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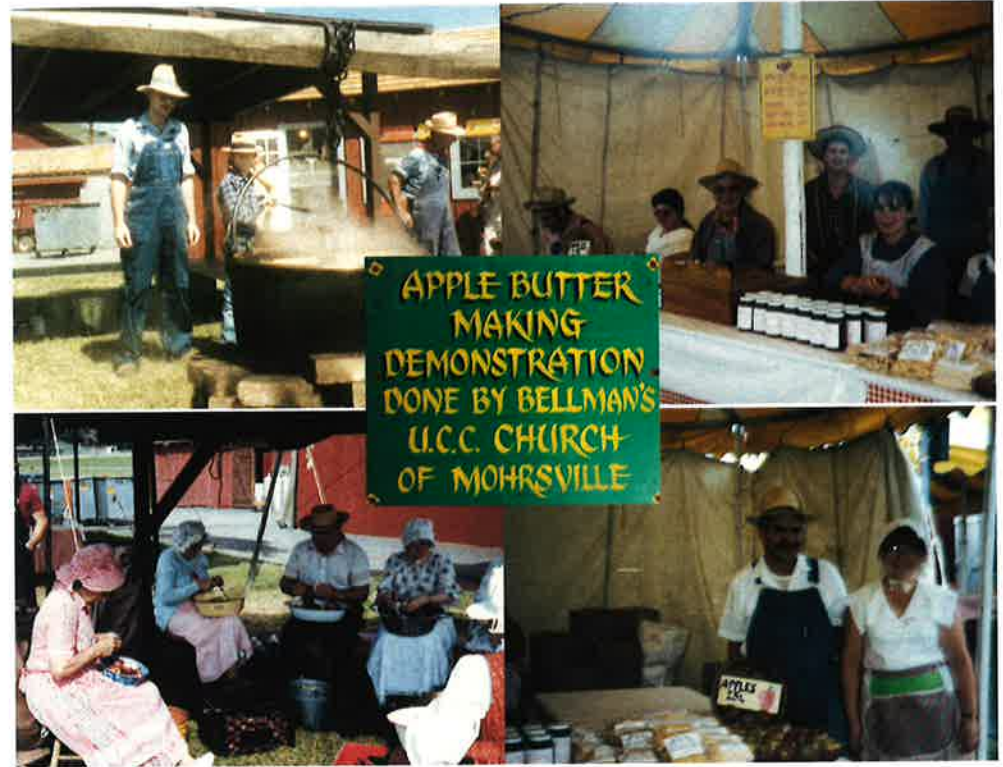


# Bell Notes

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

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*Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*  
*Services every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*



*Belleman's Apple Butter Making at the Folk Festival - late 1980's*

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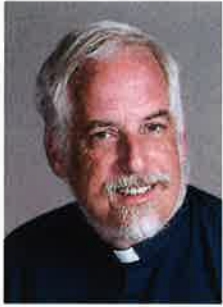
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## July 2021

*Rev. David Blich, Pastor*  
*Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry*  
*James Fitterling, Administrator*  
Church Office: 610-926-0461  
Church email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
Web Site: [bellemanschurch.org](http://bellemanschurch.org)

## Pastor's Ponderings



Is it a trend or trendy?

Have you noticed that a number of churches are now foregoing full names, with real words, containing several consecutive letters that have a unique meaning, for Initials?

Our Neighbor next to Redners and adjacent to Schuylkill Valley Schools, is LCBC. Now the initials stand for "Lives Changed By Christ", but originally they stood for "Lancaster County Bible Chapel." Speaking of Bible Chapels, our Irish Creek neighbor, Schuylkill Valley Bible Chapel, is now using it's initials SVBC in their outreach.

Glad Tidings Assembly Of God, is now GT Church. Fleetwood Bible Church is now FBC. They changed the sign on their lawn to reflect their new name.

So we have this great opportunity! Salem Belleman's Church can be, SBC. Which of course means, "Saved By Christ!" We got this friends! Let's go with the flow, go with the trend!

Or is it just trendy?

I'm suggesting our name change with my tongue firmly in my cheek. I mean, I'm not saying it's a bad thing or a good thing, and I'm not suggesting a change unless we think SBC rolls off the tongue, and we think it's kinda cool.

And if some church marketing experts have convinced LCBC, GT, SVBC, and FBC that using initials will help them in their evangelism and outreach, well why not? If it attracts people, what is the harm?

But there is a difference between trend and trendy, and I'm not sure if the initial game is one or the other.

Trendy is something that is short lived. The Ice Bucket Challenge. Unfortunately, eating Tide Pods. A Social media influencer is only going to be top of the heap on YouTube or TikTok for so long. It's the difference between a One Hit Wonder Band (there are hundreds- How about Aqua, "Barbie Girl") or a band from the 70's still touring, like "The Eagles" or Elton John. Bell Bottoms, Pet Rocks, Seersucker suits, Fidget Spinners- in the Trendy dust bin.

But we do need to pay attention to the trends. These are long term movements in society

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Email: revblitch@msn.com

that forecast a real change on how we are going to do the business of the church. How the Gospel will be proclaimed. How Jesus love will be shared.

Do people look for more multi media content from their church? Do members want to explore other forms of worship than traditional? What are Christians looking for in children, youth, and family ministry? How about Mission Trips, or local Mission work? There are so many categories and topics to investigate. We are at a unique point in history to move forward, led by the Spirit.

Sharing a bit of my report to the Joint Board:

Since we are celebrating our 275th anniversary, I've seen a lot of memorabilia from years past. Sunday School events, picnics, and so on, all with deep nostalgia woven in. And many wish we could go back to 1960, or 1980, or whatever year seems premier and supreme and do it again. But we realize we can't because of all the complications of changing times. This pandemic has been a big unforeseen stopper for the whole world. We can't do 2019 over, like we can't do 1969 over. But it is a gift. It is a freedom to evaluate how to best go forward to serve the Lord. It is an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit run rampant through our congregation, challenging us and sending us into new opportunities. We don't need to do it again. There might be a better way. Let God lead us to it.

### Pastoral Relations Committee

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Dave, or to any member of the committee:  
Dawne Clay (Chair), Brenda Weyandt,  
Phil Kistler, Mica Kornfeind and Allen Loeb.

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### Church Board Highlights

June 21, 2021

Treasurer, Larry Henne reported that the church HVAC service and repairs have been paid and the process has started to receive some Insurance funds toward the damages to the AC units from ice last winter. Also, the PPP account has covered the employee salaries the last month. That account has \$13,607.09 remaining.

Administrator, James Fitterling noted that he has been working to upload the previous mission trip videos to the church Youtube channel. He also had Vacation requests for August 5-9 and October 12-24 which were approved.

The Fundraising Committee reported that on July 18 they are planning another Sunday after church food sale with Turkey BBQ, Soups and maybe pies. It was also reported that the profit from the Memorial Day Food sale fundraiser was \$3,800. Two items were proposed to be purchased from the Fundraising Account. The first was to upgrade the Fellowship Hall basement lighting to LED's. Cost of these lights will be about \$2,455 plus wiring. The plan would be to accomplish this project in-house. The other item is to purchase another refrigerator for the Refreshment Stand, these units have run about \$2,500 of late. Both items were approved.

Pastor Dave reported that the youth retreat to Wildwood went well. Their topic was the future. As part of their retreat they spent two days on a mission project helping out at the Wildwood Naval Air Station Museum.

The VBS group met and discussed plans for this year. After debate, the group decided to change the format of VBS to a series of Sunday gatherings to coincide with the Summer Sunday School weeks. This would be in place of the weeklong VBS event. The first week is June 27. (See page 7) Frank Kornfeind also noted that the swing set project should be completed in time for the VBS kids to utilize it.

James reported that the executive Board met and reviewed some options for the use of the funds from the Calvin Roland estate. All totaled, the amount of the bequest is \$692,932.04. A recommendation was presented for Board approval. The suggestion was to distribute \$70,000 to the Capital Campaign to pay off that remaining loan, issue \$400,000 to the Endowment Fund for investment and to issue \$10,000 to the Old Church fund for upkeep and maintenance. This suggestion was approved and a Congregational Discussion Meeting will be scheduled on July 25, 2021 and a Congregational Voting Meeting on August 8, 2021 to receive congregational approval for these disbursements. There would remain \$212,932.04 available to disbursement at a later date. The plan is to ask for congregational suggestions on the August 8 ballots for possible uses of these remaining funds. (More information page 6)

James noted that Karen Harle reported that the cookbook content has all been sent off to the publisher. Her request was for an approval of funds to purchase the cookbooks. Until there is a proof copy we are still unsure of the exact cost. It was noted that any profits from the sale of the cookbooks will go to the upkeep of

the old church. After some discussion, a preliminary budget of up to \$3,000 was approved for the cookbooks.

The Board approved to schedule Clean Image to do the annual cleaning of the old church later this summer so that it will be ready for worship and anniversary events later this year. James also noted that John Rausch is going to be having the old church organ looked at for the suspected bellows leak. John also sent word to the board that the old cemetery wall has been repaired.

Samantha Zipp recently contacted the office about the possibilities of making a visit to Belleman's to give an update on her work in the Philippines later in 2021 or early 2022. This will look to be scheduled.

Lastly, Pastor Dave and James reported that the Conference recently received Narcan kits to be on hand in the event of an opioid overdose. The Conference distributed them to all congregations recently. It was suggested to have a few people brought up to speed on how to use it. There is a video online to help with this.

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**Belleman's Joint Board**

Beginning Balance	\$ 16,374.46
Income	\$ 14,420.54
Expenses	\$ 9,750.79
Ending Balance	\$ 21,044.21

(Payroll was paid from the Payroll Protection Plan monies held in a separate temporary account.)

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**Attendance/Offering**

	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Offering</b>
June 6	50 (Church), 73 (Facebook)	\$4,049.00
June 13	48 (Church), 95 (Facebook)	\$1,634.00
June 20	53 (Church), 102 (Facebook)	\$3,519.00
June 27	57 (Church), 140 (Facebook)	\$2,342.00

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The July Jingle Offerings go to the St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky.

## Congregational Meetings Scheduled!

As has been reported in this and previous newsletters, Belleman's has received a very generous bequest from Calvin and Miriam (Blatt) Roland upon Calvin's recent passing. A total of \$692,932.04 has been received. The Board has approved distribution of a portion of this bequest and now will be seeking Congregational approval for the following motion:

**Motion to distribute the following amounts from the Roland Family Bequest; \$70,000 to the Capital Campaign to pay off that remaining loan, issue \$400,000 to the Endowment Fund for investment and to issue \$10,000 to the Old Church fund for upkeep and maintenance.**

The Congregational Meeting Schedule for this will be as follows:

**July 25, 2021:** Discussion Meeting

**August 8, 2021:** Voting Meeting

(Both meetings will take place following the 9:00 AM Worship)

\$212,932.04 would remain undesignated from the bequest and the Church Board is seeking congregational input. As part of the meetings, you will have the opportunity to submit suggestions for it's use. The Church Board will be seeking your guidance as far as what ministry items or building related projects you feel are needed. These responses will be utilized to help to prioritize where these remaining funds could go.

Belleman's Church is grateful to Calvin and Miriam for remembering us as part of their legacy and we look to manage the funds with their memory in mind.



## One Week Down...Four to go!!

### VBS: Super Summer Sunday School

There is still time to join in this Summer's Vacation Bible School! VBS will take place on the remaining four scheduled Sunday mornings in conjunction with the 9 a.m. worship:

July 18 (Grove)

July 25 (Sanctuary)

August 8 (Sanctuary)

August 15 (Grove)



The Children's Message will serve as the bible story for the day. Following the Children's Message, the VBS kids will go to take part in the remainder of the day's activities outdoors (weather permitting). We hope you will come and be a part of this Special Vacation Bible School!

Oh, and by popular demand, each week will have a water theme!

If you know you will be attending, please email or call the church office to let us know you'll be joining us. See you there!



## *Sons of the Congregation*

Nothing is a greater tribute to the life and faith of a congregation as when a "Son of the Congregation" decides to take a calling in ministry. Salem Belleman's has had this honor for quite a few of our members over the years.



The first known "Son" was the Rev. James L. Becker. Born on June 1, 1849 in Penn Township, he was the son of Jesse L. and Elizabeth (Ludwig) Becker. According to church history written by Milton and Luella Blatt, he attended the local public schools and continued studies at Palatine College as well as Myerstown Academy. He taught school at various times from 1867 to 1872 before entering Muhlenberg College in Allentown, where he graduated in 1874. He then graduated from Mt. Airy Theological Lutheran Seminary in 1877, and was ordained on May 30, 1877. Rev. Becker served three Lutheran congregations in Sellersville, Kulpville and Lansdale. He went on to receive his Doctor of Divinity from Muhlenberg College. In 1920 he retired and returned to Centre Township, where he died on Feb. 26, 1922. He was never married and is buried at Belleman's.

There were several other "Sons of the Congregation" in the late 1800's/early 1900's, including Rev. James N. Blatt (born 1871, died 1957) and the Rev. Dr. William R. Seaman (born 1900, died 1983).

Of note, according to the history compiled by the Blatts, was the tenure of the Rev. Dr. John K. Stoudt, a Reformed minister who served Belleman's from 1930 – 1957. While he himself was not a "Son of the Congregation", he influenced and directed Belleman's members Vernon Stoop, Merrill Ressler, Nevin Kershner and Charles J. DeBoeser, Jr. into ministerial service.

Currently, there are two "Sons of the Congregation" serving as pastors.

The Rev. Barry Spatz was born on Feb. 12, 1956, the son of Daniel and Arlene Spatz. A 1974 graduate of Schuylkill Valley High School, he then graduated from Albright College in 2005 and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 2010 with a Degree of Master of Divinity. On July 17, 2010, he was ordained at Salem Belleman's.



Since 2010 to the present, he is serving as Pastor of Work and Sacrament to Jacob's Lutheran Church and Outwood Lutheran Church, both in Pine Grove, each congregation with an approximate membership of 300. He had previously served as the designated pastor of Salem Hetzel's Church of Pine Grove (2016-2018) and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove (2019-2020). He is a current member of the Lutheran Disaster Response – PA Spiritual Support Partners, which assists clergy and community leaders when faced with a disaster within their communities. Rev. Spatz is involved with the Pine Grove Area Council of Churches (17 churches total), and currently serves as Vice President of the PGAC of Churches. He is the coordinator of the Pine Grove Area Food Pantry which services 100 families with a monthly distribution, and also coordinates teachers and curriculum for Pine Grove Area Weekday Church School, with an enrollment of 300 students, K-2.

He is married to Carol (Geisinger) and has two sons: Matthew, a high school music teacher in NJ who is married to Meagen and has a daughter Myka (7); and Phillip, who is entering his 16<sup>th</sup> year in the US Marine Corp, stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. He is married to Kirsten and has two children, son Cooper (3) and daughter Brynn (6 mo).



The second active "Son" is the Rev. Joshua M. Fitterling. Born on Sept. 24, 1990, he is the son of Jeffrey and Loretta (Bashore) Fitterling. He graduated from Schuylkill Valley in 2008 and received a Bachelor Degree in Mathematics from Lebanon Valley College in 2012. He went on to receive his Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2015 and was ordained on May 24, 2015 at Salem Belleman's in the United Church of Christ. He served as a Pastoral Resident of Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, MA from 2015-2017, before serving as supply pastor at New Jerusalem Zion UCC in Lenhartsville from 2013-2015.

He then headed north to New England, and on March 1, 2017 he began his current service as pastor of the First Congregational Church Wiscasset UCC in Wiscasset, Maine. He serves this small historic town well by being an active and integral part of the community and participates and serves on many local projects.

Pastor Josh and his spouse, Mason, reside in Litchfield, Maine.

## Wildwood Youth Retreat—June 2021

The theme for the retreat was the future. As part of their retreat they spent two days on a mission project helping out at the Wildwood Naval Air Station Museum.



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## Belleman's Playground

The donated playground equipment behind the church is operational thanks to the efforts of Jack Kornfeind's Eagle Scout project! Thanks Jack! (James likes the John Deere Green and Yellow paint scheme.)



## Calendar of Events

- Sun. **Holy Communion**  
7/11 **9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
275th Anniversary Committee Meeting
- Tue. 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting  
7/13
- Sat. 9:00–10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
7/17 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**  
7/18 **Summer Sunday School: VBS Sunday #2**  
Turkey BBQ and Soups available for purchase after worship
- Mon. 7:00PM Board Meeting  
7/19
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
7/25 **Summer Sunday School: VBS Sunday #3**  
Congregational Meeting after Worship (Info page 6)
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**  
8/1 Rev. Ken Gould leading worship
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
8/8 **Summer Sunday School: VBS Sunday #4**  
Congregational Voting Meeting after Worship (Info page 6)
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**  
8/15 **Summer Sunday School: VBS Sunday #5**
- Mon. 7:00PM Board Meeting  
8/16
- Sat. 9:00–10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
8/21 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Old Church**  
8/22
- Sun. **9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
8/29 Rev. Ken Gould leading worship

# The Bulletin Board

## Turkey BBQ and Soup Sale Sunday

Following the Grove Worship Service on **Sunday, July 18** there will be some of Belleman's signature soups and Turkey BBQ available for purchase. Items will be available from the refreshment stand.

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## Turkey and Waffle Meal and PA Dutch Service

Save the date: Saturday, September 25  
Keep on the lookout for details.

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## 275th Anniversary Worship Schedule

**Sunday, October 10, 9 AM** Worship and Dedication of the Organ Rebuild and HVAC System

**Sunday, October 10, 3 PM** Worship in the "NEW Church" followed by a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m.

**Sunday, October 17, 6:30 PM** Service in the Old Church followed by a Cake and Ice Cream social in the fellowship hall.

### **SEARCHING FOR CHURCH MEMORABILIA!**

As plans begin for our 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this year, we are looking for items to borrow for a display of our church artifacts! Needed are any old photos, church-related items or anything that represents or depicts life here at Salem Belleman's! We are especially interested if anyone has an old photo of the former balcony above the chapel area in the new church, or a photo of the Old Church ceiling center. If you have something you would be willing to share for a temporary display, contact any member of the 275<sup>th</sup> Committee: John Rausch, James Fitterling, Mica Kornfiend, Carol Weyandt or Pastor Dave.



**Belleman's Church Jingle Offering, thank you** so much for your generous donation. (\$250, Relay For Life) The American Cancer Society's mission is to save lives, celebrate lives and lead the fight for a world without cancer. With your help, we're attacking cancer from every angle, every day.

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## **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  
Dustin Spatz

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## **Please help the Cookbook Committee!**

It's hard to know how many cookbooks to order from the publisher. We need to order in increments of 100. If we order more later, price will be much higher. Help us decide by telling us how many cookbooks you think you want. Many of you have told us. Many have not. Please leave a message at 484-256-5705, email the church or tell Carlene Kissinger, James Fitterling or Karen Harle. We realize it is hard to order before seeing the finished product. Thanks for your help.



*(Note: We don't know the cost of the books just yet, but any profits from the sale of the books will go to the upkeep of the Old Church)*

## July Birthdays

- 16<sup>th</sup> Eric Yocum  
Courtney Eisenhofer  
18<sup>th</sup> Beth Ann Savage,  
Barbara Bambrick  
19<sup>th</sup> Daniel Kiefer IV,  
Dustin Kunkle,  
Stephani Mohn  
20<sup>th</sup> Adam Kissinger,  
Colin Weist  
21<sup>st</sup> Connie Nabozny  
22<sup>nd</sup> Kelsey Weyandt  
23<sup>rd</sup> Todd Potts, Harold Mohn,  
Cooper Henne,  
Layne Weyandt  
24<sup>th</sup> Travis Fair, Yuri Loose,  
James Fitterling,  
Gloria Gambler,  
Cathleen Phillips  
27<sup>th</sup> Tracy Beebe,  
Adilene LeRoy,  
Lester Gambler,  
Rick Rothenberger  
28<sup>th</sup> Bernice Hartman,  
Brett Potts,  
Victoria McCloskey  
29<sup>th</sup> Janene McRae  
30<sup>th</sup> Samantha Phillips  
31<sup>st</sup> Linda Houck,  
Lura Pearson,  
Zoey Dreibelbis

## July Anniversaries

- 17<sup>th</sup> Marshall & Ann Reynolds  
Jason & Emily Kozik  
19<sup>th</sup> Nikolaus & Patti Botscheller  
20<sup>th</sup> Donny and Jodie Difatta  
22<sup>nd</sup> Lee & April Henne  
27<sup>th</sup> Donald and Doreen Ottaviani  
28<sup>th</sup> Pastor Dave and Karen Blich

## August Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brittany Weidenhammer,  
Andrew Weber,  
Anderson Starkey  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jonathan Elliott,  
Troy Koch, Linda Evans,  
4<sup>th</sup> Wayne Hoffert,  
Gladys Staab, Sandy Sunday,  
Gabriella Yocum  
5<sup>th</sup> Glenn Balthaser,  
Kelly Eitel,  
Heather Livinghouse  
6<sup>th</sup> Ann Reynolds,  
Mark Dreibelbis  
7<sup>th</sup> Carter Ernst  
Bentlee Gallagher  
8<sup>th</sup> Marshall Reynolds  
9<sup>th</sup> Cathy Del Fierro,  
Warren Hartman  
10<sup>th</sup> Hunter Bachman,  
Amy Berg, James Kirkhoff,  
12<sup>th</sup> Nikole Botscheller  
13<sup>th</sup> Ruth Kohler,  
Hannah Phillips, Ethel Reinhart,  
Cassidy Rae Smith  
15<sup>th</sup> Cassandra Schlotter

## August Anniversaries


- 2<sup>nd</sup> John & Linda Loose  
3<sup>rd</sup> Craig & Brenda Yoder  
4<sup>th</sup> Brian & Cheryl Folk  
8<sup>th</sup> Daryl & Lyn Bohn  
13<sup>th</sup> Beau & Elizabeth Dalton


# Music News


As church services return to our more traditional and familiar format, it is so comforting to hear the sound of music ringing through the sanctuary during the service. Our choir is back, singing hymns during worship, and over the next few months, we'll begin practices for all our musical ensembles.

***So, this is where you come in!  
Are you interested in joining  
our music program?***

We have a place for you in our music family here at Belleman's.

 If you'd like to participate in **choir**, you are welcome to join us every Sunday morning as we lead the hymns for the service.

 If you're interested in **playing bells** (*no music reading experience necessary!*) we'll begin practice this fall.

 If you play an **instrument**, let me know as well, since we'll be featuring many different styles of music during upcoming services.

If you have questions, feel free to chat with me before or after any service, and I look forward to creating beautiful music with our Belleman's music family!

Musically,

*Oliver*