

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

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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December 2020



## **LIVE STREAMING SERVICES FROM OUR WEBSITE INCLUDING CHRISTMAS EVE, 6:00 PM!**

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC  
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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

December, 2020

<b>Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>Lectionary</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill</b>	<b>Profile Team</b>	<b>Christian Education Committee</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Poinsettia Sales</b>	<b>Angel Tree</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
Page 3	Nov. Voice	Page 4	Page 2	Page 4	Page 5	Page 2	Page 2	Page 2	Page 5

### MINISTER’S MESSAGE

*“GOD will be your eternal light, your God will bathe you in splendor. Your days of grieving are over.”* *Isaiah 60:19-20*

This time of year seems to be a favorite for many. Even those who do not consider themselves to be religious often get into the lights and colors, sounds and smells of these special weeks. Of course, not everyone is in a ‘merry’ mood this time of year. There is a mindset that wants to both hoard possessions as well as any remnant of stored up, fragile, emotional treasures. As people of faith we understand that not every motive in the marketing of this season is a good one. The follower of Jesus knows that God has not promised to keep us from trouble, but to keep us steady in our troubles.

The themes of this Advent Season remind us of this great truth as Hope, Peace, Joy, Light and Love dominate the Christian calendar. With Hope, we are reminded that “help is on the way” as we wait expectantly for a desire fulfilled that does not disappoint. Peace reminds us that, although division, heartache and despair seem all too often to win the day, a lasting calm will triumph in the end, and all our turmoil and anxiety will one day find a place of rest. Joy is a favorite emotion, and during Advent we affirm that our deepest grief and mutual tears, though real and overwhelming now, will one day give place to even deeper shouts of joy! Then, on Christmas Eve

we gather to remember that the Light of God is greater than any force that may seek to mute it. Light gives perspective to see as God sees and to act in ways that bring healing and freedom to ourselves and others. Love becomes embodied on Christmas morning, not just in the giving and receiving of wrapped presents, but also in the reminder of a more lasting presence, stronger than all our possessions, losses and separations.

This time of year may not be the favorite time for everyone, especially now with the destabilization and distancing from loved ones and friends that this pandemic requires from each of us. Still, if we’re listening, this season can teach us that everyone deserves another chance to practice hope again. And we can all use a little peace and a shot at a type of joy that bubbles up from a conscience that has found rest in divine grace. Remember, too, that God’s Light is there to help us find our way home to love again. There is no hoarding of treasure here, for we are called to spend our lives –and our things- for the well-being of one another.

*Happy Holidays to all! Pastor Wayne*



## THE ANGEL TREE

This year the Deacons will continue the tradition of the Angel Tree, but in a different way. We won't have the name tree in the narthex, but we do have a way to connect you with someone who is shut in or unable to attend church this season. Would you be an Angel and help make one person's Christmas a little brighter by sending a card and/or making a phone call during this season? If you can, please phone me at 508-226-2319 to get the name of someone with whom to share the joy of Christ's birth.

Wendy Oliver

### CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS



The Flower Committee will be taking orders for Poinsettias which will be placed on the altar for this year's Christmas Eve Service. The poinsettias will be ordered from the same supplier, Evergreen Nursery in Seekonk, that we purchased from last year. Due to the difficulty of distributing the plants after service on Christmas Eve during the pandemic, only red poinsettias will be available for purchase. As you may recall, last year's poinsettias were exceptionally lush and very reasonably priced. The price for this year's plant is \$15.00 for a 6 1/2" potted plant. Please email or call the church office to add your name, your dedication and arrange for payment. As always, donations may be made to the Food Pantry in place of or addition to flowers.

If you would like to place a Poinsettia on the altar for Christmas Eve Service, please email or call the Church office before Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please have your dedication ready when you call. Payment may be made by mailing a check payable to Second Church to the Church Office in the amount of \$15.00 for each Poinsettia ordered. Please indicate, in the memo section of

the check that your check is for Christmas Eve Poinsettias.

### **SELF HELP DAY at 2nd Church – January 16, 2021, 9 to noon**

The friends and family of 2<sup>nd</sup> Church are blessed with many talents. On **January 16<sup>th</sup>** we hope to have you share your talents as we gather at the Church to work on a few projects to improve our church building. These projects are simple and can be accomplished by many. **Precautions:** Rest assured, individuals will be appropriately spaced within the church, face masks are a must, and hand washing/sanitizing are also recommended. If you have one hour or more, come on down and lend a hand. We have painting projects and cleaning projects. We look forward to seeing **YOU!** Any questions? call the Church Office. Please let us know if you're planning to attend so we can plan out the projects and supplies.

*Many Thanks.*

## MUSIC NOTES

### Online Worship – The Latest News from Technology Central!

Our new live-stream system was installed on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. We've now moved from pre-recorded services posted on YouTube (April-June), to Facebook live (July-October), to this latest and (I hope, at least for foreseeable future) most satisfying solution. On Sunday, November 15, we streamed our first worship service. Those of us involved in the process regarded it as a successful debut, and viewers gave us and the system high marks.

In this article I'll describe the installation and the technology and offer instructions about viewing (if you haven't done so already). But first I want to thank those who have been involved in the project from the start and continue every Sunday to make sure that "the show goes on." The Deacons and Church Council have been unceasingly supportive. The Trustees provided funding through the endowment, specifically the Memorial Fund. Pastor Wayne continues to be cheerfully flexible and helpful with integrating all our past and present

technological set-ups into the online worship experience. Our videographers, notably Ralph Giannetti, Derek Hall, and Charlie Oliver, have endured all the ups and downs of live broadcasting and have now graduated to running the new camera (more on that below). The installation crew from Power Sound New England, our streaming service, worked skillfully and efficiently to get the equipment up and running in about 5 hours on November 9<sup>th</sup>. LeAnn Kimball and Troy Jennings, back at the PSNE office, have not only been helpful along the way, but LeAnn, particularly, also ran us through a Zoom tutorial at the end of the installation week.

I'm especially grateful to Jack Baptist, Fred Saunders, and Jamie Reiley. Jack is the master and caretaker of the IT infrastructure here at Second, and that knowledge has been invaluable throughout this project. Fred, as we all recognize, knows everything about every nook and cranny of our church building and is always generous with time and help in ways that I can't begin to count. Jamie, our webmaster, prepared our website in advance, and, when it came to crunch time in the two days before our first broadcast, had all the windows and links set up and functioning for viewers on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you all!

### **THE STREAMING SYSTEM**

The heart of the system is a single camera, mounted on the front wall of the balcony, just above the right-hand supporting post, as viewed from the chancel. It is a pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) camera, on which the lens can move automatically from left to right (pan) and up and down (tilt), and zoom in and out for wide shots or close-ups along the remaining axis. Although the lens can be moved remotely at any time, preset positions (e.g., views of the pulpit, the altar, a wide view of the sanctuary, etc.) can be set up in advance, are "remembered," and are selected on a dedicated iPad app.

The camera is hard-wired to the streaming equipment, consisting of four or five "black boxes". There the digital signal from the camera is mixed with audio from our sound board, encoded,

and streamed wirelessly to the servers at PSNE. We can use any and all microphones and audio inputs connected to our sound board, and also simultaneously use our in-house PA system.

The links on our website are to the servers back at the PSNE “mother ship,” and that’s how the live-stream gets back to you. PSNE also takes the livestream and automatically populates an archive of recordings that can be accessed on our website through a playlist.

**HOW YOU CAN VIEW  
OUR ONLINE WORSHIP**

It’s easy and (fingers crossed) has been working smoothly so far. Go to the church website, [www.attleborosecondchurch.org](http://www.attleborosecondchurch.org). Click on the big red button (“Online Worship”) at the top of the home page.

If you’re watching live (i.e., at 10 am on Sunday morning), the streamed video will open when we “go live” at the church, which, so far, has been around 8-10 minutes before 10 am. If you view at any other time, there is another window below the live stream window, called “Archived Services.” In the corner of that window is a button named “Playlist.” Videos of past services, including the latest one, are available there. If you tune in just after 11 am and perhaps up until mid-afternoon on Sunday, you’ll see the “raw view” of the 10 am service that includes all the fussing around that happens between 9:50 and 10:00. But PSNE also provides a way to trim that unnecessary pre-service video. Fred, very kindly, has done the trimming after the service. But it takes at least a couple hours for the edited video to replace the raw footage of that Sunday’s service in the playlist.

There are some small adjustments and additions that we can and will make as we go forward, but – the reviews are in! The video and audio quality of our live stream is already very impressive!

*Bill MacPherson*

**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, December 28<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed bags of food to 20

families in October and 19 in November. Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, cereals, real fruit juices, canned fruit, baked beans, tuna, spam, peanut butter, hearty soups, corned beef hash, detergent, toiletries, and female hygiene products 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).

This year's Christmas season's

The average age of a homeless person in Massachusetts is **8**

Last year Massachusetts public schools identified **24,000** students impacted by homelessness.

**HELP PROVIDE SCHOOL ESSENTIALS TO LOCAL STUDENTS**

**NEEDED**

- **Quality backpacks for boys & girls K-12 (size 17" or larger to fit needed supplies and a lunchbox)**
- Large Pencil Boxes
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Hand Sanitizer
- Large Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt Children's Scissors (must be blunt)
- Large Pencil Sharpeners (with cover)
- Pens (blue or black)
- Washable Markers Broad Tip (8 pack) (must be washable)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Red Pens
- Highlighters
- Flexible Plastic Rulers
- Index Cards (100 pack)
- Calculators (square root & scientific)
- Shiny Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Single Subject Notebooks (wide ruled)
- 3-Holed, Lined Paper (wide ruled)
- 1" Binders
- Binder Dividers

New books for all grade levels (K-12).  
Classics or appropriate subject matter.

*The mission of School on Wheels of MA is to promote the academic, social and emotional growth of students impacted by homelessness.*



Educate Kids  
Empower Families  
End Homelessness

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**  
for kids impacted by homelessness



**NEW BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED**

Questions?

[Bfox@sowma.org](mailto:Bfox@sowma.org)  
**(508) 587-9091**

**THANK YOU!!**



100 Laurel Street  
Suite 121  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
508. 587. 9091  
[WWW.SOWMA.ORG](http://WWW.SOWMA.ORG)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**Giving Tree** in the Narthex will be up **November 29, 2020 to January 10, 2021**. Please choose one of the following:

- Monetary donation for **UNICEF**.
- A well stocked, good quality backpack for **School on Wheels**. Try working as a team and sharing the expenses for the backpack supplies with a few other congregation members. There will be a sample backpack on display & printed.

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor or on Zoom. Contact: Janet Blair, [janbblair@aol.com](mailto:janbblair@aol.com).

### A REPORT FROM THE CHURCH PROFILE COMMITTEE

The Profile Committee has been meeting regularly via Zoom since late summer, and we are now about 2/3 or more of the way through the process of preparing a church profile to be used by a yet to be formed Search Committee for the purpose of calling a new settled minister. We have been greatly aided by Pastor Wayne, who both provides words of wisdom and encouragement in our meetings and, by filling the Interim Minister role so ably, lets us work with the firm knowledge that we are in good hands until a new call is issued. We have also had very useful input from the Reverend Dr. Ruth Shaver, a member of Second Church who is serving as Interim Minister at this time in our sister UCC church in Mansfield. Finally, we have been aided by you, the congregation, who have provided thoughtful input regarding where we are as a church and where you see us going and, we hope, growing. Many thanks! -- your Profile Committee (Derek Hall, Wendy Oliver, Fred Saunders, Tara Tetreault, Michael Touloumtzis)

I continue to keep our whole church family and each of your individual families in my prayers and hope that you had a lovely Thanksgiving full of gratitude and hope even if it was apart from loved ones you hold dear.

For the season of Advent in Sunday School we will be focusing on the following stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible and corresponding activities.

Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>: *Get Ready!* God's people return from being slaves, from Nehemiah 8-10, Malachi 1,3, and 4, and Ezra 7. In place of Hanging of the Greens in our sanctuary this year children will be making Advent wreaths at home to get ready for the coming of the Christ child. A suggested prayer is provided for each week as you add a candle.

Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>: *He's here!* The Nativity, from Luke 1-2. Each child will color their own stable and add stickers from Illustrated Ministries that are made in the USA and authentically represent the diversity of individuals in the Middle East.

Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>: *The Light of the whole world!* The story of the shepherds, from Luke 2. Just like the shepherds, we would like to share the good news of the Christmas story with others. The children will make Christmas cards to mail to friends and family.

Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>: *The King of all kings!* The story of the three Wise Men, from Matthew 2. Just as the Wise Men brought gifts fit for a king we invite kids and parents to make chocolate chip cookies as a gift to each other. While we patiently wait for them to bake we will hear the story of how patient and steadfast the Wise Men were as they went in search of the baby King.

If you or someone you know would like to join us for Sunday School please contact me so that I can provide Zoom details directly to participants and deliver a resource packet. All lessons will be virtual via Zoom at 9am. Can't join us for a week? No worries! There are instructions in the resource packet for the Advent Wreath construction and sample details will be posted in the Facebook group so that you can do the activities and build faith at home at a time that works for your family.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas please feel free to reach out to me via email, call, text, or FB messenger.

Diane Osborne  
[de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com)  
(508) 409-7919



November is always a fun month at pre-school as we celebrate literacy and friendship. This year we recorded books at home on construction paper ice cream scoops. We had a very full ice cream dish at the bottom of the stairs! At print our students have read over 700 books at home with their families. This number is especially amazing because we have smaller class sizes this year! We enjoyed 2 fun nights of reading together at our PJ Story Time. Our pajama story time was held via Zoom and the teachers each chose a favorite story of theirs to read to the families. We even had a number of families join us for both nights.

One of our favorite events of the year was celebrated – The Friendship Celebration. During this event, each of the 4/5 year old classes made a special snack to share. We enjoyed this snack separately in our classrooms but each class had a little bit of the treat the other classes made. Each of our classes made and wore a fun turkey hat and gathered together on the playground to sing and listen to a story about Thanksgiving read by Mrs. Daday!

Even with all of the above activities,

## December Birthdays

- 1 Chris Brown  
Enoch Osborne  
Mary Valentine
- 2 Brittney Cassidy
- 3 Phil Cotsalas  
Ron Quimby
- 4 Tanner Martin  
Lilliana Mernin
- 7 Zachary Withers
- 9 Max Lancaster
- 10 Carissa Johnstone
- 11 Julie Withers
- 15 Nate O'Connor
- 18 Nick Macomber
- 19 Becky Letendre  
Calvin Turcotte
- 20 Brenda Alsfeld  
Harold Goldzung
- 22 Alex Robinson
- 23 Caroline Griffin  
Ed Hazen  
Debbie Spatcher
- 24 Ruth Baker  
Mariah Ramsay  
Carolyn Werdin
- 25 Pete Cotsalas
- 26 Jayden Pine  
Larry Valentine
- 28 Camryn Janson  
Mike Touloumtzis

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

Each Sunday Service, 10 am  
live streamed on our website!  
View later as well.  
(In-person will be announced)

Virtual Sunday School each Sunday at  
9:00 am. See CE article for details.

Virtual Profile Team Meeting,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm.

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

Virtual Board of Deacons Meeting  
December, 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm

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

Virtual Admin Committee Meeting  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm

**January Voice Deadline,  
December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Virtual Christmas Eve Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm**

Virtual Church Council Meeting,  
December 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am.

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

Christmas Day  
December 25<sup>th</sup>

Boy Scout and Cub Scout Meetings  
are currently all outdoor or virtual.

the staff managed to assess and write their progress reports for the children. We will be conferencing with our 4/5 year old parents on the Monday after our break. Now that the children have settled into the routine of school and teachers have gotten to know their students it is a great time for parents and teachers to share information. Having regular contact with parents is one of the things that make working in the field of early childhood education so special. The conferences will be held on Zoom this year.

Our three year old class is bustling with energy each day! The children are beginning to get a handle on their routine and are enjoying the many experiences their teachers provide for them! We will be conferencing with our 3 year old families the first week in December.

We will be hosting a restaurant night on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 PM – 8 PM a Panera in North Attleboro. We will receive 20% of all sales during this time for anyone who shows our flyer. Flyers are available at the Church Office.

As we approach the month of December we strive for as many quiet moments as possible. Children will be working on special “surprises” for their parents and our classrooms will be festive. Our schedule and routine will stay the same as we focus on the theme of family and love during the holiday season.

Warmly, Katrina Lay  
Executive Director

