

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

March 2024



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC
SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024, 6 TO 8 PM
SPECIAL (FINANCIAL) CORPORATE MEETING
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024, 11:15 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
jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org - www.jackandjillattleboro.com
Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant / Clerk / Curator
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
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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										March 2024
Calendar	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	Sacred Dance	Prayer Shawl	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women’s Fellowship	One Plus One	Outreach & Missions
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PASTOR’S MESSAGE

My In-Laws live in a very large retirement community. (How large is it?) No joke, it is so large, that they have their very own churches—just about every denomination! They even have a UCC church. One Sunday while visiting, I attended that congregational church. They didn’t have Sunday School! They didn’t even try. It’s a retirement community—they pretty much only had one or two generations represented—and they weren’t interested in nursery care, and they never lamented the lack of children. I love that our congregation is made up of many generations. It certainly presents challenges.

During Lent, we are going on a pilgrimage of sorts. I am going to be pulling back the curtain on the generations that make up our church. We live in a world that is constantly dividing us. We have labels thrust upon us. Algorithms have made the separation even greater—and pulled us closer to the extremes.

Throughout the season of Lent, I will be separating us by generation. This is to show the variety of ages and influences of our congregation. It may help to answer why the church is the way it is today. It should certainly help us to understand where we are going, and who is going with us.

Throughout the sermons of Lent, I will be speaking in sweeping generalities and painting large swaths of people with a broad brush. When I speak of your generation—you may agree or disagree that it applies to you. You may be an outlier. Please know that sociologists will use different names and dates for age groupings. The ones below are the names and dates that I will be using:

The G.I. Generation

The Silent Generation

Baby Boomers

Generation X

Millennials

Generation Z

Generation Alpha

(born 1901 - 1927)

(1928 – 1945)

(1946 – 1964)

(1965 - 1980)

(1981 - 1996)

(1997 – 2010)

(2011 - present)

The Greatest Generation

The Me Generation

13th Generation, or Boomerangs

Me-Llenials

Zoomers

Generations can be grouped together by various factors. Age would be the biggest. However, you might not identify with people born in your age bracket. One of your children may be listed as a GenX and the next child born a year later would be a Millennial. It’s ridiculous to think that they would be that much different. The other terms I have seen with generational studies are ‘leading edge’ and ‘trailing edge.’ If you were born in the first couple years of your generation, you would be considered ‘leading edge.’ At the tail end of your cohort, you would be ‘trailing edge.’

Where were you...?

Pearl Harbor was a defining ‘flashbulb’ moment for the G.I. Generation. The assassination of JFK was the same for Baby Boomers. The space shuttle for GenX and perhaps 9/11 for Millennials were pivotal generation defining moments. This isn’t to say that every generation didn’t experience those things in the same way—but they were foundational early experiences for one generation.

The point of this exercise is to gain understanding. If you know where someone else is coming from, hopefully you can see things from their angle. No two persons are the same, and ten people can all have different reactions to the same event. I pray that this will give us all insight and inspire empathy, conversation, and community. Because our congregation is made up of many generations it provides us with a rich tapestry of culture, context, and diversity. During Lent, we will explore what this means and how it affects us all in our church.

Peace,
Reverend Will

LENTEN BOOK STUDY:

On each Tuesday night of Lent, beginning on Tuesday, February 20- we are having our Lenten Book Study. This year we are 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.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Jack McKenna.

March 3rd: Third Sunday in Lent - Communion

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon: "Fools for Christ"

March 10th: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Sermon: "X Marks a Spot"

March 17th: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon: "A new Generation and A new Covenant"

March 24th: Sixth Sunday of Lent

Palm Sunday

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon: "A Triumphant Entry"

March 31st: Easter

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: "The Very First Congregational Church"

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

The month of March brings about a special Lenten offering: One Great Hour of Sharing® is our time to support the UCC's disaster, refugee, and development ministries. When a disaster strikes far from home, it is these ministries we rely on to provide

assistance where it is most needed. Be on the lookout for a special collection envelope on March 10!

Paula Foresman



George Bernard Shaw said, "we don't stop play because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." As we enter March this quote rings true, play is so important to learning and child development. I truly feel that all my wonderful teachers and I are benefiting from our time spent with young children. Play based preschool is so necessary and I am happy to be able to see children blossom year after year at Jack and Jill.

As we move into the spring, the teachers are starting their spring assessments and writing their second round of progress reports. They will be able to share their students' progress with their families at our spring conferences at the end of the month. Our students are registering for next school year whether they have more time here or are moving onto Kindergarten. This is a very exciting time for our families and the staff!

Our Board of Directors and families are working hard this month preparing for our Show and Dinner to Go on March 16th here in Fellowship Hall. We will be hosting a one hour child centered music performance at 4:30. We will not be hosting a sit down dinner this year, but we will have to-go dinners. We are excited to try something new this year! There will be two dinner options, a dinner with red sauce and one with

white sauce and you can order dinners for 2 or 4 people. We will still have many opportunity baskets! Donations are already rolling in and we have some very exciting baskets this year! We will be selling opportunity tickets for our baskets on Saturday, March 9th during Open Mic Night. Tickets sales for the show and dinner started on 2/26 and will be open through 3/8. Please email or call me to order tickets. We thank you for your continued support of our school!

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 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

The Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will rehearse at the regular times on Thursdays, March 7, 14, and 21. March 28 is Maundy Thursday, and there will be brief rehearsals for both groups following the service that evening.

The Adult Choir will sing on all five Sundays this month, and the Bell Choir will play in church on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Save the Dates: Look for upcoming information about 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'd like to do at the May Breakfast. Let Sandy know what you'd like to do at the Yard Sale. Please start cleaning out your closets. Thank you! (2)

We would like to Thank You for the help we've been getting at Coffee Hour. We appreciate your help. Thank you for bringing items to serve on our sharing table, and please keep it coming. See the signup sheet at coffee hour or call Sandy at 508-699-2738, e-mail sandrasaunders99@gmail.com or call the office. All are Welcome to help!

Women's Fellowship

Prayer Shawl Ministry



PSM will meet on Monday, March 18th at 2 p.m. in the Ladies Parlor. Shawls are a tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss or other traumatic event in their lives. New members are always welcome. We will also be assembling and adding stuffing, tails, faces, and other details to crocheted bunnies. Please join us. Contact me if you have questions. Roberta Ferguson.

Roberta Ferguson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices will be held all Saturdays in March except March 9th. We will be participating in worship on Sunday March 3rd. 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 9:00 am 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.

Diane Osborne.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

All are welcome to join us for a Gathering Sunday including Communion, the first Sunday of the month, March 3rd. We will also have a Gathering Sunday on March 31st for Easter. For Littles and Elementary, (3)

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 you 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 for 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. This month we are exploring what Lent means to us with support of 'Twas the Season of Lent' by Glenys Nellist, learning about the many ways to pray, and creating artistic masterpieces!

Teachers: Diane & Tina

Middle and High School Youth will be dismissed for classroom time during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday this month. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays the youth will stay in worship and meet with their teachers over coffee hour. 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.

Teachers: Tara & Andrew

Palm Sunday Processional: We will begin practicing for the Palm Sunday Processional after worship on Sunday March 10th and March 17th. It is an easy and joyous dance to get started with if you'd like to try out Sacred Dance. Save the Date for March 24th when we will participate in worship. All ages and dance experience levels welcome!

Planning for Fall 2024: We will be looking for a new co-teacher for our Littles class in the fall and we hope

YOU will consider being called to this aspect of sharing God's love. We could not be more grateful for Sue Janson who has been a steadfast Sunday School teacher serving in many other roles as well over the years and she has decided to step back from teaching in the new school year. We'd love to have someone volunteer with Nicole to be a co-teacher, sharing in the lesson planning and weekly joy of caring for our youngest students. We're also always looking for on-call volunteers who would like to fill in when one of our regular teachers is unavailable on a Sunday morning, and we have an open Committee spot, so there are lots of ways to get involved! If you are interested, please speak with Sue, Nicole, or me as we would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Diane Osborne,

Chair of Christian Education

de_saunders@hotmail.com

(508) 409-7919

Family Fellowship

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring and Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch! All brought their generous hearts and joyous voices to the worship service and celebration raising over \$500 and donating more than 100 nonperishables to the Second Church Food Pantry. Extra thanks to all who helped in the preparation of the meal and to the Praise Band for putting us in that Bourbon Street, New Orleans mood!

Indoor Campfire: There's nothing quite like the warmth of summer and the excitement of camping so let's get a head start! All are welcome to join us and bring a friend on Saturday March 23rd from 3-5pm for an indoor campfire singalong. We hope you will enjoy the oven s'mores and make your own trail mix bar! You're also welcome to prepare a skit, kid-friendly ghost story, or repeat after me song of your choosing.

Easter Baking: You're all invited to join us on Holy Saturday March 30th from 10:30-12:30 to bake Easter cookies. All will be provided to make roll out, cut, and decorate sugar cookies. If you would like to prepare a batch of your own favorite to share with the group that would be welcome, too. Please note that this will be a nut free baking day and if you have a great gluten free recipe that we might prep in

advance to limit cross contamination
please let me know.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the very first column I wrote for this newsletter way back in 2019, someone had asked me if there ever was a third Congregational church in Attleboro. Well, my answer was a resounding NO. I now have to admit that there almost was one. I don't know how many of you subscribe to the Sun Chronicle newspaper, but a recent editorial column by Peter Gay shed some light on this question. It is a matter of fact that the church at Oldtown is really the First Congregational Church and we, of course, are the second.

In his column Mr. Gay wrote that The Rev. Carole Baker explained why the church was called Central Congregational Church. At the time the church was formed, there was a great discussion about what the church was to be named. It seems that no member was in favor of becoming the Third Congregational Church. The decision was made to call themselves Central Congregational Church and it is to this day.

My thanks go out to Peter for bringing this story to light.

And that's the way it is.

Ted Moxham

ONE PLUS ONE

One Plus One will be attending the **Sunday, March 17th, 2:00 p.m.** production of Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* at the Attleboro Community Theater, 71 North Main Street, Attleboro. Our group rate is **\$10 per person**. The deadline for reservations is **Sunday, March 10th**; we must give ACT an accurate head count. Arrival time for our group is 1:30 p.m. Please be prompt and pay at the theatre. If you are not on our call List and would like to be please let us know. Contact: Janet & Colin Blair, janbblair@aol.com.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 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 |
| 28 | Connie Bozzi |
| | Ralph Giannetti |
| 29 | Jean Garrott |
| | Andrew Osborne |
| 31 | Lucy Hogarth |
| | Betsey Pray |
| | Ruth Shaver |



Please join us for
**Jack and Jill Pre-School's
Show and Dinner to Go!**

**Saturday, March 16, 2024
Fellowship Hall
Second Congregational Church**

Come join your Jack and Jill friends
for a great family music show!

Show time: 4:30-5:30 PM

Dinner carryout: 3:00-4:00 PM or 5:45-6:45 PM

Family Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Circle your preference of carry out time: 3:00-4:00 or 5:45 - 6:45

All carryout orders must be placed by 3/8/2024 Each dinner option will be cold with heating instructions. Dinners include pasta dish, bread and desserts with the option to order extra.

Dinner for 4 \$25.00 #Alfredo _____ #Lazy man Lasagna _____

Dinner for 2 \$15.00 #Alfredo _____ #Lazy man Lasagna _____

Add on 6 meatballs \$8.00 # _____

Add on 6 dessert pieces \$5.00 # _____

Total food items # _____ Total Amount Due \$ _____

Show Tickets:

Adults \$2.50 # _____ Amount _____

Kids 7-10 \$2.50 # _____ Amount _____

Kids 1-6 \$5.00 # _____ Amount _____

Show Tickets # _____ Total Amount Due \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Jack and Jill Pre-School. Turn in or mail to 50 Park Street Attleboro, MA by March 8, 2024. Thank you in advance for your support!

M A R C H 2 0 2 4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
3 10:00 AM Worship/ Communion	4	5 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study	6 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	7 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
10 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Processional Rehearsal	11	12 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study	13 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	14 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	15	16 Jack & Jill Show, Opportunity Baskets, & Take- out Supper 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
17 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:00 AM Palm Sunday Processional Rehearsal	18 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	19 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study	20 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	21 1:00 PM Person Centered Planning Session 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 3:00 PM Family Fellowship Indoor Campfire
24 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School Palm Sunday 11:15 AM Special (Financial) Church Meeting	25 Next Month's Voice Deadline 3 to 5 PM Food Pantry Distribution	26 6:00 PM Lenten Book Study	27 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	28 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10:30 AM Family Fellowship Easter Baking
31 10:00 AM Worship Easter						

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