

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,

I happened to tune in to an interview the other day on a Christian talk radio show. I heard Sheila Walsh, former co-host of the 700 Club with Pat Robertson talking about depression, and her need for medication. I was struck by the candor (well, she wrote a book entitled "Honestly!") regarding mental illness on this conservative Christian station. In many religious circles, people are blamed for not having enough faith, or told that people with strong faith should not need psychologists, nor medication for the mind.

Sheila was a successful Christian singer and evangelist, starting in her native Scotland and eventually touring internationally. But one day she found herself co-hosting the 700 Club in the morning, and in a psychiatric ward in the evening. An underlying depression had finally broken through all of who she was on the surface, her public persona. A physician said medication would help her brain chemistry, and she has stayed on meds ever since.

While she is a poster child for the value of medication in mental illness, I was also struck by a story of one of the breakthrough moments in her healing. She was interviewing a guest who all of a sudden turned the tables, and said, "you ask so much about others, but how are YOU doing?" She relates that the genuine concern, the warmth, the LOVE in that moment reduced her to tears, a breakthrough to behind her facade, behind the masks.

Sheila, highly successful on the outside, now admits the times she felt like "one of the loneliest people on the planet." I believe we all have these times and places inside ourselves. Her guest that day broke through defenses with Love..... we could call it God's unconditional love, or Divine love shown through a friend.

As we move toward Easter, let us remember that the ultimate victory of Easter is not happiness by worldly standards, but a new kind of joy that may involve a journey through tears. Let us face them, and receive help as needed.

In Christ's love and service,

Ross



**Building Community
through Music**

2012 Belleville Roots Music Concert Series

Upcoming Concerts



Thursday, March 17, 7:30 pm

Green Week Event with Traditional Irish Group Téada

www.teada.com

Téada, now firmly established as one of Irish music's leading exponents on the international world music stage, continues to be driven by a fascination with the timeless, expressive force of traditional tunes inherited from previous generations of musicians.

Contact

For more information about the Roots Music Concert Series, please contact bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com or call the church office at 978/465-7734. To join our concert email list for regular updates on upcoming concerts, please send an email to bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com

Belleville Roots

Belleville Congregational Church has longstanding roots in the Newburyport community as a gathering place and supporter of local service organizations. The Roots Music Series, founded in December of 2010, has two important missions: First, the series brings a variety of high quality Roots Music concerts to the Newburyport area for all to enjoy. The series celebrates music ranging from a cappella to zydeco and includes a diverse range of blues, bluegrass, Cajun, Celtic, country, folk, gospel, Irish, jazz and world music. The second mission of the Roots Music Series is to raise funds to restore and maintain the historic 1867 Belleville Meeting House and adjacent Fiske Chapel complex at 300 High Street in Newburyport. Our objective is that the Meeting House and adjacent complex will continue to serve as a gathering place for many generations to come.



Lent 2012 at Belleville Church
Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30pm
Rob Bell 6 week series

Rob Bell's new DVDs present a compact format for offering spiritual directions for issues that we care about and want to speak about.

You are invited to join any one or all of the six Thursday evening viewings and discussions. Each 10-12 minute video presentation offers a powerful format for getting Christian perspectives on what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

Week One - February 23rd - Title, "Dust"

Can you believe that YOU can be the kind of person God meant you to be? Do we have the right stuff to be people of love, compassion, peace, forgiveness, and hope?

Week Two - March 1st - Title, "Bullhorn"

What draws you to the message of Jesus? What does it mean to love someone with an agenda? Are people, like a bullhorn guy, who is yelling, judging, and using condemnation hurting Christianity?

Week Three - March 8th - Title, "Tomato"

Do you always have to be right? Do you feel like you need to look like you always have it together? Do you ever see death bringing new life?

**Week Four - Wed., March 14th - Title, "Corner"

What was the last thing you were really grateful for? Why is getting what we want so important to us? Is liberation, redemption, or even grace ever fair?

Week Five - March 22nd - Title, "Whirlwind"

What do we do when we don't get the answers we are hoping for? How does suffering change our perspective? Would having all the answers fix things?

Week Six - March 29th - Title, "Today"

When you think of your life, what was the best time? What part do you think you're supposed to play today? If you're in any way stuck in the past are there people around you who might suffer from your not being fully present?

Registration suggested but not required. Classes are free and open to the public.

300 High Street, NBPT (978) 465-7734

**Please note that the 4th class will be held on a Wednesday evening, March 14th. **

2012 Calendar

March 2012

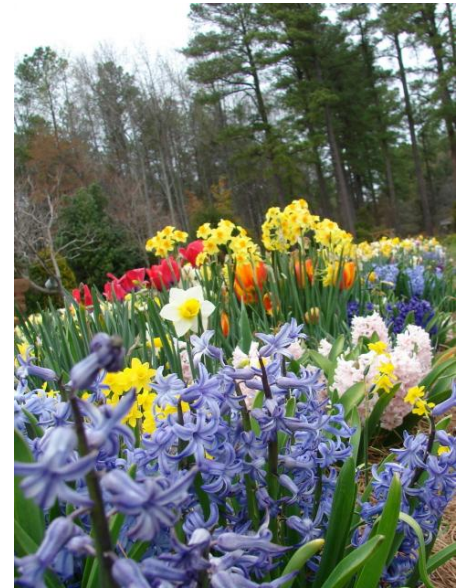
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	2	3 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
4 10am Worship	5 7pm CODA	6 4:30 Brownie Troop 4:30 Swim Team	7 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	8 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	9	10 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
11 10am Worship	12 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	13 1:30pm Service Club 4:30pm Swim Team 7pm W/E Board	14 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg. 6:15pm Bible Study 7:30 Choir	15 4pm Swim team meets Celtic Concert @ 8pm	16	17 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
18 10am Worship	19 4pm Women's Discussion Group 7pm CODA	20 4:30pm Brownie Troop 4:30pm Swim team meets 7pm Exec Board	21 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	22 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 5pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	23 Rummage Sale Set-up	24 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop Rummage Sale 9am-1pm
25 10a Worship	26 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	27 4:30pm Swim team meets	28 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg. 7pm LHD Group	29 1:30pm Gentle Chair Yoga 5pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	30	31 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop

Service Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13th at 1:30pm in the Bannister Room.

We will be discussing and working on our Rummage Sale which will be on March 24th. All are welcome to come and help.

Thank you!



March

- 3 Patrick Harrison
- 3 Douglas Heine
- 5 Linda Farmer
- 5 Lily Delong
- 9 Cathie Gould
- 15 Hunter Anderson
- 19 Barbara Colten
- 19 Phoebe Lanham
- 21 Diana Bondar
- 23 Heather Brown
- 23 Steven Locke
- 26 Emily May
- 28 Diane Crofts

April

- 5 Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 7 Faye Richards
- 7 Linda Himeon
- 12 Lynne Hangen
- 15 Sue Heersink
- 15 Petey Conway
- 18 Nancy Canali
- 21 Sue Cavalieri
- 23 Nancy Tsakirgis
- 27 Nancy Lewis
- 30 Mel Woodman

Great is Thy Faithfulness

~"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

~Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

~Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

~"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!" Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy had hath provided- "Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 1st and our Maundy Thursday Service on April 5th.

More information will be forthcoming.

SCRIPTURE READERS LIST 2012

March

4 Carolyn Kyle
11 Jim Marshall
18 Cathy Morrow
25 Bill Silsby

April

1 Carolyn Kyle
8 Nancy Canali
15 Marion Spark
22 Peggy Utterback
29 Lynn Varney

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



Coffee Hour

March 4th Mardee Beuparlant, Diana Bondar, Helen Hatcher
11th Nancy Tsakirgis, Karen Conway, Marcia Samuelson
18th Peggy Utterback, Rita Vreeland, Kelly Burke-Anderson
25th Sue Wolfendale, Norma Dean, Jane Thomas

April 1st Sue Heersink, Marion Spark
8th Gail Gandolfi, Shirley Locke, Irene Bradford
15th No Coffee Hour – School Vacation Week
22nd Audrey Clarkson, Lynn Varney, Carolyn Kyle
29th Diane Crofts, MaryLou Tyler, Bill Silsby

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and can notify the rest of the committee if needed. This schedule is included in the News and Views and is 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.

Ushers

March 4 Ben & Sue Heersink
11 Norma Dean & Peggy Utterback
18 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
25 Michelle Anderson & Kelly Burke-Anderson

April 1 Rita Vreeland & Hans Erwich
8 Bob Locke & Jon Pearson
15 Jean Kirkpatrick & Gail Gandolfi
22 Carolyn Kyle & Peggy Utterback
29 Kelly Burke-Anderson & Michelle



Rummage Sale Sat. March 24th 9am – 1pm

We are now collecting items for our rummage sale to be held on March 24th. Please place any donations at the Thrift Shop donation table.

We will need lots of help setting up and moving items on Friday morning, working at the sale and breaking down. A sign-up sheet is available outside of the church office and in the thrift shop.

Please contact Sue Wolfendale with any questions.

**** March is Bag Sale Month! Fill a bag of clothing for \$5.00 ****

Thinking of our Future...

I subscribe to the UCC's "Still Speaking Daily Devotional" on-line. When I read this one I couldn't help but laugh, be inspired, and also think that this rings so true in our (and I am sure many other) congregations. I thought it would be good to share some excerpts.

~Kelly Burke Anderson

For the Institutionalized

Excerpt from [Psalm 102:12-28](#)

"Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord."

Reflection by Quinn G. Caldwell

Sooner or later, every churchy person gets burned out and wonders whether this is all worth it. If you ask, you will find out that the problem is not with God or faith, but with the church as an institution. It's not God that wore them out, it's being asked to serve on another committee. It's not following the Gospel that did it; it's being the only one that ever mows the lawn. It's too many events, too much email, too many evening meetings.

Many find themselves longing for New Testament times. One guy said to me that he would much prefer to have lived under Roman persecution, because dying in the arena of your faith felt meaningful – unlike the church meeting he had that night.

I'm not saying every committee meeting the church has ever held mattered; most of them didn't. I'm saying that all institutions are annoying, AND that the church is the one that brought your faith to you. So when you're feeling ground down by yours, right after you refuse to chair another task force, but before you decide to quit forever, just remember this: the work you're doing is at least as much for your grandkids as it is for you.

Prayer

God, save us from committee meetings. And even when I can't see it, grant that the work I do today might introduce you to future generations tomorrow. Amen.



About the Author

Quinn G. Caldwell is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ

Belleville Congregational Church

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**

Heather Ryan, 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

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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

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Brenda Marshall

[Vacancy](#)

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship & Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship & Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship & Finance

Bob Locke

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson