



## 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 this the winter "of our discontent," or perhaps the Winter "from Hell?" In spiritual conversations, we speak a lot about finding God through experiencing awe in the creation. In one of our Lenten books, "The Faith Club," two of the women ponder puddles, seeing the magnificence of God in tiny raindrops. Well, tiny drops of water steadily dripping into buckets INSIDE our houses, behind ice dams, does not make us think of God, though we might utter the name of God in some manner! It has seemed like our experience has been one of survival, perhaps with an occasional mountaintop experience, like at the top of a ski lift. Most of us are experiencing mountains of snow banks at now-dangerous intersections, or in snow shoveled off roofs!

Challenges and crises in life can bring out our "better angels" but can also bring out the worst in people. Shocking to see someone's windshield smashed in Boston for parking in a space that someone else shoveled. Even in Newburyport I hear the police scanner was lit up with complaints of people dumping snow onto neighbors' properties. And the snow removal problem? Visiting the DPW personally to ask for help on Chapel street, I learned that the director there receives accusations of accepting bribes, and also some anger about churches getting special attention ("separation of church and state" they cry) As with CPA grants, we point to the community usage of many of our buildings, and behold, trucks were on Chapel Street at 4AM Friday.

Speaking of the secular challenge, Tom Ashbrook on NPR radio was interviewing a leading atheist, asking what "rock" or foundation they lean on in difficult times. His answer was The U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. Surely the declarations are beautiful, ethical, and compassionate. Yet challenges and crises of life do test us mightily, and most of are not always in synch with our "better angels!" We can't just "declare".... be kind and compassionate! Bickering and blaming are everywhere in the aftermath of 102 inches of snow! In the Christian community, we say we extend love with the help of the One who first loved us! We forgive because we have been forgiven. Especially in times of crisis, we call on the Spirit who has come and still comes to this world with forgiveness, healing grace, and power to love.

Unfortunate that we missed most of February and the start of Lent due to snowstorms, but we still have the four weeks of March to behold our Christ of healing graces! So.... there IS parking on Chapel street now, and I urge you if possible to come worship Sunday March 1. The choir has a wonderful song to share about the Circle of Love, and our guest speaker is Rev Rona Tyndall, who is an esteemed hospice chaplain, formerly pastor of Rockport UCC church. She will bring a word of healing and love, with focus on end of life concerns, and "Lift High the Cross," the LOVE of Christ!

Yours in faith,  
Ross

# 2015 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 4pm Reading for Resilience	<b>2</b> 4:15pm Girl Scout Troop #76218 7pm CODA	<b>3</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team	<b>4</b> 9- 12 Thrift Shop	<b>5</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 6pm Lenten Book Discussion 7pm Choir practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>8</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7pm CODA	<b>10</b> 1:30pm Service Club 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team	<b>11</b> 8:15am Worship & Education 9- 12 Thrift Shop 7pm Stewardship & Finance	<b>12</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 6pm Lenten Book Discussion 7pm Choir practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing 8pm Roots Concert with Girsra
<b>15</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 11:30 Lenten Book Study 5pm Triton Swim Team Banquet	<b>16</b> 4:15pm Girl Scout Troop #76218 7pm CODA	<b>17</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Exec Board 	<b>18</b> 9- 12 Thrift Shop 5:30 Girl Scout Troop #75336	<b>19</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 1:30 Gentle Chair Yoga 6pm Lenten Book Study 7pm Choir practice	<b>20</b> 7:30pm Variety Show	<b>21</b> 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>22</b> 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 11:30 Lenten Book Study	<b>23</b> 7pm CODA	<b>24</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team	<b>25</b> 9-12 Thrift Shop 6pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	<b>26</b> 3:15 Dragonfly Swim Team 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>29</b> 10am Worship Palm Sunday 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 11:30 Lenten Book Study	<b>30</b> 4:15pm Girl Scout Troop #76218 7pm CODA					



*March*

- 5 *Lily DeLong*
- 9 *Catherine Gould*
- 9 *Connie Golder*
- 13 *Gail Gandolfi*
- 15 *Hunter Anderson*
- 17 *Carter Jay*
- 19 *Barbara Colten*
- 21 *Diana Bondar*
- 23 *Steven Locke*
- 28 *Diane Crofts*

*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*



One Great Hour of Sharing-Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

The Extra Mile on March 15<sup>th</sup> will be for One Great Hour of Sharing.

When the early followers of Jesus suffered a famine in Jerusalem, the apostle Paul organized an appeal to respond to their needs. Christian communities in distant places contributed to this ecumenical offering, just as we do all these centuries later through One Great Hour of Sharing.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet. God provides the resources so that we can give back.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a commitment to ministries of disaster response, sustainable development, and refugee relief through the United Church of Christ.



# Belleville Church Thrift Shop



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

## Thrift Shop news:

MARCH MADNESS is coming to the Belleville Church Thrift Shop, All month long fill a bag of clothes, shoes, pocketbooks, and bedding for only \$5. We also have a children's room where everything is only 25 cents. We are open every Tues. & Wed. from 9 AM to 12.

**Come, lend your voice!!**



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



### Belleville Roots Music Concert with Girsa on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

Girsa has captured the hearts of audiences everywhere with their melodious voices, electrifying musicianship and witty banter. Their energetic and enthusiastic performances of traditional Irish music, song and dance have been met with outstanding acclaim. Maeve, Deidre, Blathin, Bernadette, Pamela and Emily bring a creative mix of fiddle, accordion, banjo, tin whistle, bodhran, guitar and piano to their shows. Their individual instrumental and vocal excellence combine to create a powerful force that is breaking into the forefront of Irish music in the United States. Their first two CD's (*Girsa: Traditional Irish Music* and *Girsa: A Sweeter Place*) brought rave reviews and their third CD is in the works.

The concert is on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8PM. Tickets are: \$30 in advance/\$35 day of show/\$10 children 18 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the Belleville Office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9 to 1, the Belleville Thrift Shop on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 9 to noon, Dyno Records, 1 Middle Street, Newburyport, or online at [www.mktix.com/bc](http://www.mktix.com/bc), or if available, at the door.



# Service Club



On Tuesday March 10th at 1:30 the Service Club will be meeting in the Bannister Room. We will have a guest speaker Sue Grolnic who will speak about the *Sister to Sister* program. This is a program in the making and she wants to informally talk to us for ideas to help get it started. Please come and give your input.



The annual church Rummage Sale will be on Saturday April 18th from 9 to 1. We will need lots of help (especially the Sunday before for set up and Friday the 17th for pricing) because our numbers are dwindling. Also - it is not too early (while you are snow bound) to find things for our sale. Any donations can be left in the downstairs dining room. Any clothing still should be left on the white table outside the Thrift Shop. Thank you in advance.

Because of a winter incident of cyber-bullying against a Jewish boy, the Newburyport Commission on Diversity and Tolerance has planned a forum to fight prejudice.

## **"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:

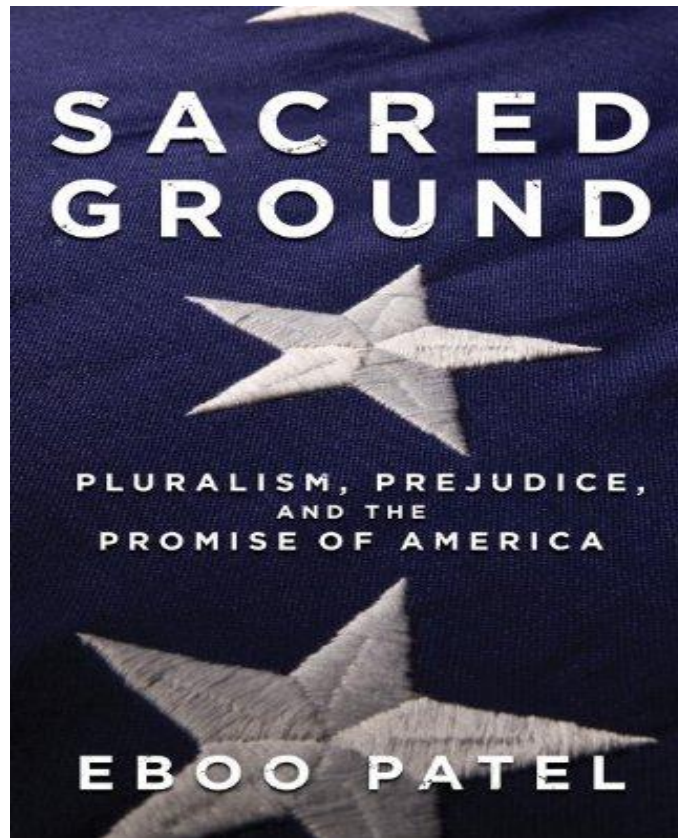
Panel of individuals who have experiences hate in our community

Short Talk on Anti-Semitism

Talk on Empathy

Panel on Standing Up to Hate

Join us for our 2015 Lenten Book series beginning Thursday, February 19 at 6pm and continuing on Sunday, February 22 after worship. There are two books to choose from – “Sacred Ground” and “The Faith Club”.



*There is no better time to stand up for your values than when they are under attack.*

In the decade following the attacks of 9/11, suspicion and animosity toward American Muslims has increased rather than subsided. Alarmist, hateful rhetoric once relegated to the fringes of political discourse has now become frighteningly mainstream, with pundits and politicians routinely invoking the specter of Islam as a menacing, deeply anti-American force.

In *Sacred Ground*, author and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel says this prejudice is not just a problem for Muslims but a challenge to the very idea of America. Patel shows us that Americans from George Washington to Martin Luther King Jr. have been “interfaith leaders,” illustrating how the forces of pluralism in America have time and again defeated the forces of prejudice. And now a new generation needs to rise up and confront the anti-Muslim prejudice of our era. To this end, Patel offers a primer in the art and science of interfaith work, bringing to life the growing body of research on how faith can be a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division and sharing stories from the frontlines of interfaith activism.

Patel asks us to share in his vision of a better America—a robustly pluralistic country in which our commonalities are more important than our differences, and in which difference enriches, rather than threatens, our religious traditions. Pluralism, Patel boldly argues, is at the heart of the American project, and this visionary book will inspire Americans of all faiths to make this country a place where diverse traditions can thrive side by side.

“Millions of Americans crave a way to have interfaith conversation but have no idea where to begin. This book is a great place to start. The authors have set a path that many more will want to follow.”

—Bruce Feiler, author of *Walking the Bible* and *Where God Was Born*

**+** THE  
A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—  
**★** FAITH  
Three Women Search for Understanding  
**☾** CLUB



*Special Features Inside:*

- How to Start a Faith Club
- Reading Group Guide
- Q&A with the Authors

RANYA IDLIBY, SUZANNE OLIVER,  
AND PRISCILLA WARNER

A second book has been added entitled “The Faith Club” A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three women search for understanding by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner.

A groundbreaking book about Americans search for faith and mutual respect – “the Faith Club” interweaves the stories of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another.



# Men's

Fellowship  
Dinner



**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6pm**



**COMING MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**BELLEVILLE SPRING VARIETY SHOW  
Friday, March 20, 7:30 pm, Stage Room**

Calling all actors, comedians, dancers, musicians, artists, ..... of all ages! FUN is always a good thing, and having an audience that is kind and forgiving is the best!

So dust off old tap shoes, get out an old costume, find some favorite skit or song that you heard once and would like to do! People are already volunteering, and we will need volunteers to help with the room set up and refreshments as well. Contact Ross Varney (978-462-4899) or Martha Kelleher (978-352-8390) if you want to participate in the acts or the decor and refreshments.

## *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.



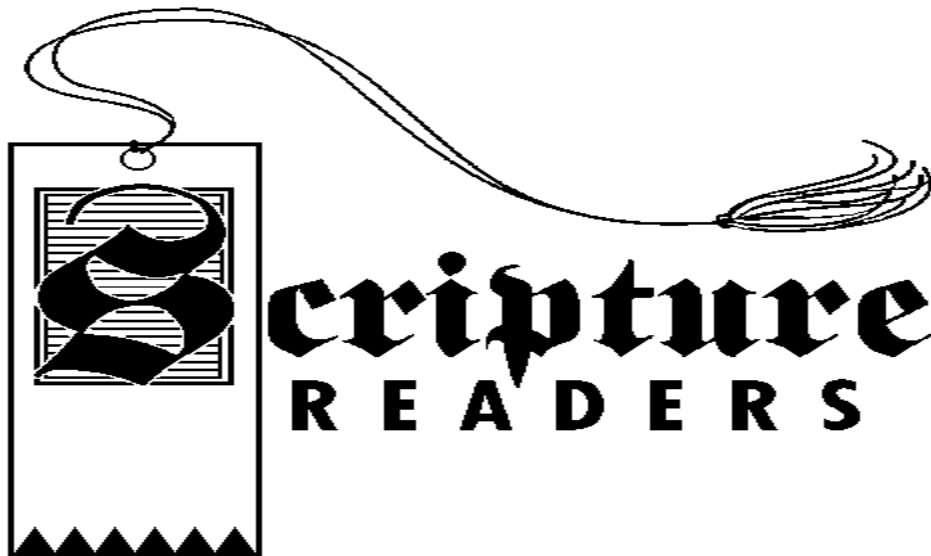
*Communion is the first Sunday of each month*

*March*

- 1 Chapel Allard & Gail Gandolfi
- 8 Michelle Anderson & Gail Gandolfi
- 15 Gail Gandolfi & Jean Kirkpatrick
- 22 Shirley Locke & Norma Dean
- 29 *Palm Sunday*  
Gail Gandolfi & Hans Erwich

*April*

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



*March*

- 1 Sue Heersink
- 8 Hunter Anderson
- 15 Chapel Allard
- 22 Annika Ellis
- 29 *PALM SUNDAY* Barbara Colten

*April*

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





### **March**

- 1 Janet Woodman, Lisa Krallis & Helen Hatcher
- 8 Marcia Samuelson, Karen Conway & Nancy Tsakirgis
- 15 Peggy Utterback, Lori Wiswell & Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 22 Sue Wolfendale, Norma Dean & Jane Thomas
- 29 *Palm Sunday*  
Sue Heersink, Marion Spark & Pam Ellis

### **APRIL**

- 5 *Easter Sunday*  
Gail Gandolfi, Dorothy Williamson, Sue Wolfendale,  
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



## *Belleville Congregational Church*

*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, 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  
20<sup>th</sup> 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