

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

May 2024



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

MAY BREAKFAST!!

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, 8:00 TO 10:30 AM

INDOOR / OUTDOOR YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024, 9:00 TO NOON

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024, 6 TO 8 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

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

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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

May 2024

Calendar	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	One Plus One	Prayer Shawl	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women’s Fellowship	Oure Pleasure Singers	Outreach & Missions
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PASTOR’S MESSAGE NEW LIFE!

In a recent sermon I mentioned that in several churches there is a great amount of anxiety about the future of the church. Pastors and parishioners are struggling with the hope of tomorrow. I understand that—but I think that Second church is on a wonderful course. We are trending in the right direction. The church recently voted to increase the ¾ time pastor to full time, and that is a testament to the wonderful ministry that is taking place by **ALL** the ministers at Second!

While I appreciate your confidence and faith in the ministry I provide, this article isn’t about that. It is about a church I served, and maybe a lesson we all could take away from it.

I served the congregational church in South Deerfield, MA from 2002 to 2008. It was a wonderful time of growth for the church, and this pastor. After six years, I felt that I had taken them as far as I could, and the next phase of growth would have to come from another pastor. My advice when leaving was, “move quickly to hire a new settled pastor.” They didn’t. What began was a slippery slope of decline complete with a couple interim ministers, a slow search committee, and a process mired in indecision and wordsmithing. They started from a strong position, and by the time they got around to hiring, they could no longer afford a full-time pastor. The pool of candidates got very shallow.

I share all of that—not as a slight to the church or my successors, because I am not sure that the trajectory would have changed if I had stayed. What I hope you take away is what happened next...

But first...they had to cut the new settled pastor’s hours even more. He left. They did the interim thing again until they began to examine the process of ‘discerning the future.’ They were working so hard to **maintain the church building**. They hosted suppers every month, and the energy was sapped. It just wasn’t fun anymore. Eventually they voted to dissolve the church. They would begin the legal process to officially close their doors.

I received a note from a member asking if there was anything from the church that I could use at the church I was currently serving. They were giving it all away! They wanted other churches to benefit: choir robes, hymnals, pews, pianos—everything but the kitchen sink, although if I asked for that... I did ask for the pulpit and the sound system.* Eventually, they donated the church building to the town to be used as a Senior Center, and the pipe organ to a college chapel in New Hampshire.

The closing of that church broke my heart. I thought of all the meaningful ministry that had taken place there. How many weddings, baptisms, funerals—lives were touched over its long history? When they donated the church to the town, I thought that was the end of it. *The town will never use it. It needs way too much work. It isn’t really that handicap accessible. It is just going to sit and waste away and eventually be a very unpleasant reminder that it isn’t open anymore.*

I just learned that an affluent private school made a \$200,000 donation and with a grant of \$100,000, and a wealth of volunteer work- the old church has been transformed! Alas, new life!

Easter is a reminder to us of new life. Sometimes the winter seems really long. When the harvest has been reaped and the cold winds of fall begin to chill our bones, and life seems like it is going to be dormant for some time—know that God is still working. I don’t think it was God’s will that the church close or that this series of events should unfold the way it did. But it did! Now the town of South Deerfield is going to have an amazingly beautiful, updated, accessible Senior Center. For many who will use it in the coming years, it may just feel like going home. I hope it conjures memories of a most blessed time in their lives.

I write this article with gratitude for all that God has done and will continue to do. Again, I am sad that the congregational church is no longer there, and I live with regrets that perhaps I could have done more. But today, I am so proud of what has become there. God is doing a new thing.

*In Christian Love,
Reverend Will*

*They were excited to give me both the pulpit and the sound system. The church I was serving at the time didn't have a quality sound system, and I chose the one in South Deerfield when I was there. The pulpit at the church I was serving at the time was built for a pastor who was 6'6". I used to have to stand on a hidden plywood box to preach. Because the wood matched, the church was happy to receive the gift.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will resume our reading of the book, *Giving Christianity Back to Agape Love*, by Matthew Carriker. We had started the book before Lent with the understanding that we would use a different book during Lent and return to *Giving Christianity Back* in the spring. Well spring has sprung. We will meet each **Tuesday** night beginning on **May 7th through June 18th**. Each meeting will go from **6 to 7 pm**.

The book helps to dispel the many dogmatic, fear-based belief systems, myths and misinterpretations that have arisen over time in the name of God and Jesus. The book provides a solid understanding grounded in the deep wisdom of what was intended to be the true messages and teachings of Jesus. There are copies of the book in the office, or they can be ordered online.

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY

The theme of the worship service on **May 5th** is "friends," so why not bring a friend to church on that Sunday. If you like what we are doing - worship, education, ministry and service, fellowship - then why not share it with others. This is the best way to grow a church. You could say something like, "Hey, we are doing this thing at my church on Sunday called 'Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.' It's a great church. You don't have to come every week, just this Sunday. Let's go to church, and then I'll take you to lunch afterwards. Or if you prefer, I'll take you to breakfast first." Of course, you would have to make good on that promise. Who refuses a free meal?

Let's face it; we are in the center of Attleboro. We have been here for quite some time. Most people know that there is a big red brick church that both hosts a pre-school and plays bells on the hour. We are not hiding behind the railroad arches. All that to say - it is going to take a personal invitation from a friend to get people to cross the threshold into this church. New members just joined the church in April. The next group of new members are our friends, and the only way they will come to church is if YOU invite them!

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Marcia Weidner

May 5th, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Communion

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon: "My Friend, My Friend"

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY!!!

May 12th, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

Scripture: Old Test.: Joshua 5:10-12
New Test.: John 17:6-19

Sermon: "I Love You, Mom"

May 19th Pentecost *Phish Sunday*
Senior Recognition

Words from the Helping Phriendly
Book: (Scripture Reading): Acts
2:1-21

Sermon: "Something Phishy for
Pentecost"

(This is the final piece of my Lenten 'Ted Talk' sermon series on the generations that make up our church, by using one example of how the church might reach out to Gen X, with a particular focus on popular culture. Come to worship and learn a new 'language'.)

May 26 Trinity Sunday
or the First Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Sermon: "The Doors"

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, May 20th 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. Please join us. Contact me if you have questions. Roberta Ferguson. *Roberta Ferguson*

ONE PLUS ONE

SAVE THE DATE: All are welcome to join us for our annual summer kick-off cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and pulled pork will be served.

When: Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 5:30 pm. **Where:** Russell & Betsey Pray's home, 61 Wheaton Drive, Attleboro, MA 02703. **Cost:** \$5 per person to offset the hosts' food expenses, and \$5 per person 1&1 annual dues.

Bring: Lawn chairs, bug repellent, and a generous food item to share. Please tell your "caller" what you will be bringing (an appetizer, casserole, salad, dessert, or soda).

Contact: If you are not on our calling list, please get in touch with Janet Blair, (508) 226-5457 or janblair@aol.com with any questions.

WORK DAY!

On Saturday, May 11th, 8 to noon, the Facilities Committee will be hosting an exciting opportunity. There are many projects in the church that we need your help to complete. Could you give an hour or two...A little cleaning, painting or patching? Can you handle a hammer, screwdriver or a power-drill? Would you like an opportunity to work side by side with other members and friends?

We will be posting a list of projects in the Fellowship Hall, or you can call Fred in the office. Please sign up to assist in one of those projects. Some of these projects include: repair and replacing ceiling tiles, cleaning up the music room, painting trim in our classrooms, patching and painting in the Men's room. While our sexton does an amazing job keeping us in tip top shape, there are always extra cleaning and repair projects to be done. Maybe your sweet spot is the stage, the kitchen, or Sunday school rooms—wherever it is—come on May 11th and help out! Come for one hour, two hours or stay for the whole weekend!

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

A great big thank you to all of our members and friends who attended and/or contributed to the Baby Shower hosted by First Baptist Church. We collected many, many items for parents and their babies. All donations will be distributed by the WIC and New Hope organizations, whose representatives were on hand to educate us about the many helpful services they offer to our community. Not to mention lots of good food and fellowship!

Appreciation is also in order for those who showed up at the "Keep Attleboro Beautiful Spring Cleanup" and "Attleboro Spring Fling" events in April—you make a difference!

NEXT UP: MONDAY, MAY 20th: You are invited to a "crafters" meeting in Fellowship Hall at 2:00. Bring a project you'd like to work on or bring your expertise and help someone learn something new. You can help out on a project for next fall's Fair. Even if you're not a maker, you might have new ideas to share. No new ideas? Just come to enjoy the fellowship. Refreshments, materials, and instructions will all be provided--hope to see you there.

ALSO: SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd, 2-4 pm: Pride Flag Raising at Attleboro City Hall, with expo at Balfour Riverwalk Park. We will have our Second Church activity table and our new brochures there! Want to volunteer for this event? Talk to Paula Foresman or Diane Osborne. *Paula Foresman*

JACK & JILL SCHOOL

I can't believe we are in the last weeks of this school year! It has been a wonderful school year where we made lots of memories.

This is an amazing time to be an educator. We are able to reflect on how much growth the students have made since September. We are able to see how much of a difference teachers make in young children's lives.

The classes are excited for May field trips and in house enrichment programs. Our 5 Day Pre-K class will be walking to the Attleboro Public Library and enjoying the playground. Mixed Age and the 4 Day Pre-K class will be learning with an in-school

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presentation from Roger Williams Zoo. Each class has welcomed 5 caterpillars and will watch them transform into butterflies. This is always a favorite! We will be celebrating all the wonderful teachers at Jack and Jill during the first week of May with different activities planned by the families, including a teacher appreciation luncheon.

Our first ever Multicultural Night and Spring Open House will take place on Tuesday, May 21st. We are looking forward to learning about everyone's cultures and family traditions. We will also host a Paperpie Book Fair and open house. Please stop by any time between 6:00-7:00PM!

We are hoping to offer more summer programs as requested by current families. Stay tuned for more information.

I hope that you and your family are able to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of spring this month.

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

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.

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will rehearse at the regular times on all five Thursdays in May (2, 9, 16, 23, and 30).

The Adult Choir will sing on all four Sundays this month. At an upcoming rehearsal the Bell Choir will finalize a date for playing in church, either May 19th, May 26th, or June 2nd.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The May Breakfast is May 4, 2024, 8:00-10:30 A.M.. Signups are going on now; sign up at coffee hour with Jen Turcotte or email her please.

We need cookies for baskets, no nuts or peanut butter please. You may drop off during the week, from 9-1, or Friday morning, May 3rd by 10:30, or Thursday night during bells or choir, side door, leave in kitchen; please put note on them for "Baskets". *Thanks!*

On May 18th, from 9 to Noon, we will have our yard sale in Fellowship Hall and (weather permitting) the parking lot. We need people to set up during the week before starting at 10:30 in the morning, Tuesday to Thursday. Bring a lunch if you can stay and enjoy fellowship as we put in as many hours as we can. On Saturday we will need people at 8, to set up outside. Also, we will need people to staff tables and pack items. You may e-mail Sandy @ sandrasaunders99@gmail.com, or call 508-699-2738, or sign up at coffee hour.

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 the office, or send me e-mail.

Sandy Saunders for Women's Fellowship

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Many thanks to all the dancers and those who have joined in worship this year. Sacred Dance practices will resume in the fall. If you would like to be a part of movement in worship all ages are welcome to join the intergenerational sacred dancers. If you or your child has any questions please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or diane.osborne713@gmail.com.

Diane Osborne.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are all welcome to join us for a Gathering Sunday including Communion, the first Sunday of the month, May 5th. 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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

The children and youth of Sunday School are looking forward to leading worship on Sunday June 9th. The children and youth will be continuing on the theme of Reverend Will's Lenten Sermon series by sharing what in the church is meaningful to a tail-end Gen Z or Generation Alpha attendee. Get ready, they have a lot to say! We will have Sunday School each week from May 12th through June 2nd in preparation. Please note that this includes a Communion week which is typically a Gathering Sunday. Following worship on June 9th we will celebrate with an Ice Cream Social – including dairy free options. If you would like to scoop ice cream or lend a hand in the day's festivities, we would be happy to have your help.

PLANNING FOR FALL 2024

We are looking for a new co-teacher for our Littles class for the Fall of 2024 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 roles over the years and she has decided to step back from teaching in the new school year. We'd love to have someone volunteer to be a co-teacher with Nicole, 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 I as we would be happy to answer any questions you have.

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. In May and June, we will be continuing to explore ways to share God's love with all and preparing for Children's Sunday which will be on June 9th. They will also be preparing a local mission fundraiser; more details to come for how the church can support their efforts to give to our local community!

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

SENIOR RECOGNITION

We are excited to celebrate our High School Seniors on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. If you have a graduate in your family that would like to be recognized as part of this special day, please contact me or the church office by May 10th.

Blessings,

Diane Osborne,

Chair, Christian Education

de_saunders@hotmail.com (508) 409-7919

DID YOU KNOW?

Happy Easter, or has Easter even occurred yet? After all, twenty centuries have passed since that glorious day when our Savior cheated death and arose from the dead. Do we really know the exact day? Do we even know why it is called Easter? I don't know if the day was even called Easter. Sometime in the middle of the eighth century in England, there was a scholar named Bede. He was often referred to as the Venerable Bede, and he was the one who decided that the day should be named after the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring. Her name was Eoster, and you can see the similarity of names.

But just when was Easter? The Last Supper occurred on the evening before the Passover, and Jesus was crucified the next day. In the earliest days, the first Christians celebrated his resurrection on the date of the Jewish holiday, but there was a problem. Passover is a movable feast and can occur anytime between March 22nd and April 25th. Easter is also a movable holiday.

For the first few centuries, Christianity was illegal and was prohibited by Roman law. In 325 CE, Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicea to settle the issue once and for all. He wanted Christianity and Judaism to be completely separate and Easter would no longer coincide with Passover. They also decided that Easter had to be on a Sunday, and that would also create Good Friday. Easter would henceforth be on the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Things seemed to have settled down at least until the sixteenth century when the new Gregorian calendar was adopted, at least in the western part of the world, while the old Julian calendar, which dated from Roman times, was still accepted in the eastern countries. For this reason, Easter is still celebrated on two different dates depending on your church.

There have been other calendar changes throughout the centuries, but the most important thing is that we never forget what we are celebrating, remembering that Jesus gave his life for us.

I do hope you all had a Happy Easter.

Ted Moxham

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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chris Janson
- Derek Janson
- Dawn McCarthy
- Ella Saunders
- Alex Sawyer
- 2 Pam Middleton
- 5 Roberta Ferguson
- 8 Christina Renoni
- 11 Steve Withers, Jr.
- 12 Gladys Brander
- 13 Bret Brown
- Jessie Macomber
- 14 Isaac Stuen
- 17 Bob Richardson
- 18 Diane Findley
- 22 Saga Ferrant
- Ben Macomber
- Zach Ramsay
- Chris Saunders
- Nick Saunders
- 24 Sandy Saunders
- 26 Ted Moxham
- 27 Zoe LaClair
- 30 David Keith



It's time for a CELEBRATION!
On May 18th, Oure Pleasure Singers will look back on 40 years of friendship and music making, through songs and stories.

The performance, under the baton of director Nicholas Rocha, will feature favorite pieces from four decades. The concert will have something for everyone — from Renaissance music aficionados to Disney fans — and will even spotlight some Attleboro area composers. Join us after the concert at OP's traditional "Feasting Table."

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 7:00 pm
Second Congregational Church
50 Park Street, Attleboro MA

Online Ticket Purchases on
[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

\$14.00 + \$2.78 Processing Fee
At the Door Tickets \$20.00



Second Congregational
Church

50 Park Street, Downtown Attleboro



**40th ANNUAL
MAY BREAKFAST**

Saturday, May 4, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Reservations Recommended

*** MENU ***

Scrambled Eggs, Home Fries,
French Toast, Sausages,
Cinnamon Rolls & Halos
Orange juice, coffee & tea

\$13.00 Adults, \$5.00 ages 4-11, 3 & under free

May Baskets - **\$6.00** - Filled with homemade goodies

Call for reservations - Church Office – 508-222-4677

START YOUR DAY RIGHT!



Second Congregational Church
50 Park Street, Downtown Attleboro

**INDOOR / OUTDOOR
YARD SALE**

Saturday, May 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*Sale includes house wares,
books, antiques, toys,
collectibles, jewelry,
tools, wall hangings, lamps,
small furniture, Christmas items,
and many odds and ends.*

**COME JOIN
THE FUN!**

M A Y 2 0 2 4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	2 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 8:00 to 10:30 AM 40th Annual May Breakfast!
5 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	6	7 6:00 PM Book Discussion Group	8 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	9 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	10	11 8 to Noon All-Church Work Day 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School	13	14 6:00 PM Book Discussion Group	15 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	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 to Noon Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale! 7:00 PM Oure Pleasure 40th Anniversary Retrospective
19 <i>Pentecost</i> <i>Senior Recognition</i> 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 3:00 PM Old Colony Assoc. Annual Meeting	20 2:00 PM <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry</i> 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 6:00 PM Book Discussion Group	22 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	23 June Voice Deadline 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	24	25 12:00 PM Home Music School - Recital
26 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	27 Memorial Day <i>Office is closed</i>	28 6:00 PM Book Discussion Group	29 6:30 PM Cub Scout Den Meetings	30	31	

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SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, 8:00 TO 10:30 AM

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