

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,

Happy New Year! On Christmas Eve, we made a large circle lit candles, and felt the gracious love and light of Christ all around. Would that we could keep that up all year long! I think we can at least approach that reality, if we keep it as our intention. In my message, I emphasized the expansive and universal nature of Christ's Light, the Word becoming flesh in many places, in many ways. In other words, the Presence of God, "Love's pure light" surely reaches far beyond any one doctrine, and thus even beyond the Christian faith itself!

So what? Well, if this is true, as I believe it is, we can confidently proclaim an ever expanding circle of those "in the Spirit of Christ." We can see as fellow seekers those who may never have heard of Christ, and those who may have heard of him, but amidst hypocrisy and abuse, and thus want little to do with "organized religion." So it is not about simply inviting people to join us and our ways. But an ever widening circle has to include people very different from us, people who value other circles and other kinds of fellowship..... It means our going to be part of their circles, as well as inviting them to visit our own. The more inclusive a circle is, the more diverse it becomes.

In short, I hope the circle of love that we enacted Christmas Eve is indeed and ever expanding circle of friendship, respect, love and mutual learning. Let's keep this kind of focus in 2011, with forays into interfaith learning as well. I always liked the term "anonymous Christ" to refer to the Spirit of Christ that is present in people of other paths (taking care of his "sheep from other folds" that he claimed to have). Though I realize this term itself may seem condescending or arrogant to our friends of other faiths. A better term might be something like "Universal Divine Spirit," with which many connect. Our connection is most fully through Jesus Christ, in whom the "fullness of God was pleased to dwell," but that need not preclude other connections with God.

Blessings upon you and Belleville for an ever widening vision of inclusive relationships. May our circle of love and grace be ever expanding.

Warm regards in Christ's love,
Ross

COFFEE HOUR

Jan 2011

- 2nd** No Coffee
9th Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson, Marsha Kinnear
16th Nancy Canali, Gail Gandolfi, Jane Thomas
23rd Marion Spark, Shirley, Locke, Cynthia Peirce
30th Marylou Tyler, Maria Niswonger, Betty Madden

The church will supply the napkins, cups, plates, coffee, cream, sugar and juice.

Anyone can bring something for coffee hour even if it is not your week. You do not have to be listed to donate.

All donations gratefully accepted.

Audrey Clarkson 978-462-2780

Kathy Flaherty 978-465-5917

Diane Crofts 978-462-7226

Nancy Canali 978-388-1117

Carolyn Kyle 978-462-8974

Service Club

The women will not be meeting again until March 15th.

The Spring rummage sale will be held on Saturday April 16 and setup will be on Friday April 15th.

The outside yard sale will be June 18.

See you in the spring.

January

- 1 Robert Locke
- 4 Betty Madden
- 5 Kip Tyler
- 7 David Wood
- 11 Isaac Butler
- 11 Nancy Salvage
- 12 James Guyette
- 13 John Richards
- 15 Jennifer Locke
- 21 Erika Kamp
- 23 Robert Crofts
- 28 Ken Codin
- 28 Meg Marshall

Happy Birthday

February

- 1 Rebecca Whitney
- 3 Peggy Utterback
- 4 Robert Gould
- 5 Jane Thomas
- 10 Carlton Brown
- 13 Emery Rice
- 16 Nancy Brown
- 22 George Beauparlant
- 27 Anna May Guyette
- 27 Peggy VanAmburg



It's a new year in service to Belleville. 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

SCRIPTURE READERS LIST 2011

Jan. 2 Kelly Burke-Anderson

9 Karen Conway

16 Gail Gandolfi

23 Carolyn Kyle (call, no email)

30 Jim Marshall

Feb. 6 Cathy Morrow

13 Maria Niswonger

20 Geoff Raywood

27 Bill Silsby

Mar. 6 Nancy Smith (978-358-7098)

13 Marion Spark

20 Peggy Utterback

27 Kelly

Apr. 3 Karen

10 Gail

17 Carolyn (call)

24 Jim

May 1 Cathy

8 Maria

15 Geoff

22 Bill

29 Nancy (call)

June 5 Marion

12 Peggy

19 Kelly

26 Karen

July 3 Gail

10 Carolyn (call)

17 Jim

24 Cathy

31 Geoff

Chuck Collins Presentation

It Takes Community to Grow a Healthy Local Economy

On Sunday, January 9th at 4:00 PM at First Parish Church in Newbury, Chuck Collins, a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, explores the roots of the economic and ecological challenges of our time. Collins' approach focuses on community-based, small groups to understand and address these concerns. His presentation will explore the issues of how we got where we are today and how we can help ourselves prepare for the economic and ecological changes that are upon us.

"These challenges often leave people feeling isolated, vulnerable and anxious," said Rev. Chris Ney, minister at Central Congregational Church. "In small groups, people can help one another find connection, information, and the avenues they need for a new kind of security, based on mutual aid and support."

Many of these groups have formed across the country inspired by the concept of common security clubs. (commonsecurityclub.org)

In response to this concept Seacoast Community Empowerment Circles are forming in the local area. There will be an opportunity for those who are interested to sign up.

Chuck Collins is an expert on U.S. inequality and author of several books, including *Economic Apartheid in America: A Primer on Economic Inequality and Insecurity*, co-authored with Felice Yeskel. (New Press, 2005). He co-authored with Bill Gates Sr. *Wealth and Our Commonwealth*, (Beacon Press, 2003), a case for taxing inherited fortunes.

This program to be held at the First Parish Church of Newbury at 20 High Road is sponsored by the Central Congregational Church (UCC), First Parish Church, First Religious Society of Newburyport (UU), New Eden Collaborative, Pennies for Poverty: 2 Cents for Change, The Poverty Program, Transition Newburyport and the Greater Newburyport YWCA. Following the program all are invited to participate in the Local Flavor Community Potluck Picnic at 5:30 PM. The Local Flavor Potluck Picnics are monthly local food, no-waste events that feature good food, good discussion and good music. For more information on the potluck visit transitionnewburyport.org

Peace Is

Peace is looking up from the top
of a mountain.

Peace is home safe at the journey's
end.

Peace is a hand reached out to
someone, when you know you've made
a friend.

Peace is an ever flowing fountain.

Peace is an opened door.

Peace is what always happens at
the end of every war.

Peace is very gentle; it is patient
and it is kind.

Peace is a special way of feeling,
a serene, untroubled mind.

Peace is the spirit of Christmas
that lasts the whole year through,
And a peaceful Happy New Year
is what I wish to you!

ChinnaMay Guyette

January 2011

Belleville Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2 Worship 10a	3 Women's Discussion	4	5 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 Choir 7:30 pm	6	7	8 Thrift shop 9-noon
9 Worship 10a Chuck Collins 4pm	10	11 W/E Board	12 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 Choir 7:30 pm	13	14	15 Thrift shop 9-noon
16 Worship 10a	17 Martin Luther King Day Women's Discussion	18 Executive Board 7pm	19 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 Choir 7:30 pm	20	21	22 Thrift shop 9-noon
23 Worship 10a	24	25 Men's Fellowship 6 pm	26 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 Choir 7:30 pm	27	28	29 Thrift shop 9-noon
30 Worship 10a	31					

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News and Views

300 High Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

Pastor Ross Varney **978-462-4899**

office hours: Tuesday 11 AM - Noon;
Wednesday-Thursday 10:30 AM - Noon;
or by appointment

Please call to assure the pastor is available

Office Administrator Kristy E. Taylor

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Church Office **978-465-7734**

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 105

Church Officers:

Moderator

James Marshall

Clerk

Kathy Raywood

Treasurer

Mary Lou Tyler

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Helen Hatcher

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship and

Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship and Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship and Finance

Bob Locke

Church email address:

bcchurch@worldpath.net

Website:

<http://www.bellevillechurch.org>

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Belleville Church Website is:

<http://www.bellevillechurch.org/>

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson

Sexton

Bob Locke