

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

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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September 2019



**RALLY DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2019, 10:00 AM**

**CHURCH FAIR!**  
**NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 9 AM-2 PM**

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 / Historian  
BSA Charter Organization Representative, c: 508-918-0123  
Jack Baptist, Sexton  
Church Office: 508- 222-4677 Fax: 508- 222-2148  
office@attleborosecondchurch.org www.attleborosecondchurch.org *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

September, 2019

<b>Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill</b>	<b>Curator's Corner</b>	<b>RALLY DAY!</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Music &amp; Dance</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
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## MINISTER'S MUSE

### The Challenge of Embodying Faith in a Mental World



When we hear the phrase that someone is "living in their head", we think of an impossible dreamer who can't seem to get her or his lofty thoughts to translate in the real world. In college however, I took a class in political philosophy and realized that from the philosopher Renee Descartes proclamation "I think therefore I am", to today, the whole of Western Civilization has been living in its head. Faith often becomes about what we think about God rather than how we treat other people or feel about ourselves. The grouping of scriptures in the lectionary about what it truly means to embody one's faith for the month of September challenges us to re-think this mental world.

Embodying faith is much more than just thinking about it. In my practice of mindfulness meditation, I first become conscious of my body, then my mental processes, then my heart states. Only when I am completely aware of my body, mind and heart, and compassionately accepting of what is really going on there, do I begin to sit with a deeper sense of ultimacy. In that place there is pure being.

This month's scripture encourages us to do things like, "live the life that is truly life", or become the living example of Christ, or welcome others as Christ himself would welcome others. Each of these scriptures makes it clear that, while faith includes what we think, it is also way deeper than what we think.

With as much as I have learned about the human being through ministering to the joy of marriage or baptism, or the pain of sickness, dying and death, I am often shocked about how truly "in my head" I can be with my own self and my family. As soon as I step outside my role or my contemplative practice, the normal societal expectations of what it means to be a man, father, husband and son come rushing back. I hide the concerns of my heart for fear that those concerns will be rejected. I don't listen to my body and I push it to exhaustion. I'm not always really able to listen to my loved ones and tell them to "chin up and bear it."

It seems to me that our whole civilization is suffering from a philosophical plague that keeps people from really being able to embody the full truth of what it means to live "in Christ." Christians can embrace fascism and send millions to the gas chamber. Tutsi's and Hutus (both Christian) can hack each other up with machetes. Until we all really examine the meaning, feeling, and the embodiment of our faith, all of our thoughts about faith will be as Macbeth's cynical insight that life is no more than a "sound and fury signifying nothing."

In my opinion some of the best ways of getting us to go deeper than our mental faith, is to practice contemplative prayer, missions and service. Oh, and that feeling of being swept away by a great hymn helps too!

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

## LITURGICAL THEMES

### SEPTEMBER 1

#### Communion Sunday

#### “An Ethic of Radical Hospitality”

Luke 14: 1, 7-14

This Sunday we will explore Jesus' table ethics in the context of communion and the meaning of being an Open and Affirming church. Radical means free and extravagant. Being extravagant and radical about welcoming and caring for others is the cornerstone of Christian social ethics and is a part of the culture of old Attleboro.

### SEPTEMBER 8 RALLY DAY!

#### “The Liberating Consequence of Christian Freedom”

Philemon 1-21

A slave escapes to go on the road with the apostle Paul. Philemon, a prominent member of Paul's church, wants his slave back. Paul asks the slave holder to truly understand what it means to live in Christ and free his slave. This was a slave based society. The convention of slavery was completely unquestioned. What would it mean for us to think of our Christian identity as radically as Paul did?

### SEPTEMBER 15

#### “Becoming the Change you Desire”

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul accounts for his life before living in Christ and after, and comes to an important conclusion that Christ came to him in order to display patience and become the example of Christ. In our divisive political world what would it mean for us to better embody the living Christ in day to day life?

### SEPTEMBER 22

#### “How to Become More Child-Like”

Jeremiah 8:18 to 9:1

Jeremiah lifts up a mighty longing for a balm in the dessert of despair. But his love and longing also sets the record straight and establishes the foundation for the reestablishment of the faithful community. How comfortable are we to really be honest about our true longing and dare express it?

### SEPTEMBER 29

#### “The Difference Between Existing and Living”

1 Timothy 6:6-19

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he talks about taking hold of the life that is really life that can only occur when we truly embody the truth of the human being as

lived in Jesus. Much of our days are spent planning and scheming around our existence. What would happen if we spent as much time planning and scheming around embodying the Christ in us?

## RALLY DAY!

On behalf of Deacons and the Christian Education Committee I would like to invite you all to join us for a welcome back cook-out after the Rally Day service September 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will come and join us as we reconnect as a church family. This is also a great time for new comers to learn more about our congregation so please feel free to extend our invitation to others.

**All are welcome!**

See you soon,

*Diane Osborne, Chair,  
Christian Education Committee*

## 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 Giannetti at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### THANKSGIVING IN THE KITCHEN

### CHRISTMAS IN THE PARLOR

Saturday, November 2, 2019

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Our annual Church Fair is fast approaching – just a little more than two months away! We hope you have been saving up small household items and tools for Grandma's Attic/Grandpa's Garage as well as toys, recent release books (no magazines or text books), DVDs, jewelry, games and puzzles. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate large items, furniture, computer or stereo equipment, bikes or clothing). Please call the Church office if you have a question about an item. Items may be left inside the back door to Fellowship Hall on the stairs to the stage.

For those of you canning/preserving your garden bounty (pickles, relishes, jams/jellies, etc.) over the summer, please consider making donations to Ruthie's Pantry. Empty jars can be donated as well. Craft items and knit goods will also be graciously accepted.

We are preparing for another terrific Silent Auction for our Fair this year. If you have a special item or talent that you think would work, please speak with Fred or Sandy Saunders.

Small pots of the two- to five-inch variety are needed to create variety for the plant table at the Fall Church Fair. Many of the plants slated for the fair have thrived this summer -- with hand watering -- and need to be divided. Call Anne or Henry Reiley at 508-222-6146 or the church office to arrange for pickup or delivery.

If you have any suggestions for our Fair, please feel free to call Sandy Saunders or, better yet, attend our next Women's Fellowship meeting. We'd love to hear from you!

Our annual Fair is an all-Church event and we need everyone's help to make it successful. A representative from Women's Fellowship will be in Fellowship Hall at coffee hour each Sunday in October with a list of opportunities. **Please stop by – we are sure to have an opportunity for you!**

We will hold a planning meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> after the morning service. All women of the church are welcome.

*Women's Fellowship Exec. Committee*

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. Shawls continue to be of tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss, illness or other traumatic event in their lives. 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

Our first rehearsals will be Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (the Thursday after Labor Day), at the regular times: Bells, 6:30-7:30, Adult Choir, 7:30-9:00.

The Adult Choir will sing in church for the first time on Rally Sunday (September 8<sup>th</sup>) and on the remaining Sundays in September. Bells will set a

date for playing in church at one of the first rehearsals.

## Join Us!

The beginning of the season is a great time to become a choir member. No audition or advance permission necessary – just come to the first rehearsal or any one after that (see the times above).

The Adult Choir sings mostly every Sunday. Rehearsals include the regular 90-minute sessions on Thursdays, and a 20-25 minute warm-up on Sunday morning beginning around 9:10 a.m. Bells rehearse for an hour on Thursday and play in church every six weeks or so.

Our rehearsals are organized and efficient, but fun and enjoyable. I'm committed to making sure that we finish on time and that there are no surprise extra rehearsals, long rehearsals, or short-notice performances. And – important to note – there's no requirement that you attend every rehearsal or be in church every Sunday. It's understood that work or travel schedules sometimes take precedence, and, of course, that illnesses or sudden emergencies have a way of happening.

In both the Bell Choir and the Adult Choir there is a core of experienced, long-time members who will be happy to welcome you and help you out. We'd love to have you join us!

### Update on the Organ Renovation

The long, multi-phase restoration and renovation of our beautiful pipe organ began a year ago May. Up until the beginning of this summer, while individual sections of the organ were being worked on, the remainder of the instrument was playable. That often required some improvisation from yours truly, but we had organ music every Sunday for 12-13 months.

That changed at the beginning of this summer. Work started on the console to replace aging mechanical and electrical components with their modern electronic, digital counterparts. With the console shut down, none of the organ has been playable. That work is now expected to be complete by the 3rd week in September, so it will be piano-only for a few more weeks.

During the summer, work has also continued inside the pipe chamber. But since the organ has been unplayable in any case, the timing of those projects

hasn't been critical. After the console is back together, there will still be a little work remaining inside the chamber, perhaps continuing into early next year. But once again, and happily, most of the organ should be up and running.

*Bill MacPherson.*

## INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

All are welcome to join our Intergenerational Dance program! Look for more details in the October Voice as we will resume practices Saturday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Sanctuary. Whether you have classical dance training or just like to boogie on the dance floor we would love to have you join us. If you have any questions please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or [de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com).

*Diane Osborne*

## OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry will be "open for business" to Attleboro residents on **Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 to 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed bags of food to 16 families on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, canned 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, September 11<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall; 26 people were served on July 10, and 35 people on August 14. 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 pm. Book and back-to-school supply donations (specifically for children & young adults) will be gratefully accepted. Contact: Linda Wiswall, [wiswalllinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiswalllinda@gmail.com).

Please save **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** for our Holiday Potluck Luncheon immediately after church in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite casserole or main dish. Drop it off before church in

the kitchen. Salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert will be provided. If you would like to help with set-up, prep, monitoring the warmed food, or clean-up, please let us know. Contact: Janet Blair, [janblblair@aol.com](mailto:janblblair@aol.com).

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor. *Janet Blair*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We look forward to welcoming back our children to Sunday School on Rally Day September 8<sup>th</sup>. Registration for all ages up to grade 12 will take place in the Conference Room beginning at 9:30 am until the start of service at 10 am. If you are not able to join us on Rally Day please feel free to see a member of the CE Committee on any Sunday to complete registration.

Our Nursery staff is looking forward to welcoming back our friends 3 and under every week beginning on Rally Day. The first Sunday of the month will continue to be a time for families to experience worship and Communion together. Our Sunday School teachers are looking forward to welcoming our children and youth back to the classroom for a yearlong journey exploring how churches exist in many places near and far.

All members of our Church Family are welcome to join us for our first Family Fellowship event of the year. We will be picking apples on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm at Steere Orchard in Greenville, RI. Snack will be provided along with an apple themed story time. If you are interested in joining us at the orchard please RSVP to the Church Office or via the Facebook invite by Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that September 1<sup>st</sup>, Labor Day weekend, will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience worship and Communion together.

We are always looking for volunteers in the classroom and the Nursery. Please contact me at (508) 409-7919 or [de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

*Kind regards, Diane Osborne  
Chair, Christian Education Committee*



Happy September!

We welcomed our new and returning students to playground days in late August. Activities were set out and the children and their parents had the opportunity to meet new friends, share a snack, and have their questions answered. These days help ease parents and children into our school community! They are also a wonderful opportunity for the teachers to get acquainted with some of their students and parents in a relaxed atmosphere!

The teachers reported back on 8/28/19 and all signs point to another successful year here at Jack and Jill! We are welcoming Brenda Daday back to our teaching staff. She was with us from 2009-2014 and has most recently been employed by the North Attleboro School District. We are very excited to have her back. Brenda holds her Master's Degree in Special Education. She is extremely organized, nurturing and will make a great co-teacher for Christina Renoni! Many of our teachers have been teaching in the same classroom and for the same age range for over a decade and are about to embark on some new experiences this year. We have moved almost everyone around and I am looking forward to seeing their new skill sets develop!

We have been blessed with a very active summer, providing tours and registering 6 children over the summer months! All of our classes are very close to capacity! I am looking forward to the sights and sounds of little ones again, as it can get a little lonely here without them!

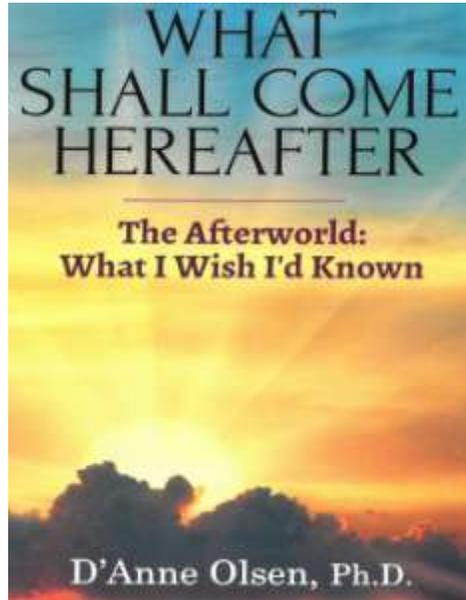
We are always seeking volunteers to share their talents with our students. If you have something to share with us, please don't hesitate to call. The students have been reaping the benefits of Mr. Chuck Opdycke's weekly reading for the past 4 years. He is a valued member of our community and there is always room for you too! ☺

We will start our year off offering several enrichment type activities to our

students. All of our 4/5 year old classes will enjoy monthly visits from Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary and Enrichment 4's will also start off with an 8 week session with Sensei Michael of Lotus Studios! We are off and running this year!

We will begin our school year on September 9, 2019! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

*Warmly, Kara Lehane*



Our newest member, D'Anne Olsen, has recently published her second book, titled above. It is based on a lifetime of research and reflection on death and dying. The book covers the amazing commonalities in the reports of the near-death experiences, mystics, philosophers, poets, hypnotic regressionists, and the great spiritual traditions, including our own. Additionally it offers tools not only to support the dying and your own bereavement process but also comfort and ease any fears around your own death.

The book is available on Amazon and from D'Anne herself. She is hoping for opportunities to facilitate a healing / support group entitled "Easing Grief." Anyone interested in the book or in such a group should contact her at [daolsen711@hotmail.com](mailto:daolsen711@hotmail.com) or 1-971-506-0498.

## September Birthdays

- 5 Eleanor Bassler  
Ray Guild  
Marsha Richardson
- 6 Michael LaClair  
Joe Nuovo  
Russ Pray
- 9 Laurie Sawyer
- 10 Tisha Lancaster
- 11 Jay Miller Jr.  
John Newport  
Evan Tetreault
- 12 Tom Richards
- 13 McKenzie Blair
- 16 Alex Saunders  
Alex Vecchioli
- 18 Zachary LaClair
- 20 Nancy Smith
- 22 Julie Cormier
- 23 John Brodeur  
April Nuovo
- 24 Sharyn LaClair
- 25 Kayla Johnston
- 30 Erin Bassler



Curator's Corner

### Coffee Hour

It seems that everyone cherishes the coffee and assorted goodies that are served in Fellowship Hall every Sunday after service except during the summer.

We now have Sandy Saunders to thank for coordinating this important part of our Sunday worship experience, but how long has this been going on?

We believe the practice was started way back in 1870 by Ms. Leprilote Sweet who furnished tea for the elderly ladies. Hey, what about us elderly men?

Today serving coffee after church seems to be an almost universal event. Some churches even give their parishioners a cup of coffee as they enter the church, perhaps to keep them awake during the sermon!

Our late curator Leland Sanford, never suggested that Ms. Sweet **started** coffee hour, but after 149 years who knows for sure?

*Ted Moxham, Curator*

# S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	2 Labor Day; Office is Closed	3 6:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	4	5 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	6	7 Rally Day Setup
8 <b>RALLY DAY!</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Rally Day Lunch	9 Jack & Jill First day of School 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 15 Meeting	10	11 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 33 Den Meetings	12 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 am Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	16 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 15 Meeting 7:00 pm Facilities Committee Meeting	17 7:00 pm Administration Committee Meeting	18 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 33 Den Meetings 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	19 October Voice Deadline 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	20	21 <b>Family Fellowship Apple Picking!</b> 
22 10:00 AM Worship	23 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 15 Meeting	24	25 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 33 Pack Meeting	26 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	30 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 15 Meeting					

**RALLY DAY!**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**REGISTRATION AT 9:30 AM**  
**ALL-CHURCH LUNCHEON AFTER THE SERVICE!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**