

Belleville Congregational Church

April 2013
News and Views



MISSION OF BELLEVILLE CHURCH

Centered in the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we seek to be a welcoming, affirming, and healing congregation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to grow and be renewed through our worship, fellowship, Scripture study and the sharing of our gifts. Strengthened by God's love and guidance, we strive to serve with compassion those in need, both near and far.

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Easter Greetings!

Well, we had a lovely Easter day just at the end of March, though it was a bit cold for the sunrise service! Nevertheless, many brave souls from four churches gathered together at Salisbury Beach Reservation. The Methodist Church made a hearty breakfast once more. And this year we were also joined for the first time by folks from the Salvation Army; the "ecumenical" spirit was shown beautifully!

In my Easter sermon, I applauded the United Church of Christ for its steadfast work in embracing people of diverse backgrounds. I also noted that it is not perhaps the most popular or crowd pleasing ways to be. But in a world that gets smaller all the time, with ever increasing connection through web technologies, the only way forward I can see is to take off parochial and denominational blinders and truly welcome people different from ourselves. Those who have studied Marcus Borg this year have had such lively discussions, born of insightful questions regarding how Christianity needs to progress with the times to be relevant. Sure, the saying is true that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, yet He was always crossing boundaries, finding ways to include those who were often excluded by society. That is "ecumenical," which comes from Greek words that imply a "world house."

It is fascinating to me that the ecumenical movement in churches did limit itself to Christians at the outset. It has become clear that communities now need to celebrate our "interfaith" connections, and even our connections with people of "no faith." I had the chance to be on the Radio on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with our local Rabbi, Avi Poupko. For those of you who did not turn on WNBP those Sundays, I think you can listen to a link on the Web, under "radio rabbi." We did celebrate the things we have in common regarding the Passover and Holy Week. We also were clear about distinctions in our respective paths.

Easter and Eastertide (the season following) are all about Victory..... That Jesus Christ was not only victorious over death (something we all will have the chance to experience one day), but in his life, he was victorious in making peace, victorious in standing up for the rights of all, victorious in finding joy, and principally, victorious in Love..... a steadfast love that never wavered, and always tried to include others in ever larger circles.

We will welcome new members this April, and live out His way of inclusive love! May His divine love be indeed the measuring stick, the plumb line for all our words and actions. May Belleville grow more and more into his image, so that we might always know his victory in our midst. This is Easter, something we live every day. Hope to see you soon.

Ross Varney

2013 CALENDAR

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Recycling 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir practice	5	6 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
7 9:00 New members orientation 10:00am Worship 4pm Visionary Book Group	8 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	9 1:30 Service Club	10 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 4:30 Worship & Education 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30 Stewardship & Finance	11 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir practice	12	13 9am Service Club Rummage Sale 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
14 10am Worship	15 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	16 12:30pm Service Club 7:30 Stewardship & Finance	17 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 4:30pm Worship & Education 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team	18 Recycling 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir Practice	19	20 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
21 10am Worship 4pm Rest in the Spirit	22 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	23 8pm Executive Committee	24 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team	25 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir Practice	26 News & Views deadline	27 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
28 10a m Worship	29 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	30				



April

- 5 Kelly Burke-Anderson**
- 9 Wyatt Allard**
- 12 Lynne Hangen**
- 15 Sue Heersink**
- 15 Petey Conway**
- 18 Nancy Canali**
- 21 Donald Jay**
- 23 Nancy Tsakirgis**
- 24 Nancy Smith**
- 26 Tim Conway**
- 27 Nancy Lewis**
- 30 Mel Woodman**

May

- 2 David Morrow**
- 8 Robert Gandolfi**
- 8 Chapel Allard**
- 9 Hans Erwich**
- 12 Jean Hansen**
- 12 Jeanne Mantarian**
- 12 Talya Ipbuken**
- 13 Daryl Fay**
- 16 Jen Lovejoy Gandolfi**
- 30 Norma Dean**



Singer/Songwriter Cheryl Wheeler will perform at Belleville on Saturday, May 18th at 8pm.

For more information, visit the church website bellevillechurch.org
or email us at bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com.



Cheryl Wheeler is both a gifted singer/songwriter with a beautiful voice and a natural storyteller with a fantastic sense of humor. She is also a performer who has to be seen to be appreciated. Nothing you read and nothing you hear from her albums prepares you for how entertaining she is.

FAME says, "Cheryl Wheeler is an anomaly on the acoustic scene. She has a rare gift for writing songs with lush melodies and lyrics of incredible beauty. On the other hand, she is a master of quick wit. Her observational humor has brought us a number of songs describing the utter ridiculousness of the world around us. And then there is the richness of her silky alto telling us what lies in the deepest recesses of her songwriter's heart." *Sing Out!* describes Cheryl as "a rare artist...strong poetry, complex melodies, clever wit.

"Cheryl lives in New England and tours extensively.

Find out more at www.cherylwheeler.com.

Tickets are \$25 in advance / \$30 day of show / \$10 children 12 and under.

Tickets are general admission. Group sales are available.

[Buy now.](#)

Advance tickets are available at:

- **Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High Street, Newburyport**
 - **Church Office: Tues, Thurs, Fri - 9 am to 1 pm**
 - **Thrift Shop: Wed & Sat - 9 am to noon**
- **Dyno Records, 1 Middle Street, Newburyport**

And online at:

www.bellevillechurch.org/roots.php or www.mktix.com/bc

If available, tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event.

The building is handicap accessible. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, email: bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com

Or visit: www.bellevillechurch.org/roots.php

Sunday, April 21st at 4pm
Belleville Chapel
Rest in the Spirit Meditation



A meditation time led by Rev. Ross and Lynn Varney. We'll begin with presentation of basics, discussion as needed, and then enter into practice. The session is about 45 minutes, interfaith oriented, meditating with words, music, and silence. A time to sit quietly, let go of stress, and experience communion with divine Spirit.

SERVICE CLUB

Service Club will meet Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 in the Bannister Room. After a brief meeting we will begin sorting out items for our Saturday rummage sale. We could really use help if anyone would like to join us. Refreshments will be served.



The Service Club annual rummage sale Saturday, April 13th 9 – 1. Please leave donations (other than large furniture and electronics) at the Thrift Shop donation table. Thank you!

THRIFT SHOP



The thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Saturday 9am – noon.
Come by and see what's new.



April readers

- 7 Ben Heersink
- 14 Cathy Morrow
- 21 Cathy Morrow
- 28 Kelly Burke-Anderson

May readers

- 5 Gail Gandolfi
- 12 Carolyn Kyle
- 19 William Silsby
- 26 Sue Heersink

If you cannot read on the date that you have been assigned, no worries, just call the next person on the list or send out an email and trade.

Peace, Gail



April

- 7 Gail Gandolfi, Shirley Locke & Irene Bradford
- 14 No coffee hour – school vacation
- 21 Kathy Raywood, Lynn Varney & Carolyn Kyle
- 28 Sue Heersink, Mary Lou Tyler & Jennifer Allard

MAY

- 5 Audrey Clarkson, Jean Kirkpatrick & Helen Hatcher
- 12 **Mother's Day** Bill Silsby, Bob Locke & Ben Heersink
- 19 Janet Woodman, Rita Vreeland & Pam Ellis

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and notify the rest of the volunteers. This schedule is also posted on the bulletin board. Please feel free to swap around with anyone if the assigned week is a conflict for you.

The church will supply the napkins, cups, plates, coffee, cream, sugar and juice.



April	7	COMMUNION – Ben & Sue Heersink
	14	Gail Gandolfi & Anna Guyette
	21	Jean Kirkpatrick & Rita Vreeland
	28	Kathy Raywood & Carolyn Kyle
May	5	COMMUNION – Shirley Locke & Gail Gandolfi
	12	Jon Pearson & Bob Locke
	19	Jean Kirkpatrick & Anna Guyette
	26	Ben & Sue Heersink



Belleville Congregational Church

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Church Staff & Contact Information

Pastor Ross Varney 978-462-4899
Office hours: Tuesday 11 AM - Noon;
Wednesday & Thursday 10:30 AM - Noon;
or by appointment, suggested Wed/Thur.
evenings
Please call to assure the pastor is available.

Church Office 978-465-7734
Valerie Gates, Office Administrator
Office hours: Tuesday Thursday, and Friday;
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Email: bcchurch@worldpath.net
Website: www.bellevillechurch.org

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director
Bob Locke, Sexton

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have an article that you would like to include in the
monthly newsletter?
If so, please submit your article to the church office by the
20th of each month.
Thank you!

Church Officers

Moderator: William Silsby
Clerk: Jean Hansen
Treasurer: Mary Lou Tyler
Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kelly
Burke-Anderson
Auditor: Kathy Raywood
Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Contact Persons

Board of Fellowship & Outreach:
Diane Crofts
Board of Worship & Education:
Kelly Burke-Anderson
Board of Stewardship & Finance:
Jim Samuelson - Hans Erwich
UCC Delegate: Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson