

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

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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.*  
*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](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)*  
*Web Site: [bellemanschurch.org](http://bellemanschurch.org)*

## *What will the New Year bring our way?*



Our Epiphany reading on January 7 from Matthew 2:1-12 reveals the Magi as they followed the Star. Due to weather concerns we video-taped a brief service from my home instead of worshipping in the sanctuary. In my time of reflection, I spoke a bit about stars that are used to decorate our homes and outdoors during the Christmas season. A very special star to our family is one we are able to view from our home – a star hung high upon one of

our neighbor's silos. We even make a game of it; who will see it first in the season when it is lit? And when we see it, the first one declares, "I see the star!" We even text one another, perhaps with a picture of it. The star shines brightly through the evenings of Thanksgiving night, through Advent, through Christmas, and into the New Year. For me, I have a bit of a sentimental attachment to the star; I reflect on the past year and highlights of what has occurred in our lives, often a great mixture of joys and struggles – accomplishments, family events, sadnesses and losses, activities over the past year, and interactions with many folks. Each night I view the star, I'm glad that it is there during the preparation for Christmas, baking, wrapping gifts, traveling back and forth to various events. As we approach the early evenings of the New Year – I know that I soon will not see the star until the next Advent season.

*What will the coming year bring?*

*That remains to be seen.*

That is a question for each of us. Regardless of our experiences this coming year, we can turn to our Lord and know that He will lead us through as we seek Him through prayer, reading the Scriptures, worshipping Him, enjoying our times of fellowship with family and other believers as we continue in this journey of life. The Magi, often called the Wise Men, followed the Star as they were seeking the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, so they could worship Him and bring Him gifts.

*There is a saying; Wise Men Still Seek Him.*

May we seek Him and return to Him the gift of our love for Him – the One who loves us so much that He came to this earth to show us how to live and lead us into eternity as we seek and follow Him.

Blessings for your New Year,  
*Pastor Pat*

**Pastor Pat's contact info:**  
Cell Phone: 717-926-2181  
Email: phorst105@gmail.com

## **Church Board Highlights**

December 18, 2023

*There was not a quorum for the meeting, so no votes were taken.*

Treasurer, Larry Henne noted the offerings in November covered payroll but had very little room to cover any additional expenses.

The Property Committee report noted that the new trees have been planted along the backside of the parking lot in November. Also, with the congregational approval for the Fellowship Hall roof project, Larry will be sending the deposit in on that.

James Fitterling offered a report from the Music and Worship Committee noting that at the Committee's meeting recently they reviewed the 2024 calendar. A calendar of service times and events was attached to the meeting packets for Board review and approval. James briefly highlighted some items on the calendar and reviewed Lenten worship plans. The Board was in agreement to join the SV Pastor's group for joint services again in 2024. More information and locations for services will be available once the group meets about this.

We received a quote from SolveIT to review wiring needs for the proposed wireless internet upgrades for the church. Total quoted price for this is \$11,807.00 to include wiring and all of the previously quoted hardware. There was discussion about where the funds would come from, this was tabled till we have a quorum at the next meeting.

James noted that \$365 remains for distribution from the 2023 Heffner Tithe. Larry Henne reviewed a need of a church member family in need to disburse the remaining funds. Since we couldn't vote to approve this as a board, the Heffner Guidelines do allow for executive approval of a 2/3 vote from the Pastor, President and Vice President. Since the Pastor and President were in attendance and in favor of the \$365 distribution to the family in need, this was deemed approved.

In the week leading up to this meeting, John Rausch received word of some changes that Church Mutual is looking to make to our church insurance policy. James reported that they are looking to raise our deductible from \$1,000 per occurrence to \$10,000 and also raise our yearly premium by nearly \$5,000 to \$17,824. Additionally, they are looking to assess depreciated values to any loss on the old church as well as raising deductibles for water damage to \$50,000 for the "new" church and to \$25,000 for the fellowship hall and sexton house. Due to these big changes, the Board was in agreement to look into some other insurance quotes from other companies.

**Belleman's Joint Board Treasury Report for November**

Beginning Balance	\$ 18,051.59
Income	\$ 26,988.74
Expenses	\$ 10,308.12
Ending Balance	\$ 34,732.21

(Note: This report includes the 2023 Bazaar profit amount of \$14,683.)

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**Attendance/Offering**

|                  | <b>Worship Attendance</b>       | <b>Offering</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dec. 3           | 66 (Sanctuary), 290 (Facebook)  | \$2,930.00      |
| Dec. 10          | 63 (Sanctuary), 194 (Facebook)  | \$4,898.00      |
| Dec. 17          | 96 (Sanctuary), 246 (Facebook)  | \$2,635.00      |
| Dec. 24 (9am)    | 39 (Sanctuary), n/a (Facebook)  | \$4,759.00      |
| Dec. 24 (4:30pm) | 230 (Sanctuary), 212 (Facebook) | \$6,070.00 *    |
| Dec. 24 (7pm)    | 89 (Sanctuary), 240 (Facebook)  |                 |
| Dec. 31          | 62 (Sanctuary), 313 (Facebook)  | \$2,367.00      |

\* Denotes total collected from both Christmas Eve worship services at 4:30 and 7:00 p.m..

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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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**Communion Assistants  
For January 14th**

Altar Assistants

Gloria and Lester Gambler  
Niki Botscheller

Cup Stations

Ken Borkey, Sam Stump

Ushers

Frank Kornfeind, Lee Henne



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**Communion Assistants For February 11**

Altar Assistants: Linda Henne, Maura Wesner  
Carla Rozsitch

Cup Stations: Eric Weyandt, Kim Smyre

Ushers: Allen Loeb, Larry Henne

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**Hall Kitchen Needs Tea Towels**

Kitchen staff in the fellowship Hall are in need of tea towels. They can be used, worn, or new terry cloth. We do not need any more linen calendar towels. We have plenty of them. If you have any to contribute, please hand them to any of our kitchen workers at church.

Thank you for checking your drawers!



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**Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 28, 2024 following worship**

**Important Notes:**

- Year End Ministry Report.
- 2023 Financial Report.



## Calendar of Events

**Sun. Holy Communion**  
1/14 9:00AM Sunday School  
10:00AM Worship

Mon. (1/15) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
1/17

Sat. 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport  
1/20

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
1/21 10:00AM Worship Service

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
1/24 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
1/28 10:00AM Worship Service  
Congregation Meeting Review (see page 5)

**Sun. Scout Sunday**  
2/4 9:00AM Sunday School  
10:00AM Worship Service  
Endowment Committee Meeting after Worship

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
2/7 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. Holy Communion**  
2/11 9:00AM Sunday School  
10:00AM Worship Service

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
2/14 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship  
(location to be announced)

Sat. (2/17) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
2/18 10:00AM Worship Service

Mon. (2/19) 7:00PM Board Meeting

## 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  
MSgt Kevin Mohn  
GYSgt Phillip Spatz  
Alfred Cross  
Cydney Lawrence  
Dustin Spatz

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### January Jingle Offerings are designated for A Church Family in Need

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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

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!



Plans are underway for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our current church building this June!

We recently celebrated the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first church here at Belleman's, which was a log structure. Now we are preparing to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this beautiful House of Worship!

By 1914 it was apparent that the Old Church was too small for church services and to conduct Sunday School classes, and needed the amenities of electric and a centralized heating system instead of the pot-belly stoves. Options were either to demolish the Old Church and build new in its place, or save the Old Church and build a new, modern facility nearby.

After several years, the decision to build nearby was solidified by several factors: the donation of \$6,000 by Wellington Dietrich towards a new church if the Old Church was preserved (\$5,000 towards the new church, and \$1,000 in trust for maintaining the Old Church); a donation of one acre of land by Howard Zerby for the new church; and a donation of two acres of land by Henry K. Phillips across the road for parking purposes. Final action was approved by a joint meeting of the Reformed Consistory and Lutheran Council on October 21, 1921.

The project began in the spring of 1922, with labor supplied by members to dig the foundation, supply the horse teams to transport the materials, and to build the foundation walls. A ceremony to lay the corner stone was held on July 14, 1922, and an estimated 4,000 people attended the event. It would take almost another two years for the building to be completed and dedicated on June 8, 1924.



**Dear Salem Belleman's Church, Thank you** so much for your support of our work! It is such a blessing to see God's faithful promise to care for the poor and those in need, in action, through the support from generous partners like you! Your kindness has a profound impact that will echo

through generations to come. We look forward to your next clothing drive for the Mission. May you be blessed by blessing others! **Thank you, Diane Schenk, Hope Rescue Mission**

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**To the Good People of Belleman's Church:** We want to **thank you** for any or all who take time out of their busy lives to stop and visit when you pass by. We don't live real close as I used to when I and my sisters walked there almost 80 years ago. So, it means a great deal since Wayne lost his eyesight, he really appreciates calls or visits. Although he can't see, he has a good mind and loves to talk especially about farming. We both miss helping at the flea market and I miss helping to make soup, etc. We also want to **thank you** for sending us the weekly sermon. I read it to Wayne and if I don't do it right away he asks if we didn't get it this week. This past week we also received the Christmas card from the children with the days of December and with stickers of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Thank you very much! Wayne and I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas and the happiest, healthiest 2024.

**Love to all,  
Wayne and Arlene Hoffert**

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**Belleman's Community,** We appreciate your comforting words, cards and prayers. This has been a difficult year for our family. Your kindness and support have helped ease our pain.

**Paul Leshner and family**

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## 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.,  
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*