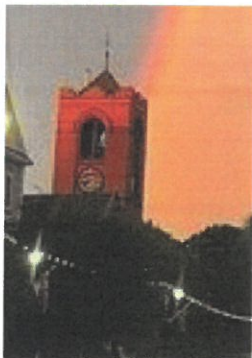


THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

September 2025



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

W E L C O M E H O M E

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION- SUNDAY 9/7 AT 9:30 AM

RALLY DAY! SUNDAY, 9/7 AT 10 AM

WATER COLORS & CRAFTERNOON, FRIDAY 9/12 AT 2 PM

COFFEE HOUSE, SATURDAY, 9/13 AT 6 PM

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SUNDAY, 9/14 AT 10 AM

UNO TOURNAMENT & DINNER 9/27 AT 5 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

Michele Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Jack Baptist, Sexton

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

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www.attleborosecondchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram [@attleborosecondchurch.org](https://www.instagram.com/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

September 2024

Calendar	Jack & Jill	Communion Visitation	Sacred Dance	Outreach Missions	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women's Fellowship	Prayer Shawl
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Pastor's Message

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."- Matthew 28:20

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."- Phil. 4:13

I grew up a public swimming pool kid. On hot August days- Spatcher pool at Hayward Field was packed. I think it cost a dime, and you could swim all day (except for the ten minutes every hour dedicated to "adult swim"--which was the longest ten minutes of our lives, except for the 10 minutes it took the Christmas morning coffee to brew for our parents!).

Maybe you remember—sectioned off in the pool were the two diving boards. There was the regular diving board, and the "HIGH dive." The high dive was probably six feet off the ground, but it looked and felt like a hundred to a kid. Everyone went off the regular diving board. You had to wait in line for the longest time- you'd be soaking wet when you started and bone dry by the time you got to the "on-deck" position. The tension and anxiety would build as you got closer to the front. What was it going to be? Was it going to be a silly walk off the board, a cannonball to splash the aloof pretty lifeguard, a gracious swan dive or would you try that flip? By the time you got on the diving board- you nearly lost your mind—you forgot everything—and you'd just run straight off the board.

The HIGH dive was a rite of passage. The line was a little shorter, but it was so much scarier. Once you started climbing the ladder to the diving board- there was no turning back. The treads were narrow and the metal of the railing was cold. The ascent was slow and deliberate, but your heart-rate was accelerated and erratic. And the air six feet higher was so much thinner and biting.

Try to remember the first time you did something like that...something bold and scary!

I can climb a ladder. I can walk. I can jump. I can certainly freefall. I can swim. So, why is it so hard to put all those things together? When I finally did put it all together...when I did take that glorious step off the high diving board...I fell into the cool refreshing water. I eventually came back up for a big gulping breath. I excitedly swam to the side ladder, scurried out of the pool, and practically sprinted to get back in the line again, shunning the regular, boring diving board.

It is hard to be bold and do something outside of our comfort zone. I get it. When I play guitar or sing in church—it is far out of my comfort zone. Sometimes when I am feeling particularly introverted, being in a crowded Fellowship Hall is uncomfortable. When someone says to me, "I don't want to go to coffee hour," or "I have a hard time with public speaking," or "I am not comfortable with the passing of the peace"—I understand.

The Christian life isn't always a comfortable life. Jesus didn't call his disciples to a life of comfort. He invited them to step outside of their comfort zones. He 'triple dog dared' them to jump off the "high-dive" because he knew that they would not sink.

God won't let you sink. God will lift you up. The anxiety and discomfort we feel is fleeting. The cool refreshing waters of God's grace and mercy are eternal.

Blessings and Peace to you!

Rev. Will Sencabaugh



September and October Book Discussion Group

We will begin the next book discussion group on Tuesday, September 23

It is a discussion group on *THE FIRST PAUL: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

We will meet on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 PM in the Conference Room

In advance of the first session, please read Chapter 1 and bring your questions and comments.



Rev. Will's Office Hours for the FALL months (Sept and Oct are the trial months)

Here is the plan...

Monday- This is Rev. Will's day off

Tuesday- 8-9:30 AM at the church office, then from 9:30 – 11 AM at the Burgundian!

Wednesday- 8-11 AM at the office

Thursday- 8-11 AM at the office, then 6 – 7:30 PM at Skyroc Brewery!

Friday- Available to meet anytime during the day...

(Also, Rev. Will is unavailable when the New England Patriots are on television! Please don't text during the game. He is usually too busy texting with his son.)

Rev. Will will hold a table at both the Burgundian and Skyroc on the days and times listed above. If you want to go in and talk about anything—please feel free to meet him over a cup of coffee or a beer. If a few people show up each time- then we'll have church (where two or three are gathered). If you want to discuss something of a 'private' nature, then please make an appointment for office hours.

Rev. Will can be contacted at 860.861.5003 (call or text) or email at revdrwill@comcast.net

He will respond, perhaps not immediately. If it is an emergency, please indicate that in the message.

Finally, if anyone is in the hospital or would like a visit—please let him know!

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Karen Slawson assisted by Nancy Tariot.

September 7th RALLY DAY

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion

Scripture: Philemon 1:1-21

Sermon: "Beloved Children of God"

September 14th

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Sermon: "Letting God and Letting God"

September 21st

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sermon: "A Dishonest Manager"

September 28th

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Sermon: "For the Love of Money"

October 5th

17th Sunday after Pentecost

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10

Sermon: "Communion in Communion"

COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM

The Communion Visitation Team continues to visit folks who are unable to attend services. We're happy to visit your home for fellowship, regardless of whether you choose 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, and enjoying outdoor activities, collecting surplus items, canning, knitting, crafting, jewelry, etc.! As the fall season approaches, we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Fair on November 8, 2025. To our dedicated volunteers, please let me know if you can work your usual table this year. To our new volunteers, please let me know what your interests are, and we will get you signed up! The hours for the fair are 9am – 2pm. Thank you for your help.

You can drop off any items for Grandma's attic, books, puzzles, toys and silent auction items at anytime. Please put all items on the bench at the top of the stairs by the back door before entering Fellowship Hall. We will also need collectibles, gently used Christmas decorations, and plants. If you have any questions, please ask Sandy or call 508-699-2738. Thanks, see you soon!

Sandy Saunders, Treasurer

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



This fall the PSM will partner with O&M to provide "Ditty Bags" and winter hats to the New England Seafarers Mission. Please see the

Outreach & Missions article for more information.

PSM will meet on Monday, September 15th 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*



Welcome to September!

We were delighted to welcome both new and returning students during our Playground Days in late August. With engaging activities, shared snacks, and plenty of opportunities to meet new friends, these special days offered families a relaxed introduction to our school community. They also gave teachers a chance to connect with some of their incoming students and parents in a warm, informal setting.

Our dedicated teaching staff returned on August 25th, and all signs point to another wonderful year ahead at Jack and Jill! We're excited to return to the familiar rhythm of the school year and begin this new chapter together.

It's been a busy and productive summer here at school. In addition to offering tours, registering new students, and running a vibrant summer preschool program, we've also freshened up our space with a newly painted hallway and some thoughtful classroom rearrangements. Everything is looking bright and welcoming for our students' return!

We're thrilled to be welcoming so many new families this year, and our classes are nearly at capacity. The building is ready, and we're eagerly anticipating the joyful sights and sounds of children and families once again filling our halls.

We're looking forward to a year full of play, discovery, and growth. There are many exciting community events planned, and we'll be sharing more details soon.

Our first day of school will be Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Thank you for your continued support, we're so glad to have you as part of the Jack and Jill family!

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

We always begin our choir season right after Labor Day, which this year is super early, on September 1st! Our first rehearsals will be Thursday, September 4th (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 7th) as well as on the remaining Sundays in September. The Bell Choir will set a date for playing in church at one of their first rehearsals.

(Take heart: In 2026, summer will not end so soon! The calendrical cycle will start again, with Labor Day on the 7th, and rehearsals beginning as late as possible, on September 10, 2026).

SUMMER WITH FBC

For the entire summer we've been worshipping with First Baptist Church in their lovely, air-conditioned sanctuary. This was the fourth year for union services, and it's always a pleasure to be with our friends at FBC.

Many thanks to those who provided music on three Sundays: Oure-Pleasure-Lite (Cathy, Jordan, Fred, Michael, Paula, Charlie, and Wendy) on August 10th; and the Praise-Band-Lite (Glenn, Laurie, Tara, and Ben), on July 27th and August 24th.

An Invitation to New Choir Members

There are always openings for ringers and singers. An audition is not required – just come to a rehearsal (see the schedule above). September is a great time to start, since music for the season is just being rolled out. A basic level of music reading is helpful for playing bells, but we've also had new members who learn just by playing. In both choirs, long-time members are there to provide support for newer ones.

We follow a predictable schedule. The Adult Choir sings most Sundays, with a warm-up that starts around 9:20 for

10:00 a.m. 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'm committed to keeping Thursday rehearsal times within the posted schedule, ending on or before 9 pm for the Adult Choir, with no extra rehearsals beyond the normal Thursdays.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

Intergenerational Sacred Dance

Sacred Dance practices will resume on the last Saturday in September, the 27th. 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 email: diane.osborne713@gmail.com. Hope to see you then!

Diane Osborne

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The summer has been a busy time for Outreach and Missions. We are currently engaged in helping a young family who moved to Attleboro last March. Much more to come in September about ways our members might be able to help.

The Crafternoon group met in July and August making progress towards items for the fall fair. Our next meeting is September 12th (the second Friday of the month) at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us, regardless of skill level.

Our next committee meeting will take place on September 14, at 8:30 (before church).



The Outreach & Missions Committee and The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be collecting knitted/crocheted winter hats and "Ditty Bag" items for the New England Seafarers Mission October 12-26, 2025 in the Narthex. Our goal is to assemble 24 complete "Ditty Bags."

New England Seafarers Mission (NESM) is an outreach ministry that serves the international seafarers of the maritime business community. NESM provides chaplains and services in Boston, Providence, and Narragansett Bay, and now reaches 35,000 people per year from 167 countries. Their core belief is that as a Christian organization, they are called to open their doors of hospitality to ALL women and men who reach local ports.

Patterns for adult hats are available in the church office. Store bought hats are fine too.

The requested "Ditty Bag" donations:

1. Socks – White or Black crew socks (1 pair per gift is fine)
2. Combs
3. Nail Clippers
4. Warm Gloves
5. Bandanas
6. Hard Candy
7. Lip Balm
8. Toothbrushes
9. Sewing Kits
10. Calendars
11. Paper notepads
12. Gum

These small tokens of love and remembrance go a long way to let the women and men serving onboard industrial ships know that they are not forgotten by God or by us.

<https://neseafarers.org/about-us/>

Paula Foresman

Christian Education

Greetings and hope you had a wonderful summer! Sunday School will kick off on Rally Day September 7th. 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 7th

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. Children will be dismissed to class after joining their families for the first part of worship.

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 14th

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 to serve as a hint to others that we are a friend and ally they just haven't met yet.

Family Fellowship – Uno Tournament & Dinner: Saturday September 27th

We will be having a new event inspired by the many families of Second Church for whom Uno is their favorite card game for all ages! More details to come about how to sign up and what mystery dinner will be serve (hint it's a big crowd pleaser just like this game). Even if you've never played Uno before we hope you'll join us for this free, all ages evening of fun & fellowship!



Attleboro Downtown Trick or Treat:

Saturday October 18th

From 2-5pm the city of Attleboro will be holding the 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 the end of September. It is 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

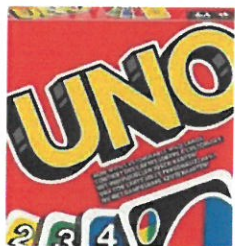
Diane Osborne

Diane.osborne713@gmail.com

(508) 409-7919



- 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



Uno Tournament & Dinner

Saturday September 27th

Family Fellowship



New England Seafarers Mission

Can you help us reach our goal to assemble 24 complete "Ditty Bags" ?



An invitation to ALL watercolor painters to get together on Friday, September 12th at Second Congregational Fellowship Hall from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, and every 2nd Friday of the month. Everyone will need to bring their own supplies and equipment. No instructor other than everybody supporting and helping each other, and finally it's FREE! Hope to see you on Sept. 12th. Please use back door.

Thank you! Ben Macomber



Every 2nd Friday of the month at 2pm
Join Us for some fun and fellowship!



Have something in good condition that you don't use anymore? Consider donating for the Holiday Fair or joining us on Crafternoon Friday!



SEPTEMBER 2025

Second Congregational Church Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day - Office is closed	2	3 6:30PM Cub Scout Meeting at LaSalette 7:00PM ADA Resource Meeting	4 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:00PM Facilities Committee Meeting 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 RALLY DAY! 9:30AM Sunday School Registration 10:00AM Worship/ Sunday School 11:00AM Rally Day Celebration	8	9 10:00AM Communion Visitation Meeting	10 6:30PM Cub Scout Meeting	11 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 2:00PM Color Our World & Crafternoon	13 6:00PM Coffee House & Open Mic
14 Blessing of the Backpacks 8:30AM O&M Committee Meeting 10:00AM Worship/ Sunday School 11:15AM CE Committee Meeting	15 2:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30PM J&J Board of Directors Meeting 7:00PM Facilities Committee Meeting	16 7:00PM Administrative Committee Meeting via Zoom	17 6:30PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00PM ADA Resource Meeting	18 5:00PM Board of Deacons Meeting 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School	22 Next Month's Voice Deadline	23 6:00PM Book Study - The First Paul	24 6:30PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00PM PFLAG MEETING	25 6:30PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:00AM Sacred Dance Practice 5:00PM Uno Tournament & Dinner
28 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School	29	30 6:00PM Book Study - The First Paul				