

# *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:** Reverend Ross Varney

**Ushers:** Jim Samuelson, Liz Neale, Gail Gandolfi,  
Babhekile Ssemwogerere

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Samuelson

**Coffee Hour:** Lynn Varney, Peggy Utterback, Dorothy Williamson

**Organist:** Joyce Painter Rice

**Violinists:** Megan, Sophia, Antonia, and Christianna Grassi

**Soprano:** Antonia Grassi

April

**5**

2026

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

# *Belleville Congregational Church*

## *April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Easter Sunday*

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

**Prelude Music**            *"Morning Has Broken"*            *Traditional Scottish-Gaelic Tune*  
                                  *"This Joyful Eastertide"*            *Hymn Tune from Amsterdam, 1685*  
                                  *"Trio Sonata, Op. 2, No. 1"*            *Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)*

### **Greeting and Welcome**

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

### **Call to Worship:**

Leader: We are here to worship our God.

**People: A God who is beyond our comprehension.**

Leader: We are here to worship our Risen Savior.

**People: Who was seen by many but also disappeared.**

Leader: We are here led by the Holy Spirit.

**People: Who brings Jesus' Spirit into our hearts.**

**All: Let us worship our God of never-ending love.**

\* **Opening Hymn**            *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*            (see attachment)

**\*Opening Prayer and 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 for ever. Amen.

### **Litany for Easter**

Leader: We have not seen the risen Christ,

**People: but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.**

Leader: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

**People: but we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.**

Leader: We have not touched the wounds of his hands and feet,

**People: but we have been called to be his hands and feet.**

### **Children's Time**

## Call to Prayer

## “Jesus Christ The Apple Tree”

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, La - den with fruit and al - ways green:  
2. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, and plea - sure dear - ly I have bought:

The trees of na - ture fruit - less be Com - pared with Christ the Ap - ple Tree.  
I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the Ap - ple Tree.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus Christ The Apple Tree". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving lines.

## Prayers, Silent Prayer

## Choral Anthem

*“Spring has now Unwrapped the Flowers”*

*The Oxford Book of Carols, 1928*

## Scripture Readings

Jim Samuelson

### John 20: 11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Revelation 21: 3-5a**

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

\* **Hymn:**                                    *“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”*                    (see attachment)

**Sermon**                                    *“Resurrection as Renewal and Rebirth”*                    Rev. Ross Varney

**Offering Music**                            *“Laudamus te”* (from *Gloria*)                    Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)  
Duet: Antonia Grassi, soprano; Megan Grassi, violin

**Offering Time**

\* **Closing Hymn**                            *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*                    (see attachment)

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**    *“Thine be the Glory”* (from *Judas Maccabaeus*)    G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Feel free to leave when ready; please do so quietly. Join us for refreshments in the next room.*

A decorative border of pink roses and green leaves frames the top and sides of the page.

# EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

In memory of Georgie Beauparlant and Arron Smith Beauparlant  
from the Beauparlant Family

In memory of Earl & Peg Kling and Jan & Mien Heersink from the  
Heersink Family

In memory of Pam, Mom, and Mom Cosgrove from Vonnie and  
Phil Cosgrove

In memory her grandparents from Elizabeth Neale

In memory of Ray Clarkson, Mildred, and Loammi Buck from  
Audrey Clarkson

In memory of loved ones and in honor of all of our grandchildren  
from the Middler Family

In memory of Shant and Helen Mantarian from the Mantarian  
Family

In memory of Herbert Williamson from Dorothy Williamson

In memory of Jim Utterback from Peggy, Camille, and Matt  
Utterback

In memory of Melville (Mel) E. Woodman from Janet Woodman

In memory of Tom, Rod, Nancy and our Parents and in  
celebration of Steve, Robin, Dave, Cheryl, Doug and Natalie from  
Diana Bondar

In memory of Barbara Owen from Emery and Joyce Rice

In celebration of Jack, Clara, and Cooper Tyler from Mary Lou  
Tyler

In memory of Janice and Harold Varney and in honor of Helen  
and Joe Kinsella from Ross and Lynn Varney



### *Prayers for Joys and Concerns*

*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 11:00 AM.*

## THIS WEEK

**CODA Meetings** Mondays at 7:00 PM

**Bible Exploration** 12:30PM

## UPCOMING

**Roots Music Spring Concert** - April 18th 2026 at 7:30 PM Tony Trischka with special opening set by Farayi

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome violinists Megan, Sophia, Antonia, and Christianna Grassi and thank them for their music. Also we thank everyone who is singing in the Easter Choir.**

# SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

ARIL			
Date	Usher	Scripture Reader	Coffee Hour
April 5 <i>(Easter)</i>	Jim Samuelson Liz Neale, Gail Gandolfi Babhekile Ssemwogerere	Jim Samuelson	Lynn Varney Peggy Utterback Dorothy Williamson
April 12	Gail Gandolfi	Sandra Biondo	Gail Gandolfi
April 19	Ben Heersink	Ben Heersink	Sue Heersink
April 26	Mary Lou Tyler	Babhekile Ssemwogerere	Mary Lou Tyler

MAY			
Date	Usher	Scripture Reader	Coffee Hour
May 3	Kathy Raywood	Gail Gandolfi	Kathy Raywood
May 10 <i>(Mother's Day)</i>	Bill Silsby	Keith Barbera	All Men on board – led by Bill Silsby
May 17	Peggy Utterback	Peggy Utterback	Rachel Shunamon
May 24	Sue Heersink	Barbara Colten	Audrey Clarkson
May 31	Liz Neale	Martha Kelleher	Peggy Utterback and Sue Wolfendale

## MUSIC SCHEDULE

### APRIL

5<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Rice & Grassi Family  
12<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Rice  
19<sup>th</sup> – Phil Cosgrove  
26<sup>th</sup> – Phil Cosgrove

### MAY

3<sup>rd</sup> – Joyce Rice  
10<sup>th</sup> – Phil Cosgrove  
17<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Rice  
24<sup>th</sup> – Phil Cosgrove  
31<sup>st</sup> – TBD

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### APRIL

2<sup>nd</sup> - Lynn Varney  
9<sup>th</sup> - Wyatt Allard  
12<sup>th</sup> - Lynne Hangen  
15<sup>th</sup> - Sue Heersink  
15<sup>th</sup> - Petey Conway  
18<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Canali  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Nancy Tsakirgis  
26<sup>th</sup> - Tim Conway

### MAY

8<sup>th</sup> - Robert Gandolfi  
8<sup>th</sup> - Chapel Allard  
12<sup>th</sup> - Jean Mantarian  
12<sup>th</sup> - Talya Ipbuken  
14<sup>th</sup> - Martha Kelleher  
16<sup>th</sup> - Jen Gandolfi  
26<sup>th</sup> - Tess Schmidt  
30<sup>th</sup> - Norma Dean  
31<sup>st</sup> - Amy Schmidt

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