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

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Bell Notes

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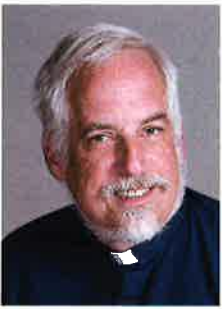
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Services every Sunday at 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.



Rev. David W. Blitch, Pastor
Linda Hartman, Director of Music Ministry
James Fitterling, Administrator
Church Office: 610-926-0461
email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net
Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org



Pastor's Ponderings

A little info about Karen and my kids; Kristin, Dan and Becky

I googled and found out that the next time we can celebrate Becky's birthday on Easter is April 11, 2066. Becky will be 73 years old and I'll be 106. A spring chicken.

But this year, Easter falls on April 12th. That is as close as it can be to the 11th until 2066, except in April 2039, 2050, and 2061 when Easter will be April 10.

We can also celebrate Becky's birthday on Easter in 2077 and 2088. I can't wait! Can you? Not only was Becky born on Easter, Kristin was born on September 2nd, Labor day (how appropriate). And I just found out that Dan, with a November 8th birth, was born on X-ray day- the day that X-rays were discovered. Although I have to admit I've never sent nor received an X-ray day card.

But in 1993, Becky was born on Easter. She waited until after church, in fact until after supper that Easter evening. But I did have backup. I had a Pastor on call that Holy Week in case Karen announced 'Honey it's time' right before Good Friday Tenebrae.

If we at times call her 'Becky Bunny' you now know why.

If all fits together. Rabbit parents, with many bunnies. Eggs hatching chicks. New Spring flowers. It's about life. Becky was new life that Easter. She was a reminder of God's continuing creation, of birth and new beginnings.

Easter is about life. Jesus was dead. Jesus is alive. Easter morning we proclaim 'Christ is Risen!!!' Risen to life, a birth from a tomb. A promise to us all.

When I was looking for an Easter illustration, Berks County author John Updike was on my mind:

*Make no mistake; if he rose at all it is as his body;
if the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the church will fall.*

*It was not as the flowers,
each soft spring recurrent;
it was not as his Spirit in the mouth and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as his flesh: ours.*

Pastor Dave's contact info:

Phone: 484-663-4911

Email: revblitch@msn.com

*The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring might
new strength to enclose.*

*Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted
in the faded credulity of earlier ages;
let us walk through the door.*

*The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.*

*And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel
vivid with hair, opaque in the dawn light,
robed in real linen spun on a definite loom.
Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour,
we are embarrassed by the miracle*

*-"Seven Stanzas at Easter," from Telephone Poles and other Poems,
by John Updike.
Copyright 1961*

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## Church Board Highlights

There was no Board Meeting held in February.

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Jingle Offerings for March

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 1, 8 | Potato Project |
| March 15 | Children's Home of Reading Easter Baskets |
| March 22 | One Great Hour of Sharing |
| March 29 | Easter Dawn Service Breakfast/Coffee Hour |

FREE Community Meal



Tuesday, April 7
5:30 p.m.
At the Fellowship Hall

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### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. You can choose to give weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available. Please contact Carlene Kissinger at 610-926-3342 if you would like to fill out a form.

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Attendance for February

	7:45AM	10:15AM	Offering
February 2	20	94	\$3,578.00
February 9	23	190	\$4,032.00
February 16	19	76	\$2,664.00
February 23	20	101	\$3,569.00
Ash Wednesday	39 (7 p.m.)		

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Please remember to use your Redner's Card and bring your receipt to church. We have been asked to NOT highlight the total on the Redner's receipts that can be dropped off in the Narthex. Also, remember to bring the entire receipt, not just a portion of it. Thank You!

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 21 is Belleman's time to serve at the SV Food Pantry. We have been reminded that we should try to have **15 volunteers** present for that morning from about 8 am till about noon. **Please consider helping on this day.**

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Judy and Ron Corl who have been the SV Food Pantry coordinators for the distributions are "retiring" at the end of the year. The pantry is in need of someone who is willing to take on this position. Their main duties include ordering the food; handling any emergency calls/requests between distributions; and supervising and directing the distributions.

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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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### The Candy Sale is Here

2020 Candy Sale order sheets are included in upcoming Sunday Bulletins or you can call the office to order. Deadline to order will be March 22.

**Mission Trip #1 2020  
Panama City, Florida**



**Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of the Mission Team!**

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**Easter Basket Donations
for the Children's Home of Reading**

The youth of Belleman's will be putting Easter baskets together for the Children at the Children's Home of Reading. As part of this project, the youth are asking the congregation to help out by donating items for the baskets. There is a collection box in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your help!

Suggested donations are: socks, crayons, coloring books, small stuffed animals, safety scissors, easy read and picture books, games, puzzles, school supplies, stickers, toys (balls, bubbles and things like that), anything a preschool or young elementary kid would enjoy! No candy donations please.

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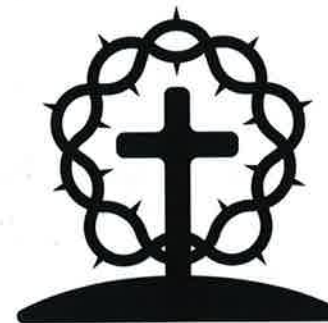
**Schedule for Holy Week**

**Maundy Thursday, April 9** - service  
7:00PM At the Fellowship Hall

**Good Friday, April 10** - Service at  
7:00PM in the Church.

**Children's Easter Drama and Egg Hunt, April 11** at 1:30PM.  
At the Fellowship Hall

**Easter, April 12** - Dawn Worship at  
6:30AM, Worship Services at 7:45AM and 10:15AM with Holy Communion offered at both. A lite breakfast will follow the Dawn service with Coffee Hour Fellowship.



## Calendar of Events

Wed. 5:30PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 3/11 6:00PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

**Sun. 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**3/15 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**  
*Kauffman's Chicken BBQ*  
 3-5PM Choir Bowling at Heister's Lanes

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/16 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers  
 7:00PM Board Meeting

Tue. 6:30PM Dutch Class  
 3/17

Wed. 5:30PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 3/18 6:00PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Sat. 9:00-10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
 3/21 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport  
 (Belleman's Month to Serve - info page 5)

**Sun. 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**3/22 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/23 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 6:30PM Dutch Class  
 3/24

Wed. 9:30AM Music and Worship mtg  
 3/25 5:30PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 6:00PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Sat. 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting  
 3/28 in the Chapel

**Sun. 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**3/29 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**  
*VBS Meeting after 10:15 service*

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/30 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 6:30PM Dutch Class  
 3/31

Wed. 5:30PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 4/1 6:00PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Fri. 6:00PM Family Fun Night at the  
 4/3 Fellowship Hall

**Sun Palm Sunday**  
**4/5 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 11:30AM JOY Group at Perry  
 4/6 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 5:30PM FREE Community meal  
 4/7 in the Fellowship Hall  
 6:30PM Dutch Class

Wed. 6:30PM Sr. Choir  
 4/8

**Thu. Maundy Thursday**  
**4/9 7PM at Fellowship Hall**

**Fri. Good Friday**  
**4/10 7PM Service in the Sanctuary**

Sat. 11:15AM Nice 'n Easy Ringers  
 4/11 11:30AM Belleman's Bells/Angels  
 12 noon Belleman's Bells/Easter  
 Choir/Instrumentalists  
 1:30PM Easter Drama & Egg Hunt  
 at the Fellowship Hall

**Sun. Easter Sunday - Holy Communion**  
**4/12 6:30AM Sunrise Service**  
**7:45AM Worship Service**  
**9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. NO BELLS PRIZE  
 4/13

Tue. 6:30PM Dutch Class  
 4/14

Wed. 6:00PM Cantata/Sr. Choir  
 4/15

Sat. 9:00-10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
 4/18 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport

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The Primary Department requests donations of small wrapped candies/ small trinkets for the Egg Hunt. Please drop them off in the Primary department with Brenda Kelly or with James in the office. Thank You!

## Sight and Sound - Bus Trip - "Queen Esther"

Saturday, August 1, 2020

This bus trip is run by First UCC in Hamburg.

Cost: \$130 for Adults and \$68.50 for Children (ages 3-12)  
(Includes bus, show ticket and dinner)

Bus departs at 1:15PM from Hamburg Walmart, show is at 3 p.m., Family Style Dinner at Good & Plenty, return to Walmart at 9:00- 9:30PM.

**Reservation deadline is June 25. For Reservations please call Sue Leiby at 610-562-7637**

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Easter Plants for 2020

If you would like to purchase an **Easter plant** or to place a plant in church for Easter Sunday, in memory of or in honor of loved ones, please call Linda Henne (610-926-4506) or see her in church. There will also be order blanks available in Sunday Bulletins for your convenience.

Plants that are available this year are as follows:

Easter Lilies	\$8.00 each
Hybrid Lillies	\$8.00 each
Martha Washington Geraniums	\$8.00 each
Tulips	\$8.00 each
Daffodils	\$8.00 each

All orders No Later Than April 5. Make checks payable to Belleman's Capital Campaign Committee.

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

Another successful Family Fun Night as held on February 7.



Thank you to all who attended and to those who put this event together!



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The Second Family Fun Night of 2020 will be on **April 3 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** "He has Risen!" We'll be making Easter and Spring themed crafts.



**Belleman's Church Family, Thank you** for all the prayers, support and love expressed to our mom over these past 6 years. She greatly appreciated your friendships and care, as do we. **Thank you all**

for the cards, donations, hugs and kind words. She was welcomed into the loving arms of our Lord, bringing us peace. **Thank you** to the Smile Fund for the flowers and the smile. **Many Thanks and Much love, Mica, Frank and Jack Kornfeind**

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Thank you for the lovely Valentine bag. The homemade cookies are delicious. Thank you, it's nice to know people care.
Helen Ernst

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Sandy and I would like to **thank** the Belleman's Church Smile for the lovely planter and single rose they sent to us for our 62nd wedding anniversary. We appreciate your thoughts and kindness.  
**Ronald Burkhart**

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Dear members of Belleman's, Thank you so much for the Valentine's gift bag. It was very thoughtful and much appreciated.
Sincerely, Marie Baver

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**Thank you** for your gift of \$162.00 (Jingle Offering) on 2/2/20. Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst.  
**Gratefully Yours, Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach, Lutheran Congregational Services**

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Thanks to the Belleman's Church Social Ministry for the lovely Valentines bag. Enjoying the word search book and all the delicious cookies and **thank you** to all the bodies who baked them.
Janet Greusel

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**Thank you** for remembering me for Valentine's Day. I am really enjoying all the snacks. Your thoughtfulness is really appreciated.  
**God Bless You. June Adams**

**Dear Salem Belleman's Church,** I am grateful to be here at Phoebe Berks, however I would rather be at Belleman's. **Thanks** to the Social Ministry Committee for the visit on Feb. 7, 2020. **Thank you** for the Valentine Bag of goodies, they were all great and tasty.  
**God's Love, Gladys Staab**

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Dear Belleman's Church Jingle Offering, We are very thankful for your recent donation of \$240. Support from friends like you has helped us continue to make dynamic connections, and provide resources and support throughout Berks County. **Thank you!** And may God's continued blessings flow abundantly in your life.
Blessings, Michael Kaucher, Executive Director, Reading Berks Conference of Churches

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**Belleman's Church Congregation,** I would like to **thank you** for the Valentine's Day Card and American Flag pillow. It was a beautiful surprise and I wanted to **thank you** for your love and support. You have sent a little piece of home and comfort while I am away from home, so I wanted to **thank you.** **Sincerely, Cydney Lawrence**

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Dear Belleman's "Sunshine Club" and Belleman's Church Family: I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from our Belleman's Church Family for the flowers, cards, well-wishes and prayers I had received during my recent hospitalization as a result of a fall. Unfortunately, (or fortunately), some issues were resurrected due to the fall, so we are not sure what is in store for us. But the love, friendship and prayers from our Belleman's Church Family and the love and grace from our Lord and Savior will get us through any challenges we may encounter. Thank you, everyone, for being such a blessing!!

God Bless You All. Love and Prayers, Karen Holcombe and Family

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**Mark your Calendars:**

**April 25, 2020:** Oyster Supper and Old Church Hymn Sing  
**April 26, 2020:** Youth Sunday and Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

**March Birthdays**

- 15<sup>th</sup> John David Rausch, Jr.,  
Cassandra Mitten, Jean Haag
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dan Gordon, Pete Lukawski
- 17<sup>th</sup> Kelly Kauffman,  
George Rubright  
Curtis Eitel
- 18<sup>th</sup> Robin Linderman,  
Miriam Mohn
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jaclyn Kunkle,  
Carter McRae,  
Joshua Schlottman,  
Lynda Marks, Dylan King
- 20<sup>th</sup> Gloria Unger
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mildred Stoyer
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Kendall Gery,  
John Schlappich  
John Schmauch, Jr.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Robert Beissel  
Helen Danenhower
- 26<sup>th</sup> Kaley Gehris
- 28<sup>th</sup> Leah Kopicz, David Snyder
- 30<sup>th</sup> Chris Brian Wesner
- 31<sup>st</sup> Chad Fitterling,  
Pastor Bruce Potteiger

**April Birthdays**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Linette Baer, Sherry Weist  
Cody Wesner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Arlene Gilmer, Megan Snyder  
Rowan Gilmer  
Karen Eisenhofer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Teri Frederick,  
Yasmin Loose
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mark Eisenhower,
- 5<sup>th</sup> John Noecker
- 6<sup>th</sup> Diane Driesbach,
- 7<sup>th</sup> Kelsey Jean Patrick
- 8<sup>th</sup> Brian Folk
- 9<sup>th</sup> James Holcombe,  
Tanner McRae,  
Dennis Wayne, Parker Rhein
- 10<sup>th</sup> Linda Kirkhoff, Tom Nelson
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lynn Fenstermacher,  
Karen Harle, Tara Stiefel
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dylan Beerman
- 13<sup>th</sup> Kevin Jroski,  
Janet Kemp
- 14<sup>th</sup> Maynard Hook, Daryl Bohn,  
Eric Weyandt
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amara Mohn

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March Anniversaries

- 21st Kenneth & Sherry Weist
- 24th Ruth & Kenneth Borkey, Sr.
Kelly & Phillip Smith
- 25th Bernice & Richard Hartman

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**April Anniversaries**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Harold and Sandy Sunday
- 14<sup>th</sup> Gene & Diane Driesbach

**Sunday, March 15**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**CHOIR FAMILY, IT'S A...**

**St. Patty's Day  
Bowling Party!!!**

**HIESTER LANES**  
**801 Hiesters Lane,**  
**Reading, Pa.**

*There  
will be pizza,  
too!!!*

**PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR:**

- Highest Score • Lowest Score**
- Oldest Bowler • Youngest Bowler**
- Best St. Patty's Day Outfit**



**SIGN UP IN THE MUSIC ROOM!**

**What You Are Is God's Gift to You;  
What You Do with Yourself Is Your Gift to God.**

**DANISH PROVERB**

**There's still time for you to be part of the  
Cantata Choir for May 17! Don't Delay...Join Today!!!  
Cantata rehearsals resume on Wednesday, April 15 at 6 p.m.  
And, Sunday mornings in the Music Room beginning at 9:20 a.m.**