

# **THE VOICE of *Second Church***

United Church of Christ  
50 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

February 2024



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visit our website**

[www.attleborosecondchurch.org](http://www.attleborosecondchurch.org)

**COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024, 6 TO 8 PM**  
**SOUPER BOWL AND MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BRUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, AFTER THE SERVICE**

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC  
Reverend Dr. S. William Sencabaugh, Pastor  
[revdrwill@attleborosecondchurch.org](mailto:revdrwill@attleborosecondchurch.org) – c: 860-861-5003  
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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 2024

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Jill</b>	<b>Did You Know?</b>	<b>Sacred Dance</b>	<b>Prayer Shawl</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Music Notes</b>	<b>Women’s Fellowship</b>	<b>One Plus One</b>
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## PASTOR’S MESSAGE

It was 1995 when I participated in my first **Souper Bowl of Caring**. The SBoC was a relatively new idea. The church where I served as a youth group advisor had passed the soup pots and collected food for the local food pantry. There wasn’t a lot of fanfare, but it was enough to ignite a spark. I thought, “when I become a pastor, I think I may want to try this.”

The SBoC started out from one church youth group in South Carolina. They thought ‘with all the money being spent on this Super Bowl, wouldn’t it be great to raise funds or collect food.’ And it worked! It was a simple idea. On Super Bowl Sunday they asked the congregation to bring in non-perishable food items or donate a dollar. Other youth groups heard about the idea, and they challenged their congregations. It has grown exponentially over the years. The rule has always been that the donations received by youth groups remain local to the community of the church.

Over the years I have had a lot of fun with the worship service that takes place on Super Bowl Sunday. I have challenged other congregations to try to raise more funds than the church I was serving, so that it became competitive (after all, people love to compete—especially for a good cause). There has been an educational piece about food insecurity and how many are affected. Youth Groups at churches have had ‘lock-ins’ the night before as they decorated the sanctuary and fellowship hall with balloons, streamers and posters. Coffee Hour has been turned into a ‘tail-gate’ party—a pot-luck luncheon where people bring in their favorite game time treats.

In one church, there was a young woman who was a baton twirler—so in the middle of the service—she lit her baton ablaze and threw it high into the air! Two churches had a bunch of young musicians who were members of the high school ‘pep band,’ so they provided peppy music during the service.

Each church that I have served over the years has made their own mark with this idea—but the thing that has never changed—is the amazing contributions that pour into the narthex and the sanctuary on Souper Bowl Sunday. People have been incredibly generous.

This year, Super Bowl Sunday is February 11. Here is what I am asking:

- Let’s go all in on the Souper Bowl of Caring!
- Come to worship expecting joy.
- Wear your favorite sports team attire to worship.
- Invite a friend to worship, someone who might enjoy this kind of service, some holy shenanigans.
- Bring some non-perishable items to be donated to our food pantry.
- There will also be special envelopes for monetary donations.
- After worship our ‘tailgate party’ will be a Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch!

At staff meetings in the last church I served, we would say: “Let’s make it better than they thought it could be.” If this sounds like fun to you—and you are ready for some over the top joyous worship—then come to worship prepared to celebrate the love and grace of God. The only way this thing grows is if we invite friends, family and our neighbors.

*Peace and Blessings,  
Reverend Will*

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY:

On each Tuesday night of Lent, beginning on Tuesday, February 20- we will have our Lenten Book Study. This year we will be reading and discussing "Salvation NOT Purchased: Overcoming the Ransom Idea to Rediscover the Original Gospel Teaching," by Stephen Finlan.

The book is a critique of the traditional atonement understanding that 'Christ died for our sins.' It looks at the implications of the traditional orthodox teaching of what "washed in the blood" theology has meant over the years.

If you didn't follow much of what I just wrote, then definitely pick up a copy of the book and come to the discussion group. It is not a long book (only 86 pages), but it is incredibly thoughtful and well researched. I believe it is accessible for anyone at any level of theological education (including none). Because we'll meet for 5 or 6 weeks to discuss the material, we can take our time and have amazing conversations.

February 20 – March 26, Tuesday Nights, 6:00 to 7:00 PM, in the Conference Room.

## THE LENTEN THEME

Each year pastors try to come up with a theme for Lent. This year's theme will be 'the generations that make up our church.' In 1998, I began my doctoral program at Andover Newton Theological School. I thought it would be fun to research the spirituality of Phish fans. I quickly realized that the project needed to include work on Baby Boomers and Generation X. There are many generations that make up our congregation. I plan to talk about the things that make each generation unique and how we may be more welcoming to each. Truth be told, I have done this series before, and I am bringing it back because one parishioner told me how much it helped him in understanding his kids and grandkids. So, during Lent, we will go on a journey for the generations.

## SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Ralph Giannetti.

### February 4<sup>th</sup>

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Communion

Scout Sunday

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon: "A Picture of Jesus"

### February 11<sup>th</sup>

Souper Bowl Sunday

Gathering Sunday

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Sermon: "Go Team!"

*Don't forget: Pancakes after worship!*

*Dress in your favorite sports team attire!*

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday Service, 6 pm

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon: "The Pilgrimage of Lent"

### February 18<sup>th</sup>

First Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "Where it Begins"

### February 25<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:23-31

Sermon: "Future Generations will Know"

## 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. Cathy Giannetti, Ralph Giannetti, Karen Slawson, Marcia Weidner and Roberta Zarrella are part of the team.

## OUTREACH & MISSIONS

O & M wants to thank all our generous donors for the many children's clothing items of all types and sizes! We have passed them on to "Ann's Little Treasures" a non-profit organization housed at Trinitarian Congregational Church in Norton, where they will be distributed to parents and grandparents who are raising families under difficult circumstances. This outreach resource is run entirely on volunteer power and to date has donated to over 500 families. Its founder, Gineen French, came to our church last Sunday to see who we are and to express her thanks for our generosity. See our Facebook Group page for the "thank you" shout-out and photograph.

The Attleboro Warming Shelter continues to need volunteers for its Warming Shelter. Janet Blair has helped out in the early (really early!) morning shifts a number of times and has found it a very positive experience. The shelter is open when the temperature falls below 25 degrees F.

and so far, has housed up to ten people. It is located at the South Attleboro Fire Station, so there are professionals available to handle medical or behavioral crises. Feel free to ask Janet about her experience there. The contact person (and this info is available on our church website) is Pam Tarallo (AAIC), 508-971-2931.

*Paula Foresman*



Exciting things are happening here at Jack and Jill! Registration for the next school year is open! We are looking forward to connecting with new families as well as current families. If you know a family with preschoolers, please have them reach out to see all the great options we have to offer! We are also welcoming a new teacher! Jill Meyer has joined us in the Mixed Age classroom. Jill has been taking care of children for over 20 years both in her home and in a center setting. She will be a great addition to our team.

February is a time to really see the progress that all the children have made since the start of the school year. They

are all comfortable in the classroom and have made friends. This is the time of year where we get to see their personalities shine and lots of learning happens. It is a great time to be a preschool educator!

This month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a red and white spirit day and special dance party. The children are looking forward to celebrating with their teachers and friends.

We will be partnering with Providence Bagel in Attleboro for a fundraiser later this month. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

**'A Show and Dinner to Go'** preparations are underway! We have a great team of volunteers who are excited to make this new family event a success! This event will feature a child-focused music and movement performance. Opportunity basket tickets will be sold beforehand as well as during the event. We will also be offering a to-go dinner option. There will be 2 dinner options, a lazy man's lasagna with meatballs or a chicken Alfredo. Each option comes with bread and dessert. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>; you won't have to make dinner that night. ☺ We would love to have our church community join us for this event. We have reached out to many area businesses for donations to our opportunity baskets. We are hoping to have some new baskets this year. Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

*Katrina Lay, Executive Director*

## MUSIC NOTES

### CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will NOT rehearse on Thursdays, February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Regular rehearsals will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Bell Choir will play in church on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Adult Choir will sing on all the Sundays in February. On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>, the choir will team up with the Praise Group for the song "Awesome God." Please arrive that morning at our usual warm-up time (9:15) to rehearse with the band and vocal soloists.

*Bill MacPherson  
Director of Music*

(3)

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

PSM will meet on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 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*

## INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices will be held all Saturdays in February. 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](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com).

*Diane Osborne.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are all welcome to join us for a Gathering Sunday including Communion on the first Sunday of the month, February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a Gathering Sunday on February 11<sup>th</sup> for the Souper Bowl of Caring, (more details below). For Littles and Elementary, Sunday School is held every week unless it is noted as a Gathering Sunday. Please note that there are worship boxes for all ages on the bookshelves in the back of the sanctuary if your child would like some quiet activities. Check out the new LCD sketchpads by the boxes, the kids loved trying them out in Sunday School!

**Toddlers through Pre-K** age can be dropped off beginning at 9:45 in the Nursery for our Littles Program of stories, songs, and crafts that support building a foundation of their faith. As this age group is often toilet training, please let the teachers know what support they might need. Also, this class has a snack most weeks including fruit juice, water, goldfish, or an allergy free option. Please alert the teachers of any food allergies so that we can ensure we provide the right option. We are happy to add to our offerings to meet your child's dietary needs.

Teachers: Sue & Nicole

**Elementary Age 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 or announced. This year we will be exploring their questions about faith through skits, songs, crafts, and so much more. In the months of February and March, we will explore what Lent means to us.

Teachers: Diane & Tina

**Middle and High School Youth** will be dismissed for classroom time during worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday this month. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, representatives from our youth class will be serving as Liturgists. In their classroom time, they have recently been discussing choices and will continue exploring the 'Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens', a series of personal stories that tackle the big question of what a 'good life' looks like (spoiler alert: the answer isn't being the most successful or having the most stuff).

Teachers: Tara & Andrew

### FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed to our annual BINGO dinner. The hall was full of laughter and everyone went home a winner!

Our next Family Fellowship event will be a double header with the Souper Bowl of Caring and Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch on February 11<sup>th</sup> following worship:

Souper Bowl of Caring: The Patriots won't be in the big game this year, but we can still celebrate this fine day of athletic competition by supporting our local community. Children and youth will be gathering at 9:30 to collect non-perishable food and monetary donations to support our Second Church Food Pantry before and after the service on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>. The elementary class has also been practicing a joyous song to share with you all in worship.

Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch: Come celebrate a couple days early with us by enjoying tasty chocolate chip and plain pancakes! Gluten free blueberry muffins, pork and vegetarian sausages, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice will also be served. Please speak to a member of the CE Committee if you'd like to help prep, flip, serve, or clean up. We greatly appreciate it!

All are welcome to join us as we tackle hunger and prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten season!

*Diane Osborne,*  
 Chair of Christian Education  
[de\\_saunders@hotmail.com](mailto:de_saunders@hotmail.com)  
 (508) 409-7919

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Save the Dates: for our May Breakfast on May 4, 2024, and our Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale on May 18, 2024. Please figure out how you would like to help and let Jen Turcotte know what you would like to do at the May Breakfast. Let Sandy know what you would like to do at the Yard Sale. Start cleaning out your closets!

*Thank you, Sandy*

I would like to Thank You for the help we have been getting at Coffee Hour. Thank you for bringing items to serve on our sharing table, and please keep up the good work. See the signup sheet at coffee hour or call Sandy at 508-699-2738, e-mail [sandrasaunders99@gmail.com](mailto:sandrasaunders99@gmail.com) or call the office. All are welcome to help!

*Happy Valentine's Day*  
 Women Fellowship

## DID YOU KNOW?

In April 1901, after the services of several disappointing pastors, Second Church hired the Reverend Doctor J. Lee Mitchell. Little did our members know that he would become the longest serving and perhaps best loved minister ever to serve here. Dr. Mitchell, who, by the way, always insisted on being called doctor, served this church from

**Our Food Pantry has been selected once again to be the beneficiary of the February Bloomin' 4 Good program a Stop&Shop on Pleasant Street in Attleboro, just in time for Valentines Day!**

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



What better way to say I love you than buying a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet? Visit our selected Stop & Shop this month, where every specially marked \$10.99 bouquet (pictured right) sold will send our organization \$1.

[stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com)  
 Bloomin' 4 Good Program



1901 to 1945, an almost unheard of amount of time for a settled minister. Dr. Mitchell was an outstanding preacher, and his sermons were always very well received. Remember, he served during two world wars and the Great Depression, so that being said, he was never at a loss for subject matter. Oh yes, let's not forget prohibition; he often railed about demon rum and the evils of drinking. I wouldn't be at all surprised to find out that one of the reasons we still use grape juice was due to Dr. Mitchell.

One of Dr. Mitchell's favorite Sundays was always Children's Sunday. The little ones would gather at the front of the sanctuary and perhaps sing a song, recite a poem or some verses from the Bible and Dr. Mitchell would beam in delight. (see the picture in the west stair hall)

There are many stories about Dr. Mitchell, but one of my favorites was told to me by the late Tom Worrall. Now Tom was quite well known for telling tall tales, but this story has the ring of truth to it.

One day Dr. Mitchell decided that he wanted to discuss something with Tom's father. Dr. Mitchell hopped in his car and drove over to the Worrall home. He just left his car in the middle of the road, as was his usual habit, and knocked on the door. Mrs. Worrall informed him that her husband was taking a bath. That didn't faze Dr. Mitchell. Up the stairs and into the bathroom he went. When they had finished talking, he left, bidding an astonished Mrs. Worrall good day.

And that's the way it was.

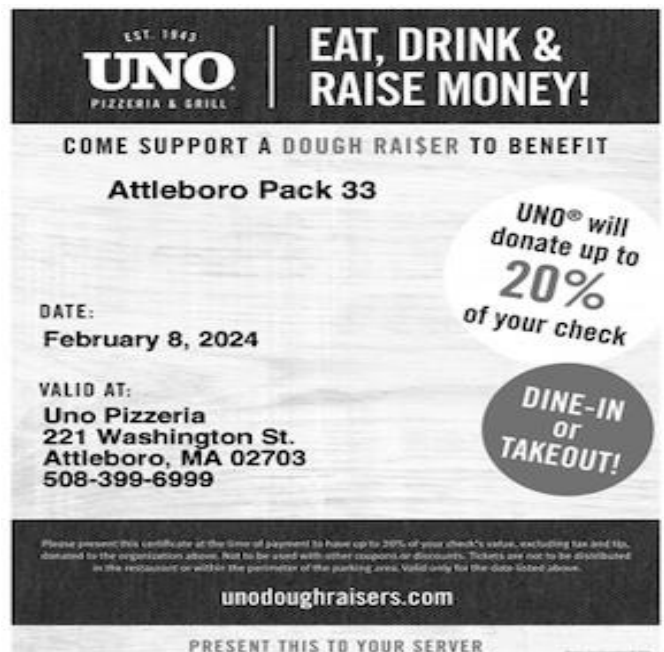
*Ted Moxham*

## ONE PLUS ONE

Please save the date: **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** for the production of Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* at the Attleboro Community Theater, 71 North Main Street, Attleboro. We will get a group rate of \$10.00 per person! More details to come in the March Voice. If you are not on our Call List and would like to be please let us know. Contact: Janet & Colin Blair, [janbblair@aol.com](mailto:janbblair@aol.com)

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Aiden Lancaster                                   |
| 2  | Audrey Libby<br>Elliot Withers                    |
| 4  | Hannah Melker                                     |
| 6  | Dave Bozzi  |
| 8  | Liz Hunt  |
| 9  | Prudie Bliss<br>Jim Kelley<br>Ruth Alice Ottmar   |
| 13 | Deb Goulding                                      |
| 15 | Derrick Janson<br>Erika Pearson<br>Tara Tetreault |
| 16 | Samatha Cassidy                                   |
| 18 | Sue Janson<br>Bill Richards                       |
| 20 | Julie Cotsalas                                    |
| 22 | Will Saunders                                     |
| 23 | Emily Saunders                                    |
| 25 | Suzie Bourdeau                                    |
| 26 | Karen Slawson                                     |
| 27 | Ryan Johnston                                     |
| 29 | Keith Priesing                                    |



# F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 1:00 PM Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
4 10:00 AM Worship Communion Scout Sunday	5 6:30 PM Pack 33 Committee Meeting	6 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	7 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	8 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
11 Souper Bowl of Caring 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast	12	13	14 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	15 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting	16	17 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
18 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	19 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	20 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	21 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	22	23	24 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
25 March Voice Deadline 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	26 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	27 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study	28 6:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	29 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal		