

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

September 2023



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

RALLY DAY! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022, 10 AM

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022, 6 TO 8 PM

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP APPLE PICKING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 11 AM

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
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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

September 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 Message

As I write this, I am looking forward to a very brief trip to Maine. By the time you are reading this, the big boat will have already dropped Julie and I off *and* picked us up from our awesome day in Bar Harbor.

I am not from Maine, but I lived there for five years. In that brief period of my life, I became engaged, married, and celebrated the birth of both of my children. They are Mainers, although both of them spent less than two and half years living there. I will forever be *‘from away.’* However, every few years, Julie and I take a trip back to ‘Vacationland.’

When I lived in Maine, I didn’t exactly experience it as “the way life should be.” I crammed seven years of college into those five years. I served a church for two of those five years. I was a ‘stay-at-home’ dad (with a heavy reliance on a wonderful day care) for two years. I was a ‘more-than’ full time student for the entire five years. I share all that with you to drop the clue that while in Maine, I was so busy that I didn’t experience all that Maine offered. But that was the plan! When Julie and I moved to Maine, we moved with a five year plan in mind. Five years exiled in Maine—then we’d leave and get back to the holy land—Massachusetts! We didn’t want to experience it all, lest we fall in love with Maine and in a moment of weakness decide to give up our *flatlander* ways.

We never drove the coastal road. We never climbed the mountains of Maine, but we drove up Cadillac Mountain several times. We never even ate a *lobstah*. Ah yes, there is much left out of our Maine experience. We went to UMaine hockey games. We drove to Bar Harbor. We survived the bitter winters. We lived on the same block as Stephen King. Yes, we had several Stephen King sightings. However, we were so busy with our blinders on, that we didn’t enjoy all that Maine has to offer.

A couple of times when we have gone back, we have visited the church I once pastored. The church hasn’t changed very much. The parsonage was as small as I remembered. The people were the same. Everyone was friendly and genuinely glad to see us.

When we look back now on our Maine experience, we do so with some regret. Why didn’t we stop to smell the lupines or to pick the blueberries? We never went clammin’! Why didn’t we climb Mt. Katahdin? We didn’t experience it all. What a shame. Ayuh!

I think about this with relationship to our church—our faith life. Have you been walking around with blinders on? Have you been going to church, but not really going to worship? Have you been volunteering at the church, but not really ministering? Sometimes we find ourselves sleepwalking through our days, not really taking the time to enjoy what has been left to us. We don’t always recognize the gift that God has given us.

Fall is a busy time in the life of our church and things are really going to take off in the coming weeks and months. Soon, we will be busy with Sunday school, stewardship, committee meetings, choir practice, etc. etc. It is too easy to get caught up in the busyness business. Take the blinders off and appreciate the ministry that is being offered, and the ministry that you can offer. Time passes quickly, and it is easy for us to let it go unnoticed. Make the most of your time, your skills, and your ministry!

*In Christian Love,
Reverend Will*

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Marcia Weidner.

September 3- Communion

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: "Are You a Worker or a Shirker"

September 10- Rally Day

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Sermon: "Now for Something Completely Different"

September 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture reading: Exodus 14:19-31

Sermon: "Won't Get Fooled Again"

September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture reading: Exodus 16:2-25

Sermon: "Roll with the Changes"

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS.....

We want our church to grow! We need to prepare the soil for growth."

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.

Women's Fellowship

Hope everyone is having a great summer, while collecting surplus items, canning, knitting, crafting, etc. **Calling all volunteers**, please let me know if you can work this year on your table, and new volunteers let me know where your interest is, and we will get you signed up! Thank you for your help.

The Holiday Fair is on November 4, 2023 – 9am to 2pm. Please start collecting items for Grandma's attic, books, puzzles, plants, toys and silent auction. If you have any questions,

please ask Sandy at 508-699-2738 or email, sandrasaunders99@gmail.com.

Thanks, and see you soon!

Sandy Saunders

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, September 18th 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 September!

After a rainy and fast summer, we are looking forward to settling back into the school routine. We welcomed our new and returning students to playground days in late August. Activities were set out and the children and their parents had the opportunity to make new friends, meet their teachers and have their questions answered. These days help ease parents and children into our school community! They are also a wonderful opportunity for the teachers to get acquainted with some of their students in a relaxed atmosphere!

The teachers reported on August 28th, and all signs point to a fun filled year of preschool. We are excited for the start of the extended 5 Day Pre-K class which will now meet 8:30-2:00 each day! I want to thank the board of directors for all their support as we changed around class schedules. I am blessed to be supported by a community that is always looking to provide what our community is looking for in a preschool.

It has been a very active summer, providing tours and registering children over the summer months! Both Pre-K classes are full, and the other classes are very close to capacity! I am looking forward to the sights and sounds of little ones and families in the halls again.

I would like to thank Fred and Jack for all the help they provided over the summer and always. The floors in the hallway and in the children's bathrooms were waxed and look so shiny!

We are looking forward to another amazing year of play, fun and learning! We have many exciting community activities planned and will share more information soon.

We will begin our school year on September 6, 2023! Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

Choir Schedules

Our first rehearsals will be Thursday, September 7th (the Thursday after Labor Day), at the regular times: Bells, 6:30-7:30, Adult Choir, 7:30-9:00.

The Adult Choir will sing in church for the first time on Rally Sunday (September 10th) and on the remaining Sundays in September. At one of their first rehearsals, Bells will set a date for playing in church.

Thinking of Joining?

There are always openings for ringers and singers, no auditions required! Just come to a rehearsal (see schedule above). A very basic level of music reading is helpful for playing bells, but we've had new members who learn entirely "on the job."

The Adult Choir sings most Sundays, and there is a warm-up that starts around 9:20. Bells play every 6 weeks or so, on dates decided by the members. Warm-ups for them usually begin at around 8:45 on those Sundays. I strive to keep rehearsal times within the posted schedule, with no going past 9 pm for the Adult Choir, and no extra rehearsals beyond the normal Thursdays.

Summer Music

For the past eight weeks – in a repeat of last summer – we've been worshipping with First Baptist Church, in their sanctuary during July and at Second Church during August. FBC's pastor, the Rev. Rebecca Driscoll, preached here. Her sermon series, meditations based around four National Parks, was well received, and I supplied slideshows of each park that were displayed on the sanctuary video

monitors during the playing of the prelude. It was a pleasure to welcome now-familiar folks from FBC back to Second. Miraculously, the weekend weather in August was cool enough that the temperature in the sanctuary did not exceed 72°!

A big thank-you to those who provided music on the four Sundays: Ty Waterman, Oure-Pleasure-Lite, Michael Touloumzis, and the Praise Band (Glenn Weidner, Joe Nuovo, Laurie Sawyer, Tara Tetreault, and Ben Macomber).

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices will resume on September 23rd. All are welcome to join! 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”. 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

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The smell of grapes ripening along the roadside always marks my personal--and not always welcome--realization that summer is ending. But it also marks the beginning of new activities in our church year. Outreach and Missions will be sponsoring a community event in late September (date still to be finalized): a showing of "Drive to Sing", a film by Bryce and Kathryn Denny. It's an uplifting documentary about singers searching--and finding--ways to stay connected and sing live music together when COVID-19 shut down activities in March 2020. Stay tuned for the announcement on our website, Facebook page, and bulletin when the date is confirmed--we hope to see you and your friends there!



The summer has had its share of notable events: terribly destructive flooding in Vermont and devastating fire in Maui, to name two. Outreach and Missions wants you to know that we will respond through contributions to the Vermont Conference, UCC c/o Flood Relief, 36 North Main Street, Randolph, VT 05060; as well as to the UCC Wider Church Ministries Special Appeal for Hawaii.

Our combined churches had great success this summer with our collection of school supplies! A full carload was delivered to AAIC, where volunteers were called on to sort through, organize, and distribute the donations to get Attleboro students off to a good start this school year. Thank you to our generous contributors from both churches!



Paula Foresman.

Christian Education

Greetings and hope you had a wonderful summer! Sunday School will kick off on Rally Day, September 10th. 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 for this special Sunday and throughout the year.

On Rally Day, families can register for Sunday School in the Conference Room from 9:30-9:55 or following worship. Toddlers through Pre-K age 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.

Please note this fall that we are splitting school aged kids and youth into two classes. Elementary aged kids will continue to have Sunday School every week unless it is noted as a Gathering Sunday. Middle and high school youth will be dismissed for classroom time during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays they will participate in worship and meet with their teachers during Coffee Hour.

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a **Rally Day Carnival Party** in Fellowship Hall after worship. All are welcome to wear your favorite summer outfit and join us for hot dogs, popcorn, and other favorite treats.

On Sunday September 17th we will have a **Blessing of the Backpacks**:

WHO'S INVITED? Everyone! All ages are invited to participate in a special blessing as we welcome fall, the return to school, and new adventures at all stages of life! Bring your backpack, favorite tote, water bottle, sports bag, instrument case, or anything that you carry with you daily that you can attach a tag or a sticker.

WHY BLESS THE BACKPACKS? We believe in the power of prayer, the importance of community, and the mission to show and share God's love with all. These small tokens will be a reminder to us in our everyday lives to follow that mission and also serve as a hint to others that we are a friend and ally they just haven't met yet.

Family Fellowship: Our first Family Fellowship event of the year will be Apple Picking on Saturday September 30th at Steere Orchard in Greenville, RI. All are welcome to join us at 11am for a tractor ride and apple picking followed by story time. Please feel free to bring a picnic blanket or chair, snack, and drink for story time.

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



One Plus One had a wonderful cookout in June in the lovely gardens of Russ and Betsey Pray. Thanks so much for hosting. A fun time was had by all!

Did You Know?

Alcoholic beverages were never consumed at Second Church; right, wrong, maybe as far as the members were concerned, but they sure were consumed. Back in the early sixties, I was an apprentice plumber for a local company. One of our jobs was the renovation of our beautiful church. I must admit that I had never seen the interior, and I was quite surprised. All of the pews were covered with canvas sheets as was the center aisle and the altar area including the organ. At that time all of the organ pipes were visible and there was no altar as it had not been built yet. Back to the booze, as the carpenters were tearing down the walls in the narthex, there they were. Bottles of whiskey, empty of course, but with the corks still in some of them. Maybe those carpenters of yore thought that someday it would be a nice joke to play on tea totaling Congregationalists.

I was privileged to be there when the altar was being built and I personally made the pipe standoffs for the cross, never dreaming that one day to that cross I would worship and consider it a great privilege.

Ted Moxham

September Birthdays

- 4 Leanne Gunn
- 5 Ray Guild
Marsha Richardson
- 6 Michael LaClair
Joe Nuovo
Russ Pray
- 9 Laurie Sawyer
- 10 Tisha Lancaster
- 11 Jay Miller Jr.
John Newport
Evan Tetreault
- 12 Tom Richards
- 13 McKenzie Blair
- 16 Alex Saunders
Alex Vecchioli
- 18 Zachary LaClair
- 20 Nancy Smith
- 22 Julie Cormier
- 23 John Brodeur
April Nuovo
- 24 Sharyn LaClair
- 25 Kayla Johnston
- 30 Erin Bassler



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Worship Communion	4 Labor Day Office is closed	5	6 7:30 PM Cub Scout First Meeting	7 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
10 RALLY DAY! 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School	11	12	13 7:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	14 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	18 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	19	20 7:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	21 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
24 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	25 October Voice Deadline 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	26 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	27 7:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	28 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	29	30 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 11:00 AM Family Fellowship Apple Picking

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