

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

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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September 2021



**RALLY DAY! ICE CREAM PARTY!**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION!**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 6 TO 8:30 PM**

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC  
Reverend Dr, Wayne E. Earl, Interim Minister....[pastorwayneearl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwayneearl@gmail.com)

William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music

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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, 2021

<b>Outreach &amp; Missions</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill</b>	<b>Did You Know?</b>	<b>Communion Visitation</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Music Notes</b>	<b>Calendar</b>
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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*"The one who explains, lies. How can you describe the true form of Something in whose presence you are blotted out? And in whose being you still exist?"*

8th Century Mystic, Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya

For me, almost nothing would be as terrible as losing my vision. To test this fear, I will sometimes ask a sighted friend if they think they would be able to continue living were they to suddenly or to gradually, become blind. Most of the time their answer is, "I really don't think so." I agree that it would seem an impossible burden for those of us who typically take such abilities for granted. I cannot even begin to picture what that would be like, but I hope I'd be able to do what's necessary in order to live even into such an undiscovered night. I imagine it would be easier to bear up under, were I accustomed to nurturing a rich, interior life. If you are living from the inside-out, then whatever happens from the outside-in can't actually get at the real treasure, buried deep within. The question is, how do I apprehend and develop such a perspective?



Religious traditions have called this intention mindfulness, centering, growing in Christ-likeness. It's an ancient idea, transcending peoples and places. Let me be clear! I am not saying that the body is bad and that another part of us, some ghost like "other-us" is somehow better. I do not think that kind of separateness is helpful. In death, this body ceases to be as it is, but only as it is, now. In some way our soul is embodied in our flesh and, at the very least, such consciousness needs careful curing and tending. It's in that place that our interior life is called to shine. Wise men and women have often said that when we begin to speak about such mysteries we have already diluted them. When we speak about most things -as humans often do with unabashed authority, with absolutism, with little room for humility- we diminish our implicit divinity.

And so I dilute. My life is a dilution. But each life is also a perfection. I must reach into the heart while also pointing away from me to what is higher still. I must rise and fill my arms with earthly things... though not lesser things. I look inward to live and live outward to find the way of knowing and to know the way of finding. This September, may I encourage you to take the time to fix what needs fixing within in pursuit of a commitment to live as full a "life on the outside" as is possible. Otherwise, all you'll have is a stagnant pond, a kind of salton sea, a poisonous rot. After all, we were meant to give life, not to take it. For me, nothing would be as terrible as losing my true vision: a deep and full, interior life. If we're willing to make the necessary adjustments, then there is hope for each of us, even in that place.

*With affection, Pastor Wayne*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all who participated in our visioning and planning meetings between May, June, and August and to others who have provided feedback and ideas separately. We are excited to reintroduce in person Sunday School on Rally Day September 12<sup>th</sup> with the following precautions: all participants and volunteers will be masked, we will meet in Fellowship Hall, and we ask that any participants feeling unwell stay home that week. If you would prefer to continue worshipping virtually or need to miss a Sunday for any reason we will gladly provide materials for faith formation at home upon request. If you know of a new family that would like to explore faith and seek compassionate justice please feel free to invite them to join us anytime. Our Sunday School program will embark on a year-long journey of *Living God's Love and Compassion* beginning with a series of lessons from Illustrated Ministry on Compassion in the Hebrew Scriptures.

On Rally Day families can register for Sunday School in the Conference Room from 9:30-9:55 or following worship at the Ice Cream Party. Children ages 2-4 can be dropped off beginning at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall for a special new Sunday School for Littles program including activities such as story, song, and craft time. Students in Kindergarten and up are welcome to sit with their families for the first part of worship and will join their teachers in the narthex when noted in the bulletin. We ask that all children are picked up from Fellowship Hall on the way to the Outdoor Ice Cream Party! We will not be offering traditional Nursery for children and infants under 2 years old at this time but welcome input from families who would be interested in this program.

**The CE Committee will be hosting a Rally Day Ice Cream Party in the back parking lot following worship.** We will have many of your ice cream truck favorites including non-dairy options! Rain date for this event will be September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>** Walking With Jesus and Rally Day Outdoor Ice Cream Party  
John 13: 34-35

This week children will prepare for our year-long journey of Compassion and

Love. They will be invited to decorate our learning space with their footprints, participate in making music and movement, and begin to form ideas for mission activities that can help our community.

**Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>** Abraham and Sarah's Guests  
Genesis 18: 1-8

In this lesson participants will hear the story of Abraham and Sarah going out of their way to provide food, drink, and rest for three strangers who arrived at their home. They will learn what the word "hospitality" means and how it is a way of showing compassion to others and explore ways they might show hospitality to strangers in their own lives.

**Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>** Shiphrah and Puah's Courage  
Exodus 1: 15-21

The story this week is about Shiphrah and Puah, two women who showed compassion to baby boys Pharaoh ordered to be killed. The children will learn what the word "powerless" means and see how sometimes doing the right thing can actually mean breaking the rules. We will discuss who might be powerless in our modern world and how we can help them.

### Family Fellowship Apple Picking Saturday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

...at Steere Orchard in Greenville, RI. All are welcome to join us at 10 am for a hayride and apple picking followed by story time. As we will be outside masks will be optional. Please feel free to bring a picnic blanket or chair, snack, and drink for story time.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer please feel to reach out to me.

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

## OUTREACH & MISSIONS



The theme this year for One Great Hour of Sharing was "*Let Love Flow.*" Our collection ended on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for extending assistance globally with a total of \$327.

The **Food Pantry** will be "open for business" on **Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall. The volunteers distributed bags of assorted products to 23 families in May, 14 families in June, 22 families in July, and 18 families in August. 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, Narthex, or kitchen. Contact: Betsey Pray, [rlpbpp@verizon.net](mailto:rlpbpp@verizon.net).

The **Family Café** served 9 people in August. The next Family Café will be held on Wednesday, September 8th in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash dishes are needed anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. Children's book donations, coloring books & crayons are greatly appreciated! Contact Linda Wiswall, [wiswalllinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiswalllinda@gmail.com)

Please save **Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021** for a **Family Friendly Oktoberfest Celebration 6 - 8:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall with the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band. Tickets will go on sale at \$5 for children and \$10 for adults in September after church services and in the church office Monday – Thursday. Mark your calendars and practice your polka dancing. Invite your family and friends for an **OOMPAH** load of fun! Please wear your mask.

Come to **Paula's Pretzel Workshop** on **Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the church kitchen. We will be preparing these delicious doughy treats for our Oktoberfest Celebration. Contact: [paulaforesman@gmail.com](mailto:paulaforesman@gmail.com)

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Please let us know if you would like to join our committee, attend meetings, or have any concerns. Contact: Janet Blair, [janbblair@aol.com](mailto:janbblair@aol.com).

## CONFIRMATION 2021-22

We are holding confirmation classes this year for youth grades 8+. Do you want to explore what your faith means to you? What it means to follow Christ? Why be a part of a faith community? These classes will help you look at your faith, learn the history of our church, and explore ways to impact the world. The classes will be held twice a month on Wednesday evenings, and will include food and fun! If you are a youth or know a youth that would be interested, please contact the church office, Tara Tetreault, or Ralph Giannetti.

Ralph Giannetti, Tara Tetreault, and Pastor Wayne are facilitating confirmation. If you are an adult who would like to help out with confirmation, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to be called should we require assistance with different lessons or activities during the year. Please contact the church office, Tara Tetreault, or Ralph Giannetti.

Tara Tetreault - 508-801-8417 or [tetreaulttjh@gmail.com](mailto:tetreaulttjh@gmail.com)

Ralph Giannetti – 774-254-0389 or [ralphogee@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphogee@yahoo.com).

## Music Notes

Last week, while I was away visiting family, Fred forwarded to the choir mailing lists a note from me asking for your thoughts about getting the groups back together. Here are my take-aways from the responses I received.

Bell Choir – let's get up and running again! We can rehearse and play masked and appropriately distanced. The usual Thursday rehearsal time was best for most respondents, so let's get started on the Thursday after Labor Day, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30.

The responses from the Adult Choir were more varied, not surprisingly, given the risks of public singing in

the current COVID situation. I'm going to suggest at least one Thursday get-together, also on September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30-8:30. We'll meet in the sanctuary, masked and distanced. We can discuss thoughts about rehearsal and performance strategies going forward. It will be a while before we can begin singing oratorio choruses, but we can look through repertoire appropriate for smaller groups.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on September 9<sup>th</sup>!

*Bill MacPherson, Music Director*

## COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM

The Communion Visitation Team has started our visits to folks who are unable to attend services. We are happy to come to your home for a time of fellowship, whether or not you wish to take communion. We will certainly wear masks and observe all precautions necessary. You may communicate with the Church Office or call Wendy or Charlie Oliver at 508-226-2319 to schedule a convenient time. Marcia Weidner and Roberta Zarrella are also part of the Team.

*Wendy Oliver*



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 report back on 8/30/2021 and all signs point to another successful year here at Jack and Jill! We are welcoming Sonya Dumaine and Ashlee Taylor to our teaching team. Sonya will be joining Julie Haynes in Mixed Age. Sonya has many years as a preschool teacher and we are excited for her to join us. Ashlee will be joining Robin Pascal in Pre-K 2. Ashlee and her family recently relocated to Massachusetts. She has previously worked in a preschool very similar to Jack and Jill. We are looking to both of these ladies and their early childhood expertise adding to the magic that is Jack and Jill Preschool.

We have been blessed with a very active summer, providing tours and registering 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 and families in the halls again. This will be especially welcomed after not having any family member in the halls last year because of the health and safety guidelines.

We are looking forward to another amazing year of play, fun and learning! We have many exciting community activities planned and will share more information soon.

We will begin our school year on September 8, 2021! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

*Warmly, Katrina Lay  
Executive Director*

## LECTIONARY

The lectionary is available on line at <https://www.sneucc.org/lectionary>.

Printed copies are in the Narthex.

If you need a printed copy but can't get to the church, contact the office and we will make sure you get it.

## Did You Know?

If anyone ever saw the movie “Goodfellas” you might recall a scene where the lead character bemoans the fact that all the sons were named Tommy and all the daughters were named Marie, or at least it seemed that way.

So it was with the Rev. Peter Thacher. There were at least five Rev. Peter Thacher’s that I can find perhaps there were even more. The first as far as I know was the Rev. Peter Thacher of Salisbury, England. He had planned to immigrate to this country but was prevented due to illness. His son, Thomas came over with an uncle, and was enrolled at Harvard College. Thomas was only fifteen at the time, but he proved to be an apt pupil and was eventually named the first pastor of Old South Church in Boston. His son Peter became the pastor of the church at Milton. This Rev. Peter Thacher married Mary Prince of Sandwich and they were eventually the proud parents of ten children. Their third child and first son was one day to be our Rev. Peter Thacher.

Over the summer, I read a book about the Battle of Bunker Hill entitled “The Whites Of Their Eyes” by Paul Lockhart. At one point, he mentions that a Rev. Peter Thacher, pastor of the church in Malden, was witness to the fighting. I don’t know if he was related to any of our Peter Thachers but it wouldn’t surprise me; there sure were enough of ‘em. *Ted Moxham*



## September Birthdays

**Special Celebration:** While it may be impossible to hold a party this year, we would like to encourage as many as possible to send a card to Eleanor Bassler on the occasion of her **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** Cards may be sent to: Mrs. Eleanor Bassler, 45 South Main Street, Apt 213, Attleboro, MA 02703. In addition to this milestone, Eleanor has also been a member of Second Church for over **85 Years** since her baptism and confirmation in May of 1936!

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

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Reverend Ross Putman, our pastor before Reverend Wright and Reverend Dr Holden, recently published a book of poems and drawings about the changes, challenges and blessings he has received from his experiences with Parkinson’s Disease. *“Feedback from readers affirms that my poetry brings hope for many — including those with other maladies.”*

The book is called “The Many Moods of Dis-Ease: Who I Am, As I Am.” The eight “moods” he lifts up are Discovery, Despair, Compassion, Acceptance, Transformation, Healing, Hopeful and Gratitude. He is eager to have the book as widely distributed as possible. If this is of interest, copies can be purchased at [powellsbooks.com](http://powellsbooks.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [bookshop.com](http://bookshop.com) or Amazon. It is available in a Kindle format or with a soft or hard cover.

# S E P T E M B E R    2 0 2 1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship/Communion	6 Labor Day Office is Closed	7	8	9 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Meeting	10	11 9:00 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Virtual Meeting
12 <b>RALLY DAY!</b> 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School	13	14	15 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	16 6:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting	17	18
19 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	20 Next Month's Voice Deadline! 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	22	23	24	25 6:00 PM <b>Oktoberfest Celebration</b>
26 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	27	28	29	30		

**RALLY DAY!**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**REGISTRATION AT 9:30 AM, CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**ICE CREAM PARTY AFTER THE SERVICE!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**