



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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Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Hope to see you Thursday eve, April 2 for a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper. The choir will be singing the "Upper Room" and intimate song about Jesus' farewell. We will have communion, and experience the mood of Jesus' last days with readings and a candlelight Tenebrae ceremony. Sunday at 10:00 we will celebrate his Resurrection in the Meeting House, with special music of voice and flute, and an egg hunt for young children afterwards!

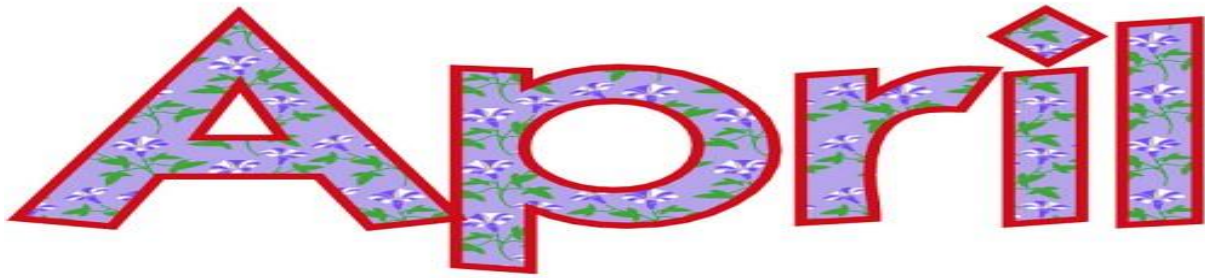
We surely need the spirit of Easter Resurrection in our lives this year, after a winter that wouldn't quit! I envisioned a First Day of Spring Variety Show months ago, and could not have foreseen that it would still feel like the middle of winter. Well, a good time was had by all who came, while we thought of those who stayed at home snowbound or sick.





If we relied on crocuses and robins for Easter spirit, we would be a sad lot indeed. From whence cometh our help, we ask along with the Psalmist. Yes, our help comes from the Lord, but not only the God of nature... also the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. The God who is simply the God of nature would fall short if we find hope only in sunshine and blue skies. The God who is simply our best efforts as humans would also fall short, when we contemplate the amount of evil and violence in our world. Yes, it is the God that we see in the face of Jesus Christ who is our deepest source of hope, the one of whom we say, with Job, "I know my redeemer lives!"

Job had a special insight and relationship with God; it seems that he knew the part of God that was incarnate love, even suffering love, the spirit of God that was really walking with him in his suffering (Christ). We are fortunate to know this Spirit in the life and works of Jesus the Christ. We see it also in followers of Jesus, to a lesser degree of course, but continually pointing to Christ through human expressions of love and grace. For so many needs in our lives, the Spirit of Christ is indeed resurrection power; power to heal, power to comfort, power to forgive, power to redeem flaws, power to make all things new! The more we focus on Jesus' life and stories and teachings, the more we will experience his life-giving power. Let us support one another and encourage one another in the community of Christ, in our communion with Christ and thus with one another.

Yours in Christ's spirit, Ross

2015 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9- 12 Thrift Shop	2  Maundy Thursday 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Choir practice	3  GOOD FRIDAY	4  Holy SATURDAY 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
5  10am Worship in the Meeting House	6 7pm CODA 4:15 Scout Troop #76218	7 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team	8 8:15am Worship & Education 9- 12 Thrift Shop 7pm Stewardship & Finance	9 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Choir practice	10	11 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing 8pm Roots Concert with Quebe Sisters
12 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	13 7pm CODA	14 1:30 Service Club 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team	15 9- 12 Thrift Shop 5:30 Girl Scout Troop #75336	16 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Choir practice	17	18 9am Rummage Sale 9am 3MB Fencing
19 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 3pm Sacred Harp Singers	20 7pm CODA Scout Troop #76218	21 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Exec Board	22 9-12 Thrift Shop 6pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	23 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Choir practice	24	25 9 NCS rehearsal 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing 1pm Memorial Service for Hazen Brown
26 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	27 7pm CODA 7 NCS rehearsal	28	29 9-12 Thrift Shop	30 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 3:30 NCS rehearsal 7pm Choir practice		

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

Join us for a Memorial meal and Worship service beginning at 6:00PM. *The service of Tenebrae* will begin at 7:00PM.

One of the most traditional devotions is that of the Stations of the Cross which even in churches that have not historically observed it, has gained more and more usage among Christians. No matter our differences we are all united in and by and through the Cross and the Resurrection. Traditionally there are 14 Stations or places in the Sorrowful Way of Via Dolorosa, as it is called in Latin, that traces and mark the route that Jesus took to his Crucifixion.

A Contemporary Stations of the cross "Meditative Walk-Thru" will begin at 5PM and last until the service begins at 7pm. A time for reflection will be available for an additional hour after the service. A donation of non-perishable food for local pantry will be collected.



Tenebrae - A Service of Shadows

The service of Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows”, has been practiced by the church since medieval times. Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death and through the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.



The Easter Service will be in the Meeting House on April 5th at 10:00. Egg hunt to be held after service.



April

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

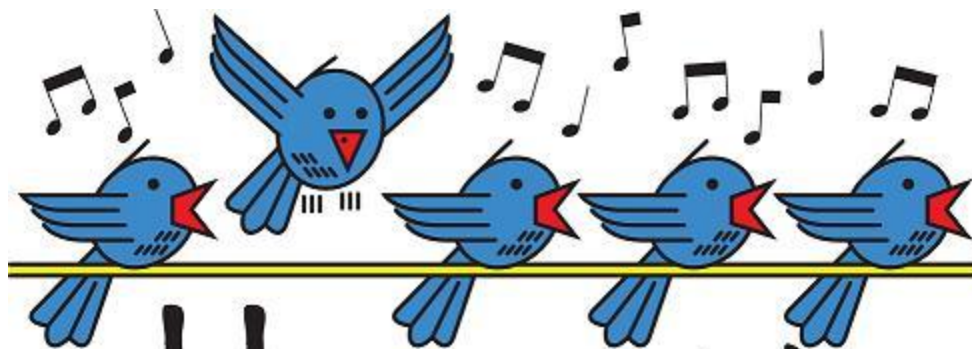
May

- 2 David Morrow*
- 8 Robert Gandolfi*
- 8 Chapel Allard*
- 9 Hans Erwich*
- 12 Jean Hansen*
- 12 Jean Mantarian*
- 12 Talya Ipbuken*
- 12 Alexa Cedolin*
- 14 Martha Kelleher*
- 13 Daryl Fay*
- 16 Jen Lovejoy Gandolfi*
- 22 Carol Beauparlant*
- 26 Tess Schmidt*
- 30 Norma Dean*
- 31 Amy Schmidt*

Belleville Church Thrift Shop



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



Add your voice

Join the choir!!

Choir rehearsal, Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Stage Room, all are welcome.
Youth choir rehearsal, 11:15 Sunday mornings after worship.

Service Club



The April 14th meeting of the Service Club will be held in the Bannister Room at 1:30. After a brief meeting we will be looking at some old Belleville photos to see if we can identify anyone. After refreshments, we will be starting to set up for the Rummage Sale. The more we accomplish Tuesday, the less we will need to do Friday. We would appreciate help.



Belleville's Annual Rummage Sale will be held on April 18th from 9 to 1. Set up and pricing will be on Friday the 17th starting at 9 until we are done. We are hoping members of the church and friends can help both on Friday for set up, the day of the sale, and packing and cleanup at 1. We also hope everyone can find donations and bring them in before the sale. This is the Service Club's big fund raiser for the church, so we really can use everyone's help.

"Newburyport says NO to Prejudice-A Community Forum"

Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00pm (in one of the public schools.)

"Newburyport says NO to Prejudice-A Community Forum" will consist of:

Panel of individuals who have experiences hate in our community

Short Talk on Anti-Semitism

Talk on Empathy

Panel on Standing Up to Hate



The Extra Mile on Sunday, April 19th will be for Beads for Education.

The mission of Beads for Education is to improve the status of women in Kenya, Africa through girls' education and women's business development.

Take a look at www.beadsforeducation.org and see all the good works that Beads for Education has done since 1993.

Sue Heersink, the sister of Debby Rooney who cofounded Beads for Education, will speak of her recent visit to Kenya. Sue has made many trips to Kenya and returns to Belleville with many stories of what she has witnessed and the various ways that she and others have helped to make Beads for Education so successful in the lives of the young women in school.

Men's



Wednesday, April 22th, 2015 at 6pm

Please note the change of date



Belleville Roots Music Presents the Quebe Sisters Band on Saturday, April 11th

Please join us on April 11th at 8 PM to see the Quebe Sisters Band in action.

When Grace, Sophia and Hulda Quebe raise their fiddles and play, audiences marvel. When the girls sing their three- part harmony, audiences are blown away. The Quebe Sisters brand of music has taken the Americana scene by storm. They perform a refreshing blend of swing, vintage country, bluegrass, jazz and swing standards and Texas style fiddling.

Awarded the Crescendo Award by the Western Music Association and winner of the Western Swing Album of the Year from the Academy of Western Artists, the Quebe Sisters are touring behind their latest album, *Every Which-A-Way*. Performance highlights have included appearances at the Grand Olde Opry, the Kennedy Center, NYC's Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian, Folklife Festival, the Ryman Auditorium, the Marty Stuart Show, the National Folk Festival and multiple European tours.

Grace, fiddle and vocal, Sophia, fiddle and vocal, and Hulda, fiddle and vocal, are accompanied by Penny Lea Clark, mandolin, fiddle and vocal, and Katy Lou Clark, guitar, piano, accordion, banjo, vocal.

Tickets are \$30 in advance/ \$35 day of show/\$10 children 18 and under.

The News from Port Winter-Be-Gone

By Ross Varney

March 20, 2015, first day of spring, and I bring you news from Port Winter-Be-Gone! And what a winter it was!

A winter when 250 roofs in the state caved in; roofers were charging upwards of \$100 per hour to rake roofs!

A winter when almost everybody was sending photos to friends and family down south... who just laughed and said. "You'll be moving here one day!"

A winter when nearby Andover Newton Theological Seminary actually cancelled Ash Wednesday and postponed Lent a whole week (figured people were already suffering enough without pondering Jesus on a cross).

A winter when almost everybody reconsidered what they do for a living: retailers complained there was no parking. Commuters to Boston found frozen trains, (a 1 hour commute was now 2 – 3 hours!) Even Pastors, many who live close to church, even across the street from work, could complain... nobody could get there! And the best hymn to sing was "In the Bleak Midwinter!"

Pastor Varnquist insisted that he'd be at church every Sunday come hell or high snowbanks; he shoveled out the side door each time. Then came February, 2015 with Sunday attendances of 6, 1, and then about 15. During the blizzards, Pastor Varnquist decided if they didn't come to church, he'd go to them, but then discovered that with an old rear wheel drive car, a "Fish Tail" is not just a diner in Salisbury!

It was a winter of where to put snow! With people seen shoveling on rooftops and hanging out windows, there were piles everywhere... where to put snow, hmmm...

How about in the River? Well, don't tell conservationists, so how about NEXT to the river? Cashman Park has piles 30 – 40 feet high... that will undoubtedly wind up in the river!

How about in a neighbors driveway? No kidding, police scanners lit up with complaints of such a thing, some of us even saw it firsthand.

Driving was hazardous everywhere. Most side streets that were usually two way become one-way streets! One resident of High Street, where the banks were 10 – 12 feet high, took to parking near the end of the driveway, getting out to look for a break in traffic, then running back to the car, jumping in for the getaway!

Then there was the WATER problem. With sewers backed up, Creative Islanders found out the joys of communal bathing or found relatives to say with. People compared notes about how a catch steady drips inside their house... from buckets to towels, to drilling holes in the ceiling to focus the water into one drip and one bucket!

Well, the winter woes are not really over... Insurance agents are now promoting flood insurance, and meteorologists are predicting melting snow until April 20. (The piles in Cashman Park may take til June 20... we can keep building snowmen till the first day of summer!)

Well, that's the News from Port Winter-Be-Gone, where all the men shovel, all the women also shovel, and the children go out to build snowmen... after they've done some shoveling!!



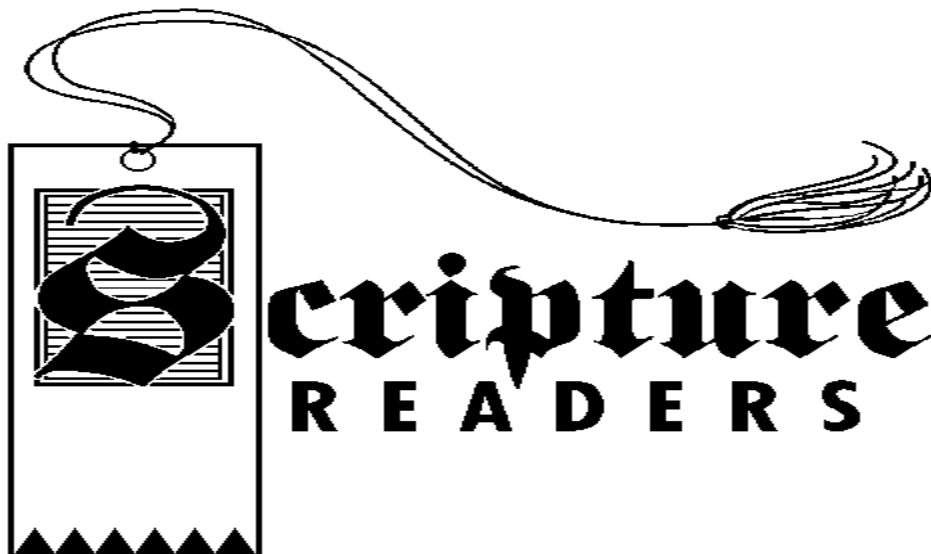
Communion is the first Sunday of each month

April

- 5 *Easter Sunday*
Gail Gandolfi, Peggy Utterback,
Michelle Anderson & Annika Ellis
- 12 Ben & Sue Heersink
- 19 Kelly & Michelle Anderson
- 26 Jon Pearson & Carolyn Kyle

May

- 3 Judi Smith & Mardee Beauparlant
- 10 Anna Guyette & Shirley Locke
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
- 24 Chapel Allard & Annika Ellis
- 31 Audrey Clarkson & Judi Smith



April

- 5 *EASTER* Michelle Anderson
- 12 Carolyn Kyle
- 19 Bill Silsby
- 26 Lynn Varney

May

- 3 Peggy Utterback
- 10 Gail Gandolfi
- 17 Lisa Krallis
- 24 Ben Heersink
- 31 Emery Rice



APRIL

- 5 *Easter Sunday*
Gail Gandolfi, Dorothy Williamson, Marge Killam,
Deb Moore & Irene Bradford
- 12 Kathy Raywood, Lynn Varney & Carolyn Kyle
- 19 No Coffee Hour – School Vacation
- 26 Diane Crofts, Mary Lou Tyler & Jennifer Allard

MAY

- 3 Audrey Clarkson, Jean Kirkpatrick & Helen Hatcher
- 10 *Mother's Day*
Bill Silsby, Bob Locke & Ben Heersink
- 17 Janet Woodman, Audrey Clarkson & Pam Ellis
- 24 Memorial Day Weekend – No coffee Hour



Belleville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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bcchurch@worldpath.net

bellevillechurch.org

Church Staff & Contact Information

Pastor Ross Varney 978-462-4899
Office hours: Tuesday 11 AM – 12:30
Wednesday & Thursday 10:30 AM - Noon;
or by appointment.

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

Andrea DeGiovanni, Music 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: Jean Hansen
Clerk: William Silsby
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:
Hans Erwich, Jim Samuelson
UCC Delegate: Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson