

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

January 2023



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visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

COFFEE HOUSE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 6 TO 8 PM

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON, JANUARY 15TH, 11:00 AM

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP DINNER AND BINGO, JANUARY 28TH, 6:00 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
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BSA Charter Organization Representative, - c: 508-918-0123
Jack Baptist, Sexton
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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 2023

Calendar	Outreach & Missions	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	Family Fellowship	Open Mic Night	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes
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Pastor’s Message

“Where two or three are gathered...”

I know that Jesus said that He or His Spirit would be present where two or three were gathered in his name- but I think that is a little like a pastor saying, “Hey, I just hope that my sermon touches the heart of one person this Sunday.” Shouldn’t we be aiming a little higher? There have been some very snowy Sunday’s when I have preached to a little more than two or three. The Spirit is definitely present when that happens. It is as though we all acknowledge that ‘we are in this together,’ and worship takes place on an intimate level.

I have a confession to make, and I want to start 2023 off with full disclosure. It is much easier for me to get into a higher level of Spirit when the sanctuary is full. My adrenaline increases. The nerves kick in, and I know I have to elevate the preaching and really bring my “A” game. I should say that preachers and worship leaders should do that every Sunday regardless of the size of the congregation, or the amount of people that grace the pews in a sanctuary.

It should be said that the congregation feels the increase in energy or Spirit as well. People have commented to me about the feelings they have when they look around the sanctuary. They get excited when they see more faces in worship. And when the church is full the singing seems more festive- people smiling and laugh a little

more. I would love for worship to be like this every Sunday!

This is not a shameless effort to guilt people into coming to worship. Worship is where one week ends and a new week begins. It is both an opportunity to reflect on the previous week and hopefully recharge the spiritual battery for a week of new opportunities. I know that not everything we try in worship works for everyone—but we are trying to make it meaningful for as many as possible. Worship is the time when we have the most amount of people gathered in one time and place at our church.

The other thing that I hope can happen in our worship is that visitors and seekers are finding a place that is meeting their needs. You may have noticed some newer faces over the past year. Have you introduced yourself to them? If they have the courage (and it does take a certain level of bravery) to go into the Fellowship Hall for coffee following worship—please don’t ever let them be standing alone. Introduce yourself, start a conversation, and keep asking questions until you have a connection. If people are left alone, they may feel like we don’t care—and we DO CARE.

When the sanctuary is filled with the Holy Spirit and people seem excited to be in worship—that is contagious. When worship attendance increases—everyone senses it- and everything seems easier. When attendance decreases—there seems to be more anxiety, and everything seems harder.

In the new year, may we find that the Holy Spirit has called us to worship! Then, let us worship with our hearts, minds and spirits. May worship be a homecoming and a sending forth. May worship be a time to be contemplative and excited. May worship make us think, feel and act.

Peace,
Reverend Will



COFFEE HOUSE AND OPEN MIC

In January, we will meet on the **Second Saturday, January 14th** from 6 to 8 PM. We will have coffee, hot cocoa, tea and snacks! Performers are invited to share a story, song, or poem. You are welcome to attend or participate by sharing whatever you would like. You are welcome to listen and doodle or listen and play on your phone. We ask for a \$5 donation (if you can). This is one way to reach out to our community and invite them into God's space. We look forward to more exciting opportunities in the future.

THE SMALL LIBRARY

Did you know that we have a church library? Okay, it is more of a bookcase. I want this to be a library with a unique purpose. Many church libraries are a collection of books that have been dropped off at the church or rummaged from a church sale. I want our church library to be different.

Last year, after the death of William Small, a few members mentioned to me that they wish they knew more about William. It made me think 'How well do we really know one another?' William attended the book studies, was an avid listener of books on tape, and even invited me to continue a private book study that he was pursuing with my predecessor.

Because I want our entire library to be placed in one or two bookcases, and the inspiration of William, I thought we'd call it, The Small Library.

The books currently in the Small Library are all from the collection of Katie Simmons. After the death of Katie, Elaine Killough donated them to the church. If you look at the collection, you will discover Katie's amazing eclectic taste in theology and religious studies. Did you know this about Katie? She had a deep faith and a curious mind. The books are there for you to borrow. You are welcome to take them for as long as you'd like. At some point, the books will be replaced by other books. They are not meant to stay on the shelves as a permanent tribute. They are meant to be read and given away. If you take a book, read it and love it, and you know someone else who would really enjoy it—give it to them!

Going forward, if you have a book that has deep meaning to you and you think others would really enjoy it, then please donate. All I am asking is that you write a few words about why that book is important to you. This is a way that we will get to know one another. Ideally, the book would have some meaning to you, and you would be comfortable sharing this with the congregation. Perhaps you could write a few words that might be printed in the newsletter, and then the book would be on display in the library.

So, please take a few moments and look at Katie's collection in the Conference Room. Take a book, leave a book.

Reverend Dr. Will Sencabaugh

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Charlie Oliver.

January 1st

Second Sunday of Christmas

Scripture: Psalm 148

Sermon: "Our Symbolic Church"

January 8th Communion

First Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "What's Your Story"

January 15th

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 1:29-42

Sermon: "Share the Story"

January 22nd

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: "So Many Questions"

January 29th

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Pay Attention to the Road"

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. Cathy Giannetti, Ralph Giannetti, Marcia Weidner and Roberta Zarrella are also part of the team.

Wendy Oliver

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, January 16th 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! The Jack and Jill community enjoyed the holiday break and are back and ready to learn and play in 2023! I hope that you enjoyed time with your loved ones.

We are heading full force into the New Year! We will be kicking off our Spaghetti Supper fundraiser planning right away. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 25, 2023. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

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 17th** at 9:30 AM. We will continue to have all registrations completed online. 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 an evening session on Monday January 9th at 5:30 PM and a daytime session on Thursday January 12th at 9:00 AM.

Open house will be held on Saturday, January 28th 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM. We are excited to welcome families into the school! We love to show all of the great things Jack and Jill has to offer. 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.

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!

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. Our new Seeds of Stem curriculum is amazing; the teachers and children are really enjoying this. 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 the 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.

As always, if you know of anyone looking for preschool, 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 5th, at the regular times.

This month, there will be rehearsals for both groups on the 5th, 12th, and 19th. There will be **no rehearsals** on the 26th (nor on February 2nd).

The choir will sing in church on January 8th (with Sacred Dance), 15th, and 22nd, but **not** on the 29th. Bells will decide on a performance date once rehearsals get rolling.

A Sunday Christmas, and Many Thanks

A busy December culminated in a packed Christmas weekend with services both on Christmas Eve (Saturday) and Christmas Day (Sunday). It made me wonder what years Christmas had fallen on a Sunday, and when it would happen again. Not surprisingly, given the regularity of Leap Years and the constancy of the 7-day week, there’s a pattern: a cycle of

28 years, made up of four segments having lengths of 11, 6, 5, and 6 years. The current cycle began in 1994, followed by 2005, 2011, 2016, and 2022. We’re about to begin another round, and the next Sunday Christmas will be in 2033. (You can hear the hallelujahs from clergy and church musicians).

I also discovered (by calculation) that the first Sunday Christmas in my lifetime was when I was 9 weeks old. Apparently, I was not chosen as the Holy Infant in the Sunday School pageant. Had that been the case, my mother would certainly have saved the bulletin from that occasion. You can calculate the year if you want. No, it was not 1966, but that would have been the first time as a church organist that I faced a Sunday Christmas.

This latest Advent and Christmas, given the busy season, I’ve been especially grateful for the help and support of all our church musicians and dancers: The members of the Adult Choir, Bell Choir, and Sacred Dance group; Diane Osborne and Tara Tetreault for leadership and choreography; and soloists Cathy Giannetti, Andrew Osborne, A. J. Renoni, and Tara. The congregational singing both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was the most enthusiastic in years, including the traditional descants (from memory!) on “O Come, All Ye Faithful” and “Hark, the Herald Angels.” Thanks to you all! It was a busy Christmas, but a joyous one!

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices are continuing in the month of January. We are preparing a piece for worship on January 8th to celebrate Epiphany. If you would like to be a part of movement in worship all ages are welcome to join the Intergenerational Sacred Dancers. 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”. We will have **no** rehearsal this month on January 14th. 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

Christian Education

Family Fellowship: Many thanks to all who joined us for Lights and S’mores (and flurries!) at La Salette in December. It was a lovely time had by all!

Our next Family Fellowship event will be **DINNER AND BINGO** on January 28th. In these cold days of winter don’t let the post-Christmas slump get you down. All are welcome to join us for a warm home cooked meal, a bit of humor from our BINGO callers, and lots of prizes! Also, save the dates for Souper Bowl of Caring February 12th and a Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast February 19th!

Sunday School: Toddlers through Pre-K can be dropped off beginning at 9:45 in the Nursery for our Littles Program for stories, songs, and crafts that support building a foundation of their faith. We will not be offering Nursery drop off for infants at this time but welcome families with babies to be together in worship, the Conference Room, or the Nursery. 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 know of a new family that would like to build community, explore faith, and seek compassionate justice, please feel free to invite them to join us throughout the year for rolling Sunday School registration.

For the first Sunday of the month, January 1st, we will have a Gathering Sunday. We will also have a Gathering Sunday on January 8th for Communion.

Sunday School

January 15th, 22nd, 29th

In Sunday School this month we are continuing our creation of a mosaic of God’s love capturing all the ways we see and share God’s love with others. We will seek to support each individual student’s faith by unearthing parts of our past, deepening our understanding of today’s world, and taking action towards a more sustainable future fueled by God’s love. We will also begin preparing for our Souper Bowl of Caring mission event to be held

February 12th. Check out the February VOICE for more details on how you can support our youth.

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

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



- 4 Ralph Howard
Katie Olsen
- 8 Marty Beck
Olivia Taft
- 9 Brent Bowen
Cathy Giannetti
Rosemary Kukla
- 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

Did You Know?

One of our former ministers once asked, "how many annual meetings have we had." Well, the minutes of an annual meeting are essentially the history of the church. Church meetings in general go back to the time of the reformation. King Henry XIII split with the Roman Church over his demand to divorce his wife (my how things have changed). In any event, the Church of England became the only legal church, and all were required to be members. About that time churches began having an annual meeting to

elect church officials, establish a budget and discuss any other business that would legally come before them.

Going back through our records, I realized that we have had an annual meeting every year since the Second Precinct was formed in 1743. I would imagine that not all of these gatherings were nice tidy quiet and calm affairs. Even to this day I can remember a few meetings that were less than peaceful affairs. My earliest recollections included a sit down supper of macaroni, tomato sauce and meat. The supper usually included a salad and dessert. Then the tables were put away and the chairs were lined up in rows, and the moderator called the meeting to order. We referred to this as a roll call supper. I personally don't ever remember having the clerk read the roll, but in the not too distant past, I'm sure they did! The annual meetings always took place in the evening until just a few years ago. I suppose it is easier to have the meeting right after Sunday service before anyone can escape.

Ted Moxham



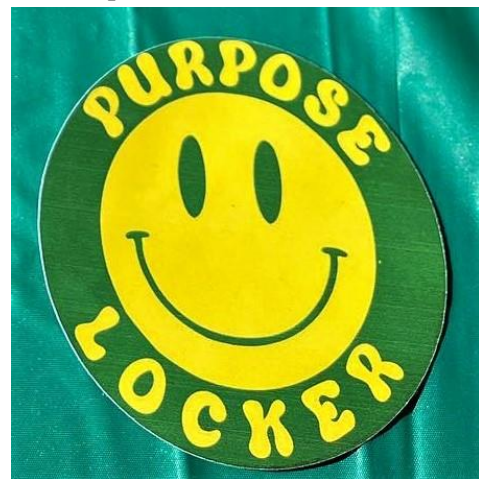
Women's Fellowship is seeing great attendance at Coffee Hour each week, and everyone seems to be truly enjoying the time they share. Please remember that it takes volunteers to make this happen. We're not looking for anyone to take it on every week, just fill in a slot every so often when and if you are able. You can contribute just part of the process if you prefer. No experience is necessary. You will get all the guidance you need. See the signup sheet at the coffee line or call the church office to sign up or get information about how you can help.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Women's Fellowship

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, we were able to donate six big boxes of sorely needed hats, gloves, socks and hygiene items to The Purpose Locker Foundation, for



which they offered "our sincerest thanks in getting a lot of items to those who need them." Thank you all!

With a new year just beginning, we will soon be tackling our next initiative: The Green Congregation Challenge is a step-by-step approach that helps churches take small, but consequential, steps toward protecting God's Creation. First up: forming a "green team" to set some priorities about what to do and how to do it. Interested? Talk to us!

FOOD PANTRY NOTICE: Please be aware that the Second Church Food Pantry has slightly changed its distribution schedule. Instead of the fourth Monday, distribution will now be on the **LAST** Monday of the month, with the exception of November and December when it is usually moved up before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

*In Christian Love,
Outreach and Missions Committee*

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day 10:00 AM Worship / Gathering Sunday	2 Office is Closed	3	4	5 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	6	7 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
8 10:00 AM Worship / Communion / Gathering Sunday	9	10	11	12 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	13	14 6 to 8 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
15 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:00 AM Stewardship Luncheon! 2:00 PM Taft Party	16 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 PM Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Service 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	17 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	18	19 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
22 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	23	24	25 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	26 February Voice Deadline	27	28 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 6:00 PM Family Fellowship Dinner & Bingo Night!
29 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School	30 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	31				

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