

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

January 2025



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 6 TO 8 PM

THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION GROUP

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8TH AT 5:30 PM

JACK & JILL SPAGHETTI SUPPER

SATURDAY JANUARY 18TH, SEATINGS AT 4:30 & 6:15 PM

JACK & JILL OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

SATURDAY JANUARY 25TH 9:30 TO 11:30 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

Michele Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Jack Baptist, Sexton

Church Office: 508- 222-4677 Fax: 508- 222-2148

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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

January 2025

Calendar	Jack & Jill	Did You Know?	Sacred Dance	Eagle Scouts	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women’s Fellowship	Prayer Shawl
Page 5	Page 2	Page 4	Page 3	Page 4	Page 3	Page 4	Page 3	Page 2	Page 2

Pastor’s Message

What a year for a New Year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Are you big on New Year’s resolutions? I love the idea. Maybe I’m not so good about following through all the way, but it is a chance for me to evaluate aspects of my life or work and resolve to make changes.

One of the resolutions I would like to see our church follow through on is our collective caregiving. Let me begin by saying that I think we do this well, but like every church, we could do this so much better (please know that I include myself in these statements).

I would like to share a couple personal stories. They are reflective of every church.

My grandparents were involved in their church. They would often go out for dinners and such with 3 other older couples in their congregation. My grandfather was the first of their group to pass away. The other couples were thoughtful and caring at first, but then they stopped calling. They probably didn’t want my grandmother to feel like a “third wheel”, but it only isolated her more and made going to church awkward. After a while she gave up going to church and nobody ever called.

A very good friend of mine was obsessively active in his church. He served every board or committee at one time. He gave an immense amount of time to the church. As a young person he was met with resistance to new projects and ministries and for a time he handled it well. But then, he hit his ‘burn-out’ point. He withdrew and became less active. Then he stopped attending worship. Nobody called. He doesn’t go anymore.

In our own church, one member hasn’t attended worship or been to an event at our church in 6 months because of health concerns and not one member has reached out to this member. We are better than this. We have to be better than this. We do care about every member of our church. I know this because I hear from members all the time. I know that the Deacons and our Communion Visitation team are active in reaching out, but this is an every-member concern.

If you are one who hasn’t been to church in a while - and you are wondering if we miss you - we do!!! We really do. If you are angry or hurt that no one has called, let me say on behalf of the congregation, we are so very sorry. We are resolving to do better!

If we haven’t reached out to you, please reach out to us so that we can try to make things right. I fear that my grandmother’s story or my friend’s story may happen more often than we’d like to admit. Maybe you have a similar story.

The goal of every church is to grow. But before a church can grow (or should grow)- it needs to make sure that the church is a place of compassion. We do care about the community. We care about our church members and friends. This year, 2025, let us resolve to reach out to all our members and friends to be a truly loving and inclusive congregation.

New Year’s Blessings,
 Reverend Dr. Will Sencabaugh

Additional Pastor’s Thoughts:

I wanted to let you all know that I have decided to step away from social media. I no longer have any accounts. Some of you would reach out to me through Messenger. Some of you might notice that I am no longer a “friend.” It is NOT personal. I feel that this is the right decision for me, and I won’t be preachy to those who wish to remain connected in that way.

If you wish to be in touch with me, you can call, text or email.

My phone number is 860.861.5003 (my personal phone, so please be kind).

My work phone number is 508.222.4677, please leave a message, but the message will direct you to use the personal phone number.

I have two email accounts: Revdrwill@comcast.net (which I access on my phone) or Revdrwill@attleborosecondchurch.org (which I only access on my laptop).

I know that we live in a world that expects immediate and constant response; however, I try to take Monday's off and find time throughout the week to honor sabbath time. I do not always respond immediately to texts or emails.

Finally, I will NEVER email or text you to ask you for money, gift cards, or anything else that seems strange. Occasionally, emails and texts get hacked and requests and responses are out of our control. If something seems off it probably is.

Reverend Dr. Will Sencabaugh

January & February Book Group

In January and February, we will be reading and discussing "The Upside-Down Kingdom" by Donald B. Kraybill. The group will meet on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7 PM in the Conference Room. We will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 14th and continue through February 18th. If you would like to order the book and begin reading, please read through the first two chapters for the first session. Come with thoughts and questions for the group. This is a 'discussion group' with no experts!

"The Upside-Down Kingdom calls readers to imagine and embody the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven. What does it mean to follow the Christ who traded victory and power for hanging out with the poor and forgiving his enemies? How did a man in first century Palestine threaten the established order, and what does that mean for us today? What would happen if Christians replaced force with service, violence with love, and nationalism with allegiance to Jesus?"

January Coffee House and Open Mic—January 11th

Don't forget- Second Saturday at Second Church! Every month on the second Saturday, from 6 to 8 PM, we host our Coffee House and Open Mic. This is open to everyone! All ages! Come and sing, play, share, read, etc.—it's up to you. Invite a friend, enjoy some community sharing, great snacks and beverages—and it's free. A donation is always appreciated. See you there.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the Month for January is Karen Slawson assisted by Deb Hawes.

January 5th

Second Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Sermon: "Sitting with Sinners"

January 12th

First Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon: "Pretty, Pretty, Pretty Good"

January 19th

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Sermon: "Shine a Light"

January 26th

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture reading: Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: "Attleboro's not Attleboring"

Women's Fellowship

I would like to invite you to my home on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm, for a Potluck Women's Fellowship Meeting and appreciation for volunteers. Come enjoy fellowship! Please let me know if you can come 508-699-2738 or email sandrasaunders99@gmail.com. Thank you for your service.

Sandy Saunders

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, January 20th 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*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be making 36"x36" knitted & crocheted baby blankets for Project Linus, <https://www.projectlinus.org/>. Project Linus began in 1995 after Karen Loucks was inspired to make blankets for her local children's cancer center. Since

then, Project Linus has expanded to include children who are seriously ill or traumatized in many ways. The Boston Chapter needs new handmade blankets to donate to children at local area hospitals and to other children in need of comfort. We would love your participation and fellowship to make this Spring donation happen. If you need assistance, instructions, tools, or yarn please let us know. Blankets should be made with acrylic yarn. No fabric softeners should be used if you wash them. We will collect them in April and deliver them to the nearest drop off location in Massachusetts.

Contact: janbblair@aol.com.



Jack and Jill School is off to a running start in 2025! We have an exciting lineup of plans and are eager to embrace the fresh beginnings a new year brings.

Spaghetti Supper and Candy Bingo prep is in full swing! We have reached out to local businesses seeking food donations

and have contacted North Attleboro High School for volunteers. I hope that you can join us on Saturday, January 18th. We will have 2 seatings at 4:30 and 6:15. The 4:30 Bingo will be geared towards children with picture bingo cards and the 6:15 seating will be a more traditional bingo. The prize for the winners will be candy! If you don't want to play bingo you can join us for dinner only.

We will go right from Spaghetti Supper to the Open House and Registration. We will open registration for current families and church members on Tuesday, January 14th at 9:30 AM. Registrations will only be accepted via our online portal. If you would like a tour of the program, please don't hesitate to call or email me. Our website is a great resource to learn more about our school.

Open House will be held on Saturday, January 25th 9:30 – 11:30 AM. We are excited to welcome families into the school! We love to show off the great things Jack and Jill preschool has to offer. The classrooms will be open, and teachers will be available to speak with incoming families. Members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to answer any questions that families may have. If you know any families who would like an invitation, please let me know.

In the New Year, our 4/5-year-old classes will dive deeper into pre-kindergarten skills, focusing on writing lowercase letters, sustaining attention for longer periods, and completing designated projects we refer to as "have-to's."

I warmly invite the congregation to visit our program and experience the incredible work happening here. I'd love to show you firsthand how your support is making a difference. Please feel free to call or email to schedule a time to see our school in action! The space you provide opens countless opportunities for the young children and families of the Attleboro area. We are deeply grateful to be part of these children's early educational journey. Thank you for your ongoing support of our program.

Wishing you all health and happiness in the New Year!*Katrina Lay*
Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will rehearse on Thursdays, January 2nd, 9th and 16th, at regular times. There will be no rehearsals on Thursday, January 23rd and 30th, and the choir will not sing in church on January 26th.

Bill MacPherson
Director of Music

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices will resume Saturday January 25th and all are welcome to join! 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. Hope to see you then!

Diane Osborne

Outreach & Missions

Our Outreach & Missions 2024 donations totaled \$8,300*:

- Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative - \$2,000
- Scouts BSA - \$100
- Church World Service - \$300
- Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England - \$100
- Literacy Center - \$500
- Maine Seacoast Mission - \$100
- PFLAG - Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - \$100
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - \$1,000
- Self Help, Inc. - \$500
- Holy Joe's Café - \$100
- Neighbors in Need (special collection for Asheville Hurricane relief) - \$3,000*
- New Hope Inc. - \$100
- Sisters of Charity/El Salvador/Seton House - \$100
- One Great Hour of Sharing - \$300

*\$5,300 from 2024 budgeted amount and \$3,000 from the special collection

Thanks to all for your generosity! Questions or suggestions? Our next meeting of the Outreach & Missions Committee will be in the New Year: we hope to see you on Sunday, January 12th after church.

Paula Foresman

Christian Education

Welcome to the new year, we have great things in store and hope you will join in the fun!

A few reminders

for class structure this year:

Toddlers through Pre-K and Elementary age are meeting together. 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 year**, this class for younger learners will meet **every** Sunday including on the first Sunday of the month during our Communion service. In December they prepared care packages for our college students and learned about sharing the joy of Christmas. In January the students will explore the theme of justice, what it means to us in our daily lives and how we can work together for broader change as we prepare for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Teachers: Diane, Tina, and Nicole

The Middle and High School youth class will continue meeting on the second and fourth Sunday. In the fall discussion topics included food and friendship and they are now exploring creation with the resource '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 and Andrew

Family Fellowship: Many thanks to all who joined us for the Lights at La Salette night, the Downtown Holiday Stroll city wide event, and our special Christmas Coffee Hour on the 4th Sunday of Advent! It takes many hands and smiles coming together for these special events and I am extremely grateful for all of your support.

Our next Family Fellowship event will be our Annual BINGO Dinner on Saturday February 1st from 6 to 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to invite family and friends to join us for dinner and prizes for all! On the special request of our Sunday School friend Lilliana, this year's dinner will be a mix and match pasta bar! Whether you like penne or rotini, marinara or alfredo, meatless or meaty, we'll have them all including gluten free pasta! If you'd like to help in the kitchen, bring a dessert, or

have some items you'd like to donate to the prize table, please let me know.

Save the date for our future events – Souper Bowl of Caring February 9th including a special worship service and Fellowship Tailgate! Also, Mardi Gras Pancake Lunch following worship on March 2nd!

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 anytime throughout the year. If you didn't get a chance to register for Sunday School, you can at any time of the year by requesting a form from a teacher or member of the CE Committee.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer please feel to reach out to me.

Diane Osborne

Chair, Christian Education Committee

Diane.osborne713@gmail.com

(508) 409-7919

“The Chosen” Discussion Group

“The Chosen” Discussion group has organized itself and will have its first meeting on Wednesday, January 8th at 5:30 in the church parlor. About 15 people attended the organizational meeting and have been asked to watch the first full season of 8 episodes for this first meeting. We have some catching-up to do as some folks have not seen any of the episodes yet while others have seen all 32. Several other people have shown interest and are always welcome to attend. And if, at any time, anyone has questions about the group please feel free to ask me. Shalom, shalom! }

Jim Flaxington



Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW in the basement of Second Church at the bottom of the narthex staircase, there is our little museum? In our small but distinguished collection there is one object that is at least 800 years old (No it is not a picture of me), it is a rather small piece that I believe was once a much larger rock. I believe this stone was once the capitol of a column that was part of an ancient church.

Our tale begins with a trip to Europe by one of our wealthy citizens around the turn of the last century.

At about that time Second Church was experiencing a rapid increase in membership, and it was decided to erect a completely new edifice. At about the same time Mr. Louis Lamb was planning his trip and was hoping to be able to visit our namesake city, Attleborough, England. Major Everett Horton, who was a member of our church, asked Mr. Lamb if he might try to scout up some memento from the old church as many folks here still had ties to that church.

The name of this place is the Old Parish Church, and they were delighted to help Mr. Lamb. It didn't take long to find exactly what he was looking for. It was a crudely carved stone that might have been a piece of a column that was part of the ancient church. Mr. Lamb was delighted to bring the stone back.

He shipped it back on the Cunard Line, luckily this was several years before the Titanic disaster, or our stone might have ended up at the bottom of the ocean instead of the bottom of the narthex.

Eventually a magnificent stand was created by Mr. August Schaefer who used wood salvaged from the old pipe organ.

Ted Moxham



January Birthdays

- 4 Katie Olsen
- 8 Marty Beck
Olivia Taft
- 9 Brent Bowen
Cathy Giannetti
Rosemary Kukla
- 11 Anna Beck
- 19 Chloe Iocco
Alan Smith
Casey J. Williams
- 21 Ed McCarthy
Charlie Oliver
- 22 Don Haskel
Ruthie Withers
- 25 Therese LaPorte

- 26 Adam Hauerwas
Angie Vecchioli
- 29 Colin Blair
- 31 Viktoria King



STOP&SHOP

Bloomin' 4 Good Program

We are so excited to announce that Second Congregational Church Food Pantry has been selected again as a nonprofit partner in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program. Our Food Pantry will receive \$1 for each specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold during the month of January 2025 at the Stop & Shop located at **469 Pleasant St, Attleboro, MA**



New Eagle Scouts

On Saturday, December 28th, Troop 25, soon to be Troop 34 at Second, held a Court of Honor and pinned three new Eagle Scouts! They are Caleb Plass, David Fleury, and our own Joel Bozzi. Above they are receiving their Eagle neckerchiefs from long-time Troop 25 Leader Dave Bozzi. Congratulations to you all and best of luck in your future endeavors, in and out of Scouting.

Fred Saunders

Charter Organization Representative

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day Office is closed	2 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 10:00 AM Janson Family Party
5 10:00 AM Worship Communion Sunday School 11:15 AM New Member Meeting	6	7	8 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 5:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	9 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	10	11 6:00 to 8:00 PM Second Saturday Coffee House & Open Mic!
12 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:00 AM Stewardship Luncheon 11:15 AM New Member Meeting Christian Education Committee Meeting	13	14 6:00 PM Book Study – “The Upside- Down Kingdom”	15 5:30 PM “The Chosen” Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	16 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Virtual Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	17	18 2:00 PM Women’s Fellowship Potluck Meeting & Appreciation 4:30 PM Jack & Jill Dinner & Bingo
19 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School	20 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	21 6:00 PM Book Study – “The Upside- Down Kingdom” 7:00 PM Administration Committee Virtual Meeting	22 5:30 PM “The Chosen” Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	23 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting	24	25 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice 9:30 AM Jack & Jill Open House and Registration
26 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	27 Next Month's Voice Deadline 3:00 to 5:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	28 6:00 PM Book Study – “The Upside- Down Kingdom”	29 5:30 PM “The Chosen” Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	30 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting	31	