

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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Attleboro, MA 02703

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November 2021



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 14TH

HANGING OF THE GREENS!
NOVEMBER 28TH

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

November, 2021

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Beloved, as you read these words, November will be upon us and no doubt we will all have finally given in and turned on the heat! Fall is in motion with winter on its heels and so, too, the reminder that our warm waltz upon this patient earth must one day end. Our Christian forebears referred to this idea as memento mori which is Latin for 'remember that you, too, will one day die' a reference to the inevitability of death. Yet dying is not our true end, but rather, a new and mysterious beginning: "Because I (Christ) live, you will live also." (*John 14:9*) Therefore, go ahead and dance while you can, inviting others to join in, exuberant with hope, in love with this small planet and with one another. Go ahead. I dare you.

*Go ahead and dance upon these bones
crushing them as nothing beneath your feet
speaking banal absurdities, roaring about
how you are the exception to such an end
how you will escape, now quick and light, both snare and fowler*

*Go ahead and glide over these relics
smoothing bone to dust under your press
snortling froth and foam, ranting about
how you will be spared the same fate
how you will escape, now strong and alive, without 'so much a singe'*

*Go ahead and bow before these dead
blessing the stone that does not move
feeling heat nor pulse, whispering about
how you will entomb a side-place there
how you must embrace, now bloated and spent, this playground for others*

With Affection, Pastor Wayne



HANGING OF THE GREENS

All children, youth, and the young at heart are welcome to join our intergenerational sacred dancers to help us welcome in the Season of Advent! We will be rehearsing on November 14th and 21st after worship and presenting in worship on November 28th. If you or your child is interested in participating please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com.

For more information about intergenerational sacred dance please check out next month's Voice; we are targeting January to resume Saturday 9am rehearsals.

Diane Osborne

COVID FATIGUE?

YES, WE ARE DEALING WITH IT.

A group of us met after church on October 17th to share our stories of the effects of the pandemic on our lives. It was not easy to learn the extent of each other's suffering in this difficult time. One hour was not sufficient to discuss the other half of the story - how we have coped, what we found helpful, what we as a church can do to support our members, how we can tap into our faith to help us through.

We will meet again on Sunday, November 7th, right after the service, to share these ideas. All are welcome, whether or not you attended the first session.

There are many phrases in the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds" that apply to us right now! Look it up (the last page of each Annual and Corporate Report) and see what I mean. Looking forward to meeting again on the 7th.

Wendy Oliver

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This is one of my favorite times of year. We are right in the midst of so many special things with apple picking, fall sports, excellent weather for outdoor adventures, Halloween, and we have so much to look forward to enjoying! In Sunday School we have completed our *Living God's Love and Compassion Journey* lessons focused on the Old Testament and will now explore compassion through the lens of learning about the true story of the first Thanksgiving and by preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus in Advent. Check out our ever growing

Compassion Journey mural in Fellowship Hall!

Our next Family Fellowship event is Lights at La Salette on Sunday December 12th at 5pm, rain date Sunday December 19th. All are welcome to join us and bring friends and family! As we will be outside masks will be optional. We will meet by the pond side to share the wonder of the lights with treats to follow. If you have any questions or are trying to find our group that evening please feel free to call/text (508) 409-7919. It can be busy so please feel free to arrive early and see that magical moment at 5 when all the lights come on!

For the first Sunday of the month, November 7th, we will have a Gathering Sunday and Communion. Sunday School will resume with the following precautions on November 14th: 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. Children ages 2-4 can be dropped off beginning at 9:45 in the Nursery Room for the new Sunday School for Littles program including activities such as story, song, and craft time. If you would like to sign up to volunteer for a week in the Littles class, please check out the calendar posted in the Nursery. (They are so fun!) 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. 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. If you 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.

Sunday, November 14th and 21st '1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving'

We will explore the deep faith of those who traveled on the Mayflower and the historical roots of our denomination with support from a historical guide published by the Congregational Library and Archives, *Plymouth's*

Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World, and Ours. We will also seek to separate the myth from what really happened that first Thanksgiving with *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*, published by National Geographic in collaboration with Plimoth Patuxet, formerly known as Plimoth Plantation.

Sunday November 28th He's Here!

The Nativity, from Luke 1-2 as told in 'The Jesus Storybook Bible' "Everything was ready. The moment God had been waiting for was here at last! God was coming to help his people, just as he promised in the beginning." Beginning with this lesson and throughout the month of December we will prepare for the coming of Jesus through craft, song, and mission activities.

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

Diane Osborne

Chair, Christian Education Committee
de_saunders@hotmail.com
(508) 409-7919

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry will continue to be "open for business" on Monday, November 22nd in Fellowship hall. The volunteers distributed bags of assorted products to 11 families in September. 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, detergents, toiletries, household cleaning supplies, and female hygiene products are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the church office, Narthex, or kitchen. Contact: Betsey Pray with any questions, rlpbpp@verizon.net.

The Family Café is closed for the time being. It is tentatively scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Contact Linda Wiswall with any questions, wiswalllinda@gmail.com.

Please watch for fall sales for our Giving Tree. We will be collecting warm blankets and bath towels for the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative from Sunday, December 5th – January 9th in the Narthex.

We are looking for members to join our Outreach and Missions Committee; we

would love to have you, no experience necessary! The more the merrier! Please contact Derek Hall, Jen Turcotte, or Paula Foresman with any questions or interest in joining us.

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.



Jack and Jill is a busy place this month! Teachers, students and families have all settled in beautifully and we are gearing up for Literacy Month! Our kick-off event began at our Fall Festival where parents were invited to purchase books and write personal messages to their child! The books will be delivered to the classrooms in November! We will also be hosting our annual PJ Story Night. We had so much success last year holding this event virtually that we will be doing it again this year. We will host 2 virtual story times and the special readers will be the staff at Jack and Jill! The Story Nights will be held on Monday November 15th and Wednesday November 17th at 6:30PM. Our students and families will be invited to a Zoom call in their PJ's before they head to bed! 😊

We are excited to start welcoming visitors back to the school. Students are enjoying all the special opportunities we have arranged for them this year! We have monthly visits with Mrs. Tuminell who brings her guitar to sing and dance with the students. The Enrichment class is enjoying weekly visits from Sensei Michael of Lotus Studios. Our Pre-K, Enrichment, and Mixed Age classes are enjoying bi-weekly story time with our

guest reader Mrs. Lehane!

Our four and five year old classes will also be busy preparing for their Friendship Celebration on Tuesday, November 23rd. This year's celebration will be similar to last year's. We will not be able to sit together in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a snack but we will be able to sing songs on the playground with our friends and enjoy a story. Each classroom will be preparing a special snack and we will share all snacks with each classroom.

We will be hosting our Fall Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 29th and look forward to having the opportunity to meet with parents and discuss the growth and development of their children! We are excited to be able to host in-person conferences this year.

May the month bring you many blessings! As always if you know of anyone looking for a pre-school placement, please encourage them to give us a call at 508-222-1149.

Warmly, Katrina Lay
Executive Director

Did You Know?

You should be receiving this right around Halloween. So let me ask you; would you take a stroll through a cemetery at midnight on Halloween, with say a thunderstorm off in the distance? Ha, I'll bet not many of you would and who do we have to thank for that? Hollywood of course. Now way back when we watched "Casper the friendly ghost" that was ok but then Hollywood went way off the rails with horror. Let's face it; a lot of people like to be scared out of their wits but only if it's a movie.

Halloween or the night before All Saints Day was originally the night that people prepared to honor their ancestors. The actual holiday predates Christianity and goes back to Celtic festivals wherein the deceased (hallows) were honored. The practice of bobbing for apples began in pagan Britain when the conquering Roman army brought apple trees with them. In

many churches a service is conducted on that night in memory of those who have gone before us.

Oh, and that little thing called trick or treat, which of course candy makers wait all year for, was started in Europe in the Middle Ages when costumed children went about begging for soul cakes, which were meatless, as All Saints Day was a day of fasting.

In recent years a new custom has started in some towns called trunk or treat. Parents fill their car trunks with goodies and park them in the church or other parking lot. When moms and pops bring their little ones down they know most of the folks who are there. This works especially well in towns where the houses are some distance apart.

And happy All Saints Day to all.

Ted Moxham



November Birthdays

1	Joyce Guild
4	Jody Blais
5	Sue Lunt
6	Matt Girczyc Sandra Lacasse
8	Theo Remmick
10	Kendall Hauerwas
11	Amanda Iocco
15	Todd Letendre
16	Nathan Brodeur
17	Steve Findley
18	Jen Melker
20	Christie Valverde
22	Louise Taft Carl Valentine Elana Valverde
24	Joyce Moxham
25	May Gowen
29	Pat Ramsay

This is one of those months when the first Sunday, November 7th comes late enough to write in the *Voice* about music I'm planning. Besides Stewardship and Communion, we will also celebrate All Saints (the actual feast day being November 1, the day after All Hallows Eve). We will be singing "For All the Saints" (No. 529), not only appropriate to the day, but also included in my personal list of Top Ten Hymns, due to its glorious combination of words and music.

When choosing vocal and choral music, I always start with the words, so let's begin there. "For All the Saints" is one of the few hymns in our hymnal with more than 4 or 5 verses. The author, the Reverend W. Walsham How (1823-97), originally wrote 11! Among the 5 left out of our hymnal are three that speak (along with "the Saints" in Verse 1) of "Apostles," "Evangelists," and "Martyrs." Reverend How ended his career as bishop of Wakefield. Just prior to that he was an assistant bishop in East London, where he worked with the poor. (For theater trivia buffs, he was also the spiritual advisor to the Elephant Man, and is a minor character in the play by that name – but not the film).

The especially wonderful effect of the six verses that are usually used with this hymn is the panoramic, cinematic vision of past, present and future. Verses 1 and 2 speak of those who have gone before:

*For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might, thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The middle two verses give hope and comfort to those left behind:

*O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine.
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Verses 5 and 6 paint a picture of the grand, celestial procession at the Second Coming:

*But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day: the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*From earth's wide bounds and oceans farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in
the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!*

The melody (and its harmonization) are by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). It was written especially for this text and is considered to be one of the great hymn tunes of the 20th century. If you're not into music theory, you can skip the next two paragraphs.

Vaughan Williams is also renowned for his field work in collecting traditional British folk music. The first phrase of the hymn uses as 5-note (pentatonic) scale characteristic of British-American folk tunes. For example, compare the notes in the first phrase of the hymn tune with those in the middle phrase of "Amazing Grace" ("I once was lost, but now am found"). This particular pentatonic scale has G as its key note, but runs from D-below-G to D-above-G: [D-E-G-A-B-D]. There are gaps, characteristic of this scale, between E and G, and B and D.

However, the tune, as it continues, fills in these gaps, to create regular G-Major. This happens first at the lower end (descending, B-A-G-F#-E-D), then in the higher segment (descending, D-C-B-A-G). The move from the lower half to the higher one is made by a dramatic leap, on "Thy name, O Jesus," between the end points, with the key note in the center (D – G—D). All this is but preparation for the *one single note* that moves outside of this range, the high E on the first "Alleluia!" accentuated by that word starting (unexpectedly) in the middle of a measure instead of the end. This small dramatic detail is, of course, not coincidental!

Music theory can sometimes be like trying to explain a joke. But in the end, what's important is the immediate perceived, dramatic/emotional effect. Sing this hymn with hope, confidence, and vitality on November 7!

Bill MacPherson, Music Director

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	3	4 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:00 AM Worship/Communion	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day - Office is closed 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 Stewardship Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal	15 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	16 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	17	18 6:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	2 ◇ Next Month's Voice Deadline	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day; Office is Closed	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent - Hope 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens Final Rehearsal 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	29	30				

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