

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US Postage Paid
Attleboro, MA
Permit # 122

February 2021



WORSHIP ON OUR WEBSITE SUNDAY, 10 AM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC
Reverend Dr, Wayne E. Earl, Interim Minister...pastorwayneearl@gmail.com
Katrina Lay, 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

February, 2021

Outreach & Missions	Lectionary	Jack & Jill	Deacons	Christian Education	Birthdays	Stewardship	Curator’s Corner	Music Notes	Calendar
Page 2	Page 5	Page 3	Page 2	Page 2	Page 3	Page 2	Page 3	Page 4	Page 3

MINISTER’S MESSAGE



“Dear Ones,

“*For Such a Time as this.*” I have heard this phrase a lot recently. As you likely know, this phrase comes from the Bible story of Esther, who single-handedly delivered her people from certain death. She exhibited courage, resilience and an internal strength rarely matched in biblical literature, or anywhere else for that matter. It would be good early in this transformational year to take time to remember her heroism and honor her legacy by learning from her life and applying the wise leadership she displayed in a difficult time. This month we’ll plan to look more closely at her story as we imagine the ways in which we might apply the insights of this heroic woman.

There is another saying that I was reminded of recently. “May you live in interesting times.” This ancient Chinese proverb certainly reflects our present experience. (Although we might all agree with those who say that we need is a little less of the interesting and a lot more of the boring!) We are not alone in this reality. Due to the pandemic, the entire world has been living in a kind of interim space. Add to that the chaotic events of recent days here in the US, and we could all use a new start. The fact

is we live in a fascinating context that is unique and full of new opportunities to serve those who are in need here in our community of faith and beyond.

This month we also arrive at the season of Lent, that time in our church calendar when we make an extra effort to consider the many ways that we may have fallen short in our lives as followers of Christ. We begin with an Ash Wednesday service on the 17th which will be virtual, of course. However, I encourage everyone to attend the service online as we prepare our hearts for the introspection demanded by current events. In addition, I will be offering an evening Zoom study during Lent which will focus on the last week of Jesus’ life. We will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm-7:00pm on February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. All are welcome.

Interesting times? Such times? We may not understand much, but we know that these are the days that we have been given and, regardless of our fears, anxieties or circumstances, we are called to rejoice and be glad in them. As Psalm 31 puts it, “Our times are in God’s hands.” That sounds pretty secure to me! There is also good news in knowing that resources that offer to strengthen our resilience and inspire courage are available to us in abundance. As we enter into the Land of Lent, let us remember to stand up for Truth and remain vigilant in the face of this malevolent virus and other sinister forces that seek to take advantage of our divisions, personal and system-wide vulnerabilities, and myriad temptations to succumb to deception at every level.

“Let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.” - Galatians 6:9

STEWARDSHIP

While the Stewardship Campaign is winding down, it is never too late to formally make a financial commitment to the church.

A summary of the 2021 campaign so far:

Seventy-eight parishioners and friends have pledged \$128,876 to support the church's ministries and to maintain the building for its various programs. In 2020, 85 parishioners and friends, pledged \$129,016.

Of the total for 2021, 18 pledge units increased their pledges by \$8,816.

Eleven "new" pledges totaled \$8,816. These were members and friends who may have contributed in 2020 but didn't pledge or they may have pledged in the past.

Thirty-eight pledge units maintained their financial commitment.

In reaching out to parishioners and friends, the Stewardship Committee received commitments to contribute but without a dollar sign attached.

During 2020, five members or friends either died, moved or left. Their pledges totaled \$6,636.

Eleven pledge units decreased their commitment for a variety of reasons. The decrease amounted to \$5,370.

The Stewardship Committee is making a final effort to contact the 11 pledges units who have not responded to the committee. These units represent pledges of \$5,396.

A big **Thank You** is extended to all those who made or are making a financial commitment to Second Congregational Church for 2021.

The Stewardship Committee

BOARD OF DEACONS

A New Idea from The Board Of Deacons



Hello, to our church family, whom I have missed and thought of so often. I have heard some of you say how the U.C.C. and our regulations regarding Covid have made "you" feel disconnected from "your" church. Even as a long-time Deacon and member, I have felt the same way, especially during our time of communion. The chairperson of the Deacons appointed me the "Idea Deacon" [LOL] and I wondered if you, the members and friends of Second Church, would consider this idea. Recently, the deacons unanimously approved the purchase and use of pre-

filled grape juice cups with wafers included, but they **DO** have a shelf life. They come with removable seals between the layers. Let's use them now. I have offered my name as organizer and I have a willing Uber driver. Just figure out how many family members and friends wish to participate for a three month trial period, example: 4 people x 3 months = 12 cups in a baggie. You must call me, **Joyce Moxham , 508-222-8820. If I am not available, please leave your order with your address.** The filled baggies will be brought to your door of choice during the weeks of **March 1 to March 13. Firm Deadline.** When the deacons review the interest in this idea and if they find it successful, we will vote again and go forth.

Please do not contact the church office on this matter. The staff will not be involved in scheduling or distributing the communion cups.

Be safe and look after each other, *Joyce*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

For the first week of February, we will continue our journey that we began in January with the Beatitudes. Lenten and Easter packages will be distributed to children and youth this month so that they can celebrate Fat Tuesday with pancakes at home, explore Lent with a family devotional, and prepare for Easter with a special activity. If you or a family you know would like to be included in our resource distribution please let me know.

Sunday February 7th:

Blessed Are the Meek

Matthew 5:5 Participants will encounter the third blessing and promise of the Beatitudes. They will explore the concepts of meekness, land ownership, and caring for the planet. Participants will hear a grown-up say that we are all God's children. They will examine the different ways we can show gentleness to ourselves, each other, and the earth.

Sunday February 14th: School Vacation Break Week – No Sunday School

Sunday February 21st:

The Friend of Little Children

Matthew 18, 19 Mark 10 Luke 18 When we were last discussing Jesus in December, he was just a little baby. Now to prepare ourselves for Lent and remembering the events of the Holy Week we will introduce what Jesus was

like as an adult. As a grown-up Jesus and the children in this story knew what at first his followers couldn't understand, that a person does not need to be the best or do anything special to be loved. They only need to be present and open to love.

Sunday February 28th:

The Servant King

Mark 14 & John 13-14. We will explore the story of Passover and the Last Supper together as a way of appreciating traditions passed down through generations to bring us closer to God. We will discuss how it was for the disciples at a time that Jesus knew what was to come but they did not. We will consider how that compares to our current day where God knows our true paths but we are left waiting for winter and quarantine to end.

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. Do you want to extend your faith formation as a family or cover a topic when you can't join us? We've got you covered! Our Beatitude lessons include a Family Page with discussion questions and beautiful pages to color as a family. It's flexible so you can share the resource together all at once or weave the discussion questions into your daily schedule whenever time allows. During Lent a family devotional or age-appropriate book will be delivered to families so that you can learn together.

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

Diane Osborne

de_saunders@hotmail.com

(508) 409-7919

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry will be "open for business" to Attleboro residents on **Monday, February 22nd** in Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed bags of food to 7 families in December. Informational fliers were distributed at the Hebron Food Pantry in December and two new people visited our Food Pantry (please spread the word). Thank you for your generous donations of money and supplies. Spaghetti sauce, cereals, real fruit juices, canned fruit, baked

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Each Sunday Virtual Service, 10 am
live streamed on our website!

View later as well.

(In-person will be announced)

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

Virtual Profile Team Meeting,
February 4th, 7:00 pm.

J&J Board of Directors Meeting,
February 10th, 6:30 pm

Virtual Board of Deacons Meeting,
February, 11th, 6:00 pm

Virtual Facilities Committee Meeting,
February 15th, 7:00 pm.

Virtual Admin Committee Meeting
February 16th, 7:00 pm

**March Voice Input Deadline,
February 22nd**

Food Pantry Distribution,
February 22nd, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Virtual Church Council Meeting,
February 28th, 11:30 am.

CURATOR'S CORNER



Most of you have
received communion
at Second Church by
what we know as
intinction. As we all

know, this involves coming to the
communion table and accepting the
elements from a deacon and the pastor.
But what about that table? Did you
know that it is over three hundred years
old? We suspect that it was handmade,
but by whom or where remains a
mystery. This table usually is located
in the ladies parlor under the painting of
“The Four Evangelists”

There is an inscription on the top which
reads “ The First Communion Table Of
The Second Congregational Church,
organized 1743. In 1933, the Ladies
Sewing Society recorded that the Rev..
Dr. Mitchell announced that the table
had recently been purchased. However,
the minutes make no mention of where
the table had been or who it was
purchased from.

An interesting feature of the table is
that there are two hidden drawers on the
sides which when extended have
handles which enclose a box which
contained space for the communion
host.

Ted Moxham, Curator

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.

The Family Café is temporarily
closed. Contact: Linda Wiswall,
wiswalllinda@gmail.com.

Giving Tree update: We received
12 completed backpacks, knitted
garments, grocery store gift card &
\$350 for School on Wheels and **\$60**
in donations for **UNICEF**. Derek
Hall and Janet Blair delivered the
donations to the East Bridgewater
location.



The next Outreach and Missions
Committee meeting is scheduled
for **Sunday, February 21st** at 11:30
a.m. on Zoom. Please let us know if
you would like to attend or have any
concerns. Contact: Janet Blair,
janbblair@aol.com.



It's a very exciting time at Jack and Jill
as we have opened our registration for
the 2021-22 academic year. We have
spoken with a lot of new families and
are excited to share all the wonderful
things Jack and Jill has to offer. It's so
much fun to see how excited people are
for their child's experience here!

This is a very exciting time for the
teachers, as we begin to see the children
blossom. The teachers and children

spend the early months learning the
routine and structure of a classroom and
getting to know each other. This is the
time of the year that we really see their
minds begin to grow! They come back
after the holiday break physically
bigger and ready to roll! It's a very
exciting time to be a teacher. ☺ It's
especially rewarding in the three year
old classrooms where the children have
begun to learn each other's names and
play interactively!

This month we will be celebrating
Valentine's Day with a special dance
party in each classroom. The children
are looking forward to celebrating with
their teachers and friends.

We will be hosting 2 virtual Yoga
classes during the week of February
15th. Please keep an eye out for an
email with all the details.

If you or anyone you know is looking
for a pre-school, please encourage them
to check out our website at
www.jackandjillattleboro.com or call
the school at 508-222-1149!

*Warmly, Katrina Lay
Executive Director*

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Aiden Lancaster |
| 2 | Audrey Libby
Elliot Withers |
| 4 | Hannah Melker |
| 8 | Liz Hunt |
| 9 | Prudie Bliss
Ruth Alice Ottmar |
| 13 | Deb Goulding |
| 15 | Erika Pearson
Tara Tetreault |
| 16 | Samantha Cassidy |
| 18 | Sue Janson
Bill Richards |
| 19 | Katie Simmons |
| 20 | Julie Cotsalas |
| 22 | Will Saunders |
| 23 | Emily Saunders |
| 25 | Suzie Bourdeau |
| 26 | Karen Slawson |
| 27 | Ryan Johnston |
| 28 | Anita Chilson |
| 29 | Keith Priesing |

JACK & SHEILA MCKENNA are thrilled
to announce the birth of their first
grandchild John Liam to their son, Dr.
John W. McKenna and his wife, Dr.
Melissa A. Parenti. CONGRATS!

Remembering Dick Sager

Like many of you, I knew Jay and Dick for a long time, both from church and as Attleboro neighbors. But in the last 2 or 3 years I got to know Dick even better from conversations before and after Sunday worship. After Jay's passing, Dick made it a habit to arrive early and listen to the choir's pre-service rehearsal, from 9:15 to 9:40, more or less.

Unlike our 90-minute Thursday choir rehearsals, Sunday's is focused on that morning's anthem. [Notice I'm writing in the grammatical tense that is known as the optimistic-present]. All sorts of musical transformations happen in that 20-30 minutes: Warming up the voices; getting members up to speed, especially those that couldn't be at the previous Thursday's rehearsal; fixing small problems of pitch and rhythm; sharpening up entrances and cutoffs; balancing the total sound to take into account the attendance that morning and the acoustics of the sanctuary; and often a sermonette by me about the meaning of the piece or the significance of particular words; and always a last-minute pep talk.

Dick sat in a regular spot: second row of the piano-side center section, at the end of the pew. You could tell by the smile on his face that he loved the whole pre-show, which, truthfully, sometimes verges on the circus-like. But, more than most non-choir members, he understood and appreciated the kind of musical detail that goes into creating a moving, enthusiastic, meaningful performance, and he loved the choir's contribution to worship. We will miss him!

Reflections on a Psalm, or, What the Choir Might Have Sung

I don't usually know a particular Sunday's liturgical content (scripture, invocation, call to worship, sermon topic, etc.) 4-6 weeks in advance. I base my musical choices on all of the above, so it's usually impossible to comment on upcoming music before that month's *Voice* is published. But it happens that January 31 is the fifth Sunday of the month, and probably this edition of the *Voice* will reach you before then.

Psalm 19 is on the menu for the 31st. One reason I like it is because it's aimed at me. Yes, the preface says that it was written by King David "for the Director of Music." Moreover, it brings to mind a couple of favorite musical compositions. More about them in a moment.

First, the words themselves, and I'm going to focus on verses 1-4. Here's verse 1 in the King James version: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handywork." The first phrase is straightforward, but the second begins to verge into the archaic. And as much as I love the language of the KJV, the meaning of subsequent verses in this translation gets more obscure: "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech or language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the earth."

The New International Version is clearer:

¹*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

²*Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*

³*They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*

⁴*Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

Or, to paraphrase: The heavens speak God's glory. Merely the passage of one day to another, one night to another — the wordless order of the universe and the laws of nature — are enough to testify to God's handiwork.

Back to the two musical compositions. One is a piece familiar to organists, titled, surprisingly enough, *Psalm 19*, written by an 18th-century Italian composer, Benedetto Marcello. It was originally a choral piece, part of collection of Psalm settings. But it's been arranged for many different instrumental forces (so, no words), notably organ, as early as the 19th century. I'll play it as the postlude on the 31st.

The second piece is much more familiar, especially to choirs, including ours. We've sung it many times. It's "The Heavens Are Telling," probably the most famous chorus from the oratorio *The Creation*, by the Austrian composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

For those not familiar with Haydn or his works, he is the oldest of the three great composers of the Classical Period (ca. 1750-1810) in Western music. The other two, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven, are household names. Haydn, not so much, probably because he lived a long, happy, successful, fairly normal life. He is known as "The Father of the Symphony," and "The Father of the String Quartet," having composed dozens of pieces in these genres and influencing both Mozart and Beethoven, particularly the latter, who was Haydn's student for a time.

The Creation has an interesting back story. Haydn was famous all over Europe in his time, and he was invited to London in the 1790's to conduct his own works. While there, he attended a festival of Handel's music, and he heard performances of Handel's oratorios, including *Messiah*. He was moved by the effect of Handel's choral writing in particular, and at one point was said to have uttered, "He [Handel] is the master of us all!" A London admirer of Haydn's encouraged him to write a Handelian type of oratorio and presented him with a text (in English) adapted from Milton's *Paradise Lost* and the Bible.

Haydn put it aside for several years, but his most famous and influential patron, Baron Gottfried van Swieten, translated it into German and created another adaptation more to Haydn's liking. *The Creation* was composed in 1797-98 and had its premiere in 1799. Haydn himself conducted the work many times, and the composer's last public appearance was at a performance in

1808, when, weak and ill, he was carried into the hall on a stretcher. He had to be taken out after the finale of Part I, which is “The Heavens Are Telling.” Beethoven was present, and at that point knelt and kissed Haydn’s hand and forehead.

Van Swieten realized, while translating the text into German, that it would eventually be performed in English too, so he tried to make his German text amenable to a future English re-translation. Sometimes it works, often it doesn’t. In a way that is analogous to the KJV text of Psalm 19, van Swieten’s first phrase (in German, “Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes”) is perfect and direct. It has the same syllabification and accentuation as “The heavens are telling the glory of God.” But, just as the meaning of the KJV text becomes more obscure in subsequent verses, their English translations, including the one our choir uses (which is the most common) become more awkward and difficult to understand, especially when sung, as opposed

to read, and even when read! Take, for example, verse 2, “To day that is coming speaks it the day,”

almost incomprehensible in itself, which probably sounds like “Today that is coming speaks it the day,” even more absurd.

The choir will, unfortunately, not be able to sing this great anthem on January 31st. But if you’d like to hear it (or get to know it, if you don’t already), there are dozens of performances available on

YouTube. I’ll suggest one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6O3NQMo-jM>

It’s a performance from 2017 of the entire oratorio by the Harvard University Chorus, with orchestra. It has the advantages of being a fine recording of a live performance, by young, enthusiastic, accomplished musicians, and it’s sung in English. “The Heavens Are Telling” begins at 31:08.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -February 2021 (Year B)

Mon., Feb. 1

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Feb. 2

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Feb. 3

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Thurs., Feb. 4

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Fri., Feb. 5

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Sat., Feb. 6

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sun., Feb. 7

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Mon., Feb. 8

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7

Tues., Feb. 9

Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wed., Feb. 10

Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thurs., Feb. 11

Psalm 30
Leviticus 13:1-17
Hebrews 12:7-13

Fri., Feb. 12

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:1-20
Acts 19:11-20

Sat., Feb. 13

Psalm 30
Leviticus 14:21-32
Matthew 26:6-13

Sun., Feb. 14

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

Mon., Feb. 15

Psalm 6
2 Chronicles 26:1-21
Acts 3:1-10

Tues., Feb. 16

Psalm 6
2 Kings 7:3-10
1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1

Wed., Feb. 17

Psalm 6
Job 30:16-31
John 4:46-54

Thurs., Feb. 18

Psalm 41
2 Chronicles 7:12-22
3 John 2-8

Fri., Feb. 19

Psalm 41
Isaiah 38:1-8
Hebrews 12:7-13

Sat., Feb. 20

Psalm 41
Isaiah 39:1-8
Luke 4:38-41

Sun., Feb. 21

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 43:18-25
Psalm 41
2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Mark 2:1-12

Mon., Feb. 22

Psalm 38
Isaiah 30:18-26
Acts 14:8-18

Tues., Feb. 23

Psalm 38
Micah 4:1-7
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wed., Feb. 24

Psalm 38
Lamentations 5:1-22
John 5:19-29

Thurs., Feb. 25

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:1-14
Romans 3:1-8

Fri., Feb. 26

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:44-52
2 Peter 1:1-11

Sat., Feb. 27

Psalm 103:1-13, 22
Ezekiel 16:53-63
John 7:53—8:11

Sun., Feb. 28

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany
Hosea 2:14-20
Psalm 103:1-13, 22
2 Corinthians 3:1-6
Mark 2:13-22