

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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Attleboro, MA 02703

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May 2019



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP OUTING & LUNCH
SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 10:30 AM

INDOOR YARD SALE, BAKE SALE & SNACK BAR
SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
SUNDAY, MAY 19TH, 10:00 AM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC
Reverend F. Vernon Wright V, Minister ruachwrights@msn.com
William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music
Kara Lehane, Executive Director, Jack & Jill School – 508-222-1149
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Find us on Facebook!

THE VOICE

We warmly welcome everyone to celebrate God's love by joining in dynamic worship, creating genuine community, and serving all with justice and respect.

A monthly newsletter

May, 2019

Outreach & Missions	Women's Fellowship	One Plus One	New Members	Jack & Jill Preschool	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER'S MUSE

How to Push Past Faithlessness



I have a friend who was a very faithful, spiritual person. She had grown up active in her youth group and always felt that God was speaking to her. This led her to do daring athletic feats. But one day she had a terrible accident as she was approaching a marker in the Guinness Book of World Records and she sustained a significant brain trauma. Unfortunately it damaged the spiritual part of the brain. She found she could not pray and that her connection to the ultimate had been cut off.

Desperate, and struggling with depression, she tried other religions. But whatever she tried she just could not feel that connection she once felt. Slowly it did come back, and now she attends church regularly. But the opening to the Spirit did not come through spiritual means necessarily. What leads us to find faith when we feel we have no connection to it?

I learned through my friendship that we can break through our "faithlessness" when we accept that God, however we define it, is bigger than our understanding or connection. I also learned that sometimes something as simple as an art or a craft can lead you back to the Spirit.

God is bigger than our understanding or connection. The clearest Christian scripture about this for me is what Jesus says on the Cross, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me!" How could Jesus, the son of God, the Word incarnate, feel like God had forsaken him? The answer is simple: Jesus was fully human (as well as divine), and to be fully human is to sometimes feel like you are completely cut off from God.

Stuff happens. I have been present to enough death and dying to know that sometimes even the most devout person has a stroke, or is struck with Alzheimer's, or suffers a terrible loss and they start sounding like Jesus on the cross. I have found that offering platitudes or scriptural certainty doesn't really help. Even the idea that God is bigger than what we can think or imagine is itself a platitude. But the knowledge that even Jesus, the most enlightened figure I might know, felt the same way, gives me enough faith to be present to the person who has been afflicted. Sometimes that presence alone is enough to help a loved one turn the corner from a lack of connection to a connection again. My friend was still struggling with depression when I met her. But when I was present to her and earned her trust, she was able to explore her dead connections and she was able to feel more at home with faith. True, I am an ordained minister, but we are all ministers.

Arts or crafts can also be helpful. The brain can always re-wire itself. I learned recently that a creative person does not create out of nothing, but usually by putting things together from different contexts in new ways. Musicians develop

alter egos, inventors apply insights from one field to another field. Great writers like Michael Chabon read all kinds of different genres from graphic novels, Westerns, romance, and the great classics. The artist starts to see the world in new ways and this can start to re-wire the brain from its fixation of depressive thoughts, or even a brain injury. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is within you. Sometimes the creative process is what allows us to see this kingdom.

My friend feels that it was really her art that led her back to the Spirit. "I discovered that when I was doing my art I felt close to God again. Once I found it there I started finding it other places too."

It is hard to have faith when we aren't feeling it. But not feeling it is also a part of the human condition. Even something as unspiritual seeming as art can lead us back to our sense of connection. If you or your loved one is feeling a lack of connection, remember you are in good company, and that if you persist, you may find that connection again.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

MAY 5

"The Joy of Being Wrong"

Acts 9:1-17

Famous English priest James Alison wrote a seminal book called "The Joy of Being Wrong". It opened my eyes to much of the grist of how Grace appears in our lives. Saul sets out to put the Christians in his zeal to purify the Jewish faith. But he is struck down on the Road to Damascus and has a vision of Christ instead. Sometimes our largest glimpse of Grace comes to us in the very midst of our largest mistakes.

MAY 12

Mothers Day

"Life Giving Service"

Acts 9:36-43

In the scripture Peter brings a faithful woman named Tabitha back from the dead. The early Christian community believed that in Christ they had the same healing power as Christ himself. What of the church today? How do we still bring healing and wholeness to this world of ours?

MAY 19

Children's Sunday, Praise Worship

Join us on this joy-filled service recognizing our Children. Music will be lead by our talented praise team.

MAY 26

Memorial Day

"The Adventure of the Spirit"

Acts 16:9-15

Paul has a vision and the disciples go off together across the sea. In Macedonia they encounter Lydia. Her eyes are opened and the beginning of a new church is formed. Do we truly embrace this adventure of the spirit set before us?

BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacon this month is Ralph Giannetti. Contact any Deacon if you are interested in being a liturgist or usher on a Sunday or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We'd love to have your help. Call Ralph at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

HELP IS NEEDED TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

Please call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 if you can pick someone up before and bring them home after church.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At Coffee Hour, Women's Fellowship will have signups for the Indoor Yard Sale coming up on May 18th. If you already know what you want to do, you can lock it in by speaking with Sandy Saunders, 508-699-2738.

As you do your spring cleaning, keep the Yard Sale in mind. Speak with Sandy or Fred Saunders if you have questions about a donation.

ONE PLUS ONE

One Plus One is a group of adults who meet to share Christian fellowship. It is open to all members and friends of the congregation and is a great way to get to know new people and catch up with friends. If you'd like to join us, contact me or the Church office so we can add you to our 1+1 call list.

We are gathering on Saturday, May 11th to attend the comedic play "I Hate Hamlet" at the Attleboro Community Theatre located at the Masonic Lodge, 71 North Main Street in Attleboro. Tickets for a group of 10 or more are \$10 per person. I will be available from 7:30 to 8:00 pm to check you in before the show starts.

We will meet again for our cook-out on Saturday, June 15th at Betsey and Russ Pray's home in Attleboro. We're open to other ideas and events too as we go along so don't hesitate to contact me if you see something that looks like it would be a good excuse to get out of the house and have some fun.

Colin Blair: colincb@aol.com
508-226-5457

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, May 13th at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. New members are always welcome. **We will teach you the ropes.** Please contact me if you have any questions.

Roberta Ferguson

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR SCHEDULES

Rehearsals: Bell Choir and Adult Choir will rehearse on May 2nd, 16th, and 23rd. The Bell rehearsal on May 2 will begin at 6:45 instead of 6:30. There will be no rehearsals on Thursday, May 9th. May 23rd will be the last Thursday rehearsal until the fall season.

Adult Choir will sing on May 5th and May 26th. The choir will not sing on May 12th (Bill will be away) and May 19 (Praise Service).

Bell Choir will possibly play again in June. We'll decide on a date at an upcoming rehearsal (no rehearsal on May 9th, as noted above). Note the change of time (6:45) for the rehearsal on May 2nd.

On Thursday, May 30th, Bill will host the annual end-of-season gathering at his home, 6:30 pm until whenever. As usual, it's a pot luck, and spouses, friends and family are also invited.

SACRED DANCE

Many thanks to all who have participated in and supported the intergenerational dance program this year. We will be taking a break from

New Members!

We are the Laramie family, and we are very happy to be here at Second Church. I am Nicole Laramie and I grew up in North Attleboro. I attended Bishop Feehan for high school and received my Bachelor's degree in Elementary education from Bridgewater State and my Master's in education from Fitchburg State. I have been teaching in the Attleboro schools starting in 1999. In 2006, I took a hiatus from teaching to stay at home with my 2 children. I returned when my youngest, Avery, was in kindergarten and have been teaching second grade at Willett Elementary ever since. Teaching is one of my passions and I love being part of the Willett community. In my spare time I love spending time with family and friends, reading, and yoga.

My husband Jim grew up in Norton and attended Norton High School. We own a local business which he runs and operates. When he's not working he enjoys spending time with friends and family and coaching youth sports. Our son Jackson is a freshman at Bishop Feehan. He is a very motivated student who enjoys academics, writing, music and spending time with friends and family. Avery is a 6th grader at Brennan Middle School. She loves reading, crafting, soccer and spending time with friends and family.

We love the inclusive spirit of Second Church and have appreciated the warm welcome from all the members. We look forward to continuing our journey of growing in our faith at Second.

church of Plymouth decided on the same style of governance while still aboard the Mayflower. The biggest difference between the two groups was the Pilgrims accepted "strangers," that is non-members, while the Puritans decided not to.

To this day membership in a Congregational church (including this one) is based on "owning the Covenant". At Second Church we say the Salem Covenant that dates from 1629.

We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and doe bind our selves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himselfe unto us in his Blessed word of truth.

Ted Moxham, Curator

Saturday practices until the fall. If you are interesting in joining us or have any questions about our prayerful movement mission please let me know.

Diane Osborne

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

All are welcome to join us for our next Family Fellowship event May 11th. We will be meeting at the church at 10:30 am to take an hour-long walk along part of the newly expanded Balfour Riverwalk with a luncheon after in Fellowship Hall. The route is absolutely lovely and stroller friendly. During the luncheon there will be bags to decorate for the summer lunch program sponsored by the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative. Please RSVP to the office if you will attend the walk, lunch, or both by May 7th.

On May 19th the Children's Day theme this year is Being Called Like Moses: Showing God's Love Through Mission. We look forward to sharing with the congregation the stories that have helped us grow our faith this year and to having fellowship time together during an ice cream social after worship.

All children and youth are invited to attend Sunday School on May 12th to help prepare the service. Many thanks to the congregation and the CE

Committee for supporting the children with the cookie, envelope and meatloaf luncheon fundraisers this year. On May 12th the kids will take a final vote about how they would like to donate the funds. Please note that May 5th will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience worship and Communion together and May 26th will also be a Gathering Sunday. The nursery will be open throughout May and June for our friends 3 and under.

As we prepare for the end of this school year the CE Committee will also begin planning for the next. We will be looking for volunteers to sign up as guest stars in the new school year to share stories of their faith and the activities or hobbies that help them feel God's presence in their lives. Please let me know if you are interested.

With many thanks,
Diane Osborne
CE Committee

FROM THE CURATOR

Why are we called Congregationalists? Just where did that name come from? The Puritans came to the new world to escape the influence of the Church of England and to create a church that was governed solely by its' members without any outside inference. The Pilgrim



The teachers and children are busy with springtime projects. Science lessons include life cycles and each classroom has a butterfly garden where they will watch caterpillars transform into butterflies! We are preparing for our end of the year field trips and everyone is smiling from ear to ear!

This is the most rewarding time of the year for us as teachers. The children have grown so much over the course of the school year. They understand the rules and structure of our classrooms and we can truly ENJOY them for these last weeks together!

We are looking forward to celebrating the adults in our lives this month! We will be hosting a teacher appreciation luncheon, "Movement with Mom" on Wednesday, May 1st and "Fun with Fathers" on Wednesday, May 22nd.

Plans for our pre-school graduation are underway. We have 41 children moving on to Kindergarten! We will be holding a graduation ceremony on Thursday evening June 6th for all family and friends to attend! We have asked guests to bring a canned good as a donation to the Second Church Food Pantry.

We have been busy touring and speaking with perspective families for the 2019-2020 academic year. We have limited openings in most of our classes. If you know of anyone looking for a pre-school placement, please encourage them to call me at 508-222-1149! We do have slots available.

Warmly, Kara Lehane



May Birthdays

- 1 Chris Janson
Derek Janson
Dawn McCarthy
Ella Saunders
Alex Sawyer
- 2 Pam Middleton
- 5 Roberta Ferguson
Pearl Patrick
- 7 Audrey Sadler-Morse
- 8 Christina Renoni
- 10 Kevin O'Connor
- 11 Steve Withers, Jr.
- 12 Gladys Brander
- 13 Bret Brown
Jessie Macomber
- 15 Joan Blais
- 17 Bob Richardson
- 18 Diane Findley
- 19 Pam Raskin
- 20 Lorraine Lunt
- 22 Ben Macomber
Zach Ramsay
Chris Saunders
Nick P Saunders
- 23 Marilyn Freeman
- 24 Sandy Saunders
- 25 Janice Paul
- 26 Ted Moxham
- 27 Jean Beland
Zoe LaClair
- 30 David Keith
- 31 Kyla DiBastiani

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Please remember the Food Pantry when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is on May 20th, a week early due to the holiday, 4-6 p.m. Spaghetti sauce, Chef Boyardee canned Ravioli and Beef-A-Roni, dry cereals (especially children's), rice, real fruit juices, tuna, hearty soups, jellies, protein bars, toiletries, detergent, and bathroom tissue are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the Ladies Parlor with the Deacons each Sunday or in the kitchen during the week. Contact Betsey Pray, rlpbpp@verizon.net with any questions.

The Family Café: The next Family Café will be held on Wednesday, May 8th in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash dishes are needed anytime between 4 and 6 pm. Children's book donations, coloring books & crayons are greatly appreciated! Contact Linda Wiswall, wiswalllinda@gmail.com with any questions.

The next Outreach & Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 19th** at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.

Janet Blair

May Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	2 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 8:00 AM Girl Scout Pancake Breakfast
5 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	6 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting	7	8 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	9 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 11:30 AM Bible Study	10 2:00 PM Dance School Pictures	11 10:30 AM Family Fellowship Outing & Lunch 7:30 PM One Plus One Theatre Night 'I Hate Hamlet' at ACT
12 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting Christian Education Committee Meeting	13 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	14	15 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	16 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	17	18 9 AM to 1 PM Indoor Yard Sale, Bake Sale & Snack Bar!
19 Children's Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Ice Cream Social 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	20 June Voice Deadline 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	22 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	23 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	27 <i>Memorial Day Office is closed</i>	28	29 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	30 11:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Party	31	

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