

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

50 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

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December 2018



**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: LA SALETTE, LIGHTS & S'MORES!
DECEMBER 15TH, 5:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 6:00 PM**

Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, UCC
Reverend F. Vernon Wright V, Minister ruachwrights@msn.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

December, 2018

Outreach & Missions	Women’s Fellowship	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Hanging of the Greens!	Martha Circle	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER’S MUSE

SUPPORTING “PEELIAN PRINCIPLES OF POLICING”



A favorite Hebrew Bible scholar once told me that the best translation for the Hebrew word Shalom, is not simply peace as in the absence of conflict, but “God’s hardworking, sometimes painful peace working itself out in creation.” The hare population balanced against the coyote population is God’s shalom. Shalom is also the democratic Allies bloody conflict with the Fascist Axis in WWII and the destruction of the concentration camps.

In this same way God’s hard working peace making process is at work in the way we police our communities in the United States. U.S. policing is shaped really by two very different forces. On the one hand there are the Peelian Principles, developed by Sir Robert Peel for the English police force in 1829 which had a significant impact on police academies. On the other was sheriff-controlled chain gangs rooted in the system of slavery in the United States.

In very simplified terms, Peelian Principles have to do with Police operating as servants of the public good utilizing public support to address problems before they arise as well as arresting those who break the law. For my grandfather Henry “Red” Keller who was

the Chief of Police in New Canaan Connecticut, Peelian principles inspired him to organize civic minded individuals in the town to build a YMCA. He thought, rightly, that more kids organized in sports means fewer kids creating trouble in the streets and winding up behind bars.

Chain Gang Policing is focused on rounding up “law breakers” and forcing them into state slavery in order to make things or build things. After the Civil War in the South, law breakers were usually black people who had violated curfew or broken segregation laws. These people of color manacled together building railroads in dangerous conditions without pay constituted a form of de facto slavery.

Though these laws have been for the most part reversed, there is a little of the “Chain Gang Theory” of law enforcement which remains each time stop and frisk policies are enforced, or people of color are charged with loitering because they are suspected of being in a gang. Moreover, in the burgeoning for-profit prison industry, we are once again seeing industry efforts to monetize prison labor to offset costs by developing prison factories. Chain gang policies can even influence school systems. Some school systems charge students with assault and other crimes for offenses that used to land people in the principal’s office. The unintended consequences of these kinds of policies is to have more children than necessary graduating with police records, which diminishes opportunity, and increases their likelihood of ending up in the prison system. This is called the schools-to-prisons pipeline.

In truth some of the chain gang mentality came naturally to the modern, automobile-based police force without people even

realizing it. Instead of having a police officer on a “beat” assigned to a particular neighborhood, developing relationships with the citizenry, police could afford to be more distant from the people they served and simply respond to 911 calls or traffic violations. Since racism is not usually conscious, communities of color can be targeted more often than white communities without officers even being aware that there could be an issue. Racial bias training is not always included at the police academy.

What does all of this have to do with faith? Communities of faith can do much to encourage and support beneficial proactive policing policies instead of solely focusing on reactive police policies. They can partner with the police and dialogue with them in order to develop the kind of consent and communication between police and the community Peelian principles require. Finally they can discourage heavy handed disconnected policing which is better left to the dustbin of ineffective and racist police policies of the chain gang.

In my opinion, police really are agents of God’s hardworking shalom. But they require the support of the community to recognize the goodness and light they provide and communicate the true issues on the ground that often lead to criminal problems in the first place.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

DECEMBER 2

First Sunday in Advent - Hope

Hanging of the Greens!

Living Life in the Awareness of God’s Full Power

Luke 21:25-36

Advent is the time to make the “roads straight”, to “turn to God”, to prepare “room in our hearts for God.” But it really is about living life in the awareness of God’s full power.

DECEMBER 9

Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

Contemporary Worship Sunday

This Sunday the sanctuary will be led by our Christmas praise band. Service will be less formal; the sermon will be shorter and more interactive. Come and enjoy a different format of worship.

DECEMBER 16

Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

Traditional Christmas Music Sunday

Come join us for worship as our Music Director William D. MacPherson leads us in a special musical Sunday.

DECEMBER 23

Fourth Sunday in Advent - Love

“The Full Aspiration of the Soul”

Luke 1:39-45

Mary sang that her soul would magnify the Lord. This service will examine the deepest yearning of the soul in the context of Christmas.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve, 6:00 pm

COME LET US ADORE HIM!

DECEMBER 30

First Sunday After Christmas

“Who is This Child?”

Luke 2:41-52

When Jesus grew older, his parents began to see certain signs that their child was not the same, that he even had certain gifts. Of course on some level

that is what happens to every parent? This sermon will examine what it means to see the divine in another.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacon this month is Ralph Giannetti. 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.

HELP IS NEEDED TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

Please call Ralph Giannetti at 508-226-4618 if you can pick someone up before and bring them home after church.

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

YMCA 5K IN MEMORY OF HELEN & OWEN JAMES

The Y is planning to revive the Healthy Kids Day 5K and dedicate it to Helen & Owen. A member of the organization has reached out to the church to gauge the interest of members in volunteering and participating in this event. Please speak with Fred in the office if you would like to get involved or need more information.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

THANKSGIVING IN THE KITCHEN CHRISTMAS IN THE PARLOR

Our Fair was a wonderful success with

an increase in gross sales of nearly 4% over last year. Many thanks to all who donated their time, talent and treasures to make this day of fellowship a great benefit to the general fund, Outreach & Missions, and projects we undertake and contribute to for the betterment of our church home.

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 all members and friends of the congregation and is a great way to get to know new people and catch up with old friends. If you’d like to join us in December or the New Year, contact me or call the Church office so we can add you to our 1+1 call list.

We will be holding our famous Christmas potluck dinner party on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 6 pm. “The Party” will be at Joyce and Ted Moxham’s home at 991 West Street in Attleboro. We are also researching things for 2019 including plays, musicals, cookouts, and gatherings (Super Bowl?!!) to consume vittles and catch up with friends.

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

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha circle will meet on **Monday, December 10th** at noon in Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas luncheon. Please bring a wrapped gift for the Yankee swap. All women of the church are welcome. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Linda Wiswall or the church office.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The PSM will meet on Monday, December 10th at 12:30 in the Ladies’ Parlor. Our ministry is passed 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 December 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and on Christmas Eve. They will not sing on December 9th when our Praise Group will be providing special music.

The Bell Choir will play in church on December 2nd (Hanging of the Greens) – just the traditional “O Come, Emmanuel,” for the dancers at the beginning of the service. They will also play on Christmas Eve (“He Is Born” and “Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”).

There will be no rehearsal for either group on Thursday, December 27th. Otherwise, rehearsals will be held at the regular Thursday times on the 6th, 13th, and 20th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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 – program of Advent music by the Oure Pleasure Singers, here at Second Church. Free will offering accepted and refreshments following.

MANY THANKS!

So many people came together to work on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our pipe organ on November 17th! A rousing success, if I do say so myself, with terrific coverage by the *Sun-Chronicle* on the following Monday. I want to make special mention of the Music Committee and Elaine Killough, its chair for sending out invitations, among other things; Linda Smith and Sandy Saunders for coordinating the reception; Claudette Newport, Jamie Reiley, and the Marketing Committee for creating and placing the newspaper ad; Wendy Oliver, for leading the fund-raising last spring; our Adult Choir,

along with John Totter and the Oure Pleasure Singers, for wonderful choral singing; and Fred Saunders for compiling and designing the printed program, which included beautiful photos of the organ by Charlie Oliver.

Bill MacPherson

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Many thanks to the dancers, the choir, and for all who were in worship on November 18th to witness our prayerful movement to *He Leadeth Me*. We will be taking a break from Saturday morning practices until the new year. 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

The Outreach and Missions Committee will be sponsoring a **Potluck Luncheon** immediately after church on **Sunday, December 23rd**. Please bring your favorite casserole or main dish. Drop it off before church in the kitchen. Salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert will be provided.

If you would like to help with set-up, prep, monitoring the warmed food, or clean-up, please let us know. Contact: Janet Blair, janbblair@aol.com.

The Bottoms Up Tree in the Narthex: We will be collecting new ADULT men's and women's size underpants. Please place your donations in individual festive gift bags with handles to hang on the tree in December and early January. Collections will benefit the greater Attleboro area ADULTS in need.

Outreach & Missions is making donations in November / December to the following programs:

1. Chaplaincy
2. Food 'n Friends
3. Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America
4. Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England
5. UCC - Holy Joe's Café
6. Maine Seacoast Mission
7. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Attleboro District
8. Literacy Center
9. November holiday gift cards

The Food Pantry distributed 17 bags of food to families on Monday, November 19th. Please remember the Food Pantry when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is on December 17th, 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, rlpbpp@verizon.net with any questions.

The Family Café: 36 people were served on November 14th. The next Family Café will be held on Wednesday, December 12th 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.

The next Outreach and Missions Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 16th** at 11:15 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor. *Janet Blair*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There are so many things happening this Advent season. I hope that you will join us for as many as you can.

Our next Family Fellowship event will be Lights and S' mores at La Salette Shrine on December 15th. The event is open to all members of our church family, and please feel free to invite other friends along. We will gather by 5:00 pm by the pond side to enjoy a walk around the lights and then go to the fire pits by the cafe to make s'mores. Rain/Snow Date is December 16th. Please feel free to arrive 15-30 minutes early to see the magic of the lights turning on all at once. Please RSVP to (508)409-7919 or de_saunders@hotmail.com by December 10th so that we can ensure to have enough s' mores supplies ready. There is no entrance fee for this event.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I have included some detail below about the lessons we will be sharing in Sunday School this month. Please note that Dec. 9th will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience a special Advent contemporary style service together. The nursery will be open for

our friends 3 and under and an activity and snack will be available in the conference room for any of our slightly bigger friends.

DECEMBER 2ND

Luke 2:1–20: “Jesus’ birth”

As part of learning about Jesus’ birth, we will be doing a Nativity craft with guest star Janet Blair. Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week’s story. (1) Read Luke 2:15–20. I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they saw and heard the shepherds. (2) Tell the Christmas story together, taking turns saying one sentence each. (3) Say “Merry Christmas” in another language or sing a carol in another language.

Did you know? What food is named after shepherds? <Shepherd’s pie>

Prayer for the week: *God of great joy, with the shepherds we marvel at Jesus’ coming. Amen.*

DECEMBER 16TH

Matthew 2:1–12: “A visit from the Magi”

We invite all children and youth to arrive at 9:30 and come to the kitchen. We will be learning about the Three Wise Men and using our gifts of time and talent to make cookies. We will have a mini bake sale during Coffee Hour that will kick off of a series of fundraisers for World Vision. Guest stars Jessie Macomber and Sue Janson will help us with this mission. Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week’s story. (1) Read Matthew 2:10–11. What does it mean to pay homage? (2) Go out and look at the stars. Imagine traveling at night following a star. (3) What is the best gift you can think of?

Did you know? What country celebrates the coming of the magi with a special pastry called *rosca de reyes*? <Mexico>

Prayer for this week *God of wonder, shine on us. Lead us on a journey of joy and wisdom. Amen.*

DECEMBER 23RD

Pageant & Cupcake Sunday

Your help is needed to help us present an all ages pageant. We will need many players to recreate this amazing story. Please let me know if you or your child is interested in a particular part or just arrive at 9:00 am on this Sunday to choose a costume. Also, this Sunday following church CE will be providing cupcakes so that we can wish Jesus a

happy birthday.

DECEMBER 30TH

We will have a Gathering Sunday, please advise us in advance if you will require Nursery care this Sunday.

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



November is always a fun month at pre-school as we celebrate literacy and friendship. This year we recorded books at home on construction paper turkey feathers. We had a very plump turkey at the bottom of the stairs! At print our students have read over 1,000 books at home with their families. We enjoyed a nice night out together at our PJ Story Time. Our pajama story time teller was a shadow puppeteer who told the stories Stone Soup, Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs! The laughter bounced off the walls and made all the grownups feel like kids again too!

One of our favorite events of the year was celebrated – The Friendship Feast. During this event, each of the 4/5 year old classes made a special snack to share. We enjoyed a snack family style in Fellowship Hall. Each of our classes made and wore a fun turkey hat and gathered together to eat, sing and listen to a story about Thanksgiving read by Mr. Chuck.

Even with all of the above activities, the staff managed to assess and write their progress reports for the children. We will be conferencing with our 4/5 year old parents on the Monday after our break. Now that the children have settled into the routine of school and teachers have gotten to know their students it is a great time for parents and teachers to share information. Having regular contact with parents is one of the things that make working in the field of early childhood education so special.

The three year old classes are bustling with energy each day! The children are

beginning to get a handle on their routine and are enjoying the many experiences their teachers provide for them! We will be conferencing with our 3 year old families the first week in December.

As we approach the month of December we strive for as many quiet moments as possible. Children will be working on special “surprises” for their parents and our classrooms will be festive. Our schedule and routine will stay the same as we focus on the theme of family and love during the holiday season.

Warmly, Kara Lehane



December Birthdays

- 1 Chris Brown
Enoch Osborne
Mary Valentine
- 2 Brittney Cassidy
- 3 Phil Cotsalas
Ron Quimby
- 4 Tanner Martin
- 7 Zachary Withers
- 10 Carissa Johnstone
- 11 Julie Withers
- 15 Nate O'Connor
- 18 Nick Macomber
- 19 Becky Letendre
Myrtice Osterberg
Calvin Turcotte
- 20 Brenda Alsfeld
Harold Goldzung
- 22 John Lepper
Alex Robinson
- 23 Caroline Griffin
Ed Hazen
Debbie Spatcher
- 24 Ruth Baker
Mariah Ramsay
Carolyn Werdin
- 25 Pete Cotsalas
- 26 Jaydon Pine
Larry Valentine
- 28 Camryn Janson
Mike Touloumtzis
- 30 Emma Meleo

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 12:00 PM Janson Family Party
2 First Sunday of Advent - Hope 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens Final Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship / Communion 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	3 6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4	5 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	6 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	7	8 12:00 PM Osborne Party 4:00 PM Oure Pleasure Christmas Concert <i>Advent Meditation</i>
9 Second Sunday of Advent - Peace Gathering Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	10 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	11 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training	12 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	13 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	14	15 5:00 PM Family Fellowship: La Salette, Lights & S'mores!
16 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting	17 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	19 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	20 January Voice Deadline 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Gathering / Pageant Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Pot Luck Luncheon & Cupcakes! 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>"Lessons & Carols"</i>	25 Christmas Day - Office is Closed	26	27	28	29
30 Gathering Sunday 10:00 AM Worship	31					