

# Belleville Congregational Church

March 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
Holy Week	3
Calendar	4
Birthday	5
Service Club, Rummage Sale & Thrift Shop	6
Scripture Readers & Coffee Hour	7
Ushers & Rest in the Spirit Meditation	8
Contacts	9

Dear Friends,

Easter comes early this year, March 31, according to that curious calculation of it being the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox, March 20-22. Accordingly, it seems that Easter could represent a triple uplift: Springtime gives us a new sense of hope and growth. The full moon can give rise to various forms of energy. And Sunday is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection anyway!

Too bad this uplift or resurrection does not come automatically. Spring Cleaning, a necessary preparation, is the title of a wonderful devotional booklet put out by the United Church of Christ for Lent 2013. I marvel at how a few key words can capture our imagination and sometimes set us on new paths! A few key words can be words that we savor, or words that ring inside our minds as guides. One of the devotional days that grabbed my attention was entitled "Getting off the My Way Highway."

One of the reasons the devotional caught my eye and stuck in my memory is that I do love the song "My Way," made famous by Frank Sinatra. And there is a certain sense in which we all can benefit from having enough self-esteem, self-autonomy, or personal conviction to do things our own way, to put our own personal stamp on something, etc. But obviously there is a danger in doing things too much "my way," insisting on my own way, or saying "my way or the highway" to those around us! Author and UCC minister Tony Robinson puts it this way: "The *my way* thing is probably fine in small doses. But in large quantities it's toxic; I'd say we've overdosed."

The Lenten disciplines are meant to make us forget ourselves a bit, to "deny ourselves," or put in the positive: to consistently consider the needs of the other. To put "God's will" foremost in our lives, as we see in Christ, is indeed to consider the other, the neighbor or family member, in all that we say and do.

Getting off the My Way Highway, and onto the Shared Journey Road, (to expand Robinson's metaphor) may very well be a way to an Easter resurrection or uplift, by honoring and building up one another in community.

Grace and Peace of Christ to all as we approach Easter.

Ross Varney



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 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit the church website or email us at [bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com).



**#5 St. Patrick's Day Concert**  
**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/>



Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>st</sup> at 10am  
Join us for our Intergenerational Palm Sunday service.

Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>h</sup>

Maundy Thursday (A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another, as I have loved you!)  
**NEW EVENT!** This year we will have a "Meditation Room" with "Stations" that will connect the gospel story of Jesus' last week (the Passion Story) with suffering in the world. We are borrowing the idea from Weston Congregational Church, where this has been done as a Good Friday event.  
The "Meditative Walk-Thru" will be at 5PM, Potluck at 6PM and closing worship and communion from 6:30 to 7:00.

Ecumenical Sunrise Service, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30am





Great Opportunity to meet brothers and sisters in Christ from Central Congregational Church and East Parish Methodist Church of Salisbury!

And the BREAKFAST afterwards, put on at the Methodist Church, is superb..... good food and fellowship!  
And the best part..... showing resurrection vigor (?!) is that we'll meet at 5:30AM! (Colors can be gorgeous just before sunrise which is approximately 5:45 this year).  
We'll meet at the first Pavilion on the left, Salisbury Reservation.

Easter morning worship, Sunday, March 31st at 10am  
in the Meeting House  
Let us celebrate Resurrection Living!

# 2013 CALENDAR

## March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
3 10:00am Worship 4pm Rest in the Spirit Meditation	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	9 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
10 10am Worship	11 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	12 12:30pm Service Club 7:30 Stewardship & Finance	13 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 4:30pm Worship & Education	14 Recycling 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice	15 8pm St. Patrick's Day Concert with "Goitse"	16 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
						
17 10am Worship	18 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	19 8pm Executive Committee	20 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg	21 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice	22 News & Views deadline	23 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
24 PALM SUNDAY 10a m Worship 	25 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	26	27 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg. 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 6pm Men's Fellowship Supper with guest speaker Scott Smith "Is Climate Change for Real?"	28 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 5pm Meditative Walk with Stations of the Cross 7:30pm Choir Practice 	29	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 5:30am Sunrise Service 10am Worship 						



**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**

**April**

- 5 Kelly Burke-Anderson**
- 9 Wyatt Allard**
- 12 Lynne Hangen**
- 15 Sue Heersink**
- 15 Petey Conway**
- 18 Nancy Canali**
- 21 Donald Jay**
- 23 Nancy Tsakirgis**
- 24 Nancy Smith**
- 26 Tim Conway**
- 27 Nancy Lewis**
- 30 Mel Woodman**



## SERVICE CLUB

Service Club will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 12:30 in the Bannister Room. (Note the time change!) Our guest speaker will be Michael Bulger who will do a Presentation on early Plum Island. All are welcome to what promises to be a very interesting meeting.



The Service Club annual rummage sale will be Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. It's not too early to start weeding out. Any donations (other than large furniture and electronics) should be left at the Thrift Shop donation table.

Thank you in advance

## THRIFT SHOP



The thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Saturday 9am – noon.

Come by and see what's new.

March is Bag Sale Month. Spread the word - you can fill a bag of clothing for just \$5.00 all month long. If anyone has extra paper bags from Market Basket or Stop & Shop please bring them to the Thrift Shop



### **March readers**

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

### **April readers**

- 7** Ben Heersink
- 14** Cathy Morrow
- 21** Cathy Morrow
- 28** Kelly Burke-Anderson

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



### **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

### **April**

- 7** Gail Gandolfi, Shirley Locke & Irene Bradford
- 14** No coffee hour – school vacation
- 21** Kathy Raywood, Lynn Varney & Carolyn Kyle
- 28** Diane Crofts, Mary Lou Tyler & Jennifer Allard

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.



**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**

**April**

- 7**      **COMMUNION – Ben & Sue Heersink**
- 14**     **Gail Gandolfi & Anna Guyette**
- 21**     **Jean Kirkpatrick & Rita Vreeland**
- 28**     **Kathy Raywood & Carolyn Kyle**

**Sunday, March 3 at 4pm**  
**Rest in the Spirit Meditation**



**Rest in the Spirit at Belleville Chapel Sunday March 3 at 4pm. Meditation, Christian and beyond 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. Come, sit quietly, and let go of some of the stress too often experienced in our culture.**





## Belleville Congregational Church

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
Permit No. 105

### 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](mailto:bcchurch@worldpath.net)  
Website: [www.bellevillechurch.org](http://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  
20<sup>th</sup> 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)

### 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