

# **THE VOICE of *Second Church***

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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June 2019



## **ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019, 11:15 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  
jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org www.jackandjillattleboro.com  
Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant  
Scouts BSA Charter Organization Representative, c: 508-918-0123  
Jack Baptist, Sexton  
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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

June, 2019

<b>Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>One Plus One</b>	<b>Curator</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill Preschool</b>	<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
Page 2	Page 2	Page 2	Page 3	Page 3	Page 2	Page 2	Page 4	Page 2	Page 5

## MINISTER’S MUSE

### Religious Conflict in America and the Straw Man of Secularism



What I am about to state may be controversial. There is an aspect of faith which is political. Realize that in our tradition, the minister speaks *to* the congregation not *for* the congregation. I am not trying to sway opinions; I am just stating the facts in the hope of bringing clarity.

Right now some Christians claim that their freedom to be Christian is being jeopardized by the secularists because they are not allowed to discriminate against those whom they deem to be sinful. They argue that the law should protect their interpretation from the secularists. Secularism is a straw man, however. The rights of Christians who interpret scripture the way our denomination does, to pass laws to protect the life and liberty of our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQIA community, defend reproductive freedoms, as well as a host of other progressive causes, must by that same argument also be protected.

Sometimes conservative pundits like to make people believe that the protection of religious discriminators is somehow a fight between religion and secularism. They claim that the secular state should not be able to weigh in about matters of faith. But which faith? An examination of the true diversity of Christianity in America would find a spectrum that would embrace the political reality of all political beliefs in American today.

Consider our history for a moment. Faith was a vitally important component of the Civil War. Northern Unitarian, American Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Congregational, Presbyterian and Lutheran Churches played a critical role in drumming up support for a war to end slavery. Congregational Minister Henry Beecher and his Congregational sister Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote so many articles, books and tracks drumming up support for the war to end slavery, Abraham Lincoln once said half jokingly that the Beecher and Stowe family caused the war (*The Cambridge Companion to Harriet Beecher Stowe*, ed. Cindy Weinstein (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

On the other side of the fence, Southern Churches fought tooth and nail to justify slavery. They told slaveholders that slavery was justified in the Bible and worked equally hard to make sure that troops would support the cause of the confederacy.

Churches in denominations such as our own have been behind LGBTQIA rights since the seventies. We were the first denomination to vote nationally to fully include and affirm this community. We believe that Jesus thought that people should not be defined by their status of being excluded; they should be defined by their oneness with God. Fifty years ago, mainline Protestants rallied to give women reproductive freedom. From a theological standpoint, one can't choose life for a fetus still dependent on a voting woman if that woman doesn't have choice.

Rhetoric is always designed to sway minds. But the fact is the argument of religion versus secularism is a straw man. Beneath the surface is the reality of a religious conflict that has left an indelible mark on the history of our nation.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

## LITURGICAL THEMES

### JUNE 2

“The Liberating Power of the Spirit”  
Acts 16:16-34

Trusting that God is present and not absent is really the whole point of faith. The early disciples are harassed and chained by the worldly powers of the day but they did not live in fear. What difference would it make in our lives if we really trusted in the power of the Spirit?

### JUNE 9

#### *Pentecost*

“How to Open Our Minds to the Spirit”  
Acts 2:1-21

Wear your red clothes. Today we will celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit! I will be drawing from scripture, spiritual discipline, and common frustrations to talk about the Spirit in the real world.

### JUNE 16

#### *Fathers Day*

“Hearing Wisdom's Voice in a Noisy World”  
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Wisdom calls even today, but what does it say? Are we centered enough to hear her voice? How can we become better listeners?

### JUNE 23

“What The Sheer Silence Said”  
1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a

The prophet Elijah flees to Mt. Horeb. There God tests him in a cave. Am I in the wind, the earthquake, the fire? No, God lies in the sheer silence. What do we come to know in our own experience of sheer silence?

### JUNE 30

“Faith: The Most Important Adventure of Your Life”  
Luke 9:51-62

Many of us see faith as a safety net. But what if instead faith was the most important adventure of your life- not fit for people who always put security first? This is what the scripture tells us anyway.

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacon this month is Marcia Weidner. 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.

## 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.

Our next get together we will meet for our annual cook-out to kick off the summer on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Betsey and Russell Pray's home at 61 Wheaton Drive, Attleboro starting at 5:30 pm. 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'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, June 10<sup>th</sup> 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*

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

You are a V.I.P. (Very Important Person). You love Second Church and serving God. You have ideas for sharing your love with the community; enthusiasm, time, and energy. Join us! Please contact Claudette Newport at 508-695-2490 if you have questions or need more information about our group.

## MUSIC NOTES

### CHOIR SCHEDULES

Regular rehearsals have ended for the year. The first rehearsals in the fall will, as usual, begin right after Labor Day, on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Bell Choir will play in the morning worship service on June 9, Pentecost Sunday. The warm-up/rehearsal will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Adult Choir will sing on all the Sundays in June. We have been practicing music for June 2<sup>nd</sup> (“Festival Canticle: Worthy Is Christ”) and June 9<sup>th</sup> (“I'm Gonna Sing”). The remaining Sundays in the month we'll gather before church to put together a simple anthem from our repertoire.

### 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 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

Thank you to all who participated in our May Family Fellowship walk and luncheon as well as the Children's Day worship service. Each was a special time for our church family to come together to explore and grow our faith.

The nursery will remain open for our little friends for the month of June and we look forward to resuming Sunday School for our children and youth this fall. If you are interested in sharing a hobby, a mission project, or a story of faith with the Sunday School program or if you have a suggestion for a Family Fellowship event please let me know.

*Diane Osborne*

## OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry distributed bags of food to 14 families on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 6 families on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, canned Chef Boyardee Ravioli and Beef-A-Roni, dry

cereals (especially children's), real fruit juices, tuna, peanut butter, hearty soups, toiletries, detergent, and bathroom tissues are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the Ladies Parlor with the Deacons each Sunday or in the kitchen during office hours. Contact: Betsey Pray, [rlpbpp@verizon.net](mailto:rlpbpp@verizon.net)

The Family Café will be "open for business" on **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall; 24 people were served on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 29 people on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash pots & pans are needed anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. Book donations (specifically for children & young adults) will be gratefully accepted. Contact: Linda Wiswall, [wiswalllinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiswalllinda@gmail.com).

**Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** - Walk with our church group at the Boston Pride Parade, with kick-off at Copley Square. Enjoy a day in the city and church fellowship. Contact: Vern Wright, [ruachwrights@msn.com](mailto:ruachwrights@msn.com).

Please note our church ad in the Pink Pages books for Providence and Boston, and on-line: <http://www.pinkweb.com/ri.listings.html>

A good time was had by all on May 22 at the *Hunger to Hope* benefit dinner at Lake Pearl. There were raffles, silent auctions, and lots of merriment with the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative. Thank you for your generosity!

The next Outreach & Missions meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor

*Janet Blair*



We are very busy wrapping up another wonderful year of memory making below the stairs. ☺

This month I would like to highlight the amazing portfolios that the teachers create for EACH child at the end of the school year. Over the course of the year, the teachers collect work samples in the form of drawings, paintings and photographs in order to create a

"memory book" which we bind and gift to each child at the end of their school year. This is a true labor of love! I adore receiving texts from the teachers when they are working from their "command centers" long after school hours. They truly appreciate the visuals and reflection time that visualizes the growth of each child!

Looking ahead to next year we have an exciting program addition. We will be offering a mixed age program for children ages 3-5. Parents have been given the opportunity to register for 2, 3 or 5 days. Many of our families have been asking us for more days for 3 year olds, and we feel this program will meet their needs. The class is filling fast! As always, if you know anyone looking for placement, have them give me a call. I can be reached at [jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org](mailto:jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org) or 508-222-1149 or for a tour of the program.

The Dads will soon enjoy their event with their children. This year our 'Fun with Fathers' Event will be held at Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary. The children and their fathers will enjoy a guide led hike on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM.

We are graduating 41 children from our program this year. Our commencement exercises will take place on **THURSDAY JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>**. Admission price is one canned good to support the Second Congregational Church's food pantry.

We are offering 2 weeks of summer camp this summer. Week One is a STEAM camp with the theme of BEACH.

We will also be offering a Kindergarten Readiness Camp in August for children who have graduated from our program and are headed off to Kindergarten in the fall. The curriculum will include a review of K readiness skills and experiences with some of the things they will be doing in the fall. We do accept children who have not been a part of our program for the K Camp if you know of anyone who might be interested.

*Warmly, Kara Lehane*

## FROM THE CURATOR



Quite often on Sunday mornings, Rev. Wright projects on the monitors the pictures of the fish and dove represented in stained glass on our sanctuary doors. These symbols were favorites of Dr. Russell Richardson who served our church from 1945 to 1965. The figures represented Christ - the dove and man - the fish. The designs were created by Mr. August Schaefer who felt that they were his greatest artistic accomplishment. When Dr. Richardson first saw them he immediately approved the use of them on the folding sanctuary doors where they remain to this day.

Unfortunately, Dr. Richardson never got to see the finished doors. His health was failing and he was forced to retire at the end of 1965. Dr. Richardson died seven months later at the family home on Cape Cod. The beautiful sanctuary doors that we admire today were the collaborative vision of two men who worked as one to produce a masterpiece in stained glass.

*Ted Moxham, Curator*



## June Birthdays

- 2 Mike Cotsalas
- 3 Derek Hall
- 4 Rebecca Minville  
Annabella Minville  
Andrew Minville  
Ray Turcotte
- 5 Julia Bozzi  
Kathy Durgin  
Nick Vecchioli
- 8 Alexis Ladner  
Michelle Minville
- 9 Ashley Keith
- 10 Jay Miller, Sr.  
Gloria Walsh
- 11 Jessica Priesing
- 12 David Bliss
- 15 David Broden
- 18 Ann Haskel  
Deb Hawes  
Kristin Keith
- 19 Bob Bliss
- 20 Karen Girczyc  
Dave Webb
- 22 Audrey Deavellar
- 24 Laura Hauerwas  
Nicole Mernin
- 26 Dianne Ordog
- 28 Bette Renoni
- 30 Bob Follett  
Chuck Opdycke

## July Birthdays

- 5 Sheila T McKenna
- 6 Arianna L West
- 7 Lyra Osborne
- 9 Dee Sawyer  
Barb Wither
- 10 Sharon Reiley
- 12 Owen Wright
- 14 Diane Robinson
- 17 Dick Sager
- 18 Sue Costello  
Lorraine Frye  
Jackson Laramee
- 19 Jen Turcotte
- 20 Dave Ramsay  
Lisa Vecchioli
- 21 Kacey Janson
- 22 Bob Withers
- 24 George Freeman  
Molly Kay
- 27 Claudette Newport
- 29 Paula Foresman  
David Vecchioli
- 30 Stacey Alsfeld  
Lynne Holden  
Janda Nuovo

## August Birthdays

- 1 Dave Lunt  
Maria Smith  
Roberta Zarrella
- 2 Nicole Laramee  
Brynn Wright
- 4 Laila Brodeur  
Anne Reiley
- 5 Tina Middleton  
Jackie Sampson
- 6 Phyllis LaMay
- 7 Ty Waterman
- 8 Trinity West  
Kat Wright
- 9 Amanda Deavellar  
Elizabeth Griffin
- 10 Cathy LaPorte-Jewett
- 11 Joel Bozzi
- 12 Mark Bassler  
Mason Bourdeau  
Gary Middleton
- 13 Russell Deavellar  
Barbara Massey
- 17 Susan Brown
- 18 Curtis Robinson
- 19 Debbie Smith
- 21 Jeff Keane  
Kathy Morton
- 22 Wilma Johnson  
Hank Reiley
- 23 Jeannine Sousa
- 24 Gail Cupp
- 25 Alex Brown  
Madi Saunders
- 26 Elaine Killough  
Wendy Oliver
- 30 Paige Reiley

## June Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10 am to 2 pm <b>Inside Uptown! Attleboro Historic Tour</b>
2 ◇ 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	3 6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4	5 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	6 11:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Jack & Jill School Graduation	7	8
9 <i>Pentecost</i> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM <b>Annual Corporate Meeting</b>	10 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	11 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting	12 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts J&J Board Meeting	13 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 11:30 AM Bible Study	14	15 5:30 PM <b>One plus One Cookout at Pray's</b>
16 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	17 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	18 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	19 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	20 11:30 AM Bible Study	21	22
23 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	24 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	25	26 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	27 11:30 AM Bible Study	28	29
30 10:00 AM Worship						