

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

March 2025



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY MARCH 2 AT 11 AM

7 DEADLY SINS DISCUSSION GROUP

BEGINNING TUESDAY MARCH 4TH

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 6 TO 8 PM

OURE PLEASURE CELTIC CONCERT

SUNDAY MARCH 16TH AT 3PM

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
office@attleborosecondchurch.org
www.attleborosecondchurch.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @attleborosecondchurch.org

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 2025

Calendar	Jack & Jill	Communion Visitation	Sacred Dance	Outreach Missions	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women’s Fellowship	Prayer Shawl
Page 6	Page 3	Page 3	Page 4	Page 4	Page 4	Page 5	Page 3	Page 3	Page 3

From the Pastor’s Desk

Lent is almost upon us. Lent will officially begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5. We will have a worship service that evening at 6 PM.

When I first became a pastor, there was a lot of discussion about morals, values and character. People wanted their clergy, politicians, police, athletes and anyone in the public eye to be of high virtuous character. People often said that they brought their children to church so that that church would teach them values and morals. I don’t think we’ve gotten away from that in the church, but it seems that in other areas we may be slipping a little. So, let’s get back to morals and values. Let’s make virtues great again...

Each Sunday during Lent I will be discussing a different Deadly Sin. You have heard of the 7 Deadly Sins, and maybe you could name a few. They aren’t listed in the Bible. They have come out of the writings of the early Church Fathers. While they may be ancient, they are certainly relevant today.

My plan during Lent is that each week during worship I will share a sermon on one of the Sins and their corresponding virtue. Please know that I am doing this series to inform the congregation of some of the pitfalls we may fall into each day, and perhaps how to avoid them. This series is not about ‘beating anyone up’ or making anyone feel guilty. While the Sin might make you uncomfortable or negative, the Virtue will be positive. If one of the Sins hits close to home or strikes a nerve, then perhaps that is something that you might want to explore further.

You could do this by reading more or attending the Book Discussion Group in the Conference Room on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7 PM during Lent. Each week we will talk about the sermon from the previous Sunday and unpack the Sin of the Week. I am not looking for a critique of the sermon so much as a conversation about how that particular vice has played out in others’ lives.

March 9...Gluttony (Temperance and Self Restraint)

March 16...Sloth (Diligence)

March 23...Wrath (Forgiveness)

March 30...Envy (Kindness)

April 6...Lust (Chastity)

April 13...Greed (Charity)

April 17- Maundy Thursday...Pride (Humility)

Looking at the list above—which Sins or Vices do you think affect you the most?

Lent is meant to be a time of introspective reflection. We practice the spiritual disciplines (that could be another Lenten series) to keep us on the path to deeper understanding and service to Christ. On this path we all slip and fall from time to time—but we walk this journey together. We can pick each other up. This Lent, walk with me to the cross, and beyond.

In Christian Love,
 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

March Book Discussion Group

We will not be having a typical Book Discussion Group, but there will definitely be a discussion group. As stated in Pastor's column for this newsletter—each week we will gather to discuss one of the 7 Deadly Sins and it's corresponding Virtue. I will suggest a couple different books you could read (you don't need to buy both), but the idea here is that you could do your own research on each of the sins. For instance, in the first session we are going to discuss "Gluttony." Maybe you have some experience with gluttony. You could certainly look up the Sin ahead of time, read a chapter on the topic at hand, listen to the previous Sunday's sermon- or all of the above and come to the group prepared to discuss. You could also come, just to listen or respond to other peoples' comments. The sermon from the previous Sunday will be the springboard into discussion, but the goal is to talk about the Sin, not the sinner preaching the sermon.

Here are the books that I am using for the sermon series:

Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and their Remedies, by Rebecca Konyonok DeYoung

Hers is a philosophical and practical Christian understanding.

The Seven Deadly Sins: A Thomistic Guide to Vanquishing Vice and Sin, by Kevin Vost

His is a Catholic approach and understanding.

Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America, by Dan Savage.

A journalist's approach to the conflict of morals VS. happiness. (Not necessarily recommended, but I will be using it from time to time.)

Again, you do not have to purchase any of these books, or any book—but if you want to buy a book or do a quick internet search, that would be fine. Maybe just watching the sermon from the previous Sunday would be enough. The idea is that this is a discussion where we can all learn from one another.

Here are the topics for each Tuesday...

Tuesday, March 11, Gluttony and Self Restraint

March 18, Sloth and Diligence

March 25, Wrath and Forgiveness

March Coffee House and Open Mic—March 8th

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 March is Wendy Oliver assisted by Ralph Giannetti.

March 2nd

*Transfiguration Sunday and
Communion*

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: "We believe in Transfiguration"

March 9th

First Sunday in Lent

Scripture reading: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "Gluttons"

March 16th

Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture reading: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: "Sloth"

March 23rd

Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture reading: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: "Wrath"

March 30th

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon: "Envy"

Women's Fellowship

Save the Dates: for our May Breakfast on May 3, 2025, and our Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale on May 17, 2025. Please let us know what you would like to do. Start cleaning out your closets! 😊 On March 8, 2025, we will have a May Basket workshop from 5 to 6 in fellowship hall prior to the Coffee House! April Nuovo will be there to help us learn, and she has made a video at <http://youtu.be/RPCKlokUwI> you may watch ahead of time, or while we are making the baskets. You may bring some supplies to make baskets – we need glue and color streamers if possible! Thanks! Coffee House will be afterwards from 6-8, if you would like to stay.

Volunteer job for Kitchen, we would like a few people to come forward to get Serve Safe Certificate for the Kitchen and Food Allergy Certificate, to help when we are running outside events for the public, like the May Breakfast and the Fair in the fall. At this moment Fred Saunders is the only person with this certificate which is issued for 5 years, and Fred's expires in two years. If you are interested or have any questions you can ask Fred. If you already have a certificate and would share it with us, we would appreciate it! Woman Fellowship will reimburse you the cost for this when you receive your certificate. We would love to have at least 2 or 3 certified members if possible. We are always looking for people to assist with Sunday Fellowship & Coffee Hour. This includes setting up, serving drinks, bringing snacks to share on the Sharing Table, and cleaning up at the end. Please let me know if you can help. Call Sandy at 508-699-2738, e-mail sandrasaunders99@gmail.com, or sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

*Sandy Saunders
Treasurer*

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, March 17th 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



We're eagerly anticipating the sights and sounds of spring this month! Spring is a time of growth, both in nature and at preschool, and we're excited to see what the season brings for Jack and Jill.

As we move into spring, the teachers are beginning their spring assessments and preparing the second round of progress reports. They'll be sharing updates on students' progress with families during our spring conferences at the end of the

month. Our students are also registering for the next school year, whether they'll be continuing with us or moving on to Kindergarten. It's an exciting time for both our families and staff!

We're also thrilled to kick off our biggest fundraiser of the school year – a raffle calendar! We'll be selling raffle calendars for \$10 each throughout March, with a chance to win daily prizes in April. Some prizes already secured include tickets to the Norman Rockwell Museum, Story Land, and Showcase Cinema, as well as a party package for Topgolf and All Around Gymnastics. If you'd like to purchase a calendar, please don't hesitate to email or call us. We truly appreciate your ongoing support of our school!

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. If you know anyone looking for a 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 choirs will have a regular Thursday rehearsal schedule in March: Bell Choir, 6:30-7:30; Adult Choir, 7:30-9:00.

The Adult Choir will sing in church every Sunday (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th). The Bell Choir will play on March 2nd. The next performance date for Bells is Easter Sunday, April 20th

New Bell Players Needed!

Many months ago, two of our bell ringers retired, and, since then, no new members have joined, taking their place. The result has been that if any of our current players is ill, snowbound, traveling, or absent for any other (perfectly acceptable) reason, our attendance at rehearsals can be as low as 6-7 out of the 11 that constitute a complete 3-octave choir.

This situation makes rehearsing challenging and discouraging for both choir members and their conductor (me – who ends up having to hold and play several bells at a time, and still not able to fill in the gaps).

In short, we would love to welcome at least two new members! (And since we

own 5 octaves of bells, there are potential openings for more players than that)!

If you'd like to join us, speak to Bill or a member of the choir. Or just come to a rehearsal (Thursdays, 6:30-7:30) and check us out. You can just watch, or you can join in playing. A little knowledge of music reading is helpful, but we've had members join who don't read music at all (and from playing bells, have learned a lot about music reading and musical performance). We're also considering having special open rehearsals or introductory sessions outside of the normal rehearsal time. If you're interested in that, let us know a time that would work for you.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Sacred Dance practices will be held every Saturday in March and all are welcome to join! 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. Hope to see you then!

Diane Osborne

Outreach & Missions

Save the date for a **Baby Shower** in Fellowship Hall, **April 27, 2pm**. O & M will host an afternoon gathering with refreshments. We will hear from two local organizations who are assisting young families in need and will be distributing the items we collect. Next month's Voice will contain additional details as well as a list of items you can donate.

Janet Blair is arranging the purchase of three **Empowerment Coats**, in conjunction with the One plus One fellowship group. To find out more about this project, click here: <https://www.empowermentplan.org/the-coat>

We are enormously grateful to those hardy, generous church members who have volunteered at the fire station & Faith Alliance Church "temporary" emergency warming shelters in Attleboro for a total of 44 nights this winter!

The new **warming shelter on Pleasant**

St. is still not open yet, but **thank you** to our church members who have signed up to help on Friday afternoons. We will keep you posted as we get updates.

We held a sparsely attended "**crafternoon**" session in February, and **we'll be trying again in March, on the 21st, at 2:00 in Fellowship Hall**. You don't need any experience at all--come to learn something new, come to work on your own project, or come for the company. We'll be continuing a paper-mache project from last month, and we'll have new ideas for the fall fair as well.

In the next couple of weeks, our team will be talking to as many of you as we can, to learn what your **outreach and mission priorities** are. Some of us have ideas for an environmental theme in April, but we need to explore **your** thoughts.

Don't forget to check out the church's website and FB group page for reminders of these and other happenings at our church.

Our **next O & M meeting** will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Sunday, March 9** (Conference Room, before church). You don't have to be on the team to sit in at our meeting--you just have to get to church a bit earlier than usual. 😊

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 Reminder 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 March and April we will be engaging in story, craft, and song while learning about the season of Lent. Teachers: Diane, Tina, and Nicole
The Middle and High School youth class will continue meeting on the second and fourth Sunday. They have been exploring the theme of 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. This month, discussion will center on the concept of Play. Teachers: Tara and Andrew

Many thanks to all who volunteered for and attended our annual BINGO & Pasta Bar event last month. We have received so much positive feedback about the event we are planning to make it twice a year! Look out for details in the fall for a BINGO & Potato Bar evening of fun. If you haven't attended one yet we hope you'll join us!

Also, many thanks to all who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring! The kids set high goals this year of collecting \$750 and over 150 nonperishable food items. With your generous support over \$800 and 245 food items were received! The elementary Sunday School class was super excited to organize and count all the food items for delivery right to our own Second Church Food Pantry, which welcomes patrons on the last Monday of every month. Thank you for the support of our youth and our community.

Let's keep the good times rolling for Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch following worship on Sunday March 2nd, come celebrate "Pancake Tuesday" a few days early with us by enjoying tasty chocolate chip and plain pancakes! Gluten free options, pork and vegetarian sausages, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice will also be served. Please let me know if you'd like to help prep, flip, serve, or clean up. We greatly appreciate it!

Palm Sunday Processional: We will begin practicing for the Palm Sunday Processional after worship on Sunday March 30th and April 6th. It is an easy and joyous dance to get started with if you'd like to try out Sacred Dance. Save the Date for April 13th when we participate in worship. All ages and dance experience levels welcome!

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 of Christian Education
Diane.osborne713@gmail.com
(508) 409-7919

"The Chosen" Discussion Group

"The Chosen" Discussion group has organized itself and will continue its meeting on Wednesdays, at 5:30 in the church parlor. And if, at any time, anyone has questions about the group please feel free to ask me. Shalom, shalom!

Jim Flaxington



Thank you to all who supported the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. The Food Pantry received \$39 for the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquets sold during the month of January 2025 at the Stop & Shop located at **469 Pleasant St, Attleboro, MA**



March Birthdays

1	Jack Baptist Clinton B Ferguson
3	Mark N Robinson
4	Natalie A MacDonald
5	Jean A Phillips-Currier
7	Ginny M Bassler
9	Joan C Lepper
10	Chris M Saunders
12	Kevin P Goulding
13	Steve K Withers, Sr.
15	Carole I Baker Jack P McKenna Mary P Quimby
17	Drew R Sencabaugh
18	Priscilla Jane J Huston
19	Glenn R Weidner
22	Mary Goldzung
25	Joel A Hauerwas
27	Mike M Edwards
28	Connie I Bozzi Ralph A Giannetti
29	Jean S Garrott Andrew D Osborne
31	Lucy S Hogarth Betsey P Pray Ruth E Shaver

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice 12:00 PM Private Party - SWS
2 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Communion 11:00 AM Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast	3	4	5 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	6 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice 5:00 PM May Basket Workshop 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
9 8:30 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Annual Financial Church Meeting	10	11 6:00 PM Discussion of Gluttony & Self Restraint	12 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 5:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	13 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 2:00 PM Crafternoon	15 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice
16 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting 3:00 PM Oure Pleasure Celtic Concert	17 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	18 6:00 PM Discussion Sloth & Diligence 7:00 PM Administration Committee Zoom Meeting	19 5:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	20 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	21	22 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice
23 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	24	25 Next Month's Voice Deadline 6:00 PM Discussion of Wrath & Forgiveness	26 5:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	27 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	28	29 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Practice
30 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Palm Sunday Processional Practice	31 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution					

