

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

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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September 2020



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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

September, 2020

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### MINISTER’S MESSAGE

*“In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary.”*

*2 Timothy 2:20*

Dear Friends,

Happy September greetings to each of you! I have now been privileged to share six full months with this blessed congregation and this experience has filled my heart with gratefulness and awe. The swiftly moving calendar reminds us that, though the pandemic has changed things and remains among us, our lives nevertheless will soon be filled with many familiar tasks and joys of autumn, and for that I give thanks. In liturgical terms we remain in the period known as “Ordinary Time”, that vast number of weeks between the Easter and Christmas seasons when we are urged to continue preparing our hearts to listen to, and then do the will of God, whatever that may mean for each of us and for our community together. Of course, there is nothing ordinary about the way God works in and through us to bless our world!

As we enter into the cooler months, most of our lives will continue to be filled with the metaphorical common utensils of our everyday activities. These human to-do lists are no less suffused with divine meaning than the other important religious, political or charity work that marks our days. In such times there should be a holy expectation that God will

strengthen our resolve and continue leading us to do needed, sacred ministry in or out of this local church, some of which may involve us in a greater engagement or even possible retreat from what we have long been accustomed to doing. Such are the ways of the Spirit and we need to be open to such whispered -or shouted- changes in spiritual direction as they relate to our individual or shared calling. My hope is that you will continue to be faithful to that to which you have been called especially as you continue to navigate the literal search and call of a settled minister.

As you well know, the COVID virus and the pastoral search process have each given us much opportunity to practice patience through the exercise of our faith both within this community and beyond it. Although there has not yet been a date chosen for the restart of in-person worship, over the next several weeks I look forward to meeting each of you either here in the church offices or in other venues, and to eventually seeing those who are able to do so in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. In the meantime, it is almost certain that your church leaders will have purchased a new, excellent and permanent system to record and broadcast the weekly worship services. As we celebrate our life together in this extraordinary place called Second Congregational Church, I pray that you will join me in using these days to rededicate our lives and our treasures -mundane or otherwise- to the special or ordinary purposes for which we were created.

*With affection, Pastor Wayne*



## BOARD OF DEACONS

The Deacons hope and pray that you and yours are well, healthy and safe. We are looking forward to being together in person rather than virtually. We hope you have been watching and listening to the service that is being live-streamed each week. We know that we have had some technical issues that have caused some consternation. We ask for your patience and prayers as we try to provide a joyful and uplifting Service. Many hours of research and planning have gone into the production of each Service. We thank God for those who have stepped up and ventured into areas of technology that were foreign to them. We truly believe that God is steering our journey and is calling us to exceed our comfort zones. Stay tuned for further information about technological advances.

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to seeing you again. Know that we are in this together. Should you have any concerns, prayers to be offered or joys to share, please let us know.

*In God's Grace, Your Board of Deacons*

Ralph Giannetti, Wendy Oliver, Charlie Oliver, Marcia Weidner, Derek Hall, Ted Moxham, Joyce Moxham, Pam Raskin

### FROM THE PRAYER GROUP

The prayers that are normally submitted on cards during the Sunday service are passed on to this small group, and we continue to pray for the individuals, families, and issues that you have mentioned. If you would like to ask for prayers during our time out of the sanctuary, please email them to [cw.oliver@comcast.net](mailto:cw.oliver@comcast.net), or phone Wendy at 508-226-2319, or submit them to Pastor Wayne at [pastorwayneearl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwayneearl@gmail.com). We treat these requests as confidential.

*Wendy Oliver, Marcia Weidner, and Priscilla Jane Huston.*

## INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

The Intergenerational Dance Group will be having some informal virtual dance hangouts this fall. Details will be sent directly to participants. If you are interested in joining us please contact me 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 28<sup>th</sup>** at the back door of Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed bags of food to 5 families in June, and 15 families in July. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, cereals, real fruit juices, tuna, spam, peanut butter, hearty soups, detergent, toiletries, female hygiene products, and bathroom tissues are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the church office or kitchen for the time being. Contact: Betsey Pray, [rlpbpp@verizon.net](mailto:rlpbpp@verizon.net).

The Family Café is temporarily closed. Contact: Linda Wiswall, [wiswalllinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiswalllinda@gmail.com).

Postponement: We have pushed back our Fall celebration one year. Please save **Saturday, September 25, 2021** for a **Family Friendly Oktoberfest Celebration 6:00-8:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall with the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band.

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. We have been taking care of business together by group e-mails and Zoom. Contact: Janet Blair, [janbblair@aol.com](mailto:janbblair@aol.com).

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



My thoughts and prayers have been with you all as summer is winding down and each family is finding their way into what school or daycare will look like this fall. Considering that the children and youth of our church are spread across many towns and school districts and that we will be continuing to live stream the service in September we will be bringing our Sunday School and youth programming online. We will have a virtual Sunday School at 9am via Zoom starting Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>.

For our kick-off session families are invited to join us in a conversation about Back to School, our feelings and our hopes, utilizing a discussion guide from Milestone Ministry that will be shared with parents in advance. Beginning September 20<sup>th</sup> we will be exploring The Lord's Prayer with a 6-week curriculum unit from Illustrated Ministry that focuses on experiencing the prayer through art, reflection, and discussion.

Details to join the Sunday School will be shared directly to families each week to ensure a safe and secure opportunity to connect. We will also be providing physical and electronic resources to families in advance of each unit as applicable. Please feel free to contact me at (508) 409-7919 or [de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com) if your children would like to join us.

We are in the process of determining a time for our virtual youth programming. A survey will be circulated to families with youth to cater our program to their needs and more information will be shared in the October Voice. *Diane Osborne*



Happy September!

I am thrilled start my term as Director as we get back into the classrooms after being closed since March due to the pandemic. We reconfigured classrooms in order to promote physical distancing while still providing a full preschool experience. We also increased our cleaning procedures. This is going to be a great year!

We will welcome our new and returning students to playground days during the first week of September. Although this year the playground days included wearing a mask, activities were set out. The children and their parents have the opportunity to meet new friends, meet the new Director, 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 report back on 8/31/2020 and all signs point to another successful year here at Jack and Jill! We were able to hire back all of our teachers in some capacity this year. Unfortunately, due to the new Health and Safety Guidelines we were not able to hire our assistant teacher, Katelyn Vivar back. We are working as a team and everyone is excited to be back in the classroom.

This has been an eventful summer. We have had some families decide that they feel safer keeping their children home for this school year. However, we have inquiries almost daily and tours weekly! We are still enrolling now. All of our classes are very close to capacity! I am looking forward to the sights and sounds of little ones again! It was great to be able to connect with them virtually over the closure but nothing beats seeing them in the halls of Jack and Jill!

We have limited openings in our programs. If you know anyone who might be interested in our program please encourage them to call me,

Katrina Lay at 508-222-1149. Our website

<https://www.jackandjillattleboro.com/>

is also a great source for current information! I would be happy to show them our school!

We will begin our school year on September 8, 2020! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Warmly, Katrina Lay



#### CURATOR'S CORNER

Lo and behold it's almost fall and another year of activities is about to start here at Second Church. Well, not exactly. Things sure are different, even this missive has changed over the many years of its existence. For many years this newsletter was known as The Chronicler and for some reason it suddenly became THE VOICE. However, back at the turn of the century, the twentieth century that is, there was another monthly newsletter called "The Beacon". At that time our pastor was the Rev. Edwin L. House who served this church from 1883 to 1898.

The ladies of the church were very active at that time. Some of the groups were the Ladies Sewing Society, the Ladies Foreign Missionary Society, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor. The Beacon discussed the topics to be covered, and the Bible references that would be used at the various meetings.

Sunday School teachers were a valuable asset then as they are to this day. Here is a direct quote from the Beacon:

*"May the good day soon dawn, when a teacher would no more stay away from class without careful notice than fail to meet a note in bank which is liable to protest. By J.R. Pepper in QuiverTips".*

The Beacon also accepted advertising "hummm, what a cool idea". Some of the regular is advertising came from "Pianos" by J. A. Thayer and Co.

*Reads Bakery*

*"Furniture" by G. A. Sweeney*

*San Souci's Shoe Store*

*L. Z. Carpenter. "Groceries"*

*George A. Monroe & Co. "Groceries" Look at the Monroe Memorial Window in the Ladies Parlor*

*George L. Adams "Coal-Wood-Kindling"*

Notice that Mr. Adams doesn't mention gas, electric, oil or nuclear power — oh well, I suppose it was a hundred and twenty years ago. This columnist is 76 years old, and I believe the only one of these loyal sponsors that I can remember is San Souci's, which by then was no longer a shoe store but never remembering going in there I'm not sure what exactly they sold. I do remember they were located right on the other side of the arches, you know, right next to C. Peters Fruit Stand.

Ted Moxham, curator

### 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

### September Calendar

Each Sunday Service, 10 AM, Live Streamed on Facebook.

Church Council Meeting via ZOOM, Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am.

Labor Day, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, Office is Closed

J&J Board of Directors Meeting, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

Facilities Committee Meeting, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm.

Food Pantry Distribution, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Voice Deadline, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Church Council Meeting via ZOOM, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am.

### THOUGHTS ON ONLINE WORSHIP: WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE HAVE WE BEEN? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

*Bill MacPherson, Director of Music*

I'm comfortable with technology, but I have some old-fashioned habits with old-fashioned media. Even though I subscribe digitally to several newspapers and periodicals, I still get the *Sun Chronicle* and the *Sunday New York Times* delivered to my driveway. When I see a longish article or review in the latter, I typically don't get out my phone, open the *Times* app, and bookmark it electronically. Instead, I put the hard copy into a pile of papers, sure that I'll return to it in the future. Then, six months later, I throw the accumulating pile into the recycle bin, realizing I'll never get around to reading all those old papers.

Today was the day for recycling the pile, which dated back to early winter. There I came across an article from January 12<sup>th</sup> – actually the entire Travel section of the *Times* – entitled “52 Places to Go in 2020.” I surmised that I could now safely trash it.

I wouldn't have guessed in January that in all of 2020 I might not travel much further than Shaw's or Second Church. Even in April, we were thinking that we might be together in church by July 4<sup>th</sup> or, certainly, by Labor Day. But here we are in mid-August, as I write this, passing the 4-month mark in “virtual worship.”

I've been fortunate, and blessed, as one of the few parishioners to be in our church sanctuary many hours every week since March, and to worship there in that beautiful space. But, at the same time, I've been there – along with Pastor Wayne, Fred, Cathy, and members of the Deacon Board – to do work that is sometimes frustrating, tiring, and, at this time of year, perspirational rather than inspirational.

#### **Where are we now?**

If you want to call our current worship situation an interim or transitional period, then we are now in the transition period of the transition period. We've moved from pre-recorded services in April, May and June, to live-streaming on Facebook, but looking forward to the installation of professional live-stream technology.

I'll be blunt in my assessment of the Facebook experience. I dislike it intensely. Yes, I know many of you delight in greeting friends in real time as we gather for worship, but, in the sanctuary, in real time, there's tension in the air. We don't now have equipment of professional grade to live-stream reliably, nor is Facebook itself a suitable, capable or reliable medium for live-streaming an entire worship service.

As for our equipment (I'm going to get a little technical here), video is captured with an iPhone because it has both a good-quality camera and built-in Wi-Fi. The phone is clamped to a small tripod that is mounted on a rolling cart. A real video camera, itself expensive, would require other equipment, also expensive, to encode the video for streaming. We are about to acquire such equipment (more on that later in this article), but we're not there yet.

Some viewers have commented or asked why we don't telecast horizontal (wide-screen, “landscape-format”) images rather than vertical (“portrait”) ones, or why we can't switch between the two. Or why we can't zoom in and out. Or why we don't include video or photographic images outside of the real-time action. Or, why we can't make changes or corrections during the service. The short answer is: (1) Facebook does not reliably handle landscape format (we've tried); and (2) our camera is a *phone*, clamped to a tripod, mounted on a cart, rolled around and angled by faithful volunteers aiming to do everything in a smooth and timely fashion.

Or, why there have been problems with the audio. Early on, it was because we were using the iPhone mic, which we knew to be not ideal, but, for a couple weeks, it was the only method we had. In mid-July, I figured out a way to connect our sanctuary mics (pulpit, lectern, wireless, and stand mics) into the iPhone. When everything is working, the sound is great. But, one week, the wireless mic was cutting in and out. Well, that could happen (and many times has happened) during actual Sunday worship! Another week, the audio input into the iPhone somehow became disconnected.

This past Sunday (August 16<sup>th</sup>) everything was working perfectly in the sanctuary, but Facebook would not allow us to live-stream. We recorded the service nonetheless, and it's now been uploaded to our church channel [Attleboro Second Church] on YouTube. If you haven't seen it, I'd encourage you to watch. There's good video and audio. The camera work (i.e., the rolling of the cart) is excellent. And, at the same time, this recording is a perfect illustration of both how far we can go with the iPhone and Facebook, and, importantly, the limitations. There's no way to make the current setup, broadcast via Facebook, better than what it is now, on a good day.

## **Where have we been?**

Before we look into the future, let's go backward a bit, to the 12 weeks of pre-recorded services. I can speak knowledgeably about those, because I was the videographer, audio engineer, compiler, editor, and uploader. (By the way, we plan to slowly upload copies of these videos to the church channel on YouTube. You can still find them in the original location, on my personal YouTube channel [billmacpyt]).

Some have tried comparing the Facebook experience with these pre-recorded videos. Facebook certainly has the feeling of happening, for better or worse, right as you're watching. But it's also technically inferior. It's apples and oranges. Instead of a two-hour setup and live broadcast on Sunday morning, each video required about 20 hours of work: 5 hours to record the speaking and musical sections; 12 hours to compile and edit; and 3 hours to upload and publish.

Although I seemed earlier to have been criticizing the iPhone, it's actually amazingly capable as a recording device. All the video and still photos in the pre-recorded services were shot on my iPhone. The audio for all the speaking portions was recorded on the phone.

The difference between pre-recording and live streaming is not the iPhone but the process. The recordings of Pastor Wayne, the liturgist, soloist, and organist were just the first steps in putting together the video. Every single event was filmed separately and framed optimally (including the headless organist). For the musical elements, audio was recorded simultaneously on the phone and on a separate digital recorder with a wide frequency range. That audio was substituted later, in the editing software, for the phone audio. Photos (e.g. of the church interior and exterior) were cropped for HD screen format and adjusted for best color. The volume and tonal quality of the audio was finessed in both audio and video software. Transitions and titles were added. Lyrics were formatted on the screen and optimized for visibility. Everything was checked and double checked before uploading. And the uploaded video was previewed again before making it public.

In short, if anything in the pre-recorded videos was amiss, it could be changed or fixed ahead of time. That's not the way it is with streaming in real time! There's your apples and oranges.

## **What does the future hold?**

We've looked into a professional system and live-stream service that is used by many churches in New England, including two where we have contacts and from whom we have heard positive recommendations. We hope that this system can be up and running by the end of September (but that does depend on the company's work schedule, and, not surprisingly, they are busy these days).

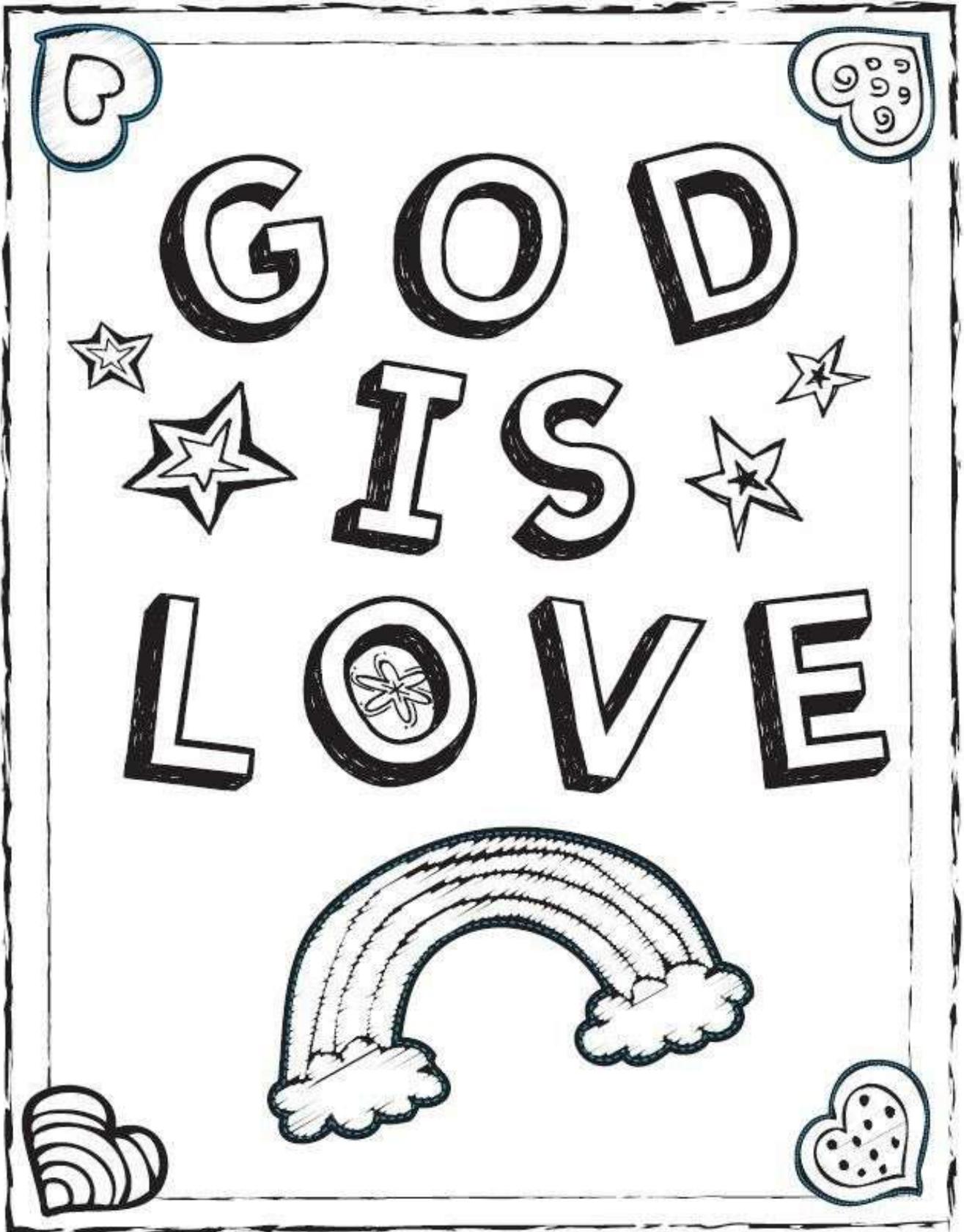
The basic piece of equipment is a pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) video camera that will be mounted on the front of the balcony (i.e., up near the clock). With 20x optical zoom, it's capable of wide shots and close-ups. Multiple camera views and zoom levels can be preset and then quickly selected from a touch screen on a tablet. The audio comes directly from our sound board (i.e., the sanctuary mics). Both video (in wide-screen format) and audio are HD quality.

The real-time live stream will be broadcast not on Facebook, but rather from a link on our church website. Recordings of the live stream will be archived, accessible from the website, and could also be uploaded later to Facebook and/or YouTube. Some churches (including the two we know best, both of which are UCC churches here in MA) post-edit the recorded live stream and add external elements, such as pre-recorded greetings, readings, prayers, or musical selections by congregants (but the post-editing does require the time and skills of people who know how to do it).

The system is capable of future expansion – added cameras, for example, or equipment to allow switching during the live stream between real-time and pre-recorded images – but that's a whole other level of cost and complexity. We'll start with the basics and aim for reliable, live broadcast of quality audio and video.

## **Even more futuristically . . .**

What will be the “new normal,” post-pandemic? Even outside the sphere of the church – for example, in the retail, food service, travel, and entertainment industries – we can already tell that things will be different. We at Second Church have talked a lot about increasing our media and social media presence. We need to do that now, and we need to get beyond the Facebook, newspaper, and snail-mail models. The new streaming system will allow us to get “out there” in new ways. Through a reactivated website we will be able to broadcast services (or meetings, concerts, or other events) to those who cannot leave their homes and to friends and members who live at a distance – not to mention those in our own community who might find us online, live (and alive!). May it be so!



*SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO COLOR!*



**Daily Lectionary Scripture References -Sept. 2020 (Year A)**

**Tues. Sept. 1**

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18  
Exodus 5:1-6:13  
Revelation 3:7-13

**Wed., Sept. 2**

Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18  
Exodus 7:14-25  
Matthew 12:22-32

**Thurs., Sept. 3**

Psalm 149  
Exodus 9:1-7  
2 Corinthians 12:11-21

**Fri., Sept. 4**

Psalm 149  
Exodus 10:21-29  
Romans 10:15b-21

**Sat., Sept. 5**

Psalm 149  
Exodus 11:1-10  
Matthew 23:29-36

**Sun., Sept. 6**

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

**Mon., Sept. 7**

Psalm 121  
Exodus 12:14-28  
1 Peter 2:11-17

**Tues., Sept. 8**

Psalm 121  
Exodus 12:29-42  
Romans 13:1-7

**Wed., Sept. 9**

Psalm 121  
Exodus 13:1-10  
Matthew 21:18-22

**Thurs., Sept. 10**

Psalm 114  
Exodus 13:17-22  
1 John 3:11-16

**Fri., Sept. 11**

Psalm 114  
Exodus 14:1-18  
Acts 7:9-16

**Sat., Sept. 12**

Psalm 114  
Exodus 15:19-21  
Matthew 6:7-15

**Sun., Sept. 13**

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11,  
20-21  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

**Mon., Sept. 14**

Psalm 77  
Joshua 3:1-17  
Hebrews 11:23-29

**Tues., Sept. 15**

Psalm 77  
Nehemiah 9:9-15  
Romans 14:13-15:2

**Wed., Sept. 16**

Psalm 77  
2 Kings 2:1-18  
Mark 11:20-25

**Thurs., Sept. 17**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Exodus 15:22-27  
2 Corinthians 13:1-4

**Fri., Sept. 18**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Exodus 16:1-21  
2 Corinthians 13:5-10

**Sat., Sept. 19**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Exodus 16:22-30  
Matthew 19:23-30

**Sun., Sept. 20**

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Mon., Sept. 21**

Psalm 119:97-104  
Exodus 16:31-35  
Romans 16:1-16

**Tues., Sept. 22**

Psalm 119:97-104  
Numbers 11:1-9  
Romans 16:17-20

**Wed., Sept. 23**

Psalm 119:97-104  
Numbers 11:18-23, 31-32  
Matthew 18:1-5

**Thurs., Sept. 24**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Isaiah 48:17-21  
James 4:11-16

**Fri., Sept. 25**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Numbers 20:1-13  
Acts 13:32-41

**Sat., Sept. 26**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Numbers 27:12-14  
Mark 11:27-33

**Sun., Sept. 27**

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Mon., Sept. 28**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 18:1-12  
Philippians 1:3-14

**Tues., Sept. 29**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 18:13-27  
Philippians 1:15-21

**Wed., Sept. 30**

Psalm 42  
Exodus 19:9b-25  
Matthew 9:2-8