



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,

In February, we mark the start of Lent, 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays. We start early this year with Ash Wednesday being February 10. If anyone wants ashes, let me know and I can direct you to priests or ministers in the area who are doing that kind of ceremony. For our part, during the six weeks of Lent, we will add a focus on book discussion, on Thursday eves at 5:45, beginning Feb. 18th and/or Friday mornings at 11:30AM. The book I would like to read for this study period is called *Real Good Church*, by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette. She is a UCC pastor in Somerville who has attracted much attention by some bold new moves in this open and affirming church. While Somerville and Newburyport are different places, there are many great ideas for revitalization that we can ponder.

Here is a sample of Molly's writing: She invokes a saying attributed to Duke Ellington.... that "there are only two kinds of music: good music and bad music." So... "We sing and play classical, gospel, Taizé, 70's folk, hip-hop, jazz, Christian camp songs, etc. The Spirit will not be bound by our tiny distinctions of what constitutes appropriate music. But the thing I love best about our music is the lack of pretention and ego, no matter who is playing." What we do is in order to "praise God, not perform, and so we let pretty much anybody, with support and direction, play and sing in worship."

Molly is repeating the admonitions of Paul that we all have gifts, but the same Spirit that gives and guides, all for the common good. Whether it is about music, or any other thing we do as a church community, our task as followers of Christ is indeed to give up "pretention and ego," so that we can do everything "for the common good," always aware of how we affect others. Jesus put it in similar words: If we "lose our lives," we shall find them. He also says, "He (she) who will follow me must deny self and take up the cross." This is indeed giving up ego, self-at-center, for the sake of community.

This is our challenge in the season of Lent..... that tough work of putting others before self when we are able, not as self-abasement, but for the joy of being able to serve, for the common good. This is Jesus kind of Love, yes, even sacrificial love at times, not out of duress or obligation, but a cheerful giving. Hope to see you soon in the "beautiful village" of Belleville.
Ross

2016 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	2	3 9 – 12 Thrift Shop	4 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	5	6 Thrift Shop Closed 9am 3MB Fencing
7 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	8 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	9 W&E moved to Wednesday this month	10 8:30am Worship & Education 9 – 12 Thrift Shop 7:30pm Stewardship & Finance	11 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	12	13 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
14 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal ANNUAL MEETING	15 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	16 7pm Executive Board	17 9-12 Thrift Shop	18 5:45pm Book Study 7pm Choir practice	19	20 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
21 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal F&O meets after church 3pm Sacred Harp Singers	22 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	23	24 9-12 Thrift Shop 6pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	25 5:45pm Book Study 7pm Choir practice	26	27 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
28 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	29 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA					



<i>February</i>		<i>March</i>	
2	<i>Rory Schmidt</i>	9	<i>Connie Golder</i>
2	<i>Deb Moore</i>	9	<i>Cathie Gould</i>
3	<i>Peggy Utterback</i>	13	<i>Gail Gandolfi</i>
4	<i>Robert Gould</i>	15	<i>Hunter Anderson</i>
12	<i>E.J. Dean</i>	17	<i>Carter Jan</i>
13	<i>Emery Rice</i>	19	<i>Barbara Colten</i>
15	<i>Dorothy Williamson</i>	21	<i>Diana Bondar</i>
15	<i>Marion Spark</i>	23	<i>Stephen Locke</i>
16	<i>Nancy Brown</i>	28	<i>Diane Crofts</i>
22	<i>George Beauparlant</i>		
24	<i>Luke Gandolfi</i>		
27	<i>Anna May Guyette</i>		
28	<i>Jamie Gandolfi</i>		
	<i>Marge Killam</i>		



NOTE DATE CHANGE

February 14th: Annual Meeting Part I – 2015 Financials and 2016 Budget proposals.

Men's Fellowship Dinner



Wednesday, February 24th
6:00pm gathering, 6:30 supper

Belleville Church Thrift Shop



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

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



Adult choir rehearsal Thursdays at 7pm.



Youth choir rehearsal Sunday mornings after worship.



Extra Mile Offering is Sunday, February 21st and will be Among Friends and Our Neighbors' Table.

Among Friends at St. Paul's Church: We work together with other churches in Newburyport and Amesbury to make sure you can get a hot meal Monday – Saturday. Whoever you are, and whatever your personal situation, you are invited. Donations are not required, but they are gratefully accepted. Volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean are very welcomed. We serve meals to all at 5:30 each Monday and 11:30am on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Our Neighbors' Table: We welcome 150 guests to our Wednesday meal each week. Our food pantry program provides groceries, fresh foods, and toiletries to more than 300 households from 12 cities and towns a week across 4 pantry locations, and deliver groceries and hot meals to home-bound individuals in 3 towns. Each holiday season we distribute special groceries and turkeys to more than 500 families. But most of all, food is never more than a phone call away through our 24/7 emergency hotline.

Save the Date. On Saturday, March 19th the Easter Bunny will be coming to spend the morning at Belleville Church - along with activities, crafts, and snacks. Help will be needed from the congregation and all our welcome, so invite everyone who might be interested. We will be asking for volunteers to work with children and help with setup on that morning from 9 to 12. Thank you for stepping up. Please see Nancy Canali, Martha Kelleher, or other F/O member.





Communion is the first Sunday of each month

February

- 7 Mardee Beuparlant & Carol Beuparlant
- 14 Ron & Amy Schmidt
- 21 Jean Kirkpatrick & Kathy Raywood
- 28 Ann Guyette & Sue Heersink

March

- 6 Peggy Utterback & Carolyn Kyle
- 13 Mardee Beuparlant & Norma Dean
- 20 Jean Kirkpatrick & Shirley Locke
- 27 EASTER SUNDAY
Gail Gandolfi, Chapel Allard, Hans Erwich & Dan Fay

reading
Scripture

February

- 7 Peggy Utterback
- 14 Ben Heersink
- 21 Hunter Anderson
- 28 Sue Heersink

March

- 6 Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 13 Lynn Varney
- 20 Michelle Anderson
- 27 EASTER SUNDAY
Gail Gandolfi



February

- 7 Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette & Jean Hansen
- 14 ANNUAL MEETING PART I
- 21 Diane Crofts, Pan Ellis & Amy Schmidt
- 28 Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford & Jean Kirkpatrick

March

- 6 Mardee Beauparlant, Diana Bondar & Helen Hatcher
- 13 Nancy Tsakirgis, Lori Wiswell & Marcia Samuelson
- 20 PALM SUNDAY Peggy Utterback, Karen Conway & Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 27 EASTER SUNDAY Martha Kelleher, Lynn Varney & Kathy Raywood



Belleville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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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
Website: www.bellevillechurch.org

Andrea DeGiovanni, Organist & 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
25th of each month.

Thank you!

Church Officers

Moderator: Jean Hansen
Clerk: Kathy Raywood
Treasurer: Jim Samuelson
Collector: Norma Dean
Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kelly
Burke-Anderson
Auditor:
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