

# Belleville Congregational Church

April, 2016  
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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Dear Friends,

Is it my imagination, or is the world starting to move FASTER? I look at the information highway and ever-changing digital technology, and know for sure that a flood of information and cyber-connection fills our days and keeps our schedules hectic. Even when not connecting with people with every conceivable device, we can walk around feeling guilty for NOT getting back to someone within an hour! I think answering machines may be a thing of the past, because people often have an answering machine right in one's pocket!

Then to top it off, much of our connections are about "world news," both the news itself, then everyone commenting on the news, and we all know that 90% of news, to make headlines, must be BAD news! What are people of faith to do??????

Well, now to the point: We are "Easter People," living in a "Good Friday world", as several leading speakers have noted! We must constantly find a way to transform ourselves and our world for the better, to gain "victories" in many of our crazy battles. Jesus was victorious at "holding fast to that which is GOOD" in his living, and holding fast to love and life itself in his dying. We cannot do everything, but we can hold fast to goodness, to truth, etc. One thing to hold fast to is the need to slow down, to take Sabbath seriously. It might not be the same day for everyone (ministers customarily need to take some of Monday and Friday off). We allow stress to accumulate when we try to keep up with all the news media, and the evil nature of much news just adds to the stress.

Yes, we will do our best to join the fight in various causes to make a difference, but primarily an Easter people must be a Sabbath people. We must get deep rest and prayer so that we will indeed show forth caring and love in our interactions. Too often we walk around stressed, anxious, and irritable, which benefits no one, even if we are working on a commendable project. The ends don't justify the means..... (the destination becomes irrelevant if the journey is full of conflict.) Let us be an Easter people, with Easter goals as well as Easter relationships. We hope and pray for the victory of Christ's truth and love in all that we do. This is our Easter "Journey".

Hope to see you along the way,  
Ross

# 2016 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
3 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal Reading for Resilience 4pm in the Parlor	4 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	5	6 9 – 12 Thrift Shop	7 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7pm Choir practice	8	9 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing 8pm Roots concert with the Gibson Brothers
10 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal Fellowship & Outreach meet after worship	11 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	12 Service Club Luncheon at the Poet's Inn	13 8:30am Worship & Education 9-12 Thrift Shop 7:30pm Stewardship & Finance	14 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7pm Choir practice	15	16 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
17 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	18 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	19 7pm Executive Board	20 9-12 Thrift Shop 6pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	21 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7pm Choir practice	22	23 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing 8pm Newburyport Choral Society Concert
24 10am Worship 11:15 Youth choir rehearsal 3pm Newburyport Choral Society Concert	25 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	26	27 9-12 Thrift Shop	28 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7pm Choir practice	29 12 – 9pm Pictures for the Church Directory	30 9:30am – 7pm Pictures for the Church Directory



*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*  
24 *Nancy Smith*  
26 *Tim Conway*  
27 *Nancy Lewis*  
30 *Mel Woodman*

*May*

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

**The Gibson Brothers, Bluegrass Band, in Concert on Belleville Stage,  
April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM**



The Gibson Brothers , two-time International Bluegrass Music Association Entertainers of the Year, are composed of Eric and Leigh Gibson, playing banjo and guitar, respectively, and are joined with band members fiddler, Clayton Campbell who has been with the band for a decade, bassist Mike Barber who has been with the Gibson Brothers so long he is known affectionately as “the third Gibson brother and Jesse Brock, who joined the group in 2012 and is the winner of the 2009 and 2015 IMBA Mandolin Player of the Year.

Bluegrass Unlimited states: “The brothers and the band have it all: lead vocals, brother-duet harmony, instrumental virtuosity, ensemble sensibilities and great original material.”

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



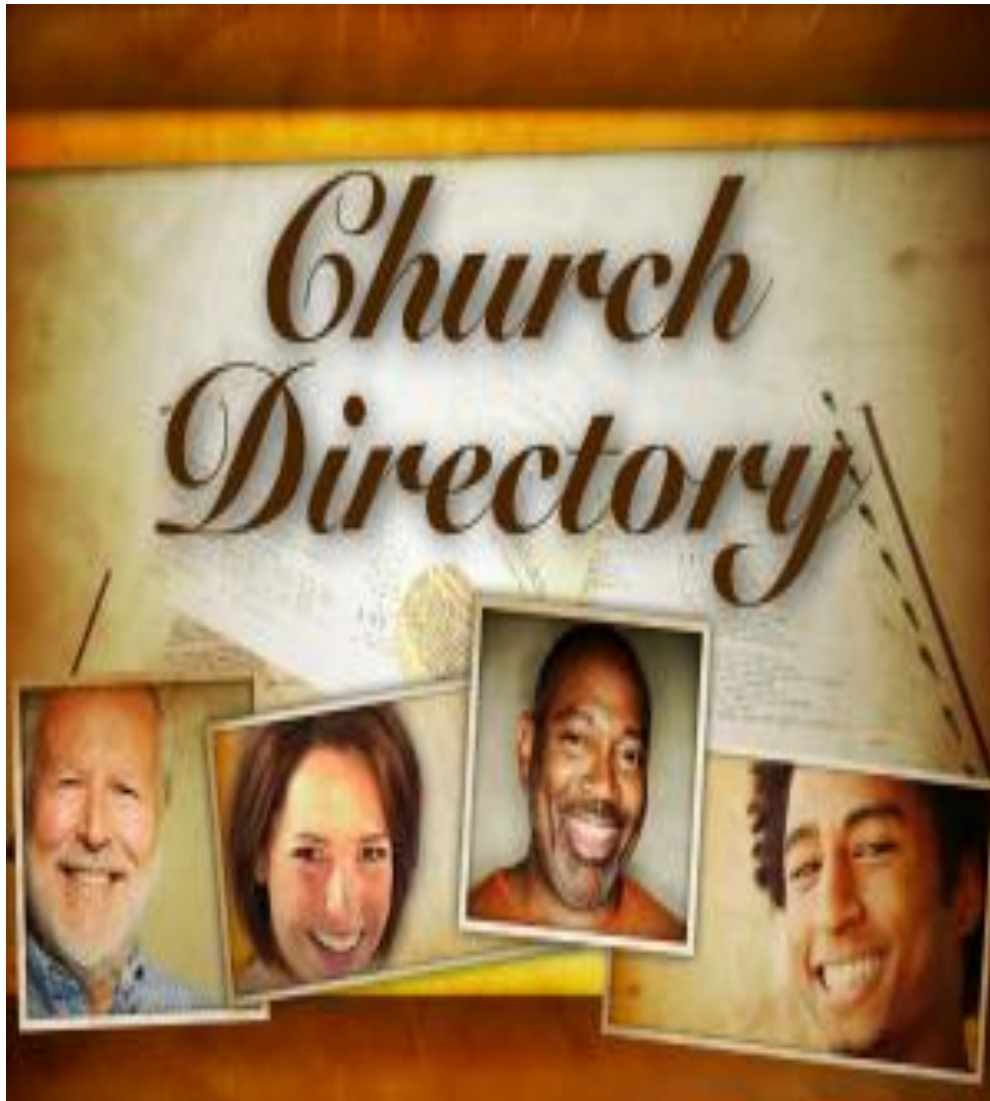
# SERVICE CLUB



For our April 12th Service Club meeting, we will be going to the Poet's Inn for lunch. After our members, I have several spots left. If you would like to go with us please contact me at church.  
Sue Wolfendale



It's that time again for our ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE. This year it will be on Saturday, May 7th from 9 am to 1 pm. We will really need lots of help on both Sunday May 1st after church to set up and again the day of the sale. When spring cleaning, please give us your unwanted items. You can put them in the dining room at any time. Really... the sooner the better! Remember, ALL the money goes to the church and it takes your donations and help to make the sale a success. Thank-you.



## Mark your calendars!!

On April 29 and April 30, 2016 from Life Touch will be here to take pictures for Belleville's new *Church Directory*. More information will be sent to you so you can schedule a time to have your picture taken.

## Men's Fellowship Dinner



Wednesday, April 20  
6:00pm gathering, 6:30 supper

## *Belleville Church Thrift Shop*



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





Adult choir rehearsal Thursdays at 7pm



Youth choir rehearsal Sunday mornings after worship.





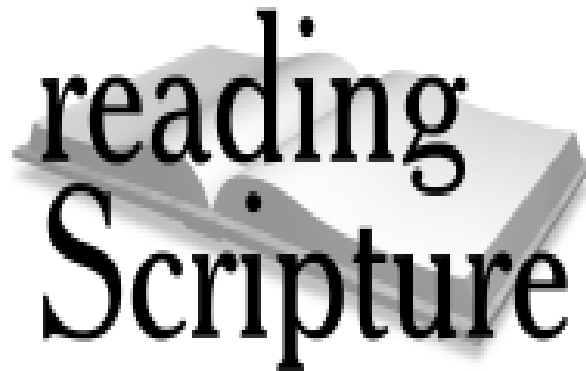
*Communion is the first Sunday of each month*

*April*

- 3 Amy Schmidt & Gail Gandolfi
- 10 Anna Guyette & Carol Beuparlant
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Sue Heersink
- 24 Jon Pearson & Carolyn Kyle

*May*

- 1 Norma Dean & Audrey Clarkson
- 8 Shirley & Bob Locke
- 15 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
- 22 Sue & Ben Heersink
- 29 Amy & Ron Schmidt



*April*

- 3 Carolyn Kyle
- 10 Bill Silsby
- 17 Barbara Colton
- 24 Emery Rice

*May*

- 1 Peggy Utterback
- 8 Ben Heersink
- 15 Gail Gandolfi
- 22 Hunter Anderson
- 29 Sue Heersink



### April

- 3 Sue Heersink, Marion Spark & Pam Ellis
- 10 Gail Gandolfi, Shirley Locke & Sue Wolfendale
- 17 No coffee hour – School vacation
- 24 Deb Moore, Amy Schmidt & Irene Bradford

### May

- 1 Diane Crofts, Mary Lou Tyler & Jennifer Allard
- 8 Audrey Clarkson, Jean Kirkpatrick & Helen Hatcher
- 15 Bill Silsby, Bob Locke & Ben Heersink
- 22 Janet Woodman, Audrey Clarkson & Pam Ellis
- 29 No Coffee Hour – Memorial Day Weekend

### Newsflash!!



The Worship & Education Committee will be offering gluten free communion bread in each tray.



*Belleville Congregational Church  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ*

300 High Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
978-465-7734

[bcchurch@worldpath.net](mailto:bcchurch@worldpath.net)

[bellevillechurch.org](http://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](mailto:bcchurch@worldpath.net)  
Website: [www.bellevillechurch.org](http://www.bellevillechurch.org)

Andrea DeGiovanni, Organist & 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  
25th of each month.

Thank you!

#### Church Officers

Moderator: Jean Hansen  
Clerk: Kathy Raywood  
Treasurer: Jim Samuelson  
Collector: Norma Dean  
Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kelly  
Burke-Anderson  
Auditor:  
Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

#### Contact Persons

Board of Fellowship & Outreach:  
Nancy Canali  
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