**2019-2021**

During 2019, above activities and focus continued. A Long-Range Planning Team was formed to prayerfully ponder BUMC ‘s place and calling in Nashville. Greater focus on mission is determined and the creation of the Church Leadership Board, a more realistic leadership mode for the 21st century. The congregation rejoiced with our pastor and his wife, Nikki upon the adoption of their baby, Charlotte Belle.

In 2020, new opportunities and challenges came to the Church. To say that 2020 was a difficult, grief-filled year for many is an understatement. For some, the year was filled with sorrow and depression, whereas others found it to be a strange landscape for everyday life. The congregation pushed the staff to adapt everything known about ministry - moving from gathering in the sanctuary every week to online worship. The space allocated for the Bellevue Community Food Bank more than doubled. The larger Bellevue community (as well as our congregation) responded to the needs of our neighbors experiencing hunger with such generosity that the Food Bank volunteers could not find enough storage for the food. Partnering with Good Shepherd Nashville, an Anglican parish in West Nashville, relaunched the use of the Christian Learning Center as a sanctuary. Part-time partnership with the YMCA was created for essential worker childcare.

Heading into 2021, we continued to learn and adapt, praying for God's guidance in being good stewards of all that God has given us. While much was still "out of sorts" in everyday life, people joined us for worship on Facebook and via Zoom meetings, genuinely seeking to be as present as possible.

The Leadership Board continued to gather via Zoom seeking to define the mission of the church: *Growing disciples of Jesus Christ through relationships for the transformation of our community and world.*" Reflecting on the "pulse of the church" the LB recognized a disconnect that the pandemic had created in virtual gatherings. Technology connected us in worship and small groups but also recognized was the loneliness and isolation of many members especially older members with limited access to technology.

As the year went by, the Leadership Board reaffirmed the importance of creating opportunities, both virtual and in-person, of engaging persons in meaningful relationships to foster growth in discipleship and positively transform our community and world. To that goal, the Church entered into a partnership with the Mobile Housing Navigation Center and its ministry to the homeless.