



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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Greetings for the New Year!

First of all, for those of you who came to worship on Christmas Eve, a big thank you, for you increased love and light by your very presence! The leadership team was amazed at the turnout, a leap of more than 100 people over the last few years average, and we were consequently amazed and inspired by the Spirit there that evening. Everyone is asking, was it the weather? was it the guest musicians invited, and their friends?... was it the guest minister who co-led with Ross, and her Phoenix Rising new community from Haverhill? Was it the postcards sent out? Well, there is no one answer of course, perhaps a little of all of the above, but the sure thing is that we felt a wonderful spirit on Christmas Eve..... an increase in enthusiasm and inspiration, which we can say must be the Spirit of the Christ child and the Christ-Messiah he became.

The next obvious questions are, what now? bask in the glory of that night? rest on laurels? And the scriptural answer is of course the famous line from the prophet Isaiah. "Arise, Shine, for your Light has come!" Let's follow this "newborn king," this new kind of king, as best we can as we study his life and teachings. People left Christmas Eve with a wonderful feeling..... but we know that the spiritual life is much more than just feelings. We know that much discipline and preparation went into the soaring voices, the trumpet call, the violin harmonies..... and much thought and preparation went into the dialogue sermon and arrangement of lessons and carols. We know that there is much discipline and focus to following a spiritual path.

While I am as fervent as any about the need for interfaith respect and learning (see opportunity below on learning about Islam), I also am convinced that we need to go deeply in one path, and our chosen path is the Way of Christ, so we choose to follow his life and teachings and prayers. So we cannot bask in one night of increased peace and glory. With the Charlie Brown Christmas play, we also say "OH THAT WE COULD ALWAYS SEE SUCH SPIRIT THROUGH THE YEAR!" This is also the theme of "Keeping Christmas" by Henry Van Dyke: "There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas."

The way to keep the Christmas spirit alive is to follow and pray with the Christ who IS the Spirit! Amen?

Hope to see you soon,
Pastor Ross

2016 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Thrift Shop Closed 9am 3MB Fencing
3 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	4 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	5	6 9 – 12 Thrift Shop	7 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	8	9 9- 12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
10 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	11 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	12 8:30am Worship & Education	13 9-12 Thrift Shop 7:30pm Stewardship & Finance	14 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	15	16 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
17 10am Worship Fellowship & Outreach meets after the service 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal 3pm Sacred Harp Singers	18 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	19 7pm Executive Board	20 9-12 Thrift Shop	21 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	22	23 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
24 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal	25 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #78171 7pm CODA	26	27 9-12 Thrift Shop	28 5:45pm Bible Study 7pm Choir practice	29	30 9-12 Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
31 10am Worship 11:15 Youth Choir rehearsal						



January

- 1 *Robert Locke*
- 5 *Kip Tyler*
- 10 *Caden Allard*
- 12 *James Guyette*
- 16 *Jennifer Locke Donovan*
- 23 *Robert Crofts*
- 23 *Nicole Samuelson*
- 23 *Jim Samuelson*
- 26 *Andrea DeGiovanni*
- 26 *Joe DeGiovanni*

February

- 2 *Rory Schmidt*
- 2 *Deb Moore*
- 3 *Peggy Utterback*
- 4 *Robert Gould*
- 12 *E.J. Dean*
- 13 *Emery Rice*
- 15 *Dorothy Williamson*
- 15 *Marion Spark*
- 16 *Nancy Brown*
- 22 *George Beauparlant*
- 24 *Luke Gandolfi*
- 27 *Anna May Guyette*
- 28 *Jamie Gandolfi*
- Marge Killam*



January's Extra Mile is for Phoenix Church, Haverhill.
Here is a letter from Rev. Donna Spencer Collins of Phoenix Church

To all our Friends at Belleville Congregational Church,

We want to thank you for your generous hospitality this past year. We really appreciated being a part your Christmas Eve Service. I wanted to let you all know what we have been doing this past year. I know of your prayers and so appreciate your love, kindness and support.

It has been an exhilarating year for Phoenix Rising UCC; a year of creativity, faith building and serving as we planned and purposely implemented events and gatherings. We developed into a Blessing Brigade, blessing people with animals, with boats and with bikes! We went to North Shore Pride and had a table in the market place sharing our PRUCC story. We enrolled in the Firemen's Museum Annual Chile Cook OFF! We helped sponsor an LGBT picnic at Rolling Ridge retreat Center in Andover. We gathered for Sunday Service once a month at the Worshipping Oak Tree at the Buttonwoods Museum. We gathered for Prayer and Praise once a month at the Atmosphere Center. We gathered for Food and Fellowship. We worshiped together at other UCC Churches. Christmas Eve we joined Belleville Congregational Church UCC. Joining the choir and I preached alongside Pastor Ross in a Christmas dialog. It was a very moving evening. This past Sunday December 27, 2015 we held our first Worship Gathering at the "Barn" on Tarra Farm a generous and hospitable gift from the Gifford's. We will be meeting there the third Sunday of the month. We met Wednesday nights at Dunkin Donuts and have studied the "Phoenix Affirmations" by Eric Elnes, and currently "LOVE WINS" by Rob Bell. I have loved holding office hours twice a week at the Artist Café. Over all, we have been evolving into a progressive Christian community of the United Church of Christ, inclusive and intentional in making God's love and justice real in the spirit of belonging!

God Bless you all in the coming year with good health and prosperity

Reverend Donna Spencer Collins

The Greater Newburyport Clergy Association Presents: ISLAM The Basics

On Wednesday January 6 at 7:30pm there will be a forum about the basics of Islam at the Synagogue, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 53 1/2 Washington Street. Newburyport.

There will be a guest speaker, a young Imam Ebraheim Ismail from Boston University, who will give a presentation for about one hour, followed by a question-answer time. Please come if you are able, and show support, as followers of Christ, for "peace through understanding." It is courageous of both the synagogue and this Imam to have this encounter, and the Clergy Association of Greater Newburyport is officially sponsoring the evening.

Ross

Men's Fellowship Supper



**Wednesday, January 27th
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.



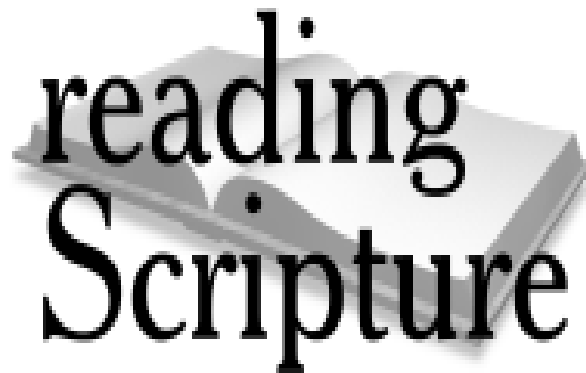
Communion is the first Sunday of each month

January

- 3 Gail Gandolfi & Shirley Locke
- 10 Carolyn Kyle & Kathy Raywood
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Peggy Utterback
- 24 Dan Fay & Jon Pearson
- 31 Hans Erwich & Bob Locke

February

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



January

- 3 Lynn Varney
- 10 Carolyn Kyle
- 17 Bill Silsby
- 24 Barbara Colten
- 31 Emery Rice

February

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



January

- 3 Jean Hansen, Lori Wiswell & Debra Moore
- 10 Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson & Carolyn Kyle
- 17 No Coffee Hour Holiday Weekend
- 24 Shirley Locke, Karen Conway & Marcia Samuelson
- 31 Mary Lou Tyler, Diane Crofts & Jennifer Allard

February

- 7 Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette & Jean Hansen
- 14 No coffee hour – school vacation week
- 21 Diane Crofts, Pan Ellis & Amy Schmidt
- 28 Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford & Jean Kirkpatrick



Belleville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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bcchurch@worldpath.net

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