

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



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.

June, 2016
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Dear Friends,

On Memorial Day, I had the privilege of listening to a Buddhist speaker, Norio Kushi, at an afternoon gathering organized by our gentle tai chi and yoga teacher. Norio spoke of some of the principal teachings of Buddhism, such as relieving suffering in the world, and our interconnectedness with all beings. Norio is a Japanese man, truck driver, father of six children, separated and reunited with his wife, who had his "awakenings" on the highways, while driving!

I decided to attend after finding him on YouTube, and enjoyed his peaceful spirit and sense of humor, somewhat like the Dali Lama.

So many things we find in common with serious students of other faiths. The ultimate goal for us all seems to be a deepening of love and peace in the world, finding ways to be more "whole" both within ourselves and within our community relationships. It is wonderful to celebrate similarities and encourage one another with these goals. It seems important to me also to celebrate our uniqueness, the distinctiveness of our faith traditions also, so that we can truly learn from each other.

With every care to speak with humility and respect I could not help but mention something about Memorial Day, war, and evil. That very morning, over coffee, I had discussed the violence of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor and in the Death Marches in the Philippine Islands, as well as our own nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing over 200,000. I started with agreement about peacemaking tools that are effective in personal relationships, things like withholding judgment, care not to blame, avoiding simplistic comparisons about good and evil, etc. But then I mentioned the Christian teaching that one's philosophy of life must hold up in the face of things like death camps and death marches. At such times, all talk of the "nonreality" of good and evil, betrays our actual experience. Some things in life are experienced by all people as cruel, painful, sorrowful, etc, and serial killers need to be labeled as "evil" and stopped!

Aside from my bringing up Memorial Day and war, it was a very peaceful gathering! There is so much more I could say, and I'm always glad to meet over coffee or brunch if anyone wants to chat more about peacemaking in this world of woe. But I'll leave you with what I find to be a wonderful part of the Judeo- Christian tradition. Sure, we need to show restraint and often withhold judgments and comparisons; Jesus also spoke of not judging. It is indeed a great strategy for peacemaking with those who might move more toward peace. But Jesus also spoke of sin often..... for the very kind of things mentioned above. And he spoke of telling the truth, so that we also do well to name and describe, yes, even "judge" actions when they are clearly good or clearly evil. There are many grey areas for sure, but many things are universally experienced and labeled as good and bad.

Let us remember the power of love in this world, and the power of the very words that call us to acts of goodness and mercy. That is why we continue to study and discuss the "Word," and the "Word Made Flesh" that we see and hear in Jesus of Nazareth. Let's be always in the mode of learning and growth in Jesus' Way. What is on YOUR summer reading list?

Faithfully yours,

Ross Varney, pastor

2016 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9- 12 Thrift Shop	2 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 5:45 Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	3	4 9-12 Thrift Shop
5 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	6 7pm CODA	7	8 9-12 Thrift Shop 7:30pm Stewardship & Finance	9 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 5:45 Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	10	11 9- 12 Thrift Shop
12 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal Fellowship & Outreach meets after worship	13 7pm CODA	14 6pm Worship & Education	15 9-12 Thrift Shop	16 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 5:45 Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	17	18 9-12 Thrift Shop
19 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	20 7pm CODA	21 7pm Executive Board	22 9- 12 Thrift Shop 6pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	23 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 5:45 Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	24	25 9-12 Thrift Shop 8pm 9 - 1 Rummage Sale
26 10am Worship 11:15 Youth choir rehearsal	27 7pm CODA 9-12 Fencing Camp	28 9-12 Fencing Camp	29 9-12 Fencing Camp	30 9-12 Fencing Camp 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 5:45 Bible Study 7pm Choir practice		

Happy Birthday

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

June

3 *Bill Silsby*
3 *Judy Moore*
4 *Taunya Till*
6 *Rita Vreeland*
7 *Shirley Locke*
9 *Karen Conway*
10 *Yvonne Cedras*
11 *Brad Cedolin*
13 *Ben Tyler*
17 *Marcia Samuelson*
20 *Andrea Samuelson*
25 *Marcia Peirce*

July

1 *Daniel Wilson*
11 *William Webber, Sr.*
16 *Kelly Conway*
17 *Piper Allard*
20 *Jo Bode*
23 *Michelle Anderson*
28 *Steve Wiswell*

August

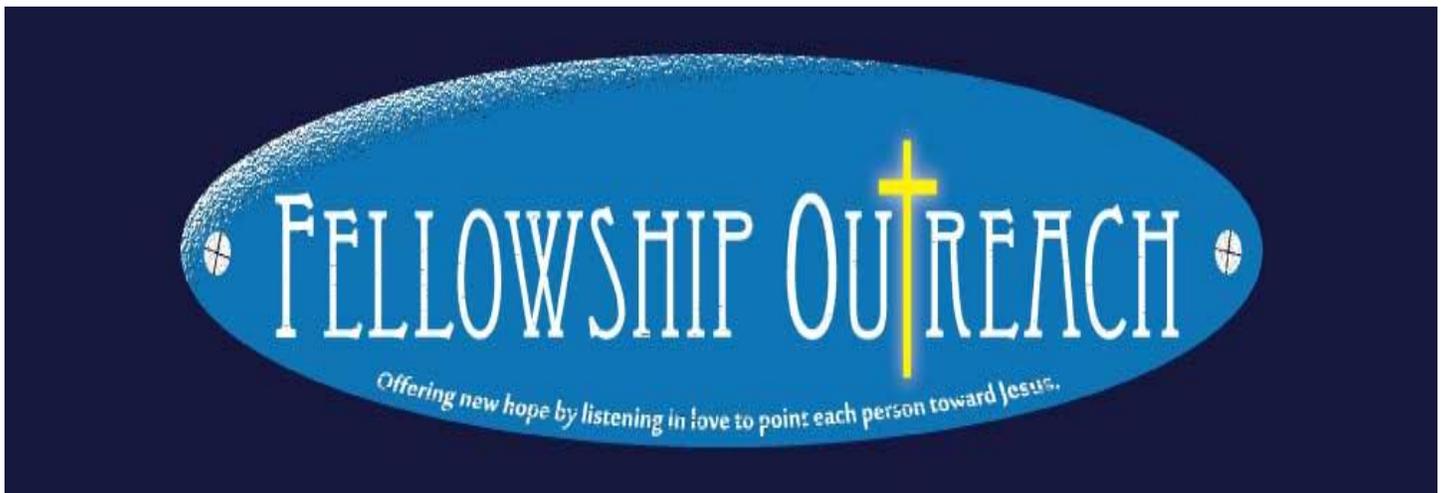
1 *Audrey Clarkson*
8 *Christopher Tyler*
8 *Ron Schmidt*
13 *Christa Middler*
17 *May Lou Tyler*
22 *Betty Webber*
22 *Mardee Beauparlant*
29 *Russell Peirce*

Sunday School Teachers Needed



We could use some energetic people to help teach Sunday School in the fall. We schedule according to availability and only have all hands on deck for special services. Our curriculum is very easy to follow and the children are very enthusiastic! GIVE IT A TRY! REAP THE REWARDS! Lots of love to go around!

Contact Pam Ellis, Kelly Burke-Anderson or Peggy Utterback



The Board of Fellowship and Outreach will meet on Sunday, June 12 after worship.



It's that time again for our ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE. This year it will be on Saturday, June 25 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.



July and August services will be shared with First Parish in Newbury.

July services will be held at Belleville at 9:30am in the Chapel.

August services will be held at First Parish, Newbury at 9:30, 20 High Road, Route 1A Newbury

Back to Belleville on September 4th at 10am.

July ushers, please remember to provide cookies and lemonade for light refreshment and fellowship.



Dear members and friends of Belleville Church-in April I gave a talk on my work in Kenya for the Extra Mile offering. As usual Belleville members were a warm and welcoming audience. Their great interest in our work in Kenya for elementary, high school and college girl's education and sponsorship has always been a bright spot in my year. It's like telling your Mom something you've achieved-that same enthusiasm and heartfelt interest. What a mighty church we are! When the money was tabulated, it amounted to \$514! I have that "kid in the candy shop" feeling- which of our great projects should we use this money for? There is an 11-year-old girl who is been tugging at my heartstrings all year long. Her name is Zipporah. She comes to our little elementary school barely covered in rags but what a desire to learn! What a desire to read! She's been coming to our Little school for three years but the school only goes up to grade 3 campuses, and she must have an opportunity to advance to a higher grade. Maybe we'll use this money to help Zipporah continue her education. I will keep you posted. Thank you Belleville for all your help and support.

Sincerely,

Sue Heersink, Beads for Education volunteer

member orientation

Belleville Congregational Church will hold a new member orientation /evening with dessert for those interested in joining our Church community. Come learn about our mission, explore the various boards and the different opportunities for you to share your gifts. Jim and Peggy Utterback will host this event on Wednesday, June 1st at 7pm at their home on 6 Toppans Lane, Newburyport.

To give folks time for thoughtful contemplation, the new member blessing will be held during a worship service sometime in September. If you are interested please contact Ross or the Church office at 978-465-7734 and leave your information.

Belleville Church Thrift Shop



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

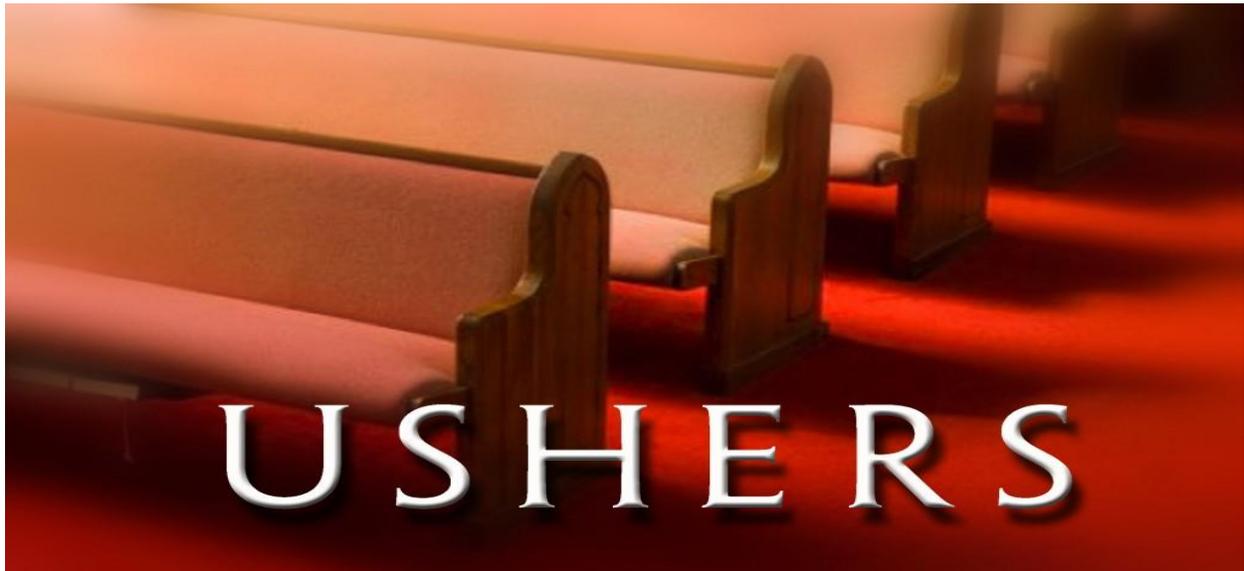
Men's Fellowship Dinner



Wednesday, June 22nd
6:00pm gathering, 6:30 supper



NO COFFEE HOUR IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST



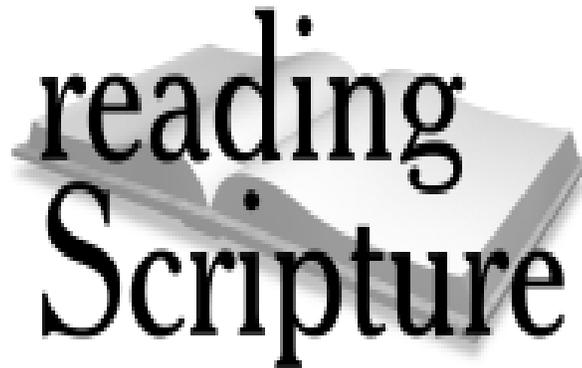
Communion is the first Sunday of each month

June

- 5 Hans Erwich & Dan Fay
- 12 Kathy Raywood & Gail Gandolfi
- 19 Jean Kirkpatrick & Carol Beuparlant
- 26 Mardee Beuparlant & Audrey Clarkson

July

- 3 Peggy Utterback & Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 10 Gail Gandolfi & Shirley Locke
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Dan Fay
- 24 Carolyn Kyle & Anna Guyette



June

- 5 Gail Gandolfi
- 12 Carolyn Kyle
- 19 Bill Silsby
- 26 Emery Rice

July

- 5 Barbara Colten
- 10 Lynn Varney
- 17 Michelle Anderson
- 24 Gail Gandolfi
- 31 Kelly Burke - Anderson



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

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, 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: Kelly Burke-Anderson
Clerk: Kathy Raywood
Treasurer: Jim Samuelson
Collector: Norma Dean
Memorial Fund Treasurer:
Auditor:
Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)
Shirley Locke & Ben Heersink

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