

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ
50 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703

September 2026



**Scan code to
visit our website**

www.attleborosecondchurch.org

WATER COLORS & CRAFTERNOON, FRIDAY 9/11 AT 2:30 PM
YOUNG ADULT OPEN MIC, FRIDAY 9/11 AT 6 PM
COFFEE HOUSE & OPEN MIC, SATURDAY 9/12 AT 6 PM
EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER, SATURDAY 9/19 AT 11AM

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
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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 2026

Calendar	Jack & Jill	One Plus One	Sacred Dance	Outreach Missions	Christian Education	Birthdays	Music Notes	Women's Fellowship	Community Notes
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From the Pastor's Desk:

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. Three are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people." (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." (1 Cor. 12:12)

The passages above are used so often that their meaning is often overlooked. Paul's first letter to the Corinthian was so universally embraced that it became a part of the Christian canon. It is true today for our church in the 21st century as it was for that upstart Corinthian church in the first century.

I can look out from the pulpit and see the many gifts that people bring to the church. I recognize it in church meetings, activities and fundraising events. People approach the Bible and church from different places, and often we arrive at different places as well. There is a difference of opinion on financial, biblical or political matters. That is a part of life, and it is definitely a fact of life in the church. Yet, we all come together to make up one body—the body of Christ—our church.

Hopefully, we can continue to give life an old ministry:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:35-40

Traditionally, the Board of Deacons and Pastor have been tasked with the ministry of providing pastoral care. There are people who are not currently serving the Board of Deacons that possess the gifts of pastoral care. We also recognize that we have missed opportunities to reach out to members and friends. We strive to be better and to live into our mission.

For many years the Deacons have enlisted the help of a caregiving team, or our Communion Visitation Team. This has operated as a small group of lay ministers who visit and provide communion for homebound or "shut-in" parishioners. Would you be interested in helping out? It may be as simple as one or two visits a month. It's easy if you like to talk. All are welcome to join our group. Come and see if it is a good fit for you.

Of course, there are other ways to serve too. We really want to help meet the needs of the people in our church and community. In order to do that we need ministers! We know that there are many people who are already quietly serving the church by visiting members, providing rides and meals, and sending along notes of concern. This is wonderful and I pray that it continues.

We want to encourage all our members to help out when and where they can.

Where are your gifts? If you can, could you provide a ride to an appointment or worship on Sunday? Could you help install an air-conditioner? Would you be willing to send out a few birthday cards?

This is an extension of our mission and vision and it aligns with Paul the Apostle's vision for the church. I truly believe that it is what Jesus wants from His disciples. We are not workers, we are servants. We serve a Risen Savior. We all have gifts. We are all members of the same body- the Church, the body of Christ. In a world that seems more fractured- it is time to come together. We can all serve God.

In Christian Love,

Rev. Will

SERVICE NOTES

The Deacon of the month is Deb Hawes assisted by Ed McCarthy.

September 6th *Communion Sunday*
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 13:8-14

Sermon: "Churchianity 101"

September 20th *Blessing of the Backpacks*
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: "The First Rule of Christian Club"

September 13th *Rally Day*
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Luke 15:1-8

Sermon: "Lost and Found"

September 27th
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Leviticus 23:33-44

Sermon: "So That Your Generations May Know"

Worship Services begin at 10 AM on the first Sunday of September through the last Sunday in June.

SECOND FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OPEN MIC AND COFFEEHOUSES

Each month we host two coffeehouses. The Second Saturday Open Mic is well established and has a pretty good following. The Second Friday Open Mic for young adults is starting to gain popularity with the number of performers!

We could use your help...

Sign up sheets are posted in the Fellowship Hall. The Friday Open Mic could use chaperones and hosts (four people: 2 to put out beverages and snacks and 2 to simply watch)

We need people to provide snacks and beverages for the events.

We need people to take posters and put them in places where young people might see them.

We need people to talk to their friends, neighbors, family, and anyone who works in a school or music program.

It would be lovely to have different folks helping out each month so that no one HAS to do it EVERY month.

Friday, September 11th, 6-8 pm - YOUNG ADULTS This Open Mic is open to young adult performers, ages 12 and up. Anyone is welcome to attend. It would be fantastic to see members of our church supporting our young people. It takes a lot of courage to get up in front of people and perform.

ONE PLUS ONE

2026 Annual Summer

Kick-Off Cookout

Rain could not ruin the cookout.



One plus One is a mixed group of married and single adults, over age 21. We meet regularly for fellowship, which always involves food. Activities include a craft night, a game night, Christmas shopping for a family and more. The money earned goes into our treasury for our needy family expenses. New members are always welcome! Stay tuned for upcoming events this fall.

Janet Blair



Hello September!

It has been an incredibly busy and productive summer at Jack and Jill! Along with welcoming new students, offering tours, and running our summer preschool program, we have been hard at work preparing for the year ahead. Classrooms have been completely refreshed with new curriculum, new furniture, and redesigned classroom layouts to create engaging, inviting learning environments for our students. This year, we are especially grateful to welcome many new families from *For Pete's Sake Preschool* following its closure. We are honored to be able to support these children and families

while they find their new preschool home and are thankful that Jack and Jill could help meet this important community need.

Our classrooms are ready, our teachers are eager, and we can't wait to welcome both returning and new families back into the building. We are looking forward to another year filled with friendships, discovery, creativity, and joyful learning. Throughout the year, we will also have many exciting community events to share, and we look forward to making wonderful memories together.

Our teaching staff has returned, and we are excited to welcome three new educators to the Jack and Jill family: Jennifer Boisvert, Amanda Martel, and Leihla Cruz. We know they will be wonderful additions to our team, and we can't wait for our families to get to know them.

We are preparing for Playground Days during the first week of September. These special days provide children and families with a relaxed introduction to our school community while allowing teachers to begin building connections with their new students.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 8, 2026. We are so excited to welcome everyone back and begin another fantastic year at Jack and Jill Preschool. Thank you for your continued support.

Katrina Lay
Executive Director

Women's Fellowship

I hope everyone has had a great summer and got to enjoy some outdoor activities.

As the fall season approaches, we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Fair on November 7, 2026.

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. We will get you signed up! The hours for the fair are 9 am to 2 pm. Signups start on Sept. 20 at coffee hour, or you can call Sandy at 508-699-2738 or e-mail at sandrasaunders99@gmail.com.

We will be collecting surplus items, canning, knitting, crafting, jewelry,

books, puzzles, toys, collectibles, gently used Christmas decorations, and plants. Please start bringing your items in for Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Garage starting Oct. 4, 2026. Please put all items on/near the bench at the top of the stairs by the back door before entering Fellowship Hall. Also, if you have something you would like to donate to a silent auction, please write a note on the item, saying the value, and a possible starting bid. Please bring in plants, canning, knitting, and craft items the week of the Fair.

Please no big furniture, tv's or electronics.

If you have any questions, please ask Sandy or Fred Saunders.

Thank you for your help. See you soon!

Sandy Saunders
Treasurer

sandrasaunders99@gmail.com
508-699-2738

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PSM will meet on Monday September 21st at 2:00 p.m. 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

Music Notes

Choir Schedules

We always begin our choir season right after Labor Day, which this year is as late as it can be, on September 7th. Our first rehearsals will be Thursday, September 10th (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 13th) 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.

Many thanks . . .

...to those who graced us with summer music: Cathy Giannetti and Jordan Holsapple on August 9th; Tara Tetreault and Jordan on August 16th; members of

the Praise Band (Glenn Weidner, Joe Nuovo and Tara) on August 23rd ; and members of the Bell Choir on September 6th .

An Invitation to New Choir Members

There's always more room 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. Music for the fall and Advent seasons 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.

Renovations to the Sound System

Many "behind-the-scenes" components of our audio system are 20-25 years old. (For comparison's sake: Is your TV 25 years old? For that matter, is your toaster oven that old? When did you get your current Android or Apple phone?). In the last quarter century, the world has moved from analog to digital and so has audio equipment.

Over the summer, the music committee has undertaken an initiative, spearheaded by Jordan Holsapple and David Renoni, to clear our system of unused, malfunctioning, or non-functioning components and replace them with modern counterparts. This includes the basis of the system, the soundboard/mixer, where signals from all the input devices (e.g., stand mics and wireless mics) are routed to in-house loudspeakers or to the online streaming equipment.

Recently, and after a lot(!) of preparation, David installed a new digital mixing board. Besides the usual routing tasks, it has the capability to

adjust audio levels from a laptop or tablet, in real time, from out in the sanctuary. It can also "remember" and recall different "scenes" (e.g., the normal Sunday morning setup, or ones for specific concerts, events, or special worship services).

We used the new soundboard for the first time on Sunday morning, August 23. Over the next few weeks, we will be refining and optimizing audio levels in the sanctuary, in the online stream, and through the hearing-assist devices. Finally, a word of caution to those who might be tempted: Please do not touch any settings on the new board! At this point, David is the only one who understands it all. In the past, I've handled a lot of audio setups and emergencies, but, right now, even I am still in the learning stage.

*Bill MacPherson
Director of Music*

Intergenerational Sacred Dance

Sacred Dance practices will resume in October. 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 diane.osborne713@gmail.com.

Hope to see you then!

Diane Osborne

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

The Outreach and Missions team has begun to get ready for the year ahead. Heather Carey reports that the recent "Back to School" community event in which our church participated was very successful with many children finding school supplies and snacks on our table. The praise band was very popular and because of their performance many young folks showed an interest in our youth coffee house.

Last June we decided that one of our early projects will be to compile and

distribute a list of the many resources in the area that can be useful to our members and friends.

And speaking of helping in the community, here is an update on the Thermitus family, whom members of O & M have been assisting for over a year now. Our help has taken the form of assistance in navigating through various administrative processes that can be quite bewildering if they are new to you: figuring out health insurance processes, paying bills, learning language, helping with job applications and rental housing details, discovering local resources, transportation, and more.

Also in September: the Empty Bowls Attleboro Area 2026 Event will be on **September 19 at the Newell Shelter in Capron Park, Attleboro**. For the past two years donations from this very successful program have enabled our food pantry to better serve the growing number of people who benefit from assistance with food security. We encourage our church members and friends to buy tickets for this event (and choose from 1000 beautiful hand-made bowls)! Here's the link: <https://emptybowlsattleboro.com/>

After a one-month hiatus, Crafternoon will return on Friday, September 11 at 2:30. All are especially welcome as we begin to "gear up" for our Church Fair.

Outreach and Missions will hold its September meeting on September 13 at 8:30 am in the conference room.

Paula Foresman

MARKETING

Is there an Apostle in the house?

The Marketing Committee (sounds like we're selling something?) used to be the Advertising Committee (shades of "Mad Men"?). We don't sell anything, of course, and print newspaper ads are few and far between these days. What we DO is to use digital media to spread the word about Second Church activities, and about our wonderful faith community and Sunday services.

This fall we are looking for folks to join

or to assist the committee. This involves computer work, but is not particularly technical or difficult, and it is all web-based, so no special equipment or software is required. From week to week and month to month this takes the form of creating announcements in words and graphics, and posting this news on the church website and on Facebook and Instagram, etc. Here's a collage showing 4 examples of the simple graphics we produce using Adobe Express:



If you have expertise in the area of internet graphics (Adobe Express or Canva and the like) and social media or web hosting, but a long term commitment doesn't work for you right now, know that a proposal has been made in Church Council to form a temporary ad hoc group to review the content of the current website with an eye to refreshing and simplifying it, and also a parallel effort to simplify the underlying software hosting our website and to consider options for simplified website design tools.

If you can help the church to reach out, please contact a member of the committee. And THANK YOU!

-- Michael Touloumtzis, for the committee: Bill MacPherson, Diane Osborne, Tara Tetreault

Christian Education

Greetings and hope you had a wonderful summer! Sunday School will kick off on Rally Day September 13th. 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. We are also looking for a few additional volunteers who can assist in the Sunday School classroom and the Nursery. If you are interested, please let me know or join our CE Committee Meeting on October 11th for more information.

Rally Day: Sunday September 13th

On Rally Day families can register for Sunday School 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 or back to school style and join us for hot dogs, salad, and some of our favorite summer treats. If you would like to lend a hand with food prep, please let us know.

Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday September 20th

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, pin, 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 – Uno & Pizza Night: Saturday October 17th

We had so much fun at our first UNO night last fall that we are bringing it back with even more fun! Take a night off from cooking and enjoy some pizza with us beginning at 6pm. Even if you've never played UNO before we hope you'll join us for this free, all ages evening of fun & fellowship! Please look out at Coffee Hour for the sign-up

sheet so you can let us know you're coming, any dietary restrictions, and what your favorite pizza toppings are. 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

COMMUNION VISITATION TEAM

The Communion Visitation Team will meet on Wednesday September 23rd at 10 a.m. The 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, and Marcia Weidner, who are part of the team.

Prayer Workshop

The week of September 14th we will be holding a **Prayer Workshop** at the Second Congregational Church. The workshop will consist of **three** sessions and will be moderated by Jim Flaxington.

The **First Session** will be classroom style. We will explore:

- (1) What Prayer is
- (2) What the basic themes (reasons) of prayer are
- (3) What methods can be used for prayer.

We will explore **11 different ways** to Pray.

The First Session will be held on **two different nights**, Tuesday the 15th or Wednesday the 16th, to accommodate peoples' schedules from 6 – 7 PM. These meetings will be held in the Conference Room.

In the **Second Session**, we will experience the first 5 methods and actually experience them together and answer any questions folks may have.

We will meet on Wednesday, the 23rd, 6-7 PM in the Sanctuary.

The **Third Session** will have us experiencing the remaining methods together and discussing any questions or thoughts folks may have. The date will be Wednesday, the 30th, 6-7 PM in the Sanctuary.

All dates will be published in the weekly Church Bulletins. **ALL** are welcome to join us.

As with any relationship, communication in some regular form is essential. Otherwise, people can drift away from each other and the relationship fails to grow and may even fade away. The same is true of our relationship with Jesus/God. And even if we have been praying for many years it is never too late to learn new forms. Some may actually be comfortable to us and can become a new, refreshing way to pray. A new way to enhance our relationship with Jesus/God.

WE MAY ALSO LOOK TO BEGIN A ONCE-A-MONTH EVENING PRAYER in which the various methods of prayer will be used. If this is received with interest, it would be called EVENSONG.

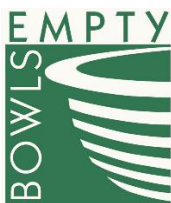
Jim Flaxington

COMMUNITY NOTES

First Baptist Church



**Saturday, September 19th,
8am to 1pm**



The Empty Bowls 2026 event is almost here! You have an opportunity to fight hunger by purchasing a \$25 ticket for this event on Saturday, Sept. 19th, at the Newell Shelter in Capron

Park.

Each ticket purchase includes a ceramic bowl, a soup to go from Morin's 1911 or Russell Morin Catering, and a coupon for an ice cream cone at Bliss Bros. Dairy. Funds raised by this annual event are distributed to Attleboro organizations fighting food insecurity (including our own Second Church food pantry). For more info or to purchase a ticket, please use this link: <https://emptybowlsattleboro.com>



- 4 Leanne Gunn
- 5 Ray Guild
Marsha Richardson
- 6 Michael LaClair
Joe Nuovo
Russ L 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



Tuesday: 8- 9:30 at the church, 9:30 to 11 at the Burgundian

Wednesday & Thursday: 8 – 11 am, at the church

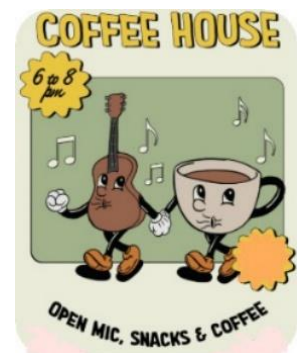
Rev. Will is available most times. If you would like a visit please contact Rev. Will or the Office and an appointment can be arranged. Thank you.



Friday September 11th at 2:30pm



**Youth (12-22yr)
Friday September 11th
6 – 8 pm**



**All Ages
Saturday September 12th
6 – 8 pm**



Second Congregational Church Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 J&J Family Playground Days 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting	2 J&J Family Playground Days 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	3 J&J Family Playground Days	4 No School Jack & Jill	5
6 10:00 AM Worship/Communion	7	8 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:00 PM OP Practice	9 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	10 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	11 2:30 PM Color Our World 2:30 PM Crafternoon 6:00 PM Young Adult Open Mic	12 6:00 PM Coffee House & Open Mic
13 RALLY DAY 8:30 AM O&M Committee Meeting 9:30 AM Sunday School Registration 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School Kick-Off 11:00 AM Rally Day Celebration	14	15 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Workshop Introduction 1 7:00 PM OP Practice	16 6:00 PM Prayer Workshop Introduction 2 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	17 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	18	19 11:00 AM Empty Bowls at Capron Park
20 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School - Blessing of the Backpacks	21 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	22 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:00 PM Administrative Committee Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM OP Practice	23 Next Month's Voice Deadline 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Workshop Session 2 6:00 PM Board of Deacons Meeting Zoom 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting 7:00 PM PFLAG MEETING	24 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 10:00 AM Worship Sunday School 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	28 3:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 5:00 PM Rock Voices Rehearsal	29 6:00 PM Troop 34 Meeting 7:00 PM OP Practice	30 6:00 PM Prayer Workshop Session 3 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting			