

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

September 2024



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

RALLY DAY! SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 10:00 AM
COFFEE HOUSE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 6 TO 8 PM
FAMILY FELLOWSHIP HIKE / PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 29TH,
11:30 AM, ATTLEBORO SPRINGS

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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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 2024

Calendar	Outreach & Missions	Jack & Jill	Women’s Fellowship	Family Fellowship	Prayer Shawl	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	RALLY DAY
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Pastor’s Message

Welcome back! It seems weird writing those words. Did you leave? Did you take the summer off? Have you taken a break from organized religion, weekly worship, or Second Church? If you are reading this right now, then you must be at least mildly interested in what is happening in the life of the Second Congregational Church of Attleboro—and I am glad that you are engaged.

We will begin our program year once again on Rally Day, September 8th. Sunday school will commence, and the choir will be back from its much deserved summer hiatus. We will start things off with a baptism! Soon there will be a ‘Blessing of the Backpacks’ as our children get ready for another year of school. Planning for Stewardship Sunday, the Fair, and Advent will be in full swing. It is an exciting time in the church. Of course, ‘church’ continues throughout the summer. I have spent some of these down weeks planning worship for the fall. In doing this...

When I read a Bible passage to prepare for a sermon, I have to make a decision. I come to a fork in the road, and I can really only take one road. If I try to go down both roads in the sermon it will get very confusing. I have to stop and say, “Will, you are trying to do too much in one sermon.” So, choose a road, and then I try to make a mental note that the road I didn’t take might be ventured down the next time that passage turns up on the lectionary.*

Fun fact: I have never written a sermon based on the tower of Babel! Almost 30 years, and for some reason it has never happened. I was thinking about that story for a sermon, and as I was writing it, I realized that there were two other paths I could take with that story. They would all function as completely separate sermons with very different thoughts. If I wanted to complete this idea it would take me 9 years. So...I thought I might try something I have never done, and no pastor ever should. I plan to write three sermons, using the same text and then preach them on consecutive weeks. Yes, the scripture reading will be the same for three weeks in a row!

While the sermons have not yet been written, this is what I am sketching in my mind:

Week 1: **The Anxious Church**, based on the current book by Dr. Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation* about how social media and smartphones are disrupting society, particularly the development of young brains.

Week 2: **The Conversing Church**, based on the *Crucial Conversation* books, a way to get people to have difficult conversations. I figure that the closer we get to an election, the more this will be necessary.

Week 3: **The Unfinished Church**, a stewardship sermon based on books I’ve read and experiences of the past year.

I am looking forward to the continued evolution and forward movement of our church. I hope that you will join me in the excitement of our future, and the mission of continuing to serve our community in Christ’s name!

*In Christian Love,
Reverend Will*

*The Lectionary is a 3 year cycle of proposed Bible readings. It is meant to be used by preachers to stay within a seasonal cycle. It keeps pastors from overusing their favorite passages and can force them to go to parts of the Bible they might otherwise avoid. Also, if most mainline pastors use the lectionary, then it is possible that your relatives living in other parts of the country heard the same Bible reading that you did on Sunday morning.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Karen Slawson.

September 1st

Worship will be in **Fellowship Hall**,
Camp Sunday, 9 am!!

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Sermon: "Well, What do You Know"

September 8th

RALLY DAY - Worship at 10 am!

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Sermon: "It's the Little Things"

We will celebrate the Baptism of
Clara Stuen!

September 15th

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Sermon: "The Anxious Church"

September 22nd

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Sermon: "The Conversing Church"

September 29th

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Sermon: "The Unfinished Church"

October 6th

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture: Mark 10:2-16

Sermon: "Moses Supposes It Ain't All
Roses"

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.

Women's Fellowship

Hope everyone is having a great summer collecting surplus items, canning, knitting, crafting, jewelry, etc. Calling all volunteers, please let me know if you can work this year on your table at the Holiday Fair, 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 Nov. 9, 2024**,
9:00am. to 2:00pm. Please start

bringing in items for Grandma's attic, books, puzzles, toys and silent auction. We will also need plants, collectibles and gently used Christmas decoration. If you have any questions, please ask Sandy 508-699-2738 or e-mail, sandrasaunders99@gmail.com.

Thanks, see you soon!

Sandy Saunders, treasurer

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, September 16th 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!

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 meet new friends, share a snack, 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 and parents in a relaxed atmosphere!

The teachers reported back on 8/26/2024 and all signs point to another successful year here at Jack and Jill! We are all eager to get back to the usual school routine.

We have been blessed with a very active summer, providing tours and registering children over the summer months! Our summer preschool program was a success, and we had lots of fun! All of our fall classes are very close to capacity! I am looking forward to the sights and sounds of little ones and families in the halls again.

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 3, 2024! Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

Labor Day is early this year, and so is the start of the choir season! Our first rehearsals will be Thursday, September 5th (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 8th) and on the remaining Sundays in September. At one of their first rehearsals, Bells will set a date for playing in church.

New Members Are Always Welcomed! There are always openings for ringers and singers, no auditions required! Just come to a rehearsal (see schedule above). A basic level of music reading is helpful for playing bells, but we've also had new members who learn entirely "on the job." The Adult Choir sings most Sundays, with a warm-up that starts around 9:20 for 10:00 am. worship. Bells play every 6 weeks or so, on dates decided by the members. Warm-ups for them usually begin around 8:45 on those Sundays. I strive to keep Thursday rehearsal times within the posted schedule, ending on or before 9 pm for the Adult Choir, and no extra rehearsals beyond the normal Thursdays.

Summer Music: For the third summer in a row, we've been worshipping with First Baptist Church in July (at FBC) and August (at Second). In last year's *Voice*, I noted that we had cool weather every Sunday in August and that the temperature in the sanctuary did not go above 72°. We weren't quite as lucky this year: On August 4 the sanctuary thermostat registered 78°. I suppose that was an appropriate start for Pastor Rebecca's 4-week sermon series on "Fire." At least it got quite a bit cooler each succeeding Sunday.

Big thanks to those who provided music on the four Sundays: Michael

Touloumtzis, Oure-Pleasure-Lite, the Praise Band (Glenn Weidner, Laurie and Alex Sawyer, Tara Tetreault, and Ben Macomber), and Cathy Giannetti.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

Intergenerational Sacred Dance

Sacred Dance practices will resume on September 21st. 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

Outreach and Missions will meet after the Church Service, in the Ladies' Parlor, on September 15th. All are invited to attend and offer their ideas and feedback!

Paula Foresman.

Christian Education

Greetings and hope you had a wonderful summer! Sunday School will kick off on Rally Day, September 8th. 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.

Rally Day: Sunday September 8th

On Rally Day families can register for Sunday School in the Conference Room from 9:30-9:55 or following worship during the Rally Day Celebration.

A few notes for class structure this year:

Toddlers through Pre-K and Elementary age will be combining as one classroom to start off the year. Students 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. NEW! This class for younger learners will meet **every** Sunday, including on the first Sunday of the month during our Communion service. During the month

of September this class will be learning about Communion and preparing to participate in worship on World Communion Sunday on October 6th.

Teachers: Diane, Tina, and Nicole

The separate Middle and High School class will set a schedule again this year alternating both time in classroom and time participating in worship. Please note that we welcome families with babies to be together in worship, the Conference Room, or our Nursery space.

Teachers: Tara and Andrew

Rally Day Celebration for All Ages

The Christian Education Committee will be hosting a Rally Day Celebration in Fellowship Hall after worship. All are welcome to wear your favorite summer outfit and join us for hot dogs, salad, and some of our favorite summer treats.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday September 15th

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 every day to follow that calling and also to 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 a picnic and hike at the Attleboro Springs Wildlife Sanctuary just behind La Salette on Sunday September 29th. Following worship please feel free to bring a picnic lunch, water bottle, and walking shoes. We will go for a light hike on the Reflection Trail. The 0.5-mile, fully accessible loop follows a wide, level crushed stone path, enhanced with bridges, boardwalks, and an observation deck. There is also a slightly longer wooded Forest Loop

Trail which we may explore as well depending on how adventurous we are that day.

Upcoming Dates to Save:

World Communion Sunday

On Sunday October 6th, the younger Sunday School class will be meeting during the first part of worship and rejoining the congregation in worship for Communion.

Attleboro Downtown Trick or Treat

On Saturday October 26th, from 2-5pm the city of Attleboro will be holding the third annual downtown Trick or Treat. We had a great time as a pumpkin stop the last few years and look forward to participating again. All are welcome to help hand out candy, take a stroll around to visit the other participating organizations, and certainly to donate. Look for the candy box in the Narthex beginning in October. Such a great way to be part of our downtown community!

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

September Birthdays

- 4 Leanne Gunn
- 5 Ray Guild
Marsha Richardson
- 6 Michael LaClair
Joe Nuovo
Russ Pray
- 9 Laurie Sawyer
- 10 Tisha Lancaster
- 11 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 April Nuovo
- 24 Sharyn LaClair
- 25 Kayla Johnston
- 30 Erin Bassler



One Plus One Cookout
June 15, 2024
Wonderful weather and great fellowship.
Thank you, Russ and Betsey



Attleboro Pride!



DAVE DEMELLA / FOR THE BLUE CROSSINGS



Back to school fun

The 2nd annual Celebrate Back to School in Downtown Attleboro event was held Saturday with activities throughout the day. The event was organized to build community connections, have attendees spend time in the downtown, meet small business owners and organization represents lives, and usher in the start of a new academic year. **Above**, Lynn Osborne draws on the walkway at the Second Congregational Church on Park Street in Attleboro. **At left**, Patrick May, 9, tests his aim at the Fun with the Boy Scouts activity outside the church.

A Busy Summer

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Worship /Communion	2 Labor Day - Office is closed	3	4 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	5 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 RALLY DAY! 10:00 AM Worship	9	10	11 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	12 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	13	14 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
15 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	16 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	17	18 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	19 5:00 PM Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
22 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	23	24 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	25 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	26 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	27	28 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
29 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Family Fellowship Hike - Attleboro Springs	30					

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