

Salem (Belleman's) Church
3540 Belleman's Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8916

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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 9:00 a.m.



February 2021

Rev. David Blitch, Pastor

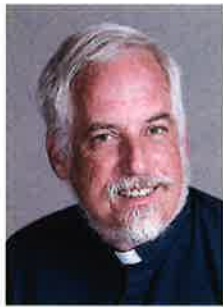
Oliver Blatt, Interim Church Musician

James Fitterling, Administrator

Church Office: 610-926-0461

email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net

Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org



Pastor's Ponderings:

There's something weird about February. Now, we've hit our weird quota a long time ago. But think about it, a day full of hearts, and cards, and candy, and roses and all things romantic, maybe a bottle of wine or two; and a day where we obsess about death and smear dirt on our foreheads, are only days apart! A few years ago they happened on the same day!

And being honest, there will be many more people celebrating the candy day than the smear day. (Please check out this newsletter to find out how Belleman's is celebrating Ash Wednesday this year.)

Maybe though there is a connection, though not obvious or planned. I found an essay about that written a few years ago on that Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day. See some excerpts below.

But Christians should think twice about separating a celebration of romance from the solemnity of Ash Wednesday, an occasion focused on mortality. This "Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day" gives us an opportunity to reconsider what love is and what love is not...

For a Christian, the rock band Boston got it right in 1976: Love is "more than a feeling." We doubt the authenticity of the Kay Jewelers, empty-shelled love that marks the bourgeois celebration of modern-day Valentine's Day. Christian love is less about feeling and more about action. It's gritty. It's messy. It hurts. In fact, we distrust a love that doesn't suffer and costs nothing. Paul puts this reality simply in his letter to the Corinthians. He tells us that a love only spoken, but not acted upon, is as worthless as a "clashing cymbal," while a love that's performed in deed "always perseveres..."

In short, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is the ideal antidote to Valentine's Day exuberance. The very first act of Lent reveals this reality. By receiving and wearing the ashes formed into a sign of the cross on their foreheads, Christians are making the bold claim that we believe in a love that loves so deeply that it is willing to suffer and even die for another...

Ash Wednesday and the subsequent Lenten season, then, is a time to learn how to love again. This can go beyond creed or faith. It is an invitation to everyone who wants to find the fullest measure of living... In doing so, we can find a

Pastor Dave's contact info:

Phone: 484-663-4911

Email: revblitch@msn.com

new experience of love that can make us whole and can set us free.

God's Love Is Messy. Messier than what we smear on our foreheads. It's not wrapped in pretty paper or carefully arranged in a vase. Nothing like that. Jesus got his hands dirty, his feet dirty. He didn't care that it wasn't prepackaged. Loving the people is jumping feet first into whatever mess they are drowning in, and finding a way to pull them out.

Some lyrics from Christian artist, TobyMac:

*When love broke thru; You found me in the darkness
Wanderin' thru the desert; I was a hopeless fool
Now I'm hopelessly devoted; My chains are broken
And it all began with You; When love broke thru
And it all began with You; When love broke thru*

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, Mica Kornfeind and Allen Loeb.

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**Church Board Highlights**

January 18, 2021

Treasurer, Larry Henne reviewed his report with the board and noted that the Benevolence has been paid for 2020.

It was reported that Dennis Wayne submitted his verbal resignation from the Board during a phone call with Pastor Dave. The Board accepted his resignation and appointed Dawne Clay to fulfill the remaining two years on his term.

Pastor Dave reported that Allen Loeb and Mica Kornfeind have agreed to serve as part of the Pastoral Relations Committee to fill the two vacant positions.

The Fundraising Committee has a meeting scheduled for January 25 to review possible plans for 2021 Fundraising events.

The property committee reported that they are looking into getting repointing done on the church and investigating some water damage occurring at the sexton house from a suspected leak. Also, the furnace at the fellowship hall stopped working prior to Christmas and the furnace needed about \$1,500 in repairs.

It was reported that the original 5 year term on the Cemetery Loan to the Capital Campaign is up in April. Capital Campaign and Cemetery representatives met and negotiated new terms on a promissory note renewal. The updated note will be once again a five year term for the remaining balance of \$82,500 at 2.25 percent interest and the loan can be paid off at any time. The Board approved these terms and they will be forwarded to the Congregation for final approval at the January 31 Meeting.

There was some brief discussion about the 275 anniversary of Belleman's this year. It was suggested to commission an Anniversary Committee in the coming months. James also reviewed his plans to include Belleman's history articles in the newsletters this year.

Pastoral Relations Committee Chair Dawne Clay reported that the committee has discussed a few options to begin to introduce musical performances back into the worship services. The suggestions are to have families do solos, duets, or other arrangements for example. The pieces could be live during the services or pre-recorded depending on the piece and how it fits into Covid-19 safety protocols. Pastor Dave and Oliver will discuss this as well as with the Music and worship Committee.

James reviewed that there is \$1,150 remaining from the Heffner Tithe to be used up from 2020. After some discussion, the following suggestions were made; \$300 donation to Opportunity House, \$200 to the Belleman's Smile Fund, \$500 to the Sandridge Family House Fire and \$150 to the Children's Home of Reading. The Board Approved these donations. Larry Henne noted that the 2021 Heffner check has been received and is in excess of \$21,000 which is about \$2,000 more than last year. As usual, 10 percent of this will be set aside for benevolent causes in 2021. The remainder will go toward expenses such as the annual insurance bill which has also been received and is around \$12,000, this is also up about \$1,500.

James reviewed who the outgoing board members are (Eric Weyandt, Jim Blatt, Carlene Kissinger and Larry Henne) and the new members up for approval at the January 31 Congregational Meeting (Amy Machmer, Barbara Spatz and Diane Rothenberger). There will also be one open remaining UCC Board position unless it is filled at the meeting. James also briefly outlined a new Board members meeting to be held prior to the next meeting on February 15 at 6:30 p.m. Board officers will be nominated at the February meeting.

### Belleman's Joint Board

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$16,891.25 |
| Income            | \$21,020.88 |
| Expenses          | \$27,236.87 |
| Ending Balance    | \$10,675.26 |

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### Attendance/Offering

|         | 9:00AM                      | Offering   |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Jan. 3  | ICE (Church), 161(Facebook) |            |
| Jan. 10 | 49 (Church), 154(Facebook)  | \$4,174.00 |
| Jan. 17 | 45 (Church), 112(Facebook)  | \$3,363.00 |
| Jan. 24 | 44 (Church), 87(Facebook)   | \$1,993.00 |
| Jan. 31 | 49 (Church), 115(Facebook)  | \$2,937.00 |

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The February **Jingle Offerings** go to the **Potato Project**.

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### Just in case it *really* snows...

Worship services will be called off. Announcement of the cancellation of Sunday activities at the church will be recorded on the church answering service. **Call the church number 610-926-0461** for this information, check the **WFMZ website** or **Belleman's Facebook**. The decision on cancellation will be made early enough that you will know well before services are slated to begin. In the case of worship cancellation due to weather a video service will be posted online.

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### Redner's Tapes

Thank you to everyone who brings their receipts for this program. Please be reminded to not highlight portions of the receipt and please try to organize your receipts if you are bringing a bunch at a time, it makes it easier on those who have to put them together for Redners. Thanks again and please keep those receipts coming!

If you would like to take part in the Save-a-Tape program, stop at customer service at Redner's and get yourself a Save-a-Tape card and present the card whenever you shop at Redner's. All you have to do then is bring your receipt along to church and put it in the container in the Narthex. If there are any questions, please check with the church office.



**The Capital Campaign Candy Sale is right around the Corner!**

Keep your eyes open for details about the 2021 Candy Sale in upcoming Sunday Bulletins. Deadline to order will be March 7. **It will be here soon!**

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Donations for the Capital Campaign are always accepted through the mail. Please send your donation to:

**Salem Belleman's Church - Capital Campaign Fund
3540 Belleman's Church Road, Mohrsville, Pa 19541**

The first Sunday of the month collection continues to be a great way to donate to the fund as well. Thank you for your continued support!

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Please keep in mind.... **Belleman's ongoing program** in support of the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry.....

Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the Narthex and will be delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on a monthly basis.

**Canned Fruit and Vegetables are currently needed for the Pantry**

**Thank You** for your participation!

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Saturday, March 20 is Belleman's time to serve at the SV Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping, please arrive that morning about 8 am. You will be helping to pack boxes and load cars for the drive-thru pickup. **Please consider helping on this day and don't forget your mask.**

Calendar of Events

- Sun. 2/14 Holy Communion**
9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
- Mon. (2/15) 7:00PM Board Meeting
- Wed. 2/17 Ash Wednesday**
7:00PM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
- Sat. 2/20 9:00–10:30AM Schuylkill Valley
Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
- Sun. 2/21 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
Confirmation Class Meeting after worship
- Wed. (2/24) 7:00PM Lenten Video Worship Service
- Sun. 2/28 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
- Wed. (3/3) 7:00PM Lenten Video Worship Service
- Sun. 3/7 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
- Wed. (3/10) 7:00PM Lenten Video Worship Service
- Sun. 3/14 Holy Communion**
9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
- Mon. (3/15) 7:00PM Board Meeting
- Wed. (3/17) 7:00PM Lenten Video Worship Service
- Sat. 3/20 9:00–10:30AM Schuylkill Valley
Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
(Belleman's Month to Serve - info page 6)
- Sun. 3/21 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
(Virtual and in car worship options available)
Confirmation Class Meeting after worship
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(Virtual and in car worship options available)

A Brief History of the 1746 and 1815 Churches

(The following information is from the History of Salem Belleman's Church, by Milton K. and Luella E. Blatt)

The first church of Salem Belleman's was a log structure built in 1746, presumably on land that was owned or located near the Belleman family. This simple building served both the German, Reformed and Lutheran congregation over the years. In the beginning there were not accurate records kept and the preachers of



As it appeared in the 1700s

the time served many small churches through a large area. It is believed that the first preachers at Belleman's were the Rev. John Philip Boehm (Reformed) and the Rev. Tobias Wagner (Lutheran), then shortly thereafter, the Rev. William Stoy (Reformed) and the Rev. Daniel Shumacher (Lutheran). On November 30, 1809, a little over 11 acres was secured by a patent from the Commonwealth of PA to Frederick Blatt, Samuel Vortman, Casper Freeman and Nicholas Klein on which to build the second Belleman's Church. On August 14, 1813 both the Reformed and Lutheran congregations gathered and agreed to build a new church on the purchased land. The vote on the type of building material was for stone, and only 3 votes for brick, although by looking at the Old Church, one can easily tell it was built of brick! A building committee of three Reformed and three Lutheran members was formed and tasked with



The 1815 Old Belleman's Church

overseeing the project. Those members were Peter Ludwig, Jacob Himmelberger, Jacob Loose, Nicholas Klein, Valentine Mochel and Simon Wertman. The committee was authorized to buy materials and secure contracts.

In 1814, construction began and the church was completed in 1815. A unique feature is the elevated goblet

or wineglass pulpit reached by a set of narrow steps on the north wall. The antique pump organ is located on the balcony directly across from the pulpit, and its melodious sounds echo perfectly through the church.

The Rev. Philip Mayor (Reformed) was the first pastor to preach in the new church, and Benjamin H. Bucks, born March 22, 1815, was the first baby baptized at that very first service. By 1816 a Lutheran pastor had been secured, the Rev. John F. Engle. Rev. Mayor served Belleman's for 18 years (1815 – 1833) and Rev. Engle for 7 years (1816-1823)

On Sunday, June 7, 1915, a 100th Anniversary Celebration was held at the Old Church, which drew over 2,000 people in 200 automobiles and 300 teams of horses to the church grounds. Five ministers also participated in the day-long celebration, some conducting sermons in German and some in English. Belleman's choir sang numerous special anthems, as well as two songs performed by the male chorus of Epler's Church. It was reported that hundreds of ham sandwiches, slices of cheese, layer cakes, coffee, soft drinks, candy and ice cream were sold throughout the day.

This celebration had a dual purpose – to celebrate its anniversary, and to initiate plans to build a new church, one that would be larger and more modern. That church would become our current church building, which will be highlighted in next month's newsletter!

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Virtual tour of Old Belleman's Church

As we continue to celebrate the history of Belleman's Church, we would like to highlight a YouTube video produced by James Freeman of Northern Light Photography. The video includes

a full tour of Old Belleman's Church and is presented by the Leesport Area Historical Society. The video can be found on the [Leesport History](#) YouTube Channel as well as the Belleman's Website.

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northlightphoto@gmail.com
Leesport Market every Wed. 8 - 7

Reminder from the Cemetery Board:

Please remove Christmas decorations by March 1.
The cemetery will be cleared by March 15.

Thank You!

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**Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®**

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available can help support Belleman's. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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Ash Wednesday



We begin the season of Lent on "Ash Wednesday" with a **worship service on February 17 at 7 p.m.**

The service includes an opportunity to receive ashes on your forehead. (This will be

done in more of a self-serve format with individual ash packs being handed out.) ****If you will be joining us virtually, please let the office know if you would like to receive ashes. We can mail you a kit. Each kit is enough ashes for a family of four. ****

Ashes are a sign of both our penitence and our mortality, allowing us to begin our Lenten journey in a spirit of humility.

Lenten Wednesday Services

During the season of Lent, we will be doing things differently in 2021. Each Wednesday in Lent, a prerecorded video service will be posted at noon for you to view when it fits your schedule. We look forward to embarking on this Lenten journey with all of you as we head toward Easter Sunday!

Relay For Life Update

Team Live Long and Prosper

Cancer does not Quarantine due to Covid-19.

American Cancer Society has cancelled all in person events until June of 2021. So, we need your support thru on-line fundraisers and donations...

Daffodil Days are here!

- Bunches of 10 daffodils.....\$10
- Pot of mini daffodils.....\$15
- Bunches of 10 tulips.....\$15
- Gifts of Hope...(Delivered to local hospitals).....\$25

Must order by 2/21/2021

Delivery week will be 3/22/2021

Please Sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or call/email Ann Stump (610-926-3416 or mstarduster@aol.com)

DAFFODIL DAYS 2021

GIVE DAFFODILS. GIVE HOPE.

Flower delivery the week of March 22nd



You can also join the **Relay for Life of Kutztown** on-line. Scroll down to Event Fundraising, click on Live Long & Prosper team. 3 choices Join our team, donate or dedicate a Luminaria. If you click on Join our Team you will be able to create an account to become a team member.

Update from Samantha Zipp...

A new year, a new start, or maybe just more of the same.

We had a little beach getaway the week before Christmas. It was a good find, the resort was a bit rundown but the beach was amazing. Gen loved the beach and had a great time.

We spent Christmas day at home and struggled with a bit of cabin fever over the holiday but we had a lot of time to practice roller skating in the driveway, enjoy picnics and painting.

It really seemed in December that things might be opening up and life might be heading in a more feasible direction. However, January came with a few surprises. The lifting of some travel restrictions for internationals back in December were quickly reversed and exemptions erased. Foreigners that traveled out of the country for Christmas are now not allowed back in.

This new travel ban includes Gen's family. So, we are just waiting for travel to open again. Thankfully, travel within the country has stayed consistent and that allowed us our monthly getaway again in January. Though we are restricted to stay in the resort due to the no-children-in-public policy, the change in scenery helps us both feel free and refreshed.

This month we returned to our beach destination with Gen's best friend Abs. It was a girls only trip and both the girls and the Moms had fun. We had the place mostly to ourselves, which was such a blessing.

We also came home to news that the adoption agency has cleared us for a zoom call with Gen's family. We are anxiously awaiting the connection. Please pray Gen cooperates. The news has created a bit of unsettling in Gen and she has been having some extreme meltdowns, anger and tears. It is so much for her to process and understand.

I continue to wait in planning my future, living in the moment because planning for the unknown is impossible. God knows and I have to live each day trusting that. I am overdue for a home assignment, so a trip to the US is in my future sometime in 2021, once Gen is with her family.

Samantha Zipp is a missionary with Action International Ministries serving in the Philippines.



Dear Members of Belleman's Church, Thank you for your contribution to the work of the Covenant Association. Your 2021 contribution of \$100.00 will help provide scholarships for ourMIDs; charitable donations to local and regional missions; and the continued work of the association.

Blessings on your continued ministry! Rev. Gary Rarick

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**Dear Friends,** We are writing to acknowledge your gift to The Salvation Army of Reading in the amount of \$155 (Jingle Offering) sent on December 1, 2020. What a wonderful gift!

**Thank you** for your generosity on behalf of others in this community. Our work and ministry to families and individuals who are in great need is an ongoing concern to us, not only during the holidays when we're most visible, but all year long.

**Yours, in service to Christ, Darren and Joy Mudge, Majors  
Salvation Army**

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Belleman's Congregation, Thank you for your gift of \$281 (Jingle Offering) toward the mission work of Ted and Julie Smoker. Here at EMM, Christ's transforming love compels us to cross cultures, engage the world and make disciples of Jesus. But we do not do this work alone. Through your gifts to EMM's Impact Fund, support of workers around the world and prayers, you too are providing safe housing for children, equipping church leaders, creating community for refugees, visiting people in prison and sharing the love of Jesus. **Thank you** for partnering with us to bring transformation to a world in desperate need of good news. **Sincerely, Joe Hollinger
Eastern Mennonite Missions**

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**Dear Belleman's,** Thank you so much for the lovely flowers in regards to our daughter Brittany's passing. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

**Sincerely, Tom and Lisa Unrath**

## February Birthdays

- 16<sup>th</sup> Matthew Schappell  
17<sup>th</sup> Gary Kunkle  
19<sup>th</sup> David Moll  
20<sup>th</sup> Robert Sweigart,  
Jacob Moll  
Calvin Conrad,  
Timothy Hart  
21<sup>st</sup> Patty Ann Kintzer  
22<sup>nd</sup> Christian Hoffman  
23<sup>rd</sup> Kelly Smith  
Lyn Bohn  
24<sup>th</sup> Eric Kissinger,  
Ryan Weber,  
Michael Kozik, Jr.  
26<sup>th</sup> Paige Kozik,  
Jennifer Hill, Ken Jacoby,  
Terry Schaeffer,  
Keara Lynn Patrick,  
Jeffrey Savage  
27<sup>th</sup> Dennis Dougherty  
28<sup>th</sup> Brenda Eisenhower  
Ruth Marko, Bret Edwards,  
Jeff Fitterling

## March Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Betty Dower  
2<sup>nd</sup> Florence Deisher,  
Leslie Feeney  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anna Potteiger, Lincoln Lush  
4<sup>th</sup> Michael Hartman,  
Arlene Hoffert  
5<sup>th</sup> Pattie Botscheller,  
Karen Strohl  
6<sup>th</sup> MaryAnn Kunkle,  
Thomas Rausch,  
7<sup>th</sup> Sallie Polack, Sarah Phillips  
8<sup>th</sup> Nathan Stump, Karen Blitch  
9<sup>th</sup> Mitchell Burkhardt,  
Robert Heister,  
Dustin Spatz  
10<sup>th</sup> Stephen Lynn, Roy Moser,  
Jennifer Jozwiak,  
Cathy Malone  
11<sup>th</sup> Louise Elliott,  
Christopher Young  
13<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Starkey,  
Julie Kunkle, Danielle Moser,  
Katrina Lukawski  
14<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Wallace,  
Matthew Rozsitch

## February Anniversaries

- 21<sup>st</sup> Alfred & Renee Cross  
28<sup>th</sup> Jamie and Cheryl Kring

## March Anniversaries

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Donald & Sharon Duvall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie & Stephen Lynn  
11<sup>th</sup> Donna & Dennis Kunkle

## Belleman's Military Members

SGT 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

## Belleman's History Tid-bit:

### The 1815 "Old" Church Caretaker

On August 27, 1820, Valentine Auge was elected by the congregations as teacher, organist and sexton of the church. The following was agreed upon: Tuition of 50 cents per student; \$60 annually for playing the organ - \$30 in cash and the other half in produce at Reading Market prices; sufficient feed for one cow to be bought well-cured; sufficient firewood for school and family use; the congregations to plow and seed the farm, haul manure and keep the fences in good repair. Mr. Auge offered to cultivate the land himself if he were given one bushel of oats and one or more bundles of straw to keep a horse. This was agreed upon by all.

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Belleman's History Books

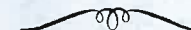
During 2021, we will continue to bring you highlights from Belleman's history, but if you would like to take a more in depth look at Belleman's first 230 years there are a limited number of books available yet. The books are available in exchange for a **donation** to the upkeep of the old church. Please let the office know if you're interested.

(There is a shipping fee of \$5 per book if it needs to be mailed to you.)

Salem Belleman's Union Church

R.D. No. 1 Mohrsville, Pa.

1746-1976



Milton J. and Lottie E. Glatz