:30 PM

Meal seating is limited

Weekly Budget Offering Required:
\$7,842.52

Online thru January 18 — \$1,850.45

Budget offering through January 18

Budget Offering: \$25,196.63

Designated: \$2,488.10

Total Offering: \$27,684.73

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY:

- Finance Team Meeting—Sunday, February 15 @ 4:00 PM
- Cabinet Meeting—Sunday, February 15 @ 4:30 PM
- Deacon Meeting—Thursday, February 19 @ 6:30 PM



Message from Pastor Bob

Can you believe it is February already? February has been identified as a month to express our love to our mate. So I wanted to define love. What is love? Love can be a challenge to define at the level of how a person experiences it. Love can involve personal affection, sexual attraction, platonic admiration, brotherly loyalty, benevolent concern, or worshipful adoration. To accurately answer the question "What is love?" we must go to the origin of love. The Bible tells us that love originates in God.

In the English language, the word *love* is forced to bear the burden of a multitude of meanings. We "love" everything from pancakes to parents but in vastly different ways. The languages in which the Bible was written, Hebrew and Greek, are more precise in that they utilize different words for the different types of love. The ancient languages differentiate among sexual, brotherly, and familial love, and also the kind of love that God has for creation and that we may have for Him.

The Hebrew word *yada* and the Greek word *eros* are the words used to indicate sexual love. In [Genesis 38](#) Judah makes love with a woman he assumes is a prostitute. In the original Hebrew of verse 26, the word is *yada*, meaning "to know," and in this context, "to know carnally" or "to have sexual intercourse with." In the New Testament, the Greek word *eros* is not found because there is no context in which it might be used.

The second type of love is the brotherly love that exists between close friends regardless of gender. There is no sexual connotation; it is the love for and by a friend. The Hebrew word is *ahabah*, and it is used to describe the love between David and Jonathan in [1 Samuel 20:17](#). The Greek word for brotherly love or affection is *phileo*, as used to refer to friendship in [John 15:19](#), [Romans 12:10](#), and [Hebrews 13:1](#).

Of family or tribal love, the Hebrew word is once again *ahabah*, indicating a deep affection, and the Greek word is *storge*. We find *ahabah* throughout the Old Testament because of its broad meanings. Still, the Greek word *storge* is only found in the New Testament as a negative word, *astorgos*, meaning "without natural love" (e.g., in [2 Timothy 3:3](#)).

Finally, there is the Hebrew word *chesed* and the Greek word *agape*, which express the kind of love God demonstrates toward His elect. *Chesed* is often translated as "steadfast love" or "lovingkindness." A good example of *chesed* is found in [Numbers 14:18](#), "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity

Message from Pastor Bob

and transgression" (ESV). God's *chesed* love is why He never gives up on those He has adopted as His children. Throughout the Old Testament, God's people repeatedly fell into idolatry and sin, yet He always preserved a remnant; He never gives up on His people. The reason is His *chesed* love.

A similar idea is found in the New Testament with the Greek word *agape*. *Agape* love is the goodwill and benevolence of God shown in self-sacrifice and an unconditional commitment to the loved one. *Agape* is similar to *chesed* in that it is steadfast, regardless of circumstances. *Agape* love is the kind of love we are to have for God in fulfillment of the [greatest commandment \(Matthew 22:37\)](#). Jesus wants to instill *agape* in His followers as we serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 22:39](#); [John 13:34](#)).

In the most basic sense, love is the emotion felt and actions performed by someone concerned for the well-being of another person. Love involves affection, compassion, care, and self-sacrifice. Love originates in the Triune Godhead, within the eternal relationship that exists among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ([1 John 4:7-8](#)). Loving is unique to the human experience of being an image-bearer of God. A pet owner may love her dog; she is concerned for its well-being and cares for it. On the other hand, her dog doesn't truly love her. Oh, it wags its tail, sits by her, and comes when she calls, but all of those responses are based on the fact that she feeds it and keeps it warm. Animals cannot love like humans, created in God's image, can love.

Here is the bottom line on love: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. . . . We love because he first loved us" ([1 John 4:9-11, 19](#)).

Pastor Bob

SPOTLIGHT.....

If you've ever walked through the doors of Bellview Baptist Church needing information, assistance, or just a friendly smile, chances are you've encountered Sandy Leidecker. As our Administrative Assistant, Sandy has become more than just a staff member—she's become the heartbeat of our church office, the go-to person for everything Bellview, and a trusted friend to countless members of our congregation. This month, as we celebrate her fifteen years of service, we're shining the spotlight on a woman whose dedication, warmth, and faithfulness have left an indelible mark on our church family.

A Historic Milestone

Fifteen years. It's a remarkable achievement in any career, but in church ministry, it represents something even more significant. Sandy Leidecker has now served as Bellview Baptist Church's Administrative Assistant longer than almost anyone in our 121-year history. She is the second longest-serving Administrative Assistant our church has ever had—a testament not only to her competence and professionalism but also to her deep love for this church and the people in it.

In an era when people frequently change jobs and careers, Sandy's steadfast commitment stands out. She hasn't just occupied a position; she's helped shape the very fabric of our church's daily operations and ministry. When you think of Bellview Baptist Church, you think of Sandy Leidecker. The two have become inseparable in the minds and hearts of our congregation.

The Woman Behind the Desk

Sandy was born on July 3, 1969, and grew up in neighboring Marshall County. Her educational journey began at Jonathan Elementary School, where something significant happened that would shape her entire life—she met Arisa Travis in kindergarten. That childhood friendship, formed over shared crayons and playground adventures, has endured for decades. Sandy and Arisa are still good friends today, a beautiful reminder that some of life's most precious relationships begin in the most ordinary moments. From Jonathan Elementary, Sandy continued to South Marshall Middle School and eventually graduated from Marshall County High School. These local roots run deep, and they've given Sandy an intimate understanding of our community and the people who call it home. Before joining the Bellview family, Sandy honed her administrative skills at the Country Club of Paducah, where she served as an Administrative Assistant. That professional experience prepared her well for the organizational demands of church ministry, though nothing could fully prepare her for the unique joy and challenge of serving in a church office where every day brings new needs, new people, and new opportunities to serve.

A Love Story

Every great life has turning points, and for Sandy, one of the most significant came on a blind date arranged by friends. It was there she met Barry Leidecker, the man who would become her husband and partner in life.

SPOTLIGHT.....

Their courtship led to marriage on April 6, 2002, and together they've built a beautiful life centered on faith, family, and service. Barry and Sandy's marriage has been blessed with two daughters who have brought immeasurable joy to their lives. Brittany Hover, their eldest, has made them proud in countless ways, providing them with a fantastic son-in-law (Bradley Hoover going on 11 years) together they have three children Colton (9), Hattie (7), Maverick (4). Their youngest daughter, Kinsey also makes her just as proud and this year marks a particularly special milestone – Kinsey will be graduating high school. As Sandy reflects on this achievement, she admits, "Not sure where the time has gone, but I am so proud of them!" It's a sentiment every parent understands – the bittersweet realization that the years have flown by even as we've treasured every moment. Their younger daughter, Kinsey Leidecker, continues to bless her parents' lives, and together, Brittany and Kinsey have given Sandy and Barry the greatest gift of all: grandchildren.

Grammy's Greatest Joy

Ask Sandy about her favorite topic, and her face will light up as she talks about Colton (9), Hattie (7), and Maverick (4) – her three "wonderful grandchildren" whom she adores. "Spending time with them always blesses my heart!" she says with unmistakable joy. "I am a very blessed Grammy!"

Anyone who knows Sandy has heard her talk about these precious little ones. They're not just her grandchildren; they're a source of constant delight and one of God's greatest blessings in her life. Whether she's sharing stories about their latest adventures or showing off new pictures, Sandy's love for Colton, Hattie, and Maverick radiates from her. It's this same capacity for love and care that she brings to her work at Bellview Baptist Church every single day.

A Divine Encounter

Sandy's journey to faith is as unique and personal as anyone's. In January 1992, she experienced a moment that would change her life forever. She wasn't in a church building or at a revival service. She was simply driving her car, listening to the radio, when a song came on that touched her heart in a profound way.

"It was like a peace came over me," Sandy recalls, "and I accepted the Lord right there in my car." There's something beautifully authentic about Sandy's conversion story. God met her where she was – literally on the road, in the middle of an ordinary day.

It reminds us that salvation isn't confined to altar calls or scheduled services. God pursues us everywhere, and He meets us in our everyday moments when we're open to His voice.

Eleven years later, in 2003, Sandy joined Bellview Baptist Church, where she would eventually become not just a member but a vital part of the church's ministry. Brother Russell had the privilege of baptizing her, welcoming her into the full fellowship of our church family. Sandy didn't just join a church; she found her spiritual home. Her commitment to Bellview extended beyond attendance. For two years, Sandy taught a 1st-2nd grade

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

Sunday School class, investing in the next generation and sharing the love of Christ with young hearts. While she never joined the choir, she found her own unique way to serve – through faithful, behind-the-scenes ministry that makes everything else possible.

A Life Verse for a Faithful Servant

Every believer has scripture that speaks deeply to their soul, and for Sandy, that verse is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." It's a perfect verse for someone whose job requires juggling countless responsibilities, serving diverse personalities, and maintaining grace under pressure. Day after day, Sandy embodies this verse. She doesn't rely on her own strength to manage the complex demands of church administration. She draws on Christ's strength, and it shows. Whether she's handling a crisis, organizing an event, solving a problem, or simply greeting someone with a warm smile, Sandy demonstrates what it means to live out Philippians 4:13.

Her favorite hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross," reflects the depth of her faith. This timeless song reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made for us and the hope we have in Him. It's a hymn about devotion, sacrifice, and unwavering faith – qualities that characterize Sandy's own life and service.

The Simple Joys

Despite her busy schedule managing the church office, Sandy makes time for the simple pleasures that bring her joy. At the top of her list is playing with Remi, her beloved fur baby who has claimed a special place in her heart. Anyone who has a pet understands the comfort and companionship they provide, and Remi is clearly a treasured member of the Leidecker household.

Sandy also enjoys the quiet pleasure of working word search puzzles – a hobby that provides relaxation and mental stimulation. In a job where the phone rings constantly and demands arise unexpectedly, having a peaceful activity to turn to is essential for maintaining balance. Her creative side emerges through painting, an artistic outlet that allows her to express herself in colors and images.

Whether she's painting for relaxation or creating something special, this hobby reveals a different dimension of Sandy's personality – one that appreciates beauty, creativity, and the joy of making something with her own hands.

Her favorite color is red, bold and vibrant, and her favorite food is Mexican – flavorful and satisfying. These preferences might seem like small details, but they paint a picture of someone who appreciates life's pleasures and isn't afraid to embrace what she loves. And when asked about her favorite preacher? Without hesitation: "Pastor Bob!" It's the kind of loyalty and affection that makes a pastor's ministry deeply rewarding.

The Go-To Person

There's a saying around Bellview Baptist Church: "If you need to know something about Bellview Baptist, Sandy is the place to start. "It's absolutely true. Everybody goes to Sandy. Everybody trusts

SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES...

Sandy. Over fifteen years, she has accumulated an encyclopedic knowledge of how this church operates, who's who, what's happening, and how to make things happen.

Need to know when a committee meets? Ask Sandy. Looking for a phone number? Sandy has it. Wondering about church history or policy? Sandy knows. Trying to solve a logistical puzzle? Sandy will figure it out. Her institutional knowledge is invaluable, but even more valuable is her heart for people.

Sandy doesn't just provide information; she provides care. When people come to her with questions or concerns, they leave feeling heard, helped, and valued. She understands that church administration isn't just about managing schedules and answering phones – it's about ministering to people, one interaction at a time. This is why she has earned such deep trust from our congregation. People know that Sandy has the church's best interests at heart. They know she's discreet with sensitive information. They know she genuinely cares about their needs. Trust like that isn't automatic; it's earned through consistency, integrity, and genuine love for people. Sandy has earned it a thousand times over.

The Legacy Continues

As we celebrate Sandy's fifteen years at Bellview Baptist Church, we're not just marking time on a calendar. We're honoring a life of faithful service, a heart devoted to ministry, and a person who has made our church better simply by being part of it. Sandy Leidecker represents the best of what church staff can be. She's competent without being cold, organized without being rigid, knowledgeable without being condescending, and helpful without seeking recognition. She serves behind the scenes, but her impact is front and center in everything we do.

The second longest-serving Administrative Assistant in 121 years – that's not just a statistic. It's a story of faithfulness, commitment, and love. It's a reminder that ministry isn't always glamorous or high-profile. Sometimes the most important ministry happens at a desk, through a phone call, in a smile, in a word of encouragement, in the countless small acts of service that keep a church running smoothly.

Thank you, Sandy, for fifteen years of exceptional service. Thank you for your patience with our questions, your grace with our demands, your wisdom in challenging situations, and your constant, steady presence. Thank you for loving Bellview Baptist Church the way you do, for treating our members like family, and for making our church office a place of warmth and welcome.

Here's to fifteen years – and Lord willing, many more to come. Bellview Baptist Church is blessed to have you, Sandy Leidecker. You are truly the heart of our church office, and we thank God for you.

Pastor Bob