

THE VOICE of *Second Church*

United Church of Christ

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Find us on Facebook!

THE VOICE

We warmly welcome everyone to celebrate God’s love by joining in dynamic worship, creating genuine community, and serving all with justice and respect.

A monthly newsletter

January, 2019

Outreach & Missions	Women’s Fellowship	One Plus One	Jack & Jill	Administration Committee	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Christian Education Committee	Birthdays	Music & Dance	Calendar
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MINISTER’S MUSE

FINDING A LIBERATING STORY OF YOUR LIFE



After many holiday parties last month you may have developed a refreshed understanding of functional and dysfunctional family systems. You may have noticed how uncle Hal’s alcoholism has progressed, how aunt Jane’s depression has caused her to gain weight and how cousin Bruce’s ability to tell funny stories about his vulnerability, coupled with his bright listening skills, is starting to make him the communication hub of the family. Perhaps you had some thoughts about how your own story is confined or liberated by those that shaped your life.

The stories we tell about ourselves can be confining or liberating. Sometimes just becoming more mindful of the narrative enables us not to be as driven by those old ways of thinking. Of course there are even stories behind stories that can help redefine and enlighten the self. Often there is a component of faith and belief in our ability to become transformed.

What story do you tell about yourself? Are you the hero, the victim, the black sheep? Are you the conservator, the rebel, the peace maker, the big man, the protector, the provider? Many things can shape these stories in a predictable way. Birth order, being

the child of an alcoholic, dysfunctional family systems, divorce can impact the stories in fairly standard ways. Being aware of these stories and their impact on our life should be an intellectual imperative for everyone; for it is impossible to protect oneself from a personal narrative if one is not aware of that personal narrative.

There are some useful ways of developing awareness about one’s driving narrative. Speaking to a psychologist or a trained clergy person can be very helpful in developing an awareness of your damaging story line so that you can embrace a more liberating account of your life. Contemplative prayer, mindfulness meditation and other centering techniques can enable the practitioner to see the narrative as external to the self instead of intrinsic to the self. This can lead to an awareness that is not defined by the unexamined stories of our lives.

Once a degree of narrative mindfulness is developed, it is possible to find a more healing narrative. The word mythology comes from the Greek word *muthos* which means story. Religion is filled with healing stories. Religious innovators like Moses, Lou Tzu, Sidartha Buddha, Jesus of Nazareth, or Mohammed were remarkable in that their stories could bring healing and hope to everyone, not just to those born of the right tribe or class. Even today the person who has been told by their family of origin or their society that they are an unworthy nobody can find in Christ, Buddha, Mohamed, Moses or Lou Tzu a better, healthier horizon.

Like learning a new language, at first this new way of being in this new mythological landscape is skin deep. It is only after time and having the faith in the process, to continue to learn new vocabulary words and engage other people who speak this language

does the world become transformed. Faith is practice. And the practice leads to transformation.

We all have defining, dysfunctional narratives in our life. But we can become free of them. First we must become aware of the dominant or even domineering narratives of our life. Second we must free ourselves from the damaging mythology of our lives by identifying with a more liberating, over arching, tested story. Lastly we must practice that story every day.

Yours in Christ, *Reverend Vern Wright*

LITURGICAL THEMES

JANUARY 6 - EPIPHANY



Communion – Gathering Sunday.

“Searching for the Star”

Matthew 2:1-12

What is your star? We all have a deep dream and a longing. The Magi have to confront and outwit the powers of the world. What challenges have you faced in your search?

JANUARY 13—BAPTISM OF CHRIST

“Affirmed by Love”.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

In the baptismal narrative of Christ, we come to understand the radical grace of God for the human being. How do we sell this grace short in our own lives? Do we do enough to make sure others know what this grace is about?

JANUARY 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

This sermon shall explore the liberating power of the prophetic voice. How can we do a better job of releasing the “inner prophet.”

JANUARY 27

“Discerning the Work of the Spirit”

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

The scripture says that the Holy Spirit is hard at work in our lives. It has given us each very powerful spiritual gifts. The sermon will explore the issues of discernment, and cultivation of the realm of the Spirit in our lives.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Our Lead Deacon this month is Marcia Weidner. 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.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

2018 & 2019 Pledge Reminders

As of November 30, 2018, we are on pace to meet our 2018 budget for pledge receipts. Nonetheless, we need to finish the year strong, and we encourage you to fulfill your pledge for 2018. Also, if you have not yet made your pledge for 2019, we beg that you do it as soon as possible so that we can budget our programs for the upcoming New Year and continue our missions and good deeds.

*Colin Blair on behalf of
the Administration Committee.*

Thank You All

I am so grateful for all the cards, calls, visits and remembrances extended to Stuart and me over several years and particularly in recent weeks and at his passing. Please know that your kindness and encouragement was a blessing to us.

Carolyn Werdin

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.

PEW CUSHIONS!

Like me, you may find that our wooden church pews are uncomfortable to sit on.

Allow me to present an opportunity to correct the situation. I brought up at Church Council the need for pew cushions and they concurred. Paula Foresman, a most talented crafts person, has made two sample cushions and has agreed to make a few cushions at a time as the need is expressed. In January there will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for you to express interest in this project. The cost is \$10 per cushion. Please give your name and the number of cushions you would like to give to our church sanctuary. A check to Second Congregational Church designating ‘pew cushion(s) will suffice. Thank you.

David Buttrick

Dear Friends,

One of my beloved Jay Bird's last requests / instructions, she left for our family, was that we make a donation in her memory to the General Fund of Second Church. Enclosed, with my apologies for the delay, is a check for Jay's donation. She loved you all. It was her trademark.

Dick Sager

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are planning our May Breakfast for the last Saturday in April and we will have an Indoor Yard Sale in May. The Craft Table at the May Breakfast can use many of the fun things you like to work on during the cold days and evenings ahead. And it's not too soon to start collecting those gently used items you've been looking to remove. The back stairs are ready to receive your donations of books, toys and household items. Many thanks.

Coffee Hour: It is becoming more and more difficult to find volunteers to host Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings. We run the risk currently of having to skip this time of fellowship on some upcoming Sundays. If you can help us keep this going strong please sign up

during Coffee Hour or call Sandy Saunders at 508-699-2738. Your help with this mission is crucial to the vitality of our congregation.

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 friends. If you'd like to join us in 2019, contact me or call the Church office so we can add you to our 1+1 call list.

After holding three gatherings in the fall, we are planning our next outing on March 3rd to attend a comedic play ("Mom's Gift") at the Attleboro Community Theatre. We are expecting to meet again for another play in the spring as well as our June cookout. In the (unlikely) event of a Super Bowl for the Patriots, I'm sure we can rustle up another party on short notice. We're open to other ideas and events too as we go along, so don't hesitate to contact me if you see something that looks like it would be a good excuse to get out of the house and have some fun!

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



The PSM will meet on Monday, January 14th at 12:30 in the Ladies' Parlor. Our ministry has 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 all Sundays in January.

There will be no rehearsal for Adult or Bell Choir on Thursday, January 10th. Otherwise, rehearsals will be held at the regular Thursday times on the 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Bill MacPherson

Beyond the Pipes from November 17

You can watch it at
aacs15.com/SecondCongregationalOrgan

INTERGENERATIONAL SACRED DANCE

Many thanks to the dancers, choir, and all who were in worship on December 22nd to witness our wonderful tradition of Hanging of the Greens. We will resume Saturday morning practices on January 19th at 9am in the sanctuary. Whether you have classical dance training or just like to move when the spirit calls you 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

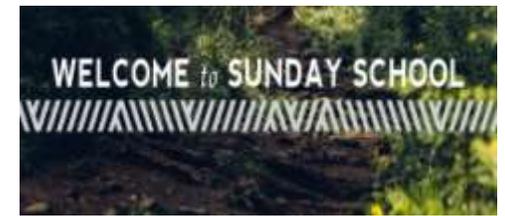
The Outreach and Missions Committee sponsored a **Potluck Luncheon** immediately after church on Sunday, December 23rd. It was an extravagantly welcoming dining experience for all who attended. Favorite recipes were shared. Warm fellowship and Christmas cheer filled our church. Thank you to all who made donations of food, time, and energy to make this a success.

The **Bottoms Up Tree** donations of men's and women's underwear were dropped off at the Attleboro Area Interfaith Collaborative on Pine Street. Lisa Piscatelli said, "Thank you for your great support of those in need throughout our community."

The Food Pantry distributed 13 bags of food to families on Monday, December 17. Please remember the Food Pantry when you shop for groceries. The next distribution is on January 28, 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: 40 people were served on December 12th. The next Family Café will be held on Wednesday, January 9th 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, January 20th** at 11:15 am in the Ladies Parlor. Janet Blair



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Many thanks to all who supported our special Advent happenings in Sunday School, at Family Fellowship, and in worship! These experiences for our children, youth, and church family are so very important to faith formation for all ages.

I have included some detail below about the lessons we will be sharing in Sunday School this month. Please note that Jan.6th will be a Gathering Sunday for our families to experience Epiphany and Communion together. The nursery will be open for our friends 3 and under.

JANUARY 13TH

Exodus 13:17-15:21:

"Crossing the Red Sea"

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week's story (1)

Read Exodus 15:1–3, 12–13. How do the Israelites describe God? (2) Israelites were trapped between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. When have you been in an impossible situation? (3) Aaron’s sister, Miriam, led the women in a song using tambourines. Sing a song of praise using rhythm instruments.

Did you know? What is the Hebrew name for the sea in Exodus 14? <Yam Suph, sometimes translated “Reed Sea”>

Prayer for the week *God, light our way. Free us to love others. Amen.*

JANUARY 20TH

Exodus 19:1–20:21:

“Ten Commandments”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week’s story. (1) Read Exodus 20:1–17 and make a list of the Ten Commandments. (2) In what situations is it important to follow the rules? Is breaking a rule ever okay? (3) Play a board game for which you need to read the rules.

Did you know? How long is the climb to the top of Mount Sinai? <about 2½ hours on foot>

Prayer for the week: *Thank you, God, for providing guidance as we learn to love you and each other. Amen.*

JANUARY 27TH

Exodus 24:12–18; 32:1–34:10:

“The golden calf”

Here are some ways to nurture faith at home based on this week’s story. (1) Read Exodus 34:6. Imagine God loving you and your family. (2) Show something that was broken and has been repaired. Or, fix something that is broken. (3) God gave the Israelites a second chance. Talk about a time when you were angry with someone. Did you forgive that person?

Did you know? In Hebrew, the original language of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments are called _____ . <The ten words>

Prayer for the week: *Merciful God, forgive us for times when we do wrong. Amen.*

Please check the February Voice for details of our next Family Fellowship event!

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



Happy New Year! The winter holidays gave us some time for rest and relaxation. We are re-energized and gearing up for a fun and educational year at Jack and Jill Pre-School!

The Board of Directors will be spending some time reviewing a program survey sent out to make some adjustments to our program offerings in early January. I am excited to make some potential changes that will increase the number of days 3 year olds may attend pre-school.

Saturday, January 26th is the date for this year’s open house. We are expecting many new families between 9:30 and 12:00 who will tour our school and register for the 2019-2020 academic year. The teachers will be available to speak with incoming families, and members of our Board of Directors will be on hand to keep the children entertained and assist with the traffic flow!

Registration for current families and church members begins on Monday, January 14th. If you would like a tour of the program, please don’t hesitate to call or email me. I will also be hosting two registration overviews to discuss the different program options we offer on Monday, January 14th at 9:30 AM and 630 PM.

I want to extend an invitation to the congregation to come and visit our program. I would love to show you the amazing things we are doing here. The space you provide for us opens up a world of possibilities for the young children and families of Attleboro area. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the early years of these children’s education.

In the New Year, our 4/5 year old

classes will begin working more in depth on pre-kindergarten skills such as writing lower case letters, attending for longer periods of time, and being required to complete specific projects that we call “have to’s.” The children and parents will be attending their Kindergarten open houses and screenings; a very exciting time for our friends!

As always, if you know of anyone looking for pre-school please encourage them to call me 508-222-1149 or email me

at jackandjill@attleborosecondchurch.org

Thank you for your continued support!

Warmly, Kara Lehane



January Birthdays

- 4 Katie Cormier
Ralph Howard
- 8 Marty Beck
- 9 Cathy Giannetti
Rosemary Kukla
William Small
- 10 Ashlyn Salisbury
- 11 Anna Beck
- 19 Chloe Iocco
Alan Smith
Jeffrey West
- 20 Amanda Lindley
- 21 Ed McCarthy
Charlie Oliver
- 22 Don Haskel
Ruthie Withers
- 25 Therese LaPorte
- 26 Adam Hauerwas
Angie Vecchioli
- 29 Colin Blair
- 31 Viktoria King

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 9

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>New Years Day</i> - Office is Closed	2	3 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 <i>Epiphany</i> 10:00 AM Worship / Communion / Gathering Sunday 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	7 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	8 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 2 7:00 PM Marketing Committee Meeting	9 5:30 PM Family Café 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	10 10:00 AM Communion Visitation Meeting	11	12
13 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Music Committee Meeting	14 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM In-care Committee Meeting	15 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 2 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 7:00 PM Administration Committee Meeting	16 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM PFLAG Meeting	17 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	18	19 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal
20 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Outreach & Missions Committee Meeting 11:15 AM Christian Education Committee Meeting	21 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Facilities Committee Meeting	22 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 6:30 PM J&J Teacher Training 2	23 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	24 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	25	26 9:00 AM Intergenerational Sacred Dance Rehearsal 9:30 AM Jack & Jill Open House & Registration
27 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Church Council Meeting	28 4:00 PM Food Pantry Distribution 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	29	30 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	31 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal		