

Salem (Bellemans) Church
3540 Bellemans Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

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Reading, PA 19612



Bell Notes

Salem (Bellemans) Church
3540 Bellemans Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Patricia Horst, Interim Pastor
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry
James Fitterling, Administrator
Church Office: 610-926-0461
Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net
Web Site: bellemanschurch.org



Blessings for the New Year

Behold, I am making all things new!

Revelation 21:5

These words are Jesus's promise for the future realm as he rules upon His throne. For many of us, we cling to that promise. Many are searching for a time and place beyond the struggles of this world – no sin, no pain, no tears, no sorrow, no death. Many long for just such a time. Sometimes it seems to take so much energy to face each new day. Sadly, folks sometimes look to ultimately destructive ways to escape their daily dilemmas only to find the struggle remains after their temporary fix subsides. My hope is that if you find yourself in such a downward spiral, you will find someone who can point you to the assistance that you need.

Each of us faces struggle at various points of our lives. Jesus knew this as He walked this earth. We often find Him ministering to those who need compassion, healing, and hope brought into their lives. And in those situations, He provides. No problem is greater than God's hope and the love He brings when we turn to Him. That reminds me of a section from Romans 8.

"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is a wonderful promise from God's Word. Even though we might face struggle in our world – we can be assured of God's love – eternally. He will ultimately provide for us. He has provided for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Ultimately, He will make all things right, all things new. Even as people looked and hoped for the Messiah; the Messiah did come. We can trust God with the promise to make all things new as well. As we wait expectantly, we thank you, Lord, for this promise and hope for the future!

May God bless each of you as you turn to Him this New Year!

Pastor Pat

Pastor Pat's contact info:

Cell Phone: 717-926-2181

Email: phorst105@gmail.com

Church Board Highlights

December 19, 2022

James gave a brief update on the Sexton house repair situation with Berks Fire Water Restorations. To date the church insurance has approved all of the repair costs minus the \$1,000 deductible from the water damage.

Larry Henne noted that the final quote was received for the griddle top oven of \$2,486 after the trade of the convection oven.

The Endowment Committee reported that they recently had a zoom meeting with the investment manager regarding the state of the current market and how she plans to move forward with the endowment fund management during the current down market.

Hall coordinator Linda Henne was present to discuss the fellowship hall rental fees. It has been a few years since prices were raised and she proposed some rate increases. The following fees were discussed and approved.

Member rentals of up to 50 guests: \$60

Member rentals over 50 guests: \$75

Non-member rentals of up to 50 guests: \$100

Non-member rentals over 50 guests: \$160

Funeral luncheons: \$60 (member), \$75 (non-member)

The Personnel Committee gave their report on the 2022 employee reviews. A 3 percent salary increase for the Administrator, Music Director and the Sexton was presented and approved. This salary increase will be presented to the congregation for approval in January.

Roxanne Loeb volunteered to fill one of the vacant Lutheran Council positions. The Board approved Roxanne Loeb to the Lutheran Council.

There was discussion about giving \$500 to the sextons from the Heffner tithe to help offset their personal property loss from the flood in the house caused by the furnace pipe. The \$500 donation was approved.

James noted that a new choir mic has been ordered already in order to have it in time for Christmas eve services. There were donations received in memory of Mary Ellen Zimmerman that the family wished to go toward music ministry. There are enough funds to cover the \$255 purchase price of this microphone.

Lastly, there was a suggestion to give something to Oliver Blatt to help offset his extra time spent working with the new sound system installation. Larry noted that there would be some funds remaining which were approved toward the sound system that could be used. The board approved \$500 to Oliver Blatt for his time spent on the sound system.

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**Belleman's Joint Board**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 7,945.79  |
| Income            | \$ 26,116.11 |
| Expenses          | \$ 24,216.63 |
| Ending Balance    | \$ 9,845.07  |

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Attendance/Offering

	Worship Attendance	Offering
Dec. 4	71 (Sanctuary), 113(Facebook)	\$2,599.00
Dec. 11	57 (Sanctuary), 106 (Facebook)	\$3,640.00
Dec. 18	85 (Sanctuary), 158(Facebook)	\$3,406.00
Dec. 24, 25	Services Cancelled Due to power outage and wires down in front of the church	

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***In the case of inclement weather***, 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**, check Facebook or the WFMZ website for this information. The decision on cancellation will be made early enough that you will know well before services are slated to begin.

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**Annual Congregational Meeting
January 29, 2023 following worship**

Important Notes:

- Year End Ministry Report.
- 2022 Financial Report.
- 2023 Employee Salaries



Christmas Services Cancelled

On December 23, 2022 in the midst of high winds and our seasons coldest weather, the lights went out in and around the area of Belleman's Church.

Upon inspection in the early morning of Christmas Eve day it was discovered that not only was the church without electricity, but there were wires down on the road in front of the church. These wires were surrounded by cones and led to the question "would this be cleaned up in time for church services?"

When it became apparent that this would not be remedied in time, it was decided to cancel the Christmas eve services and the Christmas morning worship. Rather, postpone them, actually! Announcements of this were made following our procedures explained on page 4 of this newsletter in an attempt to get the word out in time.

We are appreciative of your understanding and welcome you to attend our delayed **Christmas eve worship service "Once Upon a Christmas Star" on January 8 at 10:00 a.m.** We hope that you will join us!



Rescheduled Christmas Eve Worship
January 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
We hope you will Join us!

Calendar of Events

Sat. (1/7) 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting in the chapel
Sun. Holy Communion
 1/8 9:00AM **Sunday School**
 10:00AM **"Christmas Eve" Worship Service**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 1/11 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School
 1/15 10:00AM **Worship Service**

Mon. 6:30PM New Board Members Meeting
 1/16 7:00PM Board Meeting

Tue. (1/17) 6:30PM Mission Team Meeting

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 1/18 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (1/21) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport
Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School
 1/22 10:00AM **Worship Service**

Mon. (1/23) 6:30PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 1/25 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School
 1/29 10:00AM **Worship Service**
 Congregation Meeting Review (see page 4)

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 2/1 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School
 2/5 10:00AM **Worship Service**
 Endowment Committee Meeting after Worship

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 2/8 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Scout Sunday/Holy Communion
 2/12 9:00AM **Sunday School**
 10:00AM **Worship Service**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal
 2/15 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (2/18) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

Belleman's Military Members

CWO2 Josh Linderman	MAJ James Fluck
Andrew Potts	MSgt Kevin Mohn
1LT Bradley P. Hoppes	GYSGT Phillip Spatz
SGT Andrew Cichowicz	Alfred Cross
Nathan P. Stump	Cydney Lawrence
SGT John R. Wesner	Dustin Spatz

January Jingle Offerings are designated for Bethany Children's Home

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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.



Thank You for your participation!

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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

Update From Samantha Zipp

I can't believe another year has so quickly passed. It has been a year with a lot of changes and transitions and the year ahead has many more to come.

I feel like the Philippines is only now returning to something familiar to pre-pandemic life, though still not the same. These are the days that Gen and I dreamed of as we went to bed each night; a piece of normal back, even if that meant traffic and noise. Masks are optional and travel is open for most. However, many places still require a mask.



This past month has had a bit of familiarity to it as well, since my friend Liz returned for a few weeks. She left before Covid for a home assignment in Australia, and after home assignment she moved to Thailand. It has been three years since I saw her last (Nov 2019), I have loved having her back for a few weeks of 'normal' Sundays with church together, lunch, and groceries, not to mention a few extra adventures. It is hard to say goodbye knowing it could be forever. That is life here, many people move to new places and goodbyes are just normal and expected.

Though God is always providing new friends; it doesn't mean I miss the friends that have left any less. It is one of the reasons I agreed to return to Faith Academy this year. Friends are always leaving and I need to be part of a community to meet new friends or it starts to get very lonely. Many people who knew me and were a part of Gen's life are gone and I am starting over with new friends and new memories.

I love how God works everything out even when I was not sure what was coming next. My return to Faith Academy is also unique because I know the school well but I don't know most of the staff. I spent 10 years teaching in the classroom and now I am considered new staff and starting over in a new role; though temporary.

I have enjoyed being a part of Audrey's education and watching her enter school and having such a positive experience. It has



been a huge learning curve but also a great learning experience. She is meeting so many goals and I keep stretching and pushing her to new challenges. She is becoming more and more a part of the first grade class and requiring me less and less. I still pull her for individualized lessons each day in reading, writing and math. Then, I push in for first grade writing but have slowly backed out of first grade reading, as well as fully removing myself from other aspects of her day. There is talk about adding to my schedule and helping a few other students in the times I no longer have Audrey.

My biggest goal is working myself out of a job and I truly believe that will happen by June. You may wonder where that leaves me for next year. God has a plan and I will share more of that with you in the months ahead.



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**Thank you** for all the cards I received from the church. I'm very thankful and appreciate them. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. **Marilyn Seaman**

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Thank you for all the Christmas Cards we received. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.
Janet Greusel and Gladys Staab
"Wishing everyone a Merry Everything and a Happy Always!"
- Gladys Staab

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Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus would like to **thank** Belleman's Church for allowing us to use the church as our venue this year to present our main concert and our Christmas Concert.  
**Thank you again!** **Bernice Hartman, Treasurer**

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Thank you for selecting Descoco Design and Construction for the cleaning and painting of the exterior of Salem Belleman's Church. We appreciate your Business!
Sincerely,
Linda Lewis, Business Development Manager, Descoco

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**Dear Friends, Thank you** for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support hurricane disaster relief. Your gift of \$348 was received. Through your gift, families who have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support. **Thank you again!**  
**In faith, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, President**

## 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, Violet Peters  
**27th** Melissa Kopicz  
**28th** Chad Kemp, Julia Patrick,  
Sherwood Galen, Keith Weyandt  
**29th** Beverly Blatt,  
Deanne Berger,  
Larry Hartranft, Lonnie Klinger  
**30th** Logan Cammauf,  
Melissa Schmauch  
**31st** Chelsea Ayala

## February Birthdays

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

## 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

# Music News

## Merry Christmas from the Belleman's Music Family!

Our music family spends quite a bit of time practicing new music for our services, but during the Christmas season we also took some time for some fun and frivolity!



Bell choir also had fun and frivolity, but we were so busy having fun, we all forgot to take photos to share!



Musically,

*Oliver*