

Belleville Congregational Church



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,

From generation to generation, there are major cultural shifts. We are really in a changing time in our culture.

It is no secret that “church culture” is changing fast as well; the ways we connect are changing. The social networking phenomenon is becoming necessary in the church as well as in our culture...sometimes the fastest way to reach people is by Facebook!

Theologically, in a small, ever-connected world, I continue to believe that we need to keep growing in our awareness and education about other religions. I am going to a workshop with Lynn this last weekend in April to learn more from Marcus Borg. He makes the important point that studying other religions does not necessarily dilute our Christian focus, but it can actually confirm and enhance our faith. When we find convictions we hold in common, interfaith dialog can underscore those convictions. Our differences also help us to articulate more clearly the things that are distinctive about our own path.

Yes, Jesus Christ stays the same, and his power to give us life abundantly has always been the same, but our views and interpretation of his life story and the story of the Bible will always have differences according to each individual and one's stage in life.

We need to do daring things for Christ and his church. Carrie Newcomer, in the last of our great concert series, had us do a sing along with her: “If not now, tell me when!” We all sang this chorus at the concert. It speaks to the need to take some risks, try new things, keep life moving forward.

Several have started new task forces to work more on publicity, rentals, and fundraisers. But supporting all this must be our conviction that Christ is indeed helping our efforts, and therefore our labor will not be in vain. Let's trust that seeds can indeed be multiplied and that the harvest can still be 30 fold and 100 fold, provided we keep planting seeds faithfully.

I would love to talk to any of you in more depth about individual faith journeys and where God is leading. Don't hesitate to give a ring to meet for breakfast or lunch, etc., as we all do our best to support one another in this journey of life. Let us continue to cultivate a sense of community and nurture it's growth.

Grace and Peace to all,
Ross



**Building Community
through Music**

Thank you to everyone at Belleville for supporting this second season of the Belleville Roots Concert Series! The season was a success in many ways including building community through music and raising funds. The Carrie Newcomer concert on April 21 was a great way to end the season with the doors flung wide in the warm weather and music spilling out of the beautifully decorated Meeting House. At intermission, visitors followed the new walkway into the Parish Hall which was saturated with visitors enjoying conversation and homemade Belleville pies. Our Belleville people really supported this concert including those returning after a long absence.

All of the concerts this season were wonderful, each in their own way. Most importantly, Belleville was filled with people, of all different backgrounds, coming together and being one with music as the common denominator. We are busy planning for next season and would love to hear from you about what you think. Please email us at bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com.

Thank you again for all your support!

The Belleville Roots Music Series Committee

Diane Crofts
Bob Crofts
Donna Wilson Irwin
Ken Irwin
Brenda Marshall
Jane McNeal
Maria Niswonger
Marcia Samuelson
Sheila Taintor
Conrad Willeman
Ross Varney

2012 Calendar

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 29	April 30	1 4:30pm Brownie Troop	2 9am Thrift Shop 7:30pm Scott Smith, Physicist	3 1:30pm Yoga 6:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	4	5 9am 3MB Fencing 9:30am Wills, Bequests & Taxes 6pm NBPT Choral Society Concert
6 10am Worship 11am May Day celebration 12:30pm NBPT Choral Society Concert	7 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	8 1:30pm Service Club 7pm Stewardship & Finance 7pm Pampered Chef fundraiser	9 9am Thrift Shop 7pm Worship & Ed	10 1:30pm Yoga 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	11	12 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
13 10am Worship	14 7pm CODA	15 4:30pm Brownie Troop 7pm Executive Board	16 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	17 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	18 News & Views deadline	19 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop 3pm Wedding Rehearsal rental
20 10am Worship 4pm Wedding rental 5pm Confirmation Class	21 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	22	23 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	24 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	25	26 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
27 10a Worship	28 7pm CODA	29	30 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	31 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	June 1	2 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop

Thrift Store

We are working extremely hard to put away winter and get out our spring things. We made over \$8000 last year for the church. Please spread the word and visit us. Our goal is to make over \$10,000 this year. Spring or winter donations and items are always welcome. If you haven't visited us lately, come and see all our wonderful changes.



May

2 David Morrow
3 Elizabeth Valeriani
8 Robert Gandolfi
8 Matthew Chmielewski
12 Mary Wood
12 Tayla Ipbuken
13 Daryl Laing
26 Joyce Burrier

June

3 Bill Silsby
3 Judy Moore
4 John Chmielewski
4 Taunya Beauparlant
5 Peg Swiss
7 Shirley Locke
9 Cynthia Lusher
10 Yvonne Cedras
13 Benjamin Tyler
21 Karla Middler
25 Marcia Peirce
26 Michael Burgess
29 Hazen Brown

May Day Celebration Sunday May 6th

Join the festivities as we Celebrate May Day by dancing around the May pole, eating strawberry shortcake and making May baskets to deliver to friends.

This fun event will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, May 6th.

If you are scheduled for Coffee hour please come to give the Sunday school teachers a hand setting up.

The following lists what is needed and the people whose last name begins with

A-H bring prepared strawberries

I-K bring whipped cream

L-N ginger ale

O-R Angel food cake or shortcake

S-V Vanilla ice cream or raspberry sherbet

W-Z more strawberries or angel food cake

Thank you!

Confirmation Class News

On April 1st, after the great job they did with the Palm Sunday symbols, our confirmation class, Hunter Anderson, Skye Bradbury, Petey Conway and Nicole Samuelson joined our Jewish community for a Passover Seder. They were accompanied by some parents and mentors. It was a great experience and they were amazed by the similarities of our traditional stories regarding the exodus.

SCRIPTURE READERS LIST 2012

May

- 6 Kelly Burke-Anderson
13 Karen Conway
20 Gail Gandolfi
27 Carolyn Kyle

June

- 3 Jim Marshall
10 Cathy Morrow
17 Bill Silsby
24 Emery Rice

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



Coffee Hour

- May** 6th Kathy Raywood, Jean Kirkpatrick, Helen Hatcher
13th Nancy Canali, Audrey Clarkson, Dorothy Williamson
20th Janet Woodman, Rita Vreeland
27th No Coffee Hour – Memorial Day Weekend

No Coffee Hour for June, July & August 2012. Coffee Hour will resume on September 2, 2012.

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and can notify the rest of the committee if needed. This schedule is included in the News and Views and is 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.

Ushers

- May** 6 Audrey Clarkson & Kathy Raywood
13 Bob & Shirley Locke
20 Norma Dean & Anna Guyette
27 Rita Vreeland & Hans Erwich

- June** 3 Peggy Utterback & Jon Pearson
10 Ben & Sue Heersink
17 Gail Gandolfi & Audrey Clarkson
24 Carolyn Kyle & Ann Guyette

Service Club Announcements:

Our next meeting will be on May 8th. We will be going to the Poet's Inn for our annual spring luncheon. If you are interested in joining us please contact Sue Wolfendale ASAP to see if any seats are left.

For a fundraiser- the Service Club is sponsoring a church wide Pampered Chef party. Sue will have catalogs, order forms, and can answer any questions each week at coffee hour. We will also be having a party at the church (stage room) on May 8th at 7 PM. Please try to come and bring some friends. Please let Sue know if you are coming. The church will be receiving a check for 15% of the sale. The more we sell, the more the church gets.

Just a reminder that our annual rummage sale (part 2) will be on Saturday June 30th from 9 - 1. As you are spring cleaning, please think of us. Items can be left at the Thrift Shop drop off area. The sale will be rain or shine because we are setting up inside. We will also be renting out spaces and tables outside this year. See Sue Wolfendale with any rummage questions or if you can help and see Kelly Burke-Anderson about the spaces outside.

Beads for Education



Dear Members and Friends of Belleville,

Thank you for the recent offerings that was donated to Beads for Education. In the past your generosity to young girls in Kenya has been so appreciated. It has made a great difference in the lives of these girls, their families and their communities. Belleville's special offerings have helped buy a bull for a Maasai village whose herd was complete decimated by drought and famine in 2010. Other Belleville offerings have provided much needed and loved books for two elementary libraries that the Beads program began in 2005 and continues to stock and oversee. These libraries are the only libraries in their area. They are cherished and very well used.

Your current offering for 2012 will be applied to the high school and its library that the Beads program is currently building which will open in January 2013. After Jim & Peggy Utterback's generous gift for books last fall, Belleville's gift of \$309 is the first one that will be used to purchase books for this new high school which will be named Tembea (which means walk in Swahili). The mission of the school is to provide a high quality education for girls in the program that are of high school age. Currently there are 320 girls who are sponsored from grade 5 through college. This year we have a college student accepted to medical school. Others in this 2012 class are becoming veterinarians, nurses, medical assistant, social workers, accountants and business women.

I'm proud that Belleville is a part of our walk to success.

Blessings,

Sue Heersink

MAY IS MISSIONS MONTH!

May is the month that Christian churches worldwide celebrate and honor missionaries, individuals whose ministry is devoted to spreading the Word of God to those who have not yet heard it. Did you know that the UCC has a local missionary working right here in Middleton, MA? Rev. Marie Lucca has started an unconventional "coffee house" church called "A Different Christian Voice" that is designed especially for people who have never been part of a faith community and who cannot connect in a traditional church setting. This is an especially important ministry here in Massachusetts considering that less than 10% of residents are affiliated with a house of worship and 80% of our young people (under the age of 30) have NEVER been inside a church! A Different Christian Voice is actively seeking volunteers and donations to help support this new outreach effort. To learn more, visit www.adifferentchristianvoice.org or call Rev. Lucca at 978-973-2466.

BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURING PAUL STOOKEY (of the Peter, Paul & Mary trio) Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7:00 pm

As part of their 300th Anniversary Celebration, South Church in Andover will be sponsoring "One Light, Many Candles," a multi-faith program of music and readings to reflect the diversity and integrity of individual faith while seeking a global spiritual community. The program will feature singer/songwriter Noel Paul Stookey (of the Peter Paul & Mary trio) together with his wife Rev. Betty Stookey, an ordained UCC minister. The event will benefit A Different Christian Voice (the new UCC church in Middleton, MA) and also the Radio Ministry of the Lawrence Hispanic Community Church. Free admission; donations encouraged.

Belleville Congregational Church

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**

Heather Ryan, 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

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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

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Brenda Marshall

[Vacancy](#)

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship & Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship & Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship & Finance

Bob Locke

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson