

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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January 2022



WELCOME!

REVEREND DR. S WILLIAM SENCABAUGH SUNDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 10 AM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC

Reverend Dr, S. William Sencabaugh, Minister

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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

January, 2022

Calendar	Outreach & Missions	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	Women’s Fellowship	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes
Page 5	Page 3	Page	Page 4	Page 3	Page 3	Page 2	Page 4	Page 3

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING

I have been thinking a great deal about that passage in Luke’s gospel where Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.” (*Luke 4:24*) Yes, Attleboro will forever be my hometown. I was born at Sturdy Memorial Hospital and I am a product of the Attleboro public school system. I was Confirmed and Ordained in Second Church. I felt the initial call to ministry in the pews of our very own sanctuary. However...

The interesting thing about that little biblical snippet from Luke is what happens just before the ominous quote from Jesus. The elders of the synagogue are impressed with Jesus. They all spoke well of him and were amazed at the ‘gracious words that came from his mouth.’ They were proud that one of their own was quickly becoming a prophetic sensation. They had heard about the amazing things that ‘Jesus from the block’ had done in Capernaum. Jesus knew that they were going to be asking for the same ‘Superstar’ performance. Heal us, restore us, resurrect us- Jesus!

Then Jesus spoke some truth- and they quickly turned to rage and drove him out of town. The Bible says they were going to throw him off a cliff! (*v.29*) They simply couldn’t accept his words.



For me, it goes back to Capernaum. Luke never shared what happened there. We can assume great things—because word got back to Nazareth.

I want to be a prophet in my hometown. Please don’t worry that I have a messiah complex. I really am just a simple pastor who has been serving churches and congregations for a little over 25 years. In that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting and serving with so many wonderful people. I really do hope to serve Second Church for a good long time—and in that time—you will hear many of the stories I have collected over the years. I have had Capernaum moments that still fill my heart with love and warmth, but I have also experienced the rejection and sadness that ministry can bring as well.

A big takeaway from my time in pastoral ministry is highlighted in that Lukan story: What worked in Capernaum may not work in Nazareth. What works in one church, may not work in another—but how is a pastor to know? Simple...you know. The only way I will know is if I get to know you ALL.

I will be taking the time in the first months to get to know you. That is my number one goal for the first year of our shared ministry—2022—to get to know you. I want to hear about your hopes and dreams for Second Church. Once again, you are a part of my journey, and I, yours. What path will we take together? I can’t wait to learn.

Blessings, Reverend Will

NOTES FROM REVEREND WILL

Some things I would like to share at the beginning of my settled time...

You are welcome to call me Reverend Will, Pastor Will, Will. If you want to be formal- The Reverend Dr. Will, or informal 'Rev.' And Sencabaugh is pronounced, Sen-Sa-Bah.

The S. stands for Stanley- my first name. It was also my father's name, but my parents decided from the first day to call me by my middle name, William- and it was always, "Will."

You are welcome to email me, call or text my cell phone.

My email is revdrwill@comcast.net, and my cell is 860.861.5003 (but those are subject to change, I'd really like to get a local phone number, maybe if I'm lucky a '222' number!)

You are welcome to befriend me on Social Media. If you decide to become my social media friend, I use Facebook mostly for church related things. On Instagram I post family life and things that amuse me. I try to avoid posting negative or political related posts. If you see something that you don't agree with, consider this my preemptive apology. (I'll leave Snapchat and Tik-Tok for the younger generation.)

I am not sure what my office hours will be at this time, but I will keep regular office hours. Please know that I am available to meet at church, your home, your favorite restaurant. We can sit in a living room, kitchen, deck or even go for a walk. If you would like to meet or visit, please be in touch with me. I would LOVE to meet with you, but don't wait for me to call—call me! If you know that someone is in a hospital, please let me know. I would rather have 10 people share the same news, than for no one to share it. If you end up in a hospital (and I hope you don't), then please have a family member or friend let me know!

Finally, we live in an age of expectation for rapid responses. I may not respond to a text, call or email immediately. I will respond. If there is an emergency, you have my cell number, and you can use it. Definitely leave a voicemail. For me, Sabbath isn't one day a week—

sometimes it has to be spread out throughout the week—a couple hours here and there. If you have a question or concern about something I have said or done, then I welcome your feedback.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Many thanks to all the children and youth that joined us throughout the Advent season. It was wonderful to spend time together telling and living the story of love and the power of giving. In January we will resume our Compassion Journey with lessons from the New Testament.

For the first Sunday of the month, January 2nd, we will have a Gathering Sunday and Communion. Sunday School will meet with the following precautions on January 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th: all participants and volunteers will be masked, we will hold class in Fellowship Hall, and we ask that any participants feeling unwell stay home that week. Children 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are pausing our Littles classes (ages 2-4) for the month of January as we are in need of volunteers. If you would like to sign up to volunteer for a week in the Littles class, please check in with the office if you are not already CORId – it's a quick form and background check, then you can sign up for a week on the calendar posted in the Nursery. (The Littles are so much fun!)

Sunday January 9th

We will complete our mission from December to prepare together a gift basket to deliver to the staff of a local community organization that the Sunday School class chooses. If you would like to donate to their gift to thank the community, we would gladly welcome items such as small bottles of

hand-sanitizer, individual packs of tissue, store bought snacks, and \$5 and \$10 gift cards for a coffee place.

Sunday, January 16th, Jesus' Compassion: Matthew 9: 35-38.

In this lesson, the children will hear the story of Jesus traveling with his disciples through towns and villages, teaching and healing those in need. We will seek to understand how Jesus saw the people he encountered as fully human, understand their situations, and how that relates to what a shepherd did to help sheep and protect them from harassment. We will explore possibilities for how we might be shepherds in our world like Jesus was in his time.

Sunday, January 23rd, The One Thing: Mark 10:17-27

This week, the children and youth will hear the story of when Jesus was approached by a rich ruler who wanted desperately to know the way he could receive eternal life. We will seek to understand the difficulty the rich ruler had in hearing Jesus' answer and see God's compassion toward us when we struggle to fully live into God's desires for us. We will imagine how we can give a little deeper in various ways and how we can be forgiving of ourselves when we miss the mark.

Sunday, January 30th, Compassion That Heals: Luke 7:11-17

In this lesson, the children will hear the story of when Jesus brings a grieving woman's son back to life. We will learn what the word "empathy" means, how it helps us to identify with other people's situations and needs, and that through practicing empathy we become more aware of how we can be helpful to those around us as Jesus was with the mother in our story. We will imagine ways we can practice empathy with others in our lives.

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

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

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

Women's Fellowship

Happy new year from Women's Fellowship! Coffee hour is happening after church and the church family is enjoying this time, catching up with friends and making new ones.

We need help trying a new way to run coffee hour.

- Step 1 - Set up for coffee hour begins at nine, with training with Sandy
- Step 2 - After church serve the coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Then clean up.
- New opportunity - Donate a treat for the day!

Please come enjoy the day with us. Sign up starts now, for the New Year or call Sandy at 508-699-2738.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Food Pantry was open for business on December 20th, the volunteers distributed 5 bags of assorted products to families in December in addition to a table of Christmas extras. 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 Food 'n Friends 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.

Thank you to everyone who donated generously by giving warm blankets and bath towels for our collection to the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative. Thank you for the toys provided as well!! These gifts are truly appreciated.

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 ([Derek Hall - derekh339@gmail.com](mailto:derekh339@gmail.com)), Jen Turcotte - jenny_turcotte@yahoo.com, or Paula Foresman paulaforesman@gmail.com.

We are excited to announce a new addition to the group, Sue Brown has joined us. Please reach out if you have any questions, new ideas or interest in joining us.

Happy New Year!!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, January 17th at 2:00 in the Parlor. Shawls are a tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss or other traumatic event in their lives. New members are always welcome. Contact me if you have questions. *Roberta Ferguson*



Happy New Year! We all enjoyed our December break and are coming into 2022 with renewed energy! We are looking forward to all the exciting things to come in the New Year.

January is a busy month here at school. We will be kicking off our Spaghetti Supper fundraiser planning right away. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 26, 2022. Be on the lookout for more information!

We will go right from Spaghetti Supper planning to registration and open house planning. We will open registration for current families and church members on Tuesday, January 18th at 9:30 AM. Registration will be done online again after a successful trial run last year. If

you would like a tour of the program, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I will also be hosting two registration overviews to discuss the different program options. I will host a virtual evening session on Wednesday, January 12th at 6:00 PM and an in-person session on Thursday January 13th at 9:30 AM.

Open house will be held on Saturday, January 29th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. We are excited to host in person open house with safety precautions in place! The classrooms will be open and teachers will be available to speak with incoming families. Members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to answer any questions that families may have. If you know any families who would like an invitation please let me know.

I want to extend an invitation to the congregation to come and visit our program. I would love to show you the amazing things we are doing here. Please call or email to set up a time to come see the school in action! The space you provide for us opens up a world of possibilities for the young children and families of Attleboro area. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the early years of these children's education. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

In the New Year, our 4/5 year old classes will begin working more in depth on pre-kindergarten skills such as writing lower case letters, attending for longer periods of time, and being required to complete specific projects that we call "have to's". The children and parents will be attending their open houses and Kindergarten screenings. A very exciting time for our friends!

As always, if you know of anyone looking for pre-school please encourage them to call me 508-222-1149 or email me at jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org.

*Wishing you all health and happiness
in the New Year!*

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Bell Choir and Adult Choir will begin regular rehearsals in the New Year on Thursday, January 13th. There will be no rehearsals on January 6th.

The Adult Choir will sing in church on all the Sundays of January, including the 2nd and 9th.

INSTAGRAM: A Social Media Update

Second Church has had an Instagram account for at least 20 months. It was dormant, however, until about 6 weeks ago, when Jamie Reiley, who manages our church website, awakened it with a series of Thanksgiving and Advent posts. I've also started adding posts, with a little musical emphasis, during Advent. Second Church's site is called *attleborosecondchurch* (like the name of our website).

If you're unfamiliar with Instagram, it's [some might add, "unfortunately"] another Facebook product. But the emphasis is different. Users post photos or brief videos, along with a short description. Viewers can comment and "like." But it's not intended to be conversational like Facebook, and is generally not as controversial or political, unless you follow a site where that's the principal objective.

I'm not going to promise regular postings going forward, but I'll continue to look for ideas and inspiration. If you or your church committee, group, or activity would like to add a post about current or future events, let me know. Depending on when or where things are happening, I might be available to take photos or videos (or you could email them to me), and I will organize/edit them into an Instagram post.

ORGAN WOES

As I write this (December 20), the organ is "down," the result of a blown fuse in the main power supply line within the organ chamber. Unfortunately, this is a specialized type of fuse with an unusual amperage rating. It's also one that's been there since the organ was installed, more than 50 years ago, and the same make and size is not produced anymore.

And just now, literally, as I'm finishing up this article, our church's electrician

called and said he had located replacements. They may get here Thursday or Friday (Christmas Eve!). Or they may not. By the time you read this in the *VOICE*, we'll all know.

Bill MacPherson
Director of Music

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Many thanks to all who participated in the Hanging of the Greens this year. If you enjoyed participating or were inspired to be a part of movement in worship, all children, youth, and the young at heart are welcome to join the intergenerational sacred dancers when we resume rehearsals starting January 22nd. We gather at 9am on Saturdays for about 45 minutes of stretching, learning new dances for worship, and a little bit of just "fun dance". If you or your child has any questions please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com. Hope to see you then!

Diane Osborne

Did You Know?

By the time you are reading this, it will be almost New Years. Of course if you lived in New England in 1752 New Years would not have been celebrated until March 25th which was the Feast of the Annunciation. New Englanders at that time refused to accept the Gregorian calendar because it was devised by Pope Gregory XIII, who was of course a despised Roman Catholic. Our fore fathers instead relied on the Julian calendar which was devised by an early Roman king. The Julian calendar began on January 1, and was named appropriately enough after Janus, the Roman god of all beginnings. We owe a lot (sorta) to the Romans as far as our calendar goes. March was named after Mars, the god of war. July was named after Julius Caesar. August was named after Emperor Augustus, Septem is Latin for seven, octo for eight, novem for nine and dec for ten.

The Julian calendar was well thought out but it contained several mistakes. Over the centuries, these mistakes added up so eventually Easter was

being celebrated months off schedule. The Pope fixed this by adding a so-called leap year every fourth year. This kept things more or less on schedule. The Gregorian calendar was quickly accepted in those countries with a high percentage of Roman Catholics, but us Protestants stubbornly hung on to the old ways for several centuries.

Today New Years is still celebrated at an astonishing difference of times. Chinese celebrate the holiday anytime between January 20 and February 20 depending on differences in the lunar and solar calendars.

New Years Eve was, until only a few years ago, a big night for reveling, and usually paying the price in the morning. It seems today that the biggest draw is take-out Chinese food and making those resolutions that are usually ignored after a couple of days.

Ted Moxham

January Birthdays

4	Ralph Howard Katie Olsen
8	Marty Beck Olivia Taft
9	Brent Bowen Cathy Giannetti Rosemary Kukla William Small
11	Anna Beck
19	Chloe Iocco Alan Smith Casey J. Williams
20	Amanda Lindley
21	Ed McCarthy Charlie Oliver
22	Don Haskel Ruthie Withers
24	Stephen Gowen
25	Therese LaPorte
26	Adam Hauerwas Angie Vecchioli
29	Colin Blair
31	Viktoria King

Save the Date: The Oure Pleasure Singers present a concert! January 15, 2022, 7:00pm
Second Congregational Church, 50 Park Street, Attleboro MA

Ephemeral: A program focusing on themes of gratitude — especially for health, community, and the gift of making music with friends. Music of Sarah Quartel, Eric Whitacre, Heinrich Schütz, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Morten Lauridsen, and others. Stay tuned for ticket details.

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day
2 10:00 AM Worship/Communion Welcome Reverend Will!	3	4	5 Confirmation Class	6 Epiphany	7	8
9 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	10	11	12	13 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	14	15 7:00 PM Oure Pleasure Singers Concert: <i>Ephemeral</i>
16 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day February Voice Deadline 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	18 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	19 Confirmation Class 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	20 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	21	22 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
23 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	24 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	25	26	27 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	28	29 9:30 AM Jack & Jill Open House and Registration
30 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School	31					