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.

Led By: Rev. Chip Robinson **Usher(s):** Gail Gandolfi **Scripture Reader:** Sandra Biondo **Coffee Hour:** Lynn Varney **Musician:** Phil Cosgrove	November **29** 2026

- (*) where indicated, if able, please stand -

Let's quiet our hearts and minds during the prelude to welcome God's spirit.

Prelude

Greeting and Welcome Rev. Chip Robinson

"Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

First Sunday of Advent (Focus: Isaiah 64:1–9): The Candle of Hope Gail Gandolfi

Reader: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

Lighting of the First Candle

Reader: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace. We remember times we longed for God to be present to us, this congregation, and this world. We hope for an end of all wars. I pray for Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and all warring nations.

Reader: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

All: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (PH #110)

**** Lord's Prayer…****Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'*

*** Gloria Patri** **(**PH #513)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

*** Passing of Peace**
As a sign of reconciliation with God, and with each other, please greet others, *nearby*, with a blessing such as *"Peace be with you."*
Sharing Joys & Concerns

Call to Prayer

Advent Litany

Leader: In this season of Advent, as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us join our hearts in prayer and recommit to do the work that fosters peace in our homes, communities, nation, and around the world.

People: Lord, in the midst of strife and chaos, we lift our voices for peace on earth.

Leader: For nations torn by division and wars, may your reconciling love prevail.

People: Let there be peace on earth.

Leader: In places where violence reigns, may the light of Christ dispel the darkness.

People: Let there be peace on earth.

Leader: Amidst the rumors of wars and the unsettling echoes of discord, may your calming presence be felt.

People: Let there be peace on earth.

Leader: As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, fill our hearts with a deep longing for the peace that only you can bring.

People: Let there be peace on earth.

Leader: We pray for all those affected by strife, that they may experience the transforming power of your peace even as we work for justice and righteousness.

People: Let there be peace on earth.

Leader: Lord, as we journey through this Advent season, may our collective prayers rise like incense before you. Hear our cries, O Lord, as we seek peace and pursue it. Grant us the peace that surpasses all understanding and help us to live it out wherever we go.

ALL: Let there be peace on earth. Amen.

Prayer & Silent Prayer

Musical Moment

Verse 1

In the year that will be ... we'll sit out on our porches
Counting migrating birds as they fly
And the children will run between the houses and the fields
Playing catch under cloudless blue skies

Chorus

You will see, you will see Just how sweet life will be

in the year, in the year that will be
You will see, you will see Just how sweet life will be
in the year, in the year that I see

Verse 2
In the year that will be ...Dark red grapes on the vine will ripen in the evening,
Then bring the chill of the night to our plates
And the soft wind will blow a cloud of old newspaper
Bearing news that is long out of date

Chorus

Verse 3
In the year that will be ..There will be no one with grudges,
And all will be forgiven and forgotten.
We will return to live In clear, fresh air,
And the red grapevine will spread over the porch.

Chorus

Verse 4
In the year that will be ... we'll spread our hands before us
Gathering light that will dazzle our eyes
A white heron will spread her perfect wings above us
And between them the new sun will rise

Chorus

Time for Children…of all ages

Scripture Readings Sandra Biondo

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our

iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-37
But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Hymn *"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"* (PH #201)

Sermon *"Advent: Making Room for the Love of God"* Rev. Chip Robinson

Offering Time

Offertory

*** Doxology, Dedication of Offerings**
Pilgrim Hymnal #515

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** *"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* (PH #103)

Benediction

Postlude



PRAYERS

If you would like prayers for yourself or others, please place your request in the offering plate during worship service. You could also call/e-mail the office by Thursdays by 10:00 AM.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Join us for Meditation Mondays - Take time to center and ground yourself weekly with 30 minutes of partially guided meditation beginning Monday Oct. 5th at 5pm in the Chapel with Lynn Varney. No sign-ups, drop in as you are able.

Bible Study – postponed until further notice

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch and Learn for Leaders (Pastors and Church Leaders) online monthly each 1st and 3rd Thursday 12-1PM. https://www.sneucc.org/lunch-learn-for-leaders-series

Sat Dec 12th 10AM – 4PM. Belleville Church and the Meetinghouse will be featured as the community treasure on the Newburyport Holiday House. Our Thrift Shop will be open and the tour will provide chowder. Belleville has the opportunity to showcase our church, events and music. This event typically draws 1,500 visitors. Please save the date and watch for more information. Learn more at https://ajhaidassociation.wixsite.com/newburyport-holiday

SERVICE SCHEDULE

If you are unable to perform the assigned task, please trade with someone on the list.

NOVEMBER			
Date	**Usher**	**Scripture Reader**	**Coffee Hour**
Nov 1st	Audrey Clarkson	Babhekile Ssemwogerere	Sue Wolfendale & Sue Heersink
Nov 8th	Sue Heersink	Martha Kelleher	Lynn Varney
Nov 15th	Mardee Beauparlant	Rachel Shunamon	Rachel Shunamon
Nov 22nd	Babhekile Ssemwogerere	Ben Heersink	Bill Lincoln Coffee Hour
Nov 29th	Gail Gandolfi	Sandra Biondo	Lynn Varney

DECEMBER			
Date	**Usher**	**Scripture Reader**	**Coffee Hour**
Dec 6	Gail Gandolfi	Gail Gandolfi	Gail Gandolfi
Dec 13	Sue Wolfendale	Sue Wolfendale	Mary Lou Tyler
Dec 20	Liz Neale	Mary Lou Tyler	Kathy Raywood
Dec 24	***CHRISTMAS EVE 4 USHERS NEEDED***		
Dec 27	Audrey Clarkson	Barbara Colten	Bring Leftover Dessert!

MUSIC SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER
1st – Joyce Rice
8th – Phil Cosgrove
15th – Joyce Rice
22nd – Joyce Rice
29th – Phil Cosgrove

DECEMBER
6rh – Phil Cosgrove
13th –Joyce Rice
20th – Phil Cosgrove
24th – Joyce Rice
27th – Phil Cosgrove

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER
4th - Mike Conaway
6th - Jamie Beauparlant
8th - Annika Ellis
10th - Jon Williamson
26th - Sue Wolfendale
28th - Christina Grandoni

DECEMBER
10th - Jennifer Allard
10th - Tyler Jay
20th - Jean Kirkpatrick
21st - Michael Allard
29th - Colin Dean

If you would like to add your birthday, please e-mail office@belleville-church.com