

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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Attleboro, MA 02703

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June 2018



**ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING
JUNE 10, 2018, 11:15 AM**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
JUNE 10, 2018, 10:00 AM**

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC

Reverend F. Vernon Wright V, Minister ruachwrights@msn.com

William A. MacPherson, PhD., Director of Music

Kara Lehane, Executive Director, Jack & Jill School – 508-222-1149
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Amie K. McCarthy, Director of Christian Education

Fred Saunders, Administrative Assistant / Curator

BSA Charter Organization Representative, c: 508-918-0123

Jack Baptist, Sexton

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THE VOICE

*We seek to be a church of the open mind, the warm heart,
the aspiring soul and a vision for God's world.*

A monthly newsletter

June, 2018

Outreach & Missions	Women's Fellowship	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Admin Committee	Women's Spirituality Group	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER'S MUSE

How to Let God In and Let Go of Stress

We consent to God's presence, letting God decide what he wants us to do. God seems to want to find out what it is like to live human life in us, and each of us is the only person who can ever give him that joy. Hence our dignity is incomparable. We are invited to give God the chance to experience God in our humanity, in our difficulties, in our weaknesses, in our addictions, in our sins. Jesus chose to be part of everyone's life experience, whatever that is, and to raise everyone up to divine union. (Thomas Keating, The Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit)

The United States is one of the most stressed, industrialized nations on the globe. Parents agonize about which parental philosophy to follow, and wonder which pre-schools will better prepare their super-competitor-to-be for Harvard. Long work hours, decreasing job stability, increasing debt loads, and costly healthcare have many of us pulling out our hair. Though the political realm is important, I believe that the ultimate source of all this stress is bad theology.

We have neglected and misinterpreted an important concept; all through the Jewish and Christian Bible we find the idea of repentance. Unfortunately this word has been screamed at us by so many shrill preachers we immediately cringe each time we encounter the word. Furthermore, repentance is a concept that resonates with the worst experiences of our parents when we were bent over their knees, being told in no uncertain terms that we had better shape up and conform to the standard of our ultimate boss. Bad teaching about God and the idea of repentance has made us fundamentally afraid of God, and this makes us stressed out at our core. Be perfect or face the wrath! However, the Hebrew for repentance "teshuvah" does not have anything to do with self flagellation, trying to be perfect, or delving into the bad news mentality of fear. Repentance simply means to turn to the love of God.

Father Thomas Keating, the Cistercian founder of the Centering Prayer movement, a practice I engage every day, calls this turning to God "consenting to God's presence" in the nitty-gritty of what it means to be a human being. When he says that we are invited to share with God our inner addictions and sins, we are doing so not to become judged or condemned, but to "one" these difficult parts of ourselves with a curious, interested and loving God. We have to trust God's power when God does visit the fullness of who we are. When we experience God in our failings we develop greater mindfulness. When we develop greater mindfulness we become much wiser in our actions. Soon we find ourselves asking the questions that really matter: "Am I shopping because I really need this item, or am I shopping to distract myself from emotional pain. Am I entering this relationship out of respect for myself, the covenant that already exists, and true love for the other person, or am I entering this relationship to cover over a sense of existential dread. Is my political involvement about making my nation a stronger more compassionate place, or is it about being on the "winning team." This to me is a very radical understanding of what having a relationship with the divine means.

Like Jonah in the belly of the whale, we spend our stressed days running from God. We get on our knees and pray each day “God please make me perfect... and make this world perfect while you’re at it”, instead of inviting God into the places we feel are not perfect. Ninety percent of our sin lies in the perception of our sin; for our perception that God is somehow far away from our sin is what draws us over and over again to its darkness. What happens when, true to the real meaning of the word repentance, we turn and embrace the God that was always there? Instead of running from who we are, we become more mindful and gentle with the truth of who we are. We find that our failings are not the tombs we imagined but the doors to the bigger brightness of the all. Our stressed out mentality ends the moment we consent to God’s presence in the fullness of our lives.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

JUNE 3

Communion Sunday

“Of a More Gracious Loyalty”

Mark 2:23-3:6

Jesus stood on the shoulders of Pharisaic giants; theirs was the radical idea that by conducting one's life in accordance with mosaic laws, one could have a righteous life regardless of who controlled the Holy Temple. But like everything, that which holds people together can be taken to excess. As we examine Jesus’ response to the Pharisees we explore how we might embrace a more gracious, less bellicose, loyalty.

JUNE 9

Contemporary Service, 7:00 pm

JUNE 10

Children’s Sunday

Annual Corporate Meeting

Pat Richards’ Memorial Service

Romans 12:9-12

Worship will be led by the Sunday School and Youth Group. The service is sure to be dynamic and fun. Join us! Worship service will be followed by the annual corporate meeting, which will, in turn, be followed by Pat Richards’ memorial.

JUNE 17

Acts 2:1-21

Father’s Day

“The Privilege of Fatherhood”

Scripture: TBA

JUNE 23

Contemporary Service, 7:00 pm

JUNE 24

“Living With Courage

in the Face of the Deep”

Mark 4:35-41

This Sunday’s scripture about Jesus rebuking the storm at sea encourages us to be a little less literal and a little more metaphorical with our approach. To the ancients the sea was the presence of a chaos monster. What does the word

made flesh say to this encounter? Each of us has had an experience of “the Deep” and each of us knows the difference between meeting the challenge faithfully or unfaithfully.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Contact any Deacon if you are interested in being a liturgist or usher on a Sunday or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We’d love to have your help. Call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 and let him know if you need a lift.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

We want to thank EVERYONE for participating in and attending the events of the past month. While final numbers are not quite ready yet, we know that attendance was up at the May Breakfast. We had a lot of support in hosting the OP/Organ Concert for the Music Committee and Oure Pleasure Singers. Finally, it looks like our Yard Sale proceeds may be significantly higher than most previous editions of that event. In addition to contributing a significant portion of our annual revenue to the General Fund of the church, Women’s Fellowship contributes to O&M and other causes, and provides funding for various repairs and upgrades throughout our beautiful and useful church home.

Throughout the summer, as you are planning your time for the coming year, please add plans to help host a coffee hour or three and give me a call or send me a note and I will schedule it for you.

508-699-2738,

sandrasaunders99@gmail.com.

Enjoy your summer!

Thank you,

Sandy Saunders

ONE PLUS ONE

One plus One is a group of adults who meet to share Christian fellowship. It is open to all members and friends of the congregation and is a great way to get to know new people and catch up with old friends. Everyone is welcome!

On June 23rd at 4 pm, One plus One will close out the first half of the year with its annual summer cook out at the majestic Blair homestead at 20 Orlando Lane in Attleboro. We ask you to donate a large appetizer, salad, veggie dish, or dessert. Bring your best stories, a comfy lawn chair, bug repellent and favorite beverage. Please contact me at colincb@aol.com or contact the office if you would like to join us and are not on our call list.

Colin Blair

WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Our last meeting of the year in June 18th. We will be studying Debra as our final Woman of the Bible. Please join us as we discuss how we would like next year to run and also learn more about this strong and devote woman of the bible. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at dparziale10@gmail.com or 508-813-6688.

Thank you.

Deb Parziale

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, June 11th at 12:30 in the Ladies’ Parlor. Shawls continue to be of tremendous comfort to individuals experiencing a loss, illness or other traumatic event in their lives. New members are always welcome. We will teach you the ropes. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Roberta Ferguson

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR SCHEDULES

Bell Choir has finished its current season, and rehearsals will begin again right after Labor Day. Perhaps we can organize an impromptu bell group for one or two Sundays during the summer (??).

Thursday rehearsals have ended for the Adult Choir. The choir will continue to sing through June – but not in the worship service on June 10th, Children’s Sunday. We will gather for warm-up and rehearsal at the usual time of 9:10. I will choose familiar pieces from our repertoire and be prepared with alternatives, depending on attendance within the four vocal sections.

If you’re an occasional singer, a former member, or someone who’s always wanted to try singing with the choir, you are most welcome to join us in June. Just come at 9:10 am on June 3rd, 17th and/or 24th!

News about the Organ Restoration

The Organ Restoration Fund

The Music Committee is extremely grateful to the members and friends of our church, as well as to the OP Singers and Dr. Bill MacPherson for the May 5th benefit concert. We have now received contributions and pledges of over \$60,000! This will enable us to proceed with the restoration work by the Andover Organ Company. But it is never too late to contribute to this effort! The work presently being done will not be all that is needed, and eventually more areas of the organ will need repair and/or replacement, up-dating and tuning. We are certainly blessed to have such a fine instrument available for services and performances, and it is an investment in our future to restore and maintain it! *Thank you, Wendy Oliver*

Organ Repairs

Work on the organ has already begun! A week before the concert by Oure Pleasure, the church’s electrician, Glen Boivin, rewired supporting circuitry for new solid-state, filtered power supplies that were then installed by technicians from Andover. The power output from the original, 50-year-old equipment would not have been stable and clean enough for the modern electronic

components that will be installed as part of the overall renovation.

Later that same week, Andover installed the first of these new components, an electronic servo-motor to operate the shutters on the front of the swell box. (I know we’re getting slightly technical here, but it might be of interest to realize that, besides almost 2400 pipes, there are a lot of moving parts behind the organ screen!) The Swell division is the set of pipes associated with the top keyboard on the organ. These 781 pipes are enclosed in a small “room” (the “swell box”) about the size of a walk-in closet. On the front wall of the “room” are large, vertical, wooden shutters that open and close gradually, operated by a pedal on the console (one of the ones that looks like the gas pedal on a car).

This is the only division of the organ that can be made gradually louder or softer, by opening and closing the shutters. Individual pipes cannot crescendo and decrescendo; they’re always at a constant volume. So the swell enclosure and the shutters provide this effect, which is important to the expressivity of the instrument. The old swell-shutter mechanism had broken down (years ago!), and the opening and closing was clunky and jerky. The new motor solves the issues of noise, smoothness, and reliability.

Within the next few weeks we will be signing a contract for the remainder of the work, which will happen in stages over the next year and a half. During this time, parts of the organ will be temporarily out of service. For example, I might be able to use only one or two keyboards, instead of all four (counting the pedal keyboard). Work that disrupts the instrument in this way will be done mostly during the next two summers, when the organ is not needed as much.

I want to thank our electrician, Glen, and Craig and Jon from Andover for their speedy and well-coordinated work on the power supplies and swell shutters. I was able to use the new swell mechanism, to good effect, for the first time during the concert on May 5th. (It’s sooo luxuriously smooth – like buttah!). Thanks also to the Music Committee and the Marketing Committee for

concert planning and publicity; we had a great audience that included many from the wider community. Wendy and Charlie Oliver, Fred Saunders and Claudette Newport took on many projects behind the scenes, including preparing and printing the concert program, sending out invitations to donate to the restoration fund, and acknowledging the donations. The members of Oure Pleasure, their director, Christophe Heidbreder, and other volunteer choral singers threw themselves enthusiastically into the many rehearsals and into the performance itself. And, of course, I want to thank the many donors to the fund. Your generosity has made the restoration plans a reality.

Bill MacPherson.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2018 Pledge Receipts

Pledge receipts are below budget projections for 2018. While we were tracking well for the first two months of the year, the 4 Nor’easters we had in March affected pledge receipts. We encourage you to please look at your pledge giving this year and get back on track if you are behind.

Did You Know?

Amazon.com shoppers can help raise funds for Second Church by using Amazon Smile and designating Second Congregational Church of Attleboro as your charity to receive donations. By so doing, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to the Church. A direct link to the Church’s page can be found below where you can log on using your Amazon sign-in information. At that page, you can also learn more about the Amazon Smile program by selecting the link “Learn more about Amazon Smile.”

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2137237>

*Submitted by Colin Blair
for the Administration Committee.*



Children's Sunday is June 10, 2018!

Please join us as we celebrate our children and all the volunteers that have help in our Sunday School and Youth Group program this year.

The Christen Education Committee would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that helped us out this year. Without the support from all of you our program would not be the same.

As we come to the end of the 2017-2018 school year, we would like to remind everyone that the C.E. Committee will need help from every member of the Second Church Family next year. If you are interested in volunteering in the Sunday School and Youth Group program please speak to Diane Osborne or Keith Priesing for more information.

*Sincerely,
The Christian Education Committee
Amie K. McCarthy*

It is with many mixed emotions that I take this last opportunity to say thank you to the entire community for working with me throughout the past 8 years as your Christian education director. While I will still be a member of Second Church and remain your Member in Discernment, I will miss working with the leadership of Second Church to revision our church. Second Church is a blessed community and I have deep faith that when the time is right a new Christian Education Director will be called to help continue walking the faith journey of the entire Second Family.

I look forward to worshipping with all of you.

*Peace and Love,
Amie K. McCarthy*

The Food Pantry distributed bags of food to 16 families on May 21st. Always keep the food pantry in mind when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is June 25th. (the Fourth Monday of the month, 4-6 pm). Here are some suggestions: spaghetti sauce, canned Ravioli and Beef-A-Roni, dry cereals (especially children's), rice, real fruit juices, tuna, peanut butter, hearty soups, toiletries, detergent, and bathroom tissue are always welcome. Drop these off in the Ladies Parlor each Sunday or in the kitchen during office hours. Contact: Betsy Pray, rlpbpp@verizon.net.

Knitters, our Baby Cocoon and Hat project will continue indefinitely. These items are sent to World Vision, which circulates them around the world where needed. We recently sent off our first batch. Details and knitting instructions are available in the Narthex, where there is also a collection basket for finished projects. Thank you!

The City's Expo for the Senses is scheduled for August 18th from Noon until 5:00pm. O&M will be selling its strawberry shortcake at this event again this year. We may also be doing this at the City's Fourth of July Fireworks, planned for July 3rd. Please pitch in when we ask for volunteers. Remember that this is a fun way to increase our budget and accomplish greater outreach.

June is Pride Month. The Boston Pride Parade will be held on Saturday, June 9th. Please show your pride and consider joining with others from 2nd Church who will be marching. We march with other Massachusetts UCC open and affirming churches. Please contact Joe or Dianne Ordog for details and for sign-up; jordog555@yahoo.com. If you have never done this, it is always a fun and utterly fabulous time! Also, Providence PrideFest takes place on June 16th. Laurie Sawyer from the Mayor's Human Rights Commission reports that the City will begin to fly the Rainbow Flag at a ceremony at 6 pm on June 8th at City Hall. Please join others from Second Church and the community.

The next Family Café will be **Wednesday, June 13th** in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash pots & pans are needed anytime between 4-6 p.m. O&M recently donated a new feather flag for our front lawn to increase awareness of our Café.

The next Outreach & Missions meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 3rd** at 11:15 am in the Ladies Parlor.

Charlie Oliver, for the committee

Behavioral Covenant

*Adopted by Second Church in 2003
Under the Walking in the Way project*

We will treat each other with **love of Christ**.

We will **listen carefully** to another person, without interrupting.

We will recognize and **respect opinions different than our own**, listening to understand, but not necessarily agreeing.

We will **be truthful and direct** in our communications, speaking respectfully with candor about **our own feelings and thoughts, not those of another**.

We will **intentionally affirm the positive** in communicating with one another.

We will agree on a process and, in covenant, we will all work together as the Body of Christ to use the process to work toward an outcome, implementing our conclusions with action.



We are very busy wrapping up another wonderful year of memory making below the stairs. ☺

This month I would like to highlight the amazing portfolios that the teachers create for EACH child at the end of the school year. Over the course of the year, the teachers collect work samples in the form of drawings, paintings and photographs in order to create a "memory book" which we bind and gift to each child at the end of their school year. This is a true labor of love! I adore receiving texts from the teachers when they are working from their "command centers" long after school hours. They truly appreciate the visuals and reflection time that visualizes the growth of each child!

The teachers were celebrated in early May with a beautiful appreciation luncheon. The parents in our program worked together to host a yummy luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity to take a break and reflect on our year thus far.

The Dads will soon enjoy their event with their children. This year our Fun With Fathers Event will be held at Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary. The children and their fathers will enjoy a guide-led hike on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:00 PM

We are graduating 25 children from our program this year. Our commencement exercises will take place on THURSDAY JUNE 7th. Admission price is one canned good to support the Second Congregational Church's food pantry.

We are offering 2 weeks of summer camp this summer. Week One is entitled "Gardening Galore" and Week Two is "STEAM Camp"

We will also be offering a Kindergarten Readiness Camp from 8/21-8/24 for children who have graduated from our program and are headed off to Kindergarten in the Fall. The

curriculum will include a review of K readiness skills and experiences with some of the things they will be doing in the Fall. We do accept children who have not been a part of our program for the K Camp if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Our 70th Anniversary Celebration is shaping up and we are looking forward to a fun filled day with many guests! Please plan to join us on Saturday June 23rd from 10-2. Our special entertainment – Tony Vacca - will be performing between the 1 and 2 hour in Fellowship Hall! This performance was made possible by the Attleboro Cultural Council!

NEW CLASSROOM for the 2018-2019 academic year. We are happy to report the opening of a 4th classroom, a second Pre-K classroom, Monday to Thursday mornings for the next school year. The classroom is staffed and shaping up nicely. Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped us paint as well as Fred Saunders and Jack Baptist for all of their extra help making this dream become a reality!

We do have limited openings available in our programs for the fall so please, send your friends our way. I can be reached at jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org or 508-222-1149 or for a tour of the program.

Warmly, Kara Lehane

NOTICE FOR OP FANS!

(CURRENT AND FUTURE)

Oure Pleasure Singers have had a busy season under the direction of Christophe Heidbreder. In addition to the benefit for the church organ restoration, OP participated in the February taping of the fourth season of WGBH's "SING THAT THING". As many of you know, we **WON** the Adult Group division for the season. You can check out our performances on episode 5 and the finale on their website and their Facebook page. Check out the series. It was fun doing season 3 last year (you can watch that on their website too) and even more fun the second time around. **CHECK IT OUT!**



AND EVEN MORE FUN! The award-winning Oure Pleasure has been selected to sing the National Anthem for the Pawtucket Red Sox at McCoy Stadium on Friday evening, June 22nd. We'd love to see you there!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

June Birthdays

- 2 Mike Cotsalas
- 3 Derek Hall
- 4 Rebecca Minville
Annabella Minville
Andrew Minville
Ray Turcotte
- 5 Julia Bozzi
Rob Krauth
Nick Vecchioli
- 8 Alexis Ladner
Michelle Minville
- 9 Ashley Keith
- 10 Jay Miller, Sr.
Gloria Walsh
- 11 Jessica Priesing
- 12 David Bliss
- 15 David Broden
- 18 Ann Haskel
Deb Hawes
Kristin Keith
- 19 Bob Bliss
- 20 Karen Girczyc
Dave Webb
- 22 Audrey Deavellar
- 24 Laura Hauerwas
Nicole Mernin
- 25 Eleanor Woodward
- 26 Dianne Ordog
- 28 Bette Renoni
- 30 Bob Follett
Chuck Opdycke

July Birthdays

- 5 Sheila McKenna
- 6 Arianna West
- 7 Lyra Osborne
- 9 Dee Sawyer
Barb Withers
- 10 Sharon Reiley
- 12 Owen Wright
- 13 Kaitlyn Slaney
- 14 Diane Robinson
- 17 Dick Sager
- 18 Sue Costello
Lorraine Frye
Jackson Laramee
- 19 Jen Turcotte
- 20 Dave Ramsay
Lisa Vecchioli
- 22 Bob Withers
- 24 George Freeman
Molly Kay
- 26 Lynne Case
- 27 Claudette Newport
- 29 Paula Foresman
David Vecchioli
- 30 Stacey Alsfeld
Lynne Holden
Janda Nuovo

August Birthdays

- 1 Dave Lunt
Maria Smith
Roberta Zarrella
- 2 Brynn Wright
- 4 Laila Brodeur
Anne Reiley
- 5 Tina Middleton
Jackie Sampson
- 6 Phyllis LaMay
- 7 Brett Lancaster
Ty Waterman
- 8 Trinity West
Kat Wright
- 9 Amanda Deavellar
Elizabeth Griffin
- 10 Cathy LaPorte-Jewett
- 11 Joel Bozzi
- 12 Mark Bassler
Mason Bourdeau
Gary Middleton
- 13 Russell Deavellar
Barbara Massey
Paul Slaney
- 17 Susan Brown
- 18 Curtis Robinson
- 19 Debbie Smith
- 21 Jeff Keane
Kathy Morton
- 22 Wilma Johnson
Hank Reiley
- 23 Jeannine Sousa
- 24 Gail Cupp
Bowie Lancaster
- 25 Alex Brown
Madi Saunders
- 26 Kena DiBastiani
Elaine Killough
Wendy Oliver
- 30 Paige Reiley



J U N E 2 0 1 8

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	4 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	5	6 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	7 5:00 PM Jack & Jill School Graduation 7:00 PM In-Care Committee Meeting	8	9 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
10 Children's Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Annual Corporate Meeting	11 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	12 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting	13 1:30 PM Trustees Meeting 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM Worship	18 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting	19 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	20 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	21	22 7:00 PM Oure Pleasure Singers at the PAWSOX Game	23 Jack & Jill 70th Anniversary Celebration! 7:00 PM Contemporary Worship
24 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting 2:00 PM Somerby Service	25 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution	26	27	28	29	30