

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2022



SPECIAL (FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE) CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022, 11:15 AM

JUNE BOOK STUDY

JUNE 7, 14, AND 21, 2022, 6 TO 7 PM

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022, 7 TO 9 PM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC

Reverend Dr, S. William Sencabaugh, Pastor

revdrwill@attleborosecondchurch.org – c: 860-861-5003

William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music

Katrina Lay, Executive Director, Jack & Jill School – 508-222-1149

jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org - www.jackandjillattleboro.com

Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant / Curator-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

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

June, 2022

Calendar	Outreach & Missions	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	June Book Study	Coffee House & Open Mic	Christian Education	Summer Birthdays	Music Notes
Page 7	Page 3	Page 3	Page 5	Page 2	Page 2	Page 3	Page 6	Page 4

Pastor’s Message



This is why we do church. I think people are concerned about the state of the Church. There are articles and polls coming out every day about the trajectory of church attendance and membership numbers and they usually are quite jarring.

I would like us to think about church as more than numbers. At the end of the day, I realize that in order to maintain our beautiful church certain benchmarks must be met. But I don’t want to dwell on that here.

At some point in my life, I came to the realization that I will never be a billionaire. I will probably never come up with that big idea, and I don’t possess the drive to see it to fruition. My only chance at becoming a millionaire is if I win one of those massive lottery jackpots.

At some point in my life, I came upon the harsh reality that I will never be a professional football player, even though I do sit by my phone on draft day—just in case. Those childhood dreams faded as it became ever more obvious that I don’t possess the necessary genetic makeup or skills to be a professional athlete.

Pastors go to churches and believe that if they could just write and preach the perfect sermon all will be well in the world. I guess I haven’t written the perfect sermon yet.

If we just do this. If we just do that. If I could create a program that would guarantee church growth- I would have done it (and that would be my billion-dollar idea).

I really want to share with you that there is nothing wrong with the Second Congregational Church in Attleboro! We are the perfect size! Maybe we are not perfect people—and we all fall short because we are flawed—but our church is a gathering of imperfect people trying to be better. We are not perfect. We get it wrong from time to time. But when we get it right.....

The Rev. Martin Copenhaver wrote a brief devotional article about his cousin who was dying. She lived alone in a very small town in New Hampshire (he refers to as *the land that the GPS forgot*). He wasn’t sure how to find his cousin’s house, so he stopped at the local congregational church. He interrupted the Bible study and inquired if anyone knew where his cousin lived. They all did! They stopped the study and gave directions to a friendly stranger.

When Rev. Copenhaver arrived at his cousin’s house—the driveway was filled with cars. He said when he got into the house it had the familiar feel of a church potluck. He learned that all the people in the house were from the church. They took turns throughout the day and night so she would be cared for around the clock. Before he left, they all held hands and prayed. She died two days later.

She did not die alone.

This is the church! This is when we are our best. Yes, we have big ideas about the Kingdom of God. Yes, we desperately want to get things right and grow our church. At the end of the day, when we do this for one member- then we are as vibrant and spirit-filled as any church.

We are in the God business. We are in the business of loving God and loving our neighbor. And business is good.

In Christian Love, Rev. Will

[The Gospel in Miniature: Meditations for When You Have a Minute, Martin B. Copenhaver, p. 47-48)

MARKETING and DIGITAL MINISTRY

Are you thinking about joining the church Marketing Team?!

We need idea people.

We need people who can put those ideas in place.

A few minutes a day can go a very long way.

Social Media is the new evangelism. How do people find out about things these days? We learn about things from one of the many social media outlets. People may go to our church website or peruse Facebook for information about upcoming events. People have the opportunity to watch from afar and make up their minds whether they want to join us or not.

A few of us in the church have talked about a 'brand.' What if our church had a catchy vision statement- that could easily be put on bumper stickers or t-shirts? We could wear the shirts when we represent the church in community events. What if the logo became ubiquitous and synonymous with all the great things we are doing in the community?

What are some things that you can do to help?

- Tell people what we are doing—invite someone to worship or a church event.
- Become a part of the newly formed Marketing Team. Just let me know. I'll sign you up, and you can be as involved as you would like. No lifetime commitment!
- Like everything you see from the church on social media. Then share everything the church posts on social media. If everyone shared the posts for our upcoming events, then we would be reaching so many more people. The more you SHARE- the more people will have a sense of how much we are doing.

The time is now—and the window is wide open. This is a great time to grow the church! This is a great time to tell folks about what is happening in the life of our church.

Please consider joining the Marketing Team. Maybe we won't grow the church into a Mega Church—but everyone in town will know that we are an amazing force for God's good in the community.

JUNE BOOK STUDY June 7, 14, 21 6 to 7 PM

What the Bible Says about Homosexuality: A bible study for progressive people of faith by John Zehring

"Doesn't it say 'this' in the Bible?" "I've always been told it says 'that' in the Bible." "This church believes this, and that church believes that, and I don't know what to believe." These are comments I have heard over the years. Wouldn't it be great if you had everything the Bible said about homosexuality in one handy dandy place? Now you can....

This is a very short book (only 50 pages) based on a sermon by UCC pastor, John Zehring. The first two sessions will focus on the content of the book and the verses that directly address homosexuality, and the third will be a discussion on the topic or address other issues that have come up during our time together.

The purpose of this book discussion group is to share with you what **it actually says** in the Bible, and what those words mean in their historical context. You can read all the passages for yourself!

For some this may be a 'refresher' course. For others, it may be a radical interpretation. All are welcome to attend.

[Please don't judge the book by its title. You may or may not call yourself 'progressive.' I wish that the author had used the word 'open,' instead of 'progressive.' It is my hope that everyone who comes to the book, or the discussion—will be open-minded and open-hearted.]

Books are available at the office for a \$6 donation

COFFEE HOUSE and OPEN MIC, June 11, 7 to 9 PM Fellowship Hall

All are invited and welcome to attend our very first ever Coffee House and Open Mic! There will be live performers sharing music, poetry, or a story and a song.

It is our hope that the coffee house will provide an opportunity for people from our community to come and provide music and art, listen, encourage, and connect with friendly faces from our town. Artists can share at whatever skill level they find themselves, and the audience WILL be supportive.

The church will provide snacks and beverages and we will gladly accept a \$5 donation to help cover the initial costs.

Please look for the sign-up sheets at the church, or you can call the office to sign up for a way to help. We will be looking for performers (all ages, all skill levels). We already have some very talented church members and friends ready to share their talent. If you know someone who you think might like to share a song or two, let them know. We really want to share this with the greater Attleboro community.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month for June is Mike Touloumtzis.

June 5 Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "The Pride of Attleboro"

June 12 Confirmation Sunday

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Sermon: "Wisdom Confirmed"

June 19 Children's Sunday

Sermon: "The Most Intellectually Stimulating Sermon You Will Ever Hear, featuring the #1 hits of all the greatest dead German theologians"

June 26 (worship will begin at 9:30 am, and remain at 9:30 throughout the summer until Labor Day)

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Worship will be held on this Sunday only in Fellowship Hall

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Sermon: "We're Doing Something Different"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During the month of June, we will culminate our journey on Living a Compassionate Life. We will have Sunday School on June 5th and 12th, celebrate Children's Day in worship on June 19th, and Gathering Sundays will be held June 26th through Labor Day weekend.

Sunday School will meet with the following precautions: masks are now optional, and we respect the decision of each participant and family, 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.

During our Sunday School time in the month of June we will be preparing our Children's Day worship service to be presented June 19th. The children and youth have planned many aspects of the

Children's Day worship service, requested an extra special Ice Cream Social complete with Jessie's cinnamon buns, and decided to have a special mission fundraiser for their big day. Beginning on June 5th following the service, donations will be accepted to benefit the Jack and Jill playground which is currently being renovated. Each donation will give you a chance to win the opportunity of planting a pie in the face of yours truly or Pastor Will on June 19th so you'll want to be here when the lucky tickets are drawn!

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to all who joined us for a picnic and hike at Oak Knoll in June. We had the absolute perfect weather, excellent fellowship, and even spotted some sunbathing turtles and migrating birds. Our next adventure will be a trip to the Rogers Williams Zoo! Please let me know if you are interested in participating and stay tuned for more details.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer please feel to reach out to me. Wishing you all a safe summer filled with love, justice, and compassion wherever your adventures find you.

Diane Osborne

Chair, Christian Education Committee

de_saunders@hotmail.com

(508) 409-7919

COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM

The Communion Visitation Team continues to visit 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

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Community Garden is up and running! Salad greens and arugula are ready--see Paula Foresman if you'd like some. Thank you to Lyra Osborne who has volunteered to paint rocks to identify our crops;

thank you to Calvin Turcotte for volunteering to plant our shell beans; and thank you to Russ and Betsy Pray for contributing eggplant and tomato plants!

O & M will be representing our church at the Attleboro Community Pride Event, Sunday, June 5th, at 2:00 pm at Attleboro City Hall. We hope many church members will be joining us--wearing Second Church t-shirts if you have one.

Anyone interested in a church-based walking group? We're ready to do the organizing as well as the walking! Planning meeting at the church on Wednesday, June 15. Want more info? Contact: paulaforesman@gmail.com

Paula Foresman

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, June 20th 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*



We are wrapping up another fabulous year in preschool. This year was another unique year as we were still navigating COVID. The Jack and Jill community continues to demonstrate the special relationship families have with their child's school and educators. This preschool is like no other, and I am grateful each day to be able to connect with many different families each year.

Over the course of the year, the teachers collect work samples in the form of drawings, paintings and photographs in order to create a "memory book" which we bind and gift to each child at the end of the school year. This is a true labor of love! I adore receiving texts from the teachers

when they are working from their “command centers” long after school hours. They truly appreciate the visuals and reflection time that shows the growth of each child! The families treasure these portfolios and children tend to look through them as they get older. The teachers spend the end of the year very busy with celebrations, portfolio making and enjoying their last days with their students.

The teachers and students have been practicing for graduation by learning some new songs. I love to hear all the singing throughout the halls. We are graduating 41 children from our program this year. Our commencement exercises will take place on THURSDAY JUNE 2nd at the Newell Shelter at Capron Park. Admission price is one canned good to support the Second Congregational Churches food pantry.

We will be saying see you soon to one of our veteran teachers at the end of the school year. Robin Pascal will be retiring, and she will certainly be missed by families as well as the staff. Ms. Pascal has been an important part of Jack and Jill for many years, and we are thankful for all she has done. We wish her all the best in the future and hope she visits often.

We are offering 2 weeks of summer camp this year. Week One is entitled “Jack and Jill Had a Farm” and Week Two is “Under the Sea.”

We will also be offering a Kindergarten Readiness Camp from 8/15-8/18 for children who have graduated from our program and are headed off to kindergarten in the fall. The curriculum will include a review of K readiness skills and experiences with some of the things they will be doing in the fall. All 3 of our camp weeks are full and we are excited for camp weeks!

We continue to receive generous donations from alumni families, current families and church members for our new playground. We will continue to fundraise over the summer and fall. We are excited to host 2 June fundraisers for the playground fund. The first will be on Wednesday, June 1st at Bliss Dairy from open to close. The next will be on Saturday, June 18 at La Sallette.

We do have limited openings available in our programs for the 2022-2023 school year, so please, send your friends and family our way. I can be reached at 508-222-1149 or jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org for a tour of the program.

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

Choir season is coming to an end. The final rehearsal of the Adult Choir was held on Thursday, May 26th, but they will sing not only on May 29th, but also on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th (Rutter, “I Will Sing with the Spirit”) and on June 12th (“True Colors,” accompanying Sacred Dance). The Adult Choir will not sing on June 19th, Children’s Sunday. Stay tuned for a decision about June 26th.

The Bell Choir will have its final rehearsal on Thursday, June 2nd, and will play in church on June 5th.

Bill MacPherson

Director of Music

Social Media and Instagram, Revisited

A resurrected, somewhat *ad hoc* Marketing Committee met on May 24th, mostly to talk about social media (Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, and our church website). The good news to date is that over the past six months we’ve become more intentional about using it. The discussion centered more on branding Second Church (What’s our message? How do we let the larger community know who we are and what we stand for?) and on unifying and coordinating our messaging across the various platforms.

I’m not the designated spokesperson for the committee (nor do I want to be) so I won’t get more detailed about the 2-hour gathering. One outcome was that those of us who have some familiarity with a particular platform have volunteered (or been volunteered) to handle postings on it. For better or worse, I’m Mr. Instagram.

In the January *VOICE* I described that platform and requested submissions from those who were planning or leading activities and gatherings. A few people have responded, and I’ve posted their items as well as my own. But considering the Marketing

Committee’s desire to be even more active on social media, I’m now repeating that invitation, as well as offering some more specific guidelines that will make online posting easier for me.

Instagram is about visuals: photos and videos. Unlike Facebook, it doesn’t emphasize conversation, although viewers can and do comment briefly on a post, and/or simply “like” it. More specifically:

- (1) Format is important. Instagram is designed mainly for smart phones and tablets, so the preferred orientation is vertical (“portrait”) rather than horizontal (“landscape”). Required aspect ratios are either square or 5:4. Most people take photos these days with their smart phones, and the built-in photo tools have standard cropping settings for these ratios. If possible, crop your picture to these dimensions, or at least think about how to place your subject so that the photo can be cropped later (by me) to 5:4 or square, in a vertical orientation.
- (2) A single post can contain multiple photos, typically not more than 3 or 4. If they are to be shown in a particular order, that needs to be made clear either in your submission email or in an accompanying caption (see below).
- (3) Within a single post on Instagram (I’m not getting into “Stories” or “Reels”!) a video cannot be longer than one minute, and, again, the preferred format is vertical, either square or 5:4.
- (4) A caption is a standard feature, but it’s best if it’s not overly wordy. It would be helpful to me if, along with a photo or video, you’d send 2-4 sentences about the photo or event and—especially if the post is advertising an upcoming program or activity—information about the date, time, ticket price (if any), etc. Otherwise, I must do the research and write an appropriate caption myself.
- (5) Send it to me at my Gmail address, billmacp@gmail.com. Gmail is generally good at handling photo and video attachments. And thanks in advance!

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

All are welcome to join Sacred Dance! If you would like to be a part of movement in worship all ages are welcome to join the intergenerational sacred dancers Saturday mornings in the sanctuary. We will gather at 9am on June 4th and 11th for about 45 minutes of stretching, learning new dances for worship, and a little bit of just “fun dance”. We will be participating in worship on June 12th with a prayerful movement of True Colors. 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?

Do you think it would be possible to be excommunicated from our church? Do you think it has ever happened? Well, the answer to both of these questions is yes. In the early days of our church, it was not all that difficult to find yourself on the outside looking in. All that was required for excommunication was to be reported by another member for doing something that the church considered improper or (gasp), illegal. In the early times of Second Church there was once a member who simply did not regularly attend services. He resided in the Town of Rehoboth, and that may have been a mitigating factor in his absences. Well, in any event, he was reported to the church and soon found himself a former member.

The early church was very strict in the obligation of its members. It was not the warm, caring place which we have become accustomed to. The ministers never told any funny jokes, and the chair of Deacons never told any corny ones. The minister and deacons ruled with heavy hands, and it was their and only their interpretation of the Holy Bible that guided our worship.

Ted Moxham

Thinking ahead...

Thinking ahead, way ahead, I am looking for 6-8 mid-size mason jars, used, not little ones for a fall fair craft project. Ted will pick them up or they can be left in the kitchen. Call me at 508-222-8820. Thanks, *Joyce Moxham*



For the month of June 2022, **Second Congregational Church Food Pantry** has once again been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 **Bloomin' 4 Good** Bouquet with the red circle sticker sold at the store located at 469 Pleasant Street, Attleboro MA! This will be at least the third time we have had this opportunity. Please help out if you can.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU!

Betsy and Sandy would like to thank everybody for helping with the May Breakfast and the Yard Sale. Thanks everybody for their donations to both events. We will be having a Women's Fellowship meeting soon to pick a date for the fair. As soon as we know the date, Sandy will be sending out e-mail.

Thanks again for your service. God be with you and have a great summer!

June Birthdays

- 2 Mike Cotsalas
- 3 Derek Hall
- 4 Ray Turcotte
- 5 Julia Bozzi
Virginia Buchanan
Kathy Durgin
Nick Vecchioli
- 8 Alexis Ladner
- 9 Ashley Keith
- 10 Jay Miller, Sr.
Gloria Walsh
- 11 Jessica Priesing
- 12 David Bliss
- 13 Jenna Sencabaugh
- 15 David Broden
- 18 Ann Haskel
Deb Hawes
Kristin Keith
Andrew Saunders
Lily Saunders
- 19 Bob Bliss
- 20 Karen Girczyc
Dave Webb
- 21 Pastor Will Sencabaugh
Jeremy Woodward
- 24 Laura Hauerwas
Nicole Mernin
- 26 Dianne Ordog
- 28 Bette Renoni
- 30 Bob Follett
Chuck Opdycke



July Birthdays

- 5 Sheila McKenna
- 7 Lyra Osborne
- 9 Barb Withers
- 10 Sharon Reiley
- 11 D'Anne Olsen
- 14 Alan MacDonald
Diane Robinson
- 18 Sue Costello
Lorraine Frye
Jackson Laramee
- 19 Jen Turcotte
- 20 Dave Ramsay
Lisa Vecchioli
- 21 Kacey Janson
- 22 Bob Withers
- 24 George Freeman
Molly Kay
- 27 Claudette Newport
- 29 Paula Foresman
David Vecchioli
- 30 Stacey Alsfeld
Lynne Holden
Janda Nuovo

August Birthdays

- 1 Dave Lunt
Maria Smith
Roberta Zarrella
- 2 Nicole Laramee
- 4 Laila Brodeur
Anne Reiley
- 5 Tina Middleton
- 7 Ty Waterman
- 9 Amanda Deavellar
Elizabeth Griffin
- 10 Cathy LaPorte-Jewett
- 11 Joel Bozzi
- 12 Mark Bassler
Mason Bourdeau
Gary Middleton
- 13 Russell Deavellar
Barbara Massey
- 16 Deborah Kay
- 17 Susan Brown
- 18 Curtis Robinson
- 19 Debbie Smith
- 21 Kathy Morton
- 22 Wilma Johnson
Hank Reiley
- 23 Jeannine Sousa
- 24 Bowie Lancaster
Julie Sencabaugh
- 25 Alex Brown
Madi Saunders
- 26 Elaine Killough
Wendy Oliver
Josephine Williams
- 30 Paige Reiley

J U N E 2 0 2 2

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5:00 PM Jack & Jill School Graduation 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 <i>Pentecost</i> 10:00 AM Worship/Communion Sunday School 11:15 AM Special (Annual & Financial) Meeting	6	7 6:00 PM Bible Study	8	9	10	11 7-9 PM Coffee House
12 <i>Confirmation</i> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	13	14 6:00 PM Bible Study	15 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	16	17	18 11:00 AM Eagle Court _of Honor
19 <i>Children's Day</i> 10:00 AM Worship	20 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	22	23	24	25 5:30 PM One Plus One Cookout!
26 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	27 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	28	29	30		

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