

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

March 2023



COFFEE HOUSE, SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH, 6 TO 8 PM

**JACK & JILL SPAGHETTI SUPPER
AND OPPORTUNITY BASKETS!
MARCH 25TH**

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
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BSA Charter Organization Representative, - c: 508-918-0123
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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

FEBRUARY 2023

Calendar	Outreach & Missions	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	Family Fellowship	Prayer Shawl	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women’s Fellowship
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Pastor’s Messages

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

During Lent we will be hosting a Tuesday night book study. The book we will be reading and discussing is **The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus’s Final Week in Jerusalem**, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We will meet each Tuesday night from 6 to 7 pm to discuss a chapter from the book. We will meet Feb. 28th through March 28th. We could meet on April 4th (TBD), which is during Holy Week.

All are welcome. If you are not interested in reading the book (but you should be), you are welcome to attend and discuss. I assure you, if you read the book, you will never look at Holy Week the same way again. It will become a much deeper experience.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the first week of April. Palm Sunday is April 2nd.

Maundy Thursday is April 6th. We will be having our deeply spiritual Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae Service at 7 pm.

On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open and available between the hours of Noon and 3 PM. Please know that ALL are welcome to come and pray, meditate, read.

On April 9th there will be an Easter Sunrise Service at Capron Park, the time TBD. We will have our Easter Celebration worship service here at Second at 10 am.

(Though technically not a part of the Holy Week experience, we will continue the celebration of the Easter event with the ancient practice of Holy Humor Sunday on April 16th.)

WINTER FEST WELCOME!

Dear Friends,

On February 18th, our church participated in the annual Winter Night Festival in downtown Attleboro. By all accounts the event was a huge success. I was incredibly proud of the Second Congregational Church that night. I would like to share with all of you what I witnessed.

The plans were late coming together, but I put out an email plea and at least 30 people responded that they could help. No doubt more people would have come forward if I had given more notice. I am incredibly appreciative of all those who were available. We purchased and provided free coffee and cocoa. We served easily over 250 people that night! One table was set up outside near Park Street, and people walked by. Some stopped. When they stopped, they were greeted with smiling Second faces. They were welcomed with warm words. We put our Jesus compassion on display for the community to see.

We welcomed the stranger indoors where the Narthex, Sanctuary and adjoining rooms were well lit and heated. Acoustic music played from 6 to 8 PM. We fed the hungry. A table was set up in the Conference room and snacks were provided. Folks came in, grabbed a few pieces and rested their weary bodies for a spell. Some folks even wandered into the sanctuary. They asked questions about the church, the stained glass windows, architecture, and even the worship service! We even offered up our restrooms, free of charge.

This is important because there are many in our city who still call us the ‘Congressional church,’ think we are a catholic church, think that we are the exclusive rich country club church, call us ‘the Jack and Jill church,’ or just plain don’t know anything about us. It is certainly my hope that with your help we can change that. In the past year we have participated in the Attleboro Pride event and hosted a peace event and march which ended with words in our sanctuary. We opened our doors to

the community close to Halloween when we handed out candy and invited everyone to come into our sanctuary to see and hear Dr. MacPherson play “spooky” music on our amazing pipe organ! We then hosted the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and we also welcomed the community to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr service held at our church this year. In addition to the Boy Scouts who meet each week and came to Scout Sunday, we invited the Norton Singers to put on a very successful production in our Fellowship Hall.

All of these things are in addition to the traditional ways in which we have invited the community into our sacred space: weekly and special worship services, the monthly coffee house and open mic, church fairs, May breakfasts and yard sales. We have been at the heart of downtown Attleboro for 275 years! It is important that people know who we are and what we are about. In the days and years to come, we will be seeking ways to do that.

*In Peace and Love,
Rev. Will*

THE COMPLAINT FREE CHALLENGE

On February 19th, I put forth the Complaint Free Challenge in my message. Sure, it could be described as something of an inspirational self-help sermon or even a Ted Talk—but, hey, who is really going to complain.

If you have no idea what I am talking about, I encourage you to go to our church website and view the sermon. The gist of the message. Stop complaining! We all complain quite a bit. I am certainly not singling out anyone in our church as a chronic complainer, but most of us complain about things we have little control over, and I am not really sure where that energy goes. Incessant complaining is bad for our mental, physical and spiritual health. Honestly, complaining tends to attract other complainers or could lead to isolation.

Will Bowen in his book **A Complaint Free World** (3 copies are available at the Small Library in the Conference Room—take one, but bring it back), writes that it takes 21 days to form a habit. So, it should take 21 days to form a new habit of ‘not complaining.’ Can you go 21 days without complaining? That is 21 days in a row!!! If you can go one day, then maybe you could string together a few days.

What counts as a complaint? A verbal (you can think it, you just can’t SAY it) complaint, criticism or gossip. It isn’t always about the actual words, but really about the energy you put behind them. Also, he offers that we have a physical reminder when we complain. He suggests that we use a wristband, watch, Fitbit, bracelet, etc. - and when we complain, we take the item off of the current wrist and switch it to the opposite wrist.

Many from our congregation accepted the challenge. Will you? I think it is a great idea for a Lenten discipline. Bear in mind, that it takes the average person 4 to 8 months to complete the challenge! However, I know that if you start the challenge, while you may not be able to make it through the day, or string 21 days together, you will find yourself complaining less, and you will find yourself in a happier frame of mind.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Deb Hawes.

March 5th

Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Sermon: “Born Again???”

March 12th

Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 4:5-22

Sermon: “Grace for Muggles”

March 19th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Sermon: “March Madness in the Church”

March 26th

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture reading: Romans 8:6-11

Sermon: “Hey Good Looking!”

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*

Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Fellowship will be having a meeting on March 19th, right after church, in the Ladies’ Parlor. We will be discussing the May Breakfast on April 29th. Starting at Coffee Hour on March 26th there will be signup sheets for help at the breakfast. You may also e-mail Sandy at sandrasaunders99@gmail.com or call 508-699-2738.

On May 20th we will have an Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale in Fellowship Hall and the parking lot from 9-12. On March 26 there will be

signup sheets for yard sale help as well. It is time to start bringing your items in for the yard sale. Please leave them in the back hall by the stage door. Thank you. Any questions call me or send an e-mail. *Sandy Saunders*

Interested in a ‘LADIES NITE OUT’ group for caring, sharing and some fun? Let’s have a planning session: Wednesday, March 8th at 6:00 pm in the Ladies Parlor. We’ll have some discussion and goodies. Come to the driveway door.

D’Anne Olsen
971-506-0498

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, March 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 in the planning stages of a family cultural night in May. We typically host a special event in honor of Mother’s and Father’s Day, but we wanted to make some changes. We are fortunate to have families from many different backgrounds and cultures. We want to be able to showcase this with the families. Keep your eyes open for more information coming soon.

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. If you know anyone looking for preschool for the fall, please encourage them to call me at 508-222-1149. I’d be happy to show them our wonderful program.

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

There’s not much to say about the March schedule except that it’s very regular. Both the Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will rehearse at the usual times on all the Thursdays this month, of which there are five (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th). The Adult Choir will sing every Sunday (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th).

Palm Sunday and Easter are just around the corner, April 2nd and 9th. Bells will play on Easter Sunday. If there are any other performance dates for the Bells, we will discuss that in rehearsals.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices are continuing in the month of March. We are preparing for the Palm Sunday Processional and two other dances this spring. 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 9 am on Saturdays for about 45 minutes of stretching, learning new dances for worship, and a little bit of just “fun dance”. We will have one week of no rehearsals this month, on March 25th. 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

Fred Rogers said “Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” We are at the point in this school year where the children are seriously playing and learning. We are truly enjoying watching this naturally happen in the classrooms.

As we move into the spring, the teachers are actively assessing children and preparing progress reports for our second round of family–teacher conferences. Our students are registering for kindergarten. This is a very exciting time for our families!

Our Board of Directors and families are working hard this month preparing for our Spaghetti Supper. The event will be held on Saturday, March 25th here in Fellowship Hall. We will be offering 3 seating options and each family will have their own table. If you are unable to dine with us, you can still enjoy a delicious meal with our to-go dinner option! Ticket sales started on February 27th and will be open through March 20th. Please email or call me to order tickets. Donations are already rolling in and we have some very exciting baskets this year! We will be selling opportunity tickets for our baskets on Sunday March 19th at Coffee Hour. We will also have an order form where you can purchase opportunity tickets. We thank you for your continued support of our school and hope to see many of you at the Spaghetti Supper!

March is a long month at school with no real break for the families. We look forward each year to our March Madness! This is a fun week of spirit days where all the students and staff who wish to participate can dress up for themed days. We are excited to see what everyone wears for *Dress Like a Farmer Day* and *Amazing Athletes Day*! Check out our website for pictures of these days.

Family Fellowship: Many thanks to all who cooked, decorated, and joined us to celebrate the Mardi Gras Pancake Luncheon. A special thanks to the children and youth for leading a rousing parade and song to ‘Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In’!

Souper Bowl of Caring: Thank you to all who helped us Tackle Hunger! With your support we raised \$683 and donated 114 nonperishable food items to our Second Church Food Pantry. The children and youth set a goal of beating the prior year and you helped them knock it out of the park!

Palm Sunday Processional: We will be practicing for the Palm Sunday Processional after worship on Sunday March 19th and Sunday March 26th. It is an easy and joyous dance to get started with if you’d like to try out Sacred Dance. Save the Date for April 2nd when we will participate in worship. All ages and dance experience levels are welcome!

Lenten Devotional for All Ages: In 2023 Lent began on February 22nd and includes 40 days (not including Sundays) through Easter, April 9th. Lent is typically thought of as a time for fasting or giving up something material to help us remember the sacrifices Jesus made. However, preparing for the celebration of Jesus’s resurrection can be approached in so many more ways.

In Sunday School this year we are building a Mosaic of God’s Love through acts of kindness and deepening faith. We invite the entire congregation to explore sharing God’s Love through some of the options on this card or make your own! You can bring in your card at any time during or after Lent that you’ve completed a BINGO to receive a small prize and add colorful dots to our mosaics for each square!

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, March 5th, we will have a Gathering Sunday and Communion.

March 12th, 19th, and 26th: 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 continue our Lenten journey with support from *'Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter'* by Laura Alary. Alary's book focuses on experiencing Lent with all our senses and seeing it as a special time for creating a welcoming space for God.

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

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



- 1 Jack Baptist
Clint Ferguson
- 3 Mark Robinson
- 4 Natalie MacDonald

- 5 Jean Phillips-Currier
- 7 Ginny Bassler
- 9 Joan Lepper
- 10 Chris Saunders
- 12 Kevin Goulding
- 13 Steve Withers, Sr.
- 15 Jack McKenna
Mary Quimby
- 17 Drew Sencabaugh
- 18 Jane Huston
- 19 Glenn Weidner
- 22 Mary Goldzung
- 25 Joel Hauerwas
- 27 Mike Edwards
James H Miller
- 28 Connie Bozzi
Ralph Giannetti
- 29 Jean Garrott
Andrew Osborne
- 31 Lucy Hogarth
Betsey Pray
Ruth Shaver

Did You Know?

Lent for me was always the gloomiest time of the church year. It began with Ash Wednesday and seemed to last forever. My family was not Roman Catholic, but we lived in a predominantly Catholic community. Even as a kid, we would see kids coming to school with black spots on their foreheads and wonder where the ashes came from. Were they old newspapers that a priest had crushed up or were they something very special? Only when I got older did I learn that they were burned palms from the previous year. We never used ashes in the Episcopal Church, but I have come to realize how meaningful they are at the start of Lent.

Another thing that always struck me was the practice of giving up something for Lent. Now, it couldn't be onions or some other horrible thing, it had to be something that you were going to really miss, say candy or chocolate. In our church we never did that, and I often

wondered how many good faithful people stuck it out for that whole Lenten period.

The practice of applying ashes to your forehead dates back to the time of the Council Of Nicaea when sinners were required to wear sack cloth and be sprinkled with ashes as a sign of penitence. Gradually the practice died out and everyone was required to have the sign of the cross imposed on their forehead.

Ted Moxham

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Outreach and Missions wants to call your attention to two things happening in March.

First, Saturday, March 18th:

Laurie Sawyer, member of the Attleboro Council on Human Rights, has told us about an upcoming event to observe International World Water Day. World Water Day is intended to inspire people around the world to learn more about water-related issues and to take action to make a difference. The event (planned with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council) could be a cleanup in the river area (volunteers--us!--needed), so stay tuned for more details. As we learn more, we'll post info on social media.

Second, Sunday, March 19th:

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ. With our generosity, the UCC extends the church's reach beyond our local community, providing food, water, medicines, education, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development to individuals and communities in crisis around the world.

In Christian Love,
Outreach and Missions Committee

M A R C H 2 0 2 3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
5 10:00 AM Worship/Communion	6	7	8 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:00 PM Ladies Night Out	9 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
12 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	13	14	15	16 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	17	18 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal World Water Day
19 10:00 AM Worship / OGHS 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Processional Rehearsal	20 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	22 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	23 April Voice Deadline 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Jack & Jill Spaghetti Supper & Opportunity Baskets
26 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Processional Rehearsal 11:15 AM Special Church Meeting ILO Annual Financial Meeting	27 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	28	29	30 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	31	

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