

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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Attleboro, MA 02703

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November 2018



CHURCH FAIR!
THANKSGIVING IN THE KITCHEN
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARLOR
NOVEMBER 3RD, 9 AM-2 PM

BEYOND THE PIPES! - ORGAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
NOVEMBER 17TH, 4 PM

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC
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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

November, 2018

Outreach & Missions	Women’s Fellowship	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Admin Committee	Martha Circle	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER’S MUSE

FAITH IN GOODNESS IN THE EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY



I downloaded an app six months ago: Centering Prayer. In the midst of a busy life with three active children and numerous duties at Second Church, I have been using it every day. It’s a useful tool for anyone interested in Christian meditation; it has inspirational quotes, links to on- line libraries, and great singing bowl sounds to start and end your session. The past month or two of contemplative prayer have been focused on the words of a Trappist Monk, Thomas Keating.

“Our basic core of goodness is our true Self. Its center of gravity is God. The acceptance of our basic goodness is a quantum leap in the spiritual journey.” (Thomas Keating, “Guidelines for Christian Life, Growth and Transformation #2,” Open Mind, Open Heart).

Our basic core of goodness is that uncomplicated, optimistic, buoyant part of ourselves we first encountered in early childhood. In my mind’s eye, it is that three foot tall person tromping after my mother through a forest glade when she was in a good mood. It sees clearly, attentively, willingly, lovingly. It is not afraid. It is the voice of God that says to Christ in baptism, “This is my son, my beloved with whom I am well pleased.”

It is the grace Christ won at the cross. It is God’s sentiment expressed in Genesis, “And God saw that it was good.” And most importantly, it enables me to see other people, no matter how different they are from me, as good.

As a student of world religions, this belief in the fundamental goodness of creation is truly remarkable. It is the force that enables people to do the radical act of advocating for the unpopular and end institutional evils like slavery and the subjugation of women in the last centuries of our nation.

True, this is not the only face of Christianity. Indeed the branches of Christianity that seem to be on the rise in our nation today are the most judgmental strains. In the early years, there were many “fire and brimstone” preachers in our own tradition.

But the Congregational tradition I represent today is deeply shaped by the second famous generation of the Beecher family, namely Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) and her brother, the most famous preacher of his age Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887). In sharp contrast to their famous minister father Lyman Beecher, Harriet and her brother strongly believed that God is not about sin but love. They believed it was the Christian duty of each individual to engage their democracy to create a more just and compassionate society in God’s image. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and Henry Ward Beecher rallied the North to fight the Civil War for the cause of abolition through his influential pulpits and speaking tours. They also became committed suffragists after the war.

As we look at this democracy of ours today, how do our voting choices affirm the goodness of our fellow human beings, however they see themselves? Is our democracy aiding our basic goodness? How respectfully do we engage those on the other side of the

political aisle? How are we treating our immigrants, our minorities, our LGBTQ neighbors, our workers, our industries, our planet? As we deeply consider questions like these, we may find that we weave between and beyond party lines. Are we prepared to talk to our representatives on every level of the government about our concerns? Are we prepared to talk to our neighbors?

A good question is better than ten good answers. Even so, I believe that a people of faith must engage in the goodness at the heart of all things through our democracy.
Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

NOVEMBER 4

**A Service for the “Saints”
“Celebrating Their Lives”**

John 11:32-34

For this service we would ask you to bring a picture of a departed loved one. During worship there will be a time for you to place your picture on or around the altar. The scripture describes Jesus’ resurrecting love for Lazarus. The sermon may explore how our love can resurrect promise.

Also don’t forget to turn your clocks back an hour! Daylight savings ends.

NOVEMBER 11

“Making a Stronger Community”

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17, Mark: 12:38-44

The problem with community is that there is always a measure of anxiety. We have to be able to believe in one another. But in order for this to be possible we have to look to a deeper level. The scripture in Ruth and Mark has to do with trusting that God will take care of us. This deeper level of trust can make a community an inspiring home.

NOVEMBER 18

Thanksgiving Sunday

Joel 2:21-27

We give thanks this Sunday for the bounty and beneficence of creation.

NOVEMBER 25

Hanging of the Greens

Reign of Christ Sunday

“Once and Future Kingdom”

John 18:33-37

This Sunday is Reign of Christ Sunday. We will be exploring the theme of God’s wisdom in human society.

Hanging of the Greens!

All children, youth, and the young at heart are welcome to join our intergenerational sacred dancers to help us welcome in the Season of Advent! We will be rehearsing on Nov. 18th and 25th after worship and presenting in worship on Dec. 2nd. If you or your child is interested in participating please let me know at 508 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com.

Diane Osborne

BEYOND THE PIPES!

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication
of the Russell B. Richardson Memorial Organ
Saturday, November 17th at 4:00 pm*

*Have you ever wondered how an organ works?
Please join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary
of the dedication of our organ with a presentation
by Bill MacPherson that will include an up close experience
of how this magnificent instrument produces the sounds
that add so much to our worship each week.*

*Bill will also share some of the history of the organ
with visuals from our archives.*

*The Adult Choir and the Oure Pleasure Singers will combine their
talents to provide some special music for the program.*

*The plaque recognizing the donors to the Organ Restoration Fund will
also be presented. Light refreshments and a time for fellowship will
follow. Please join us and invite your friends to share this special event!*

BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacon this month is Pam Raskin. 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

THANKSGIVING IN THE KITCHEN

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARLOR

Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Our annual Church Fair is fast approaching – THIS WEEK! Please call the Church Office if you have a question about a donation you’d like to give. Items may be left inside the back door to Fellowship Hall on the stairs to the stage. Please complete any donations by October 30th.

For those of you canning/preserving your garden bounty (pickles, relishes, jams/jellies, etc.) over the summer, please consider making donations to Ruthie’s Pantry. Empty jars can be donated as well. Craft items and knit goods will also be graciously accepted.

We are preparing for another successful Silent Auction for our Fair this year and already have a varied selection. If you have a special item or talent that you think would work, please speak with Fred or Sandy Saunders.

Our annual Fair is an all-Church event and we need everyone’s help to make it successful. The BIG MOVE of Grandma’s Attic is October 28th at 6 pm! Please come help!

Women’s Fellowship Exec. Committee

ONE PLUS ONE

One Plus One is a group of adults who meet to share Christian fellowship. It is open to members and friends of the Church and is a great way to meet people and catch up with old friends. If you’d like to join with us this November, December, or any month contact me, or call the Church office so that we can add you to our 1+1 call list.

On November 3rd, 2018 we will gather at Nancy and Steve Smith’s home at 107 George Street, North Attleborough starting after 5:30 for our traditional post-Fair pizza party. \$6-7 per person will get you a selection of pizza ranging from anchovies to traditional favorites. Soda will be provided, but BYOB. Let me or your 1+1 caller know whether

you'll be bringing a salad, appetizer, or dessert and please get back to us by Wednesday night, 10/31 so that we can have a head count and put our pizza orders in.

Also, please mark your calendars for our Christmas party at Joyce and Ted Moxham's home in Attleboro on the evening of December 8, 2018. Details will be forthcoming in December's Voice. We are also researching a number of things for 2019 including plays, musicals, cookouts, and gatherings to consume vittles and catch up with friends.

Colin Blair at colincb@aol.com or 508-226-5457.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet for our Christmas Luncheon in December. Please watch the December Voice for details. All women of the church are welcome. If anyone has any questions or needs a ride please contact Linda Wiswall or the church office.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, November 12th at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. Our ministry is approaching its one thousandth shawl since starting over 12 years ago. 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

The Adult Choir will sing on all the Sundays in November. In addition, they will join members of the Oure Pleasure Singers for a performance of Stopford's "O How Glorious" as part of the organ anniversary program on Saturday, November 17th, 4:00 pm. The Hand Bell Choir will play in church on Sunday, November 25th. There will be no rehearsal for either group on Thursday, November 22nd (Thanksgiving). Otherwise, rehearsals will be held at the regular Thursday times.

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Saturday, November 17th, 4:00 pm – A celebration of the 50th anniversary of the

organ. The program will include a demonstration of how the organ works, a joint musical selection by the Adult Choir and the Oure Pleasure Singers, organ solos by Bill, and recognition of donors to the organ renovation fund. See the article elsewhere in this edition of the VOICE.

Sunday, December 2nd, 10:00 am – The first Sunday in Advent; Hanging of the Greens. The Adult Choir and Hand Bell Choir will both participate in this worship service.

Sunday, December 2nd, 7:30 pm – Cole Memorial Chapel, Wheaton College. The annual Holiday Vespers Concert, featuring the Wheaton Chorale, Chamber Singers, and Bill MacPherson, College Organist.

Saturday, December 8th, 4:00 pm – The annual program of Christmas music by the Oure Pleasure Singers, here at Second Church.

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

All are welcome to join our Intergenerational Dance program as we continue practices Saturday Nov. 10th at 9am in the Sanctuary. Please note that we will have a week off on Nov. 3rd so that all may enjoy our wonderful fair. Whether you have classical dance training or just like to boogie on the dance floor we would love to have you join us. If you have any questions please let me know at (508) 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com.

Diane Osborne

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

At our September meeting Bill Bixby made a wonderful presentation about his wife's aunt, Frances Hersey Waldo who worked with the interned Japanese Americans in WWII and served in India. She helped open schools there. Bill would like to share copies of a book *Eyes that See*, written by her. What ministries would you like to get started? **Copies of the manuscript are available for loan from the Church Office.**

The Food Pantry distributed bags of food and some extra items to 22 families on October 22nd. Please remember the Food Pantry when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is on

November 19th (third Monday due to the holiday) 4-6 p.m. Spaghetti sauce, Chef Boyardee canned Ravioli and Beef-A-Roni, dry cereals (especially children's), rice, real fruit juices, tuna, hearty soups, jellies, toiletries, detergent, and bathroom tissue are always welcome. The drop-off site is in the Ladies Parlor with the Deacons each Sunday or in the kitchen during the week. Contact Betsey Pray, rlbpbpp@verizon.net with any questions.

The Family Café: 40 people were served on October 10th. The next Family Café will be held on Wednesday, November 14th in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers to set-up, prepare food, serve beverages, greet, work with children, clear tables, break down tables & chairs, or wash dishes are needed anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. Children's book donations, coloring books & crayons are greatly appreciated! Contact Linda Wiswall, wiswalllinda@gmail.com.

Thank you for your Neighbors in Need Mission
<http://www.ucc.org/nin/donations>.

Looking ahead to December, we contacted the Attleboro Interfaith Collaborative and inquired how we might support some of their efforts in the community. If you are a smart consumer and follow sales, please keep in mind that this year for our "Mitten Tree" we will be collecting new ADULT underwear in all sizes and styles. Please place your donations in individual festive gift bags with handles to hang on the tree in December.

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 18th at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.. Janet Blair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Many thanks to all who joined us for our first Family Fellowship of the year, apple picking at Steere Orchard! Please check out the wonderful display of photos in Fellowship Hall that Sue Janson put together to help us remember and share about this fun event.

Looking forward, our next Family Fellowship event will be at La Salette Shrine on December 15th at 5pm. We will meet by the pond side to share the wonder of the lights and some tasty s'mores. Please RSVP to 508 409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com by December 10th so that we can be sure to have enough supplies ready. There is no entrance fee for this event.

I have included some detail below about the lessons we will be sharing in Sunday School this month and some tips on how to continue the discussion with your kids at home. Please note that Nov. 4th will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience worship and Communion together. The nursery will be open for our friends 3 and under.

November 11th

Exodus 4: "Moses accepts God's call"

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story.* (1) Read Exodus 4:10-14. Why didn't Moses want to go to Pharaoh? (2) Moses said, "Send someone else." When have you wished to get out of something? Why? (3) Aaron helped Moses when Moses couldn't do the job alone. Tell about someone who helps you with difficult tasks.

Did you know? Ancient Egypt depended on the waters of the Nile. The southernmost headwaters of the Nile are in what African country? <Rwanda>

Prayer for the week: *God, give us courage to speak the truth in all situations. Amen.*

November 18th

Exodus 7:1-13 "Let my people go"

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story. For preschool children, use the "For families" page in the Early Childhood leaflet. (1) Read Exodus 10:3. What is humility? Why do you think Pharaoh refused to be humble? 2) Exodus 8:3 tells some places the frogs appeared. Hide stickers or notes of encouragement in some of those places. 3) Each plague gave Pharaoh a chance to do the right thing. When have you wanted another chance to do the right thing?

Did you know? Which of the plague insects was the smallest? <gnats, less than 1/8 in / 3 mm long>

Prayer for the week: *God, bring freedom to suffering people throughout the world. Amen.*

November 25th – December 23rd

We will be taking a journey through Advent with some special activities and volunteers. On Dec. 23rd we will be presenting an all ages pageant. Please let me know if you or your child is interested in participating.

We are always looking for volunteers in the classroom and the nursery. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact me at 508-409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com.

Diane Osborne

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2018 Pledge Receipts: While we were doing well for the first two months of the year, the four March Nor'easters adversely affected our pledge receipts. We finally got back on track and have met our 9 month budget for pledge receipts as of September 30th. Nonetheless, we need to finish the year strong and we encourage you to please look at your pledge giving for 2018 and catch up if you have fallen behind.

Thanks, Colin Blair

On behalf of the Administration Committee



Things are very busy at Jack and Jill! Teachers, students and families have all settled in beautifully and we are gearing up for my favorite month of the year – Literacy Month! Our kick-off event begins at our Fall Festival where parents will be invited to purchase books and write personal messages to their child or classroom teacher! The books will be delivered to the classrooms during the first full week of November! We will also be hosting our annual PJ Story Night on Tuesday, November 6th at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Our students will be invited to come to school in their pj's and enjoy a performance by nationally acclaimed puppeteer, Debbie Constine of Talking Hands Theater. We will then enjoy some cookies and milk together before they head home to bed! ☺

Our students are enjoying all the special opportunities we have arranged for them this year! We have monthly visits from Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary and music and movement with Mrs. Tuminelli. The Enrichment class is enjoying weekly visits from Sensei Michael of Louts Studios! And our Pre-K, Enrichment, and AM 4's class LOVE their weekly reading visits with Mr. Chuck!

Our four and five year old classes will also be busy preparing for their Friendship on Tuesday, November 20th. Each of the 4 year old classes will make a special snack to share: applesauce,

friendship mix, and popcorn. The teachers and children will gather to sing Thanksgiving songs and share in some time together! It is always a wonderful event!

We will be hosting our Fall Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 26th and look forward to having the opportunity to sit with parents and discuss the growth and development of their children.

May the month bring you many blessings! As always if you know of anyone looking for a pre-school placement, please encourage them to give us a call at 508-222-1149!

Warmly, Kara Lehane



November Birthdays

- 1 Joyce Guild
- 4 Jody Blais
- 5 Sue Lunt
- 6 Matt Girczyc
Sandra Lacasse
- 10 Kendall Hauerwas
- 11 Amanda Iocco
- 15 Todd Letendre
- 16 Nathan Brodeur
- 17 Steve Findley
- 18 Jen Melker
- 20 Christie Valverde
- 22 Louise Taft
Carl Valentine
Elana Valverde
- 24 Joyce Moxham
- 25 May Gowen
- 29 Pat Ramsay

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9:00 AM HOLIDAY FAIR!!!
4 Gathering Sunday 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:00 AM Worship / Communion	5 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	6	7 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	8 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
11 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting	12 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	13	14 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	15 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	16	17 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 4:00 PM BEYOND THE PIPES! Organ Anniversary Celebration
18 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal	19 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	20 December Voice Deadline 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	21 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day; Office is Closed</i>	23	24 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
25 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	26 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	27	28 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	29 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	30	

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