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Bell Notes

Salem (Belleman's) Church
3540 Belleman's Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Services every Sunday at 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

*Belleman's Church turns
275 years old in 2021!*



1746-2021



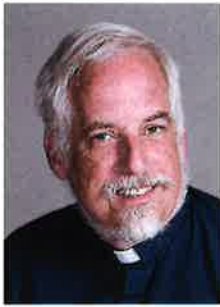
January 2021

Rev. David W. Blich, Pastor
Oliver Blatt, Interim Church Musician
James Fitterling, Administrator
Church Office: 610-926-0461
Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net
Web Site: bellemanschurch.org

Salem (Belleman's) Church
3540 Belleman's Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED





**Pastor's
Ponderings:**

Pastor Dave's contact info:

Phone: 484-663-4911
Email: revblitch@msn.com

An excerpt of a recent sermon that I'd like to share with you all:

Have you heard the voice of God? I thought I did once. It was the night my mother died. I was 11. My mom was in the hospital with cancer. The doorbell rang, I have no recollection of the exact time, except it was after midnight. It was our family doctor. I think today, it would be unimaginable for our family doctor to visit our house to inform us that a loved one had died. But there he was, and my grandmother, my Dad, and I assembled in the kitchen.

When I was ushered back to bed, in tears, clutching my pillow for comfort, I closed my eyes, but too much was rushing through my mind. I could not calm myself down. I just lay there, with my eyes closed, quietly sobbing. I believed I'd be up for the rest of the night, and I dreaded the morning, thinking about what the future held. I was a motherless child. I was praying, sobbing and praying, my little black Sunday School Bible tucked in next to the pillow.

Then I heard a voice. A voice above me, a soothing but commanding voice. A voice that radiated love. This voice said only one sentence to me, but the one that I needed to hear.

Go to sleep. And I did.

Was that the voice of my Dad? In hindsight, probably so. I mean, who hears the voice of God? Sometimes a TV preacher will say they did, and we are skeptical or imagine it's a scam. When we hear other people say they heard the voice of God, we believe it's a consequence of a mental illness. Indeed, there are many people under psychiatric care that hear God's voice. At the most we think we hear a voice in our head, and it's really our own inner voice, but we attribute it to God.

But what if it really was God? What if being skeptical of every Godly voice is just about not having faith that God is real, loving, and personal?

I'll pair this with a song I'm hearing a lot on Christian radio:

Into the Sea (It's Gonna Be OK), By:Tasha Layton

*My heart is breaking, In a way I never thought it could
My mind is racing, With the question, "are you still good?"*

*Can you make something, From the wreckage?
Would you take this heart, And make it whole again?*

*Though the mountains may be moved into the sea
Though the ground beneath might crumble and give way
I can hear my Father singing over me
"It's gonna be ok, it's gonna be ok"*

*From beginning to the end, You're so close
You have never let me down, And you won't
In the valley, in the shadow, I know
You're so close, You're so close*

*It's gonna be ok, it's gonna be ok
I'm gonna be ok, I'm gonna be ok*

Pastoral Relations Committee

If you have questions or concerns regarding Pastor Dave, please reach out to him, or to any member of the committee: Dawne Clay (Chair), Brenda Weyandt, Jim Holcombe, Phil Kistler.

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**Church Board Highlights** December 14, 2020

Treasurer, Larry Henne reported that the Benevolence has been paid through October.

Safety Committee members were present to take part in discussion about worship services following some Covid restrictions put in place in Pennsylvania. Board President Kornfeind reviewed the safety protocols we already have in place and there was some discussion about regular Sunday services. The Board approved to continue with in person worship services on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary with an emphasis on the virtual options. Next, discussion turned to the Christmas Eve services and plans for those three services. There were concerns about the use of real candles and worshippers having to blow on them to put them out. It was suggested to extend the plans to use cellphone lights and such for the 4 o'clock service to the 1 and 7 o'clock services as well. There was also discussion about getting battery operated votive candles for those without another light from home. Additionally, there was discussion about the use of the fellowship hall for overflow seating and to ask worshippers to make us aware how many may be attending.

The Fundraising Committee was able to purchase a few kitchen items for the Fellowship Hall at a recent auction sale.

It was reported that the piano purchase in memory of Ella Hix is complete and the price with discounts came in under \$1,000. The remainder of the bequest from Ella Hix is slated to go toward the Organ Restoration. The Piano is currently on backorder. There was also discussion about if anyone would want the old piano from the Fellowship Hall. James will advertise this in the newsletters.

James reviewed the list of jobs needed for Christmas Eve day to assist with the setup and cleanup of the services.

James reviewed that there is \$1,850 remaining from the Heffner Tithe to be used up in 2020. Two suggestions were the recent house fire in Shoemakersville and the Helping Harvest Food Bank. The Board approved a \$500 donation to the house fire victims and \$200 toward the Helping Harvest Food Bank. The remainder will be cleaned up at the January meeting.

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Belleman's Joint Board

Beginning Balance	\$ 14,221.98
Income	\$ 24,668.93
Expenses	\$ 21,999.66
Ending Balance	\$ 16,891.25

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**In the case of inclement weather**, information regarding any possible church service cancellations will be on the church (610-926-0461) answering machine, the church Facebook page, the 69 News website and sent out via email. Thanks!

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Annual Congregational Meeting January 31, 2021 following worship

Important Notes:

- Year End Ministry Report.
- 2020 Financial Report.
- Approval of Board, Council and Consistory Members
- Re-approval of Fairview Cemetery Loan to the Capital Campaign. (This is not a new loan. This is to affirm the newly negotiated terms of the loan. The original loan was a 5 year term and is mature in April 2021.)



Attendance/Offering

	9:00AM	Offering
Dec. 6	50 (Church), 81(Facebook)	\$4,133.00
Dec. 13	35 (Church), 134(Facebook)	\$1,510.00
Dec. 20	47 (Church), 149(Facebook)	\$4,511.00
Dec. 24	1:00PM: 14 (Church), 121(Facebook)	
Christmas Eve	4:00PM: 44 (Church), 186(Facebook)	
	7:00PM: 48 (Church), 199(Facebook)	
Dec. 27	34 (Church), 124(Facebook)	\$1,554.00

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### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND AS OF 12/30/20

|                                                                  |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Contributions, Projects, Endowment and Dissolved Accounts</b> | \$322,951.55 |
| <b>Monthly Contributions 2020</b>                                | \$6,423.00   |
| (December Collection = \$1,120.00)                               |              |
| Donations in memory of Ella Hix                                  | \$1,220.00   |
| Donations in memory of Donald Miller                             | \$50.00      |
| Donations in memory of Marlene Miller                            | \$25.00      |
| Donations in memory of Donald Dautrich                           | \$50.00      |

#### Fundraising Projects (2020)

|                    |          |            |
|--------------------|----------|------------|
| Organ Restoration  | On-going | \$500.00   |
| Chicken BBQ        | March    | \$2,554.04 |
| Easter Candy Sales | April    | \$2,536.60 |
| Easter Flower Sale | April    | \$784.00   |
| Mum Sale           | October  | \$428.00   |
| Chinese Auction    | November | \$1,150.00 |
| Poinsettia Sale    | December | \$41.15    |

#### Grocery Gift Cards

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| Sold   | \$ 216,255.00 |
| Profit | \$ 10,975.40  |

Cash Total \$349,688.74

#### Interest Paid

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Fairview Interest Paid | \$16,715.00 |
| Total VIST Interest Paid     | \$22,378.78 |

#### Loan Balances

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Fairview Cemetery Company | \$82,500.00 |
| VIST Bank Loan            | \$0.00      |

**Total Principal Balance Owed \$82,500.00**



## Belleman's 275th Anniversary - 1746-2021

The following is a part of an article published in the Hamburg Our Town Foundation Newsletter about Belleman's in November 2020...

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"Our History

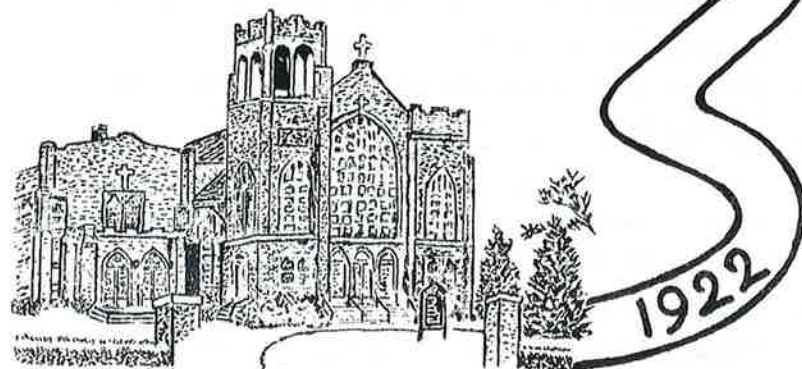
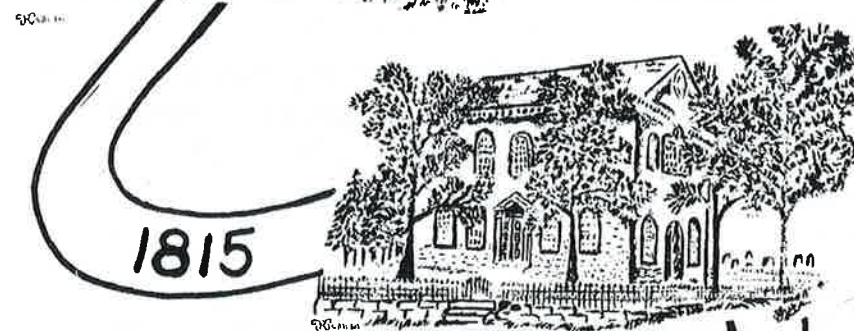
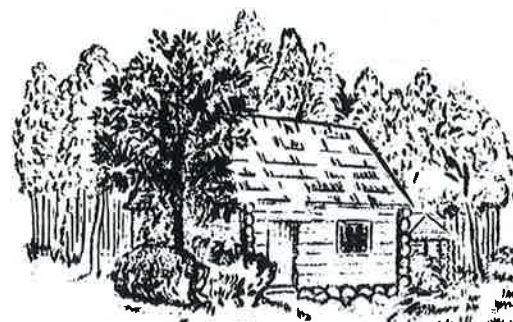
In the early 1700's, immigrants from Germany settled in the area and soon established a place where Lutheran and Reformed Christians could freely worship. That place was a small log church built in 1746. There is a story that Native Americans tried to burn down the log church, but without success. By the early 1800's, the congregation was outgrowing the log building. This growth resulted in construction of the "Old Church," a brick building which was completed in May of 1815. The beautiful sanctuary, with its unique wine glass pulpit, still reflects the original grandeur of our forefather's German origins, and we hold several church services in this historic building throughout the year. George Belleman donated the land for this church, and was most likely one of the builders as well, hence our name of "Belleman's Church." As a new century dawned, a new vision of a modern church with electric, heat and running water took shape, and in 1924, the "New Church" was dedicated and is still being used today. In 1975, a large Fellowship Hall with a stage and commercial kitchen was built near the "Old Church" in the grove area. This building provides room to hold several hundred people for dinners, meetings, fundraisers, and many other events. Since 2000, the Lutheran and United Church of Christ congregations joined together and created a strong and vibrant shared ministry."

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As we go into 2021, the plan is to run an article about Belleman's Church history as part of each newsletter to help celebrate this milestone year. Additionally, the hope is that later this year we will be able to plan a celebration event. Keep on the lookout as we look to plan this!

# Salem Belleman's Union Church

R.D. No. 1 Mohrsville, Pa.



**Jingle Offerings for January will go to:  
Sandridge Family Fire Victims**

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Calendar of Events

Sun. Holy Communion
1/10 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Virtual and in car worship options remain)

Sat. 9:00AM – 10:30AM Schuylkill Valley
1/16 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport

Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
1/17 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)
Confirmation Class Meeting after worship

Mon. 7:00PM Board Meeting
1/18

Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
1/24 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)

Mon. 6:30PM Fundraising Committee Meeting
1/25 in the Fellowship Hall

Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
1/31 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)
Congregation Meeting Review (see page 4)

Tue. 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting
2/2

Sun. Holy Communion
2/7 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Virtual and in car worship options remain)

Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
2/14 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)

Mon. 7:00PM Board Meeting
2/15

Sat. 9:00–10:30AM Schuylkill Valley
2/20 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport

Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
2/21 (Virtual and in car worship options remain)
Confirmation Class Meeting after worship



Thank you so much for the snack basket! It helped to make my 90th extra special!
George Kunkle

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**Dear Belleman's Congregation,**  
**Thank you** everyone for the thoughts, prayers and cards I received. Thanks for remembering me. I miss Belleman's and all of you.  
**Gladys Staab**

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Happy Holidays! 2020 has been an interesting and ever-changing year. We're so glad you've chosen to help us make the holidays special for our kids. We couldn't do it without you. We gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$500 on December 1 from the Jingle Offering. We truly appreciate your interest and support of our programs and the holiday cheer you share with our kids. Wishing you hope, health and happiness for the new year.
Jill B. Troutman, The Children's Home of Reading

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**Thank you** for the generous gift to my family (\$500 Heffner Tithe). Although we suffered a great loss to our home and vehicles we came out alive! We are overwhelmed at the love and generosity from our community.

**God Bless, Chad Schlenker and Family**

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Belleman's Church, Thank you for your recent donation of \$200.00 (Heffner Tithe) to Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank. Your thoughtful gift will help us provide much needed nourishment to local families during the holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season,
Jay Worrall, President

Belleman's Military Members

CWO2 Josh Linderman
Andrew Potts
1LT Bradley P. Hoppes
SGT Andrew Cichowicz
Nathan P. Stump
SGT John R. Wesner

MAJ James Fluck
Kevin Mohn
SGT Phillip Spatz
Alfred Cross
Cydney Lawrence

January Birthdays

- 16th** Garry Wesner, Caleb Weist
17th Sharon Dietrich,
 Bobbie Jo King,
 Andrew Kauffman
18th Susan Schollenberger,
 Kerry Strunk, Kevin Noecker
 Erin Livinghouse,
 Cheyenne Potts
19th Ben Mitten, Linda Wayne,
 Kevin Weyandt
20th Thomas Lukawski
21st Robert Flay, III,
 Nathan Phillips
22nd Royce Strohl,
 Renee Cross,
 Kristopher Beerman,
 Diane Rothenberger
23rd Mary Allen,
 Kenneth Borkey, Sr.,
 Roxanne Loeb,
 Kylee Cammauf
24th Robert Eisenhower,
 Rachel Fair, Sharon Duvall,
 Brenda Hein, Jason Kiwak
25th Eva Pauley
27th Melissa Kopicz
28th Chad Kemp, Julia Patrick,
 Sherwood Galen
29th Beverly Blatt,
 Deanne Berger,
 Larry Hartranft, Lonnie Klinger
30th Logan Cammauf,
 Melissa Schmauch
31st Chelsea Ayala

February Birthdays

- 1st** Cory Kunkle, Melissa Lewis
2nd Brian Heller,
 Lindsay Zimmerman,
 Braden McCloskey,
 Isabella Hoffman
3rd Donald Borkey,
 Danielle Shatto
 Charles Zimmerman, Jr.
4th Barbara Rausch,
 Jamie Heim,
 Samuel Stump,
 Matthew Yoder
5th Kim Schlotter
6th Kenneth Borkey, Jr.,
 Matthew Moll
7th Holly Bradbury,
 Shaelyn Fluck,
 Tina Phillips, Galen Borkey
9th John Loose, Anita Noecker
10th Daniel Haas
11th Ronald Carlson
 Bonnie Madeira
12th Mark Stump, Jessica Harle
 Samantha Gregor,
 Robert Reppert, Jr.
13th Alexis Garber
14th Jesse Gehris, Renee Delp
 David Garber
15th Thomas Loose

Available Piano!

With some recent piano upgrades at the church, we are looking to find a new home for the acoustic piano from the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this piano, please let the church office know by February 1. Thank you!



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Endowment Fund

Belleman's Church Endowment Fund was established for the preservation of our church. **Tax-deductible** gifts are available by completing the following information:

IN HONOR or IN MEMORY OF:

Your name (Donor): _____

Your address: _____

Gift of \$ _____

Payable to: Belleman's Church—Endowment Fund
 3540 Belleman's Church Road,
 Mohrsville, PA 19541-8916

January Anniversaries

- 24th** Robert & Susan Heister
25th John & Barbara Rausch
26th Mark and Ashlie Dreibelbis
29th Cate & Curtis Michaud

February Anniversaries

- 14th** Charmaine & Alan Shatto