

Belleville Congregational Church

February 2013
News and Views



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.

Ponderings	1
Roots Music	2
Calendar	3
Birthdays, Guest Preacher, Service Club, Thrift Shop & Rest in the Spirit	4
Coffee Hour, Scripture Readers & Ushers	5
Contacts	6

Dear Friends,

Easter is early this year, March 31, so Lent also comes early, and I find it most interesting that the beginning of Lent, February 13, almost coincides with Valentine's Day!

Aha! Maybe you can guess my next line of thinking. Lent is a time of purposeful focus in the Christian year. So why not begin Lent with a focus on LOVE? Not the love of Valentine's Day cards, often a bit saccharin, or bordering on possessive. The love that Jesus Christ taught and exemplified was not possessive, not simplistic, but self giving, other-centered, even sacrificial as he worked toward greater justice among people.

Then the apostle Paul wrote about love in words that seem never to be improved upon. Why is 1Corinthians 13 so well known and often quoted? It states the ideals of love, something to strive for, which none of us ever masters: "Love is patient; love is kind..... it does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful." Those lines alone, and our inability to live up to them, are enough to instill in us a penitent heart as we begin the season of Lent. Too often we are impatient, use unkind words, or are irritable.

To follow in Jesus' footsteps, to become more Christlike, to love with continual regard for the other, is a lifelong journey, never totally fulfilled here on earth. Nevertheless, we know there is always room for progress,

and our commitment as Christians is to stay on the path, to keep the faith, to aspire be a beloved community, where love does indeed reign.

Let us take the coincidence of the beginning of Lent and Valentine's Day as an opportunity to dedicate ourselves to the ways of love, especially "The Way" which is the way of Christ, the Pioneer of our faith.

Yours in Christ's spirit,

Ross



We are thrilled to announce the 2012-2013 season!
We have amazing artists coming to grace our stage.
Hope you can join in the fun and please help spread
the word! Tickets go on sale September 5th. For more
information, visit the church website or email us at
bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com.



#4 Mardi Gras Dance and Dinner
Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys
February 8, 2013, 8 pm

This annual event at Belleville has sold out the past two years. This year features the accordion mastery and soulful vocals of front man, Jeffery Broussard. His range, seldom seen in Zydeco, includes traditional songs of the old masters, original tunes, single-note and triple-note accordion, and fiddle. Although accordion is his main instrument, Jeffery plays guitar, bass, fiddle and percussion instruments. *The New York Times* states: "Mr. Broussard and the Creole Cowboys are fabulous. You start moving in your seat as soon as their rhythmic, rich melodies, both joyous and mournful, start filling the theater."

www.jefferybroussard.com



#5 St. Patrick's Day Concert & Dinner
Goitse (*Direct from Ireland!*)
March 15, 2013, 8 pm

Goitse is a flourishing, highly-talented, five piece band making a name for themselves as one of the most sought after bands amongst connoisseurs of Irish traditional music. Their fast-paced, energetic playing has seen them enjoying a growing fan base through show stopping performances in Ireland, America, Germany, Finland, Denmark and Africa.

<http://goitse.ie/>

2013 CALENDAR

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
3 10:00am Worship 4pm Visionary Book Group.	4 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	5	6 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg	7 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir practice	8 8pm Mardi Gras Dance	9 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
10 10am Worship Children's choir begins right after the 10am service	11 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	12 1:30pm Service Club	13 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 7pm Stewardship & Finance 7pm Worship & Education	14 Valentine's Day  Recycling 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice	15	16 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
17 10am Worship with guest preacher Rev. Ann Abernethy	18 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	19 8pm Executive Committee	20 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg	21 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Essex Assoc. Board of Director's Mtg. 7:30pm Choir Practice	22 News & Views deadline	23 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
24 10a m Worship	25 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	26	27 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg. 6pm Men's Fellowship Supper	28 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice		



Guest Preacher, February 17

The Rev Ann Abernethy will be our guest Preacher and worship leader as Ross has a winter weekend away. Rev Abernethy is a distinguished leader in the United Church of Christ. She retired from the Wenham Congregational Church and then worked as Chaplain at Brooksby Village in Danvers for about 5 years. She has always felt the pulse of the wider church, and was married to the late Rev. Bill Abernethy, who was also a distinguished leader and writer in the UCC.

SERVICE CLUB

Service Club will resume meeting on March 12, 2013 in the Bannister Room. Time and information about the quest speaker will be in the March Newsletter. All are welcome.

February

- 3 Peggy Utterback
- 4 Robert Gould
- 5 Jane Thomas
- 12 E.J. Dean
- 13 Emery Rice
- 15 Dot Williamson
- 15 Marion Spark
- 22 George Beauparlant
- 24 Luke Gandolfi
- 27 Anna May Guyette
- 28 Jamie Gandolfi

March

- 3 Lily DeLong
- 9 Cathie Gould
- 13 Gail Gandolfi
- 15 Hunter Anderson
- 17 Carter Jan
- 19 Barbara Colten
- 21 Diana Bondar
- 23 Steven Locke
- 28 Diane Crofts



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

COMING AGAIN

Rest in the Spirit Meditation

Rest in the Spirit at Belleville Chapel Sunday March 3 at 4pm. An interfaith meditation time (about 45 minutes) led by Rev. Ross Varney. We'll begin with presentation of basics with discussion, then move on to practices, meditating with words, music and silence.



February readers

- 3 Hunter Anderson
- 10 Bill Silsby
- 17 Nancy Smith
- 24 Marion Spark

March readers

- 3 Lynn Varney
- 10 Emery Rice
- 17 Michelle Anderson
- 24 Gail Gandolfi
- 31 Carolyn Kyle

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.



February

- 3 Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette & Jean Hansen
- 10 Diane Crofts, Pam Ellis & Nancy Canali
- 17 No coffee hour – School vacation
- 24 Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford & Jean Kirkpatrick

March

- 3 Mardee Beuparlant, Diana Bondar & Helen Hatcher
- 10 Nancy Tsakirgis, Karen Conway & Marcia Samuelson
- 17 Peggy Utterback, Rita Vreeland & Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 24 Sue Wolfendale, Norma Dean & Jane Thomas
- 31 EASTER Sue Heersink, Marion Spark, Deb Moore & Diane Crofts

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and notify the rest of the volunteers. This schedule is also 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.



February

- 3 COMMUNION Hunter & Michelle Anderson
- 10 Carolyn Kyle & Ann Guyette
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Rita Vreeland
- 24 Ben & Sue Heersink

March

- 3 COMMUNION Norma Dean & Kathy Raywood
- 10 Bob & Shirley Locke
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
- 24 Norma & Timothy Dean
- 31 Jon Pearson & Hunter Anderson



Belleville Congregational Church

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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
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

David Morrow, Organist/Choir 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
20th of each month.
Thank you!

Church Officers

Moderator: William Silsby
Clerk: Jean Hansen
Treasurer: Mary Lou Tyler
Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kelly
Burke-Anderson
Auditor: Kathy Raywood
Members-at-Large (Ex. Board):
Vacancy

Contact Persons

Board of Fellowship & Outreach:
Diane Crofts
Board of Worship & Education:
Kelly Burke-Anderson
Board of Stewardship & Finance:
Jim Samuelson - Hans Erwich
UCC Delegate: Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson