

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

January 2026



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

WATER COLORS & CRAFTERNOON, FRIDAY 1/9 AT 2:30 PM

COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC, SATURDAY 1/10 AT 6 PM

STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU LUNCHEON SUNDAY 1/11 AT 11 AM

THE CHOSEN DISCUSSION GROUP WEDNESDAY 1/14 AT 6:30 PM

JACK & JILL OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 1/31 AT 9:30 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

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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 2026

Calendar	Jack & Jill	Communion Visitation	Sacred Dance	Outreach Missions	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women's Fellowship	Prayer Shawl Ministry
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From the Pastor's Desk:

I am writing this when I am supposed to be preparing for Christmas Sunday. The theme of the worship service is supposed to be love, but I am having a hard time focusing on love...I have been trying to process the recent mass shootings. We often say, "thoughts and prayers." God knows I have been praying. So here are a few of my thoughts...

What are the major contributing factors in mass shootings.

1. Guns
2. Mental Health problems
3. Hate

That's pretty much it. Each one of those points is multi-layered and has their own set of contributing factors. Perhaps you have more/different contributing factors. The first two factors on my list will probably be around for the duration of our lifetimes and unless something is done to curb those factors, my guess is that they will only get worse.

Then there is HATE—what can we do about that? Hate is taught. Children learn it. It is reinforced. Each side of the aisle blames the other side for sowing division with hate rhetoric. We talk about hate speech and hate crimes, but ultimately, you can't legislate LOVE.

Hate is a pretty strong word—and most of us don't think of ourselves as haters. However, hate manifests in subtle ways. It festers. It grows. It poisons. It may start as a joke or an innocent jibe. It could be as loud as a bullhorn or as piercing as a dog whistle. Hate is spewed from podiums and pulpits. It comes from our peers, parents and programs. And we have a new forum for all generations, the internet and social media. Sorry Baby Boomers—Facebook is a festering cesspool of pathetic pandering to the echo chamber. (But it probably has some good stuff too.)

Those little barbs and snide comments that your favorite talking head makes—

Those caustic tweets, offensive memes and provocative posts are seeds of hate.

Those things that may make you smile because they are directed at someone you don't like, generate an atmosphere of division and negativity.

It seems like a huge leap to go from subtle remarks to violence. However, when the subtle is compounded and reinforced—it isn't so strange. Do you know when a theory is a conspiracy theory? Are you able to tell if a picture or story is AI generated? Are you able to tell the difference between the truth and 'fake news?' We all think we can, but it is more difficult every day.

We are all wrestling with uncertainty. We are all carrying a lot. Folks who are struggling with their mental health have an even harder time and may take off-hand comments as biblical truth.

This year—be mindful of the things that you put out there. Your posts—your words—your comments matter. We need to put more love into the universe. Only love can overcome hate. Try to share God's love with all who cross your path or read your posts. If you should hear, read or experience the subtle seeds of hate—speak the truth of LOVE.

Peace and LOVE-

Rev. Will Sencabaugh

Book Discussion Group

For the season of Epiphany the book group will be discussing the science fiction book, *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy. The book was published in 1888 (it is a classic) but it is supposed to many non-churchy things when we are reading church books—so we will do our best to bring in matters of faith. The group meets on Tuesday nights from 6 – 7 PM in the Conference Room. All are invited and welcome to come.

We will be meeting: January 13, 20, 27 and February 3.

Second Saturday Coffee House and Open Mic

The show must go on! We will be having our monthly coffee house on January 10 from 6 – 8 PM.

This is an all-ages community event. It is free to all, open to all—so please invite your family and friends.

Second Friday Coffee House and Open Mic—for YOUNG ADULTS

We will be attempting to kick off a new program at Second Church on January 9! The crowd and participants at our Second Saturday event has tended to be older crowd. This is wonderful! We wanted to add something for the young adults in our community without taking away from the older adults who already have something they seem to enjoy.

The Young Adult Coffee House and Open Mic is for teenagers and those who may be of college age.

The structure is the same as the Saturday Open mic—but eventually the plan is have young adults run it.

There are many young adult musicians and poets in the greater Attleboro community and while each high school may do their thing—we think it would be wonderful to bring them together to network and have a broader audience. It may take some time to grow this program. If you know of a young adult musician, storyteller, poet please let them know!

As always, thank you for supporting something NEW!



Rev. Will continues to keep office hours at the Burgundian and Skyroc throughout January.

He will be at the Burgundian on Tuesday mornings from 9:30- 11 AM. He will be at Skyroc on Thursday evenings from 6 – 7:30 PM.

Rev. Will is available to meet at other times, please call, email or text to set up an appointment.

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Wendy Oliver assisted by Nancy Tariot.

January 4th

Second Sunday after Christmas - Communion

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “A Wise Man Sermon”

January 18th

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7

Sermon: “Backlash”

January 11th

Baptism of Christ

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: “New Things I Now Declare”

January 25th

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: “Unlikely Disciples”

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 Michele in the church office or Cathy Giannetti, Ralph Giannetti, Karen Slawson, Marcia Weidner and Roberta Zarrella, who are part of the team.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday, January 19th, 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 would like to remind the church congregation:

If you take a prayer shawl please document it in the catalogue book by the Prayer Shawl Rack.

Thank you.

Janet Blair

Women's Fellowship

Happy New Year to all!

Calling all Women of Second Church! Please come to the Women's Fellowship meeting on January 4, 2026 at 11:15 in the Ladies' Parlor to discuss the May Breakfast, the Yard Sale, the Holiday Fair and Coffee Hour. We need to decide what events we can do this year, when they will happen, and who can come forward to learn how to run these events. All these events are a way to support Women's Fellowship in giving to the General Fund, Outreach and Missions, special projects in the Kitchen and elsewhere and Christmas gifts to the Admin and Sexton.

See you soon,

Sandy Saunders, Treasurer
sandrasaunders99@gmail.com

508-699-2738



Jack and Jill is off to a strong start in 2026! We have an exciting season ahead and are looking forward to the fresh opportunities a new year brings.

Planning for our Spaghetti Supper and Candy Bingo is well underway. We have reached out to local businesses for food donations and have connected with North Attleboro High School to recruit student volunteers. We hope you will join us on Saturday, January 24th. The evening will include two dinner seatings at 4:30 PM and 6:15 PM. Bingo will follow each seating; our 4:30 session will feature picture bingo cards geared toward younger children, while the 6:15 session will offer a more traditional bingo experience. Winners at both sessions will receive candy prizes. Families are also welcome to attend dinner only if they choose.

Following the Spaghetti Supper, we will move directly into our Open House and registration season. Registration for current families and church members will open on Wednesday, January 14th at 9:00 AM and will be accepted exclusively through our online portal. Families interested in learning more are encouraged to visit our website or reach out to schedule a tour, I am always happy to connect.

Our Open House will take place on Saturday, January 31st from 9:30–11:30 AM. We look forward to welcoming prospective families into the school and sharing all that Jack and Jill Preschool has to offer. Classrooms will be open, teachers will be available to answer questions, and members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to support

families as they learn more about our program. If you know families who may be interested in attending, please let me know, I would be glad to extend an invitation.

As we move into the new year, our 4- and 5-year-old classes will begin to focus more intentionally on pre-kindergarten skills. Children will work on writing lowercase letters, building stamina for sustained attention, and completing designated projects we refer to as “have-to’s,” all within a developmentally appropriate and supportive environment.

I warmly invite members of the congregation to visit our program and see firsthand the meaningful work taking place each day. Your ongoing support makes a tremendous impact, and I would love the opportunity to show you how the space you provide helps create rich learning experiences for the children and families of the Attleboro community. Please feel free to call or email to arrange a visit.

Wishing you all continued health and happiness in the New Year!

Katrina Lay, Executive Director

Music Notes

CHOIR SCHEDULES

The Adult Choir will sing on January 4 (Craig Courtney, arr., “In the Bleak Midwinter”), January 18 (Mark Miller, “Roll Down, Justice”) and January 25 (anthem to be determined). The Choir will not sing on January 11 (Bill will be away, and the Praise Band will provide the music).

Regular Thursday rehearsals for the Bell Choir and the Adult Choir will begin on January 22. There will be no rehearsals on January 1, 8, and 15.

On January 22, the Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” (that’s an inside joke). Actually, we’ll start to practice music for Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18) and Easter (April 5). And we’ll choose a date for our next performance (late February or early March).

Many Thanks!

I'm exceedingly grateful to the Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Sacred Dance, Praise Band, and soloists (particularly Karl Stuen on viola) for beautiful, worshipful music during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Everyone contributed generously of their time and talent to learn challenging new music and to revisit old favorites. It's a pleasure, and I feel blessed, to work with such a wonderful group of singers, ringers, and dancers.

Thinking of joining?

If you are considering joining the Bell Choir, the Adult Choir (or both), January 22, our first rehearsal of the new choir season, is a great time to start. Just come to a rehearsal (Thursdays, Bells 6:30-7:30, Adult Choir, 7:30-9:00) and try it out!

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

Intergenerational Sacred Dance

Sacred Dance practices will resume Saturday January 24 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

Good news! Empty Bowls has given our Food Pantry an additional \$1000 as a result of their successful sales event at Briggs Nursery. We are so grateful to be able to enhance our mission of food distribution!

Also, as promised last month, here is a list of our 2025 funds distributed on your behalf:

Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative (AAIC): \$2500

Boy Scouts: \$150

Church World Service: \$500

Girl Scouts: \$150

Holy Joe's Cafe: \$150

Maine Seacoast Mission: \$150

Neighbors in Need: \$500

New Hope: \$500

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$500

PFLAG: \$150

Pave Your Path: \$200

Self Help Inc.: \$1000

Sisters of Charity/El Salvador: \$150

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: \$1000

The Literacy Center: \$1000

As always, if you'd like to know more about any of these donations, don't hesitate to speak to one of the O&M team--and know that your generosity is truly appreciated.

Next Crafternoon will happen at the NEW TIME of 2:30 on Friday, January 9 (along with Ben's Color Your World group).

Next meeting of O&M will take place at 8:30 am on Sunday, January 11.

Paula Foresman

Christian Education

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

We had quite the time in Sunday School during Advent. The younger class created sustainably remade Christmas cards to spread joy with the donation of many beautiful upcycled cards from Janet Blair. The youth class has been focused on social justice and all joined together for a fun gingerbread nativity activity on the fourth Sunday of Advent. In January we will all continue with the Social Justice theme and begin preparing for the Souper Bowl of Caring to be held February 8th.

Christian Education Committee: Our January meeting will on January 11th following worship. As there will be a Stewardship Luncheon that day, please feel free to enjoy some food and fellowship and we will start our meeting a little later than usual. Anyone who is interested in joining our committee, as a classroom volunteer, or would like to help with Family Fellowship events is greatly encouraged to join us for a meeting. Family Fellowship: Many thanks to all who joined us for the special Christmas Coffee Hour last month. 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 January 31st from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to invite family and friends to join us for dinner and prizes for all! 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 8th including a special worship service and Fellowship Tailgate! Also, Mardi Gras Pancake Lunch following worship on February 15th! 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.osborne713@gmail.com or
(508) 409-7919

*Diane Osborne
Chair of Christian Education*



HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Business Office
will be closed
Thursday Jan 1st**



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Jan 4th & Jan 18th at 6pm



Friday Jan 9th at 2:30pm

NEW EVENT

The Young Adult Coffee House
Friday Jan 9th, 6-8 pm



Teenagers and college age are welcome.

Stewardship



Thank You Luncheon
Sunday Jan 11th at 11:15 am



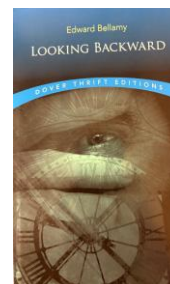
- 4 Katie Olsen
- 8 Marty Beck
Olivia Taft
- 9 Brent Bowen
Cathy Giannetti
Rosemary Kukla
- 11 Anna Beck
- 19 Chloe Iocco
Alan Smith
Casey Williams
- 21 Ed McCarthy
Charlie Oliver
- 22 Ruthie Withers
- 25 Therese LaPorte
- 26 Adam Hauerwas
Angie Vecchioli
- 29 Colin Blair
- 31 Viktoria King



Saturday Jan 10th at 6pm



Sunday Jan. 11th at 11:15am



Looking Backward
Discussion Group Begins
Tuesday Jan 13th at 6pm



The Chosen Discussion Group
Begins
Wednesday Jan 14th at 6:30 pm



Dinner & Bingo
Saturday, Jan 31st at 6pm



2026

Second Congregational Church

Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day Office is closed	2	3
4 10:00 AM Worship/Communion Sunday School 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	5 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	6	7 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	8 4:00 PM Altera Board Meeting 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting	9 2:30 PM Color Our World 2:30 PM Crafternoon 6:00 PM Young Adult Open Mic	10 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
11 8:30 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 AM Stewardship Thank You Luncheon 11:15 AM CE Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Uke Group	12	13 6:00 PM Book Study - Looking Backward	14 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group	15 5:00 PM Board of Deacons Meeting 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:00 PM Boyscouts Committee Meeting Zoom	16	17
18 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School 6:00 PM Confirmation Class	19 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM J&J Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	20 6:00 PM Book Study - Looking Backward	21 6:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	22 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	23	24 9:00 AM Sacred Dance Practice 4:30 PM & 6:15 PM J&J Spaghetti Supper & Candy Bingo
25 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	26 Next Month's Voice Deadline 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	27 6:00 PM Book Study - Looking Backward	28 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 PM The Chosen Discussion Group 7:00 PM PFLAG MEETING	29 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	30	31 9:00 AM Sacred Dance Practice 9:30 AM J&J Open House 6:00 PM Bingo Dinner