



September 2020

Newsletter of
Second Congregational Church of Cohasset



THE VILLAGE BEACON

From the Minister's Study

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.* Psalm 118:24



I love the Psalms. The poetry. The imagery. The raw humanity of verses drawn from the heights and depths of wonder and despair, happiness, hopefulness, wariness, worry and, consistently, confidence in the ability and willingness of God to understand. The Psalms model praise for God's goodness, even as they give us glimpses of how one might grieve or gripe or lash out in anger when that's what we most need.

It strikes me that the Psalms are the perfect companion for the times we live in now. Some invite us to count our blessings and to extol God's benefits. Others lament bad circumstances, bad behavior and bad outcomes. Some express profound sadness while others soar to new levels of joy. And then there are the "enemy" Psalms – the ones that demand vengeance, or at least some nasty consequences for those who wreak havoc on our lives.

We tend to shy away from those enemy Psalms, not because we've never gotten that mad or imagined the revenge of the righteous, but because calling down all that awfulness – even when it's deserved – feels wrong. Or maybe it's just saying it out loud that feels wrong...especially if someone can hear us.

And, of course, God hears us. Always. We're not fooling God for an instant by pretending we don't feel what we feel. (continued on p. 2)

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Second Congregational Church
Cohasset, Massachusetts

September 5, 2020

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From the Minister's Study (continued)

I, for one, am fine with asking for fire and brimstone to be hurled at the monstrous virus that is robbing so many of life, liberty and the pursuit of everyday happiness. I have no qualms naming racism, greed and apathy as enemies of both God's people and God's peace. Cancer, hunger, homelessness, war... all enemies in my book.

The Psalms give us words that can stretch the full breadth of our emotions. The Psalms help us remember that we are neither first nor alone in feeling what we feel. They connect us to all of history. And they open that connection to clearly and concretely include God in every moment.

The Psalmist writes: *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."* That is an all-encompassing observation. God makes a gift of ALL our days. It is our job to fully live them. So now notice the very next verse of that Psalm: *"Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!"* Psalm 118:24

Amen.

SCC Re-Opening

In-person Services in the Sanctuary starting September 20!

As we enjoy worship in the Sanctuary, our goal is to keep you safe while still enabling the joy of congregating and celebrating our traditions each Sunday. Our planning is based on a shared responsibility to each other and, to no surprise, is subject to change based upon how the fall evolves or if a COVID event or risk impacts our church.



What are we asking of you?

1. **Wear a mask.** Please come to church and wear a mask over your mouth and nose at all times. We'll know you are smiling behind your mask! Greeters will have a limited supply of masks for guests and parishioners who forget to bring their own. In addition, please consider wearing gloves in the sanctuary.
2. **Keep your distance.** Keep 6' distance whenever possible.
3. **Be squeaky clean.** Use hand sanitizer dispenser on entry and exit to church, after visiting the restroom, and after touching doors, doorknobs, handrails, and pew rails, if possible.
4. **If unwell, please stay home!** Please attend church remotely if you or a family member don't feel well.
5. **Be patient.** Please have patience with new procedures for seating, entry and exit of church, and other modified aspects of Worship.

What steps is SCC taking?

Sanctuary Safety

1. **We're maximizing ventilation.** In accordance with [CDC ventilation guidelines](#), we are increasing circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows in the Sanctuary and in Bates Hall. Please bring a cover-up for warmth in case it is cool. In addition, when it is cold or rainy, please bring your coats and umbrellas with you to your seat so that we avoid crowding

downstairs at the coat rack. As the weather turns colder we will take steps to maintain a minimum comfortable temperature.

2. **We have 6' distant seating & Bates Hall overflow.** We have implemented a social distance seating plan using every other pew and spaced seating. The Sanctuary can accommodate approximately 45-55 parishioners with social distance using the main floor, balcony and the choir loft. Bates Hall will be used as overflow for an additional 15-25 parishioners using live streaming.
3. **Designated seats.** Ushers will direct parishioners to designated seating spots.
4. **Exit plan.** Entry and exit from the Sanctuary will be directed by Ushers to manage social distance.
5. **Elevator and rest room are available.** The elevator and front restroom are available with instructions for use by parishioners.
6. **Sanitary surfaces.** Surfaces in the sanctuary, Bates Hall, stairways, hallways and the front restroom will be sanitized between services.
7. **Plexiglas pulpit.** The Trustees have erected an elegant Plexiglas pulpit enclosure so that Pastor Karen and others are able to address the congregation without a mask.

During Worship Service

1. **The Bulletin says it all!** The Sunday Bulletin will guide all aspects of the Worship Service. Hymnals and Bible have been removed from pews. You are welcome to bring your own Bible.
2. **Listen to beautiful organ and piano music.** We will continue to enjoy beautiful music from the organ and piano. There is no choir until we can accommodate them safely.
3. **We offer a hands-free Offering.** The Offering will be collected before Worship on entry to the church. There will be no passing of the offering plates at this time.

4. **CE is happening!** Christian Education programs will continue to be delivered on Sundays via Zoom: 11:15 am Sunday School for K-5th grade, 5 pm for Youth (Grades 6-12). Details and support materials will be provided to families directly.
5. **Coffee hour** in Bates Hall is on hold for now.
6. **We are noting attendees.** Greeters will note names of every attendee as they enter church, and we'll take pictures each week from the front of the sanctuary and Bates Hall, in accordance with state COVID-tracking guidelines.

And, of course, worship service will continue to be live-streamed for those who choose to attend remotely. Go to our website at 2ndcc.org or subscribe to our YouTube channel: SCC Live Streaming.

Thanks,
George Baumgarten, Moderator
geobaum@comcast.net



In Loving Memory of

JOSEPH RILEY NEDROW

February 15, 1938 to July 14, 2020

Ruth and the family are deeply grateful for the love and support they have experienced in the weeks since Joe's unexpected passing. A service of celebration for his life was held at SCC on Thursday, August 20th, marking also the day of Joe and Ruth's 60th wedding anniversary. The service was recorded and can be viewed on-line through the church website until the end of this month.





Let Us Pray for:

All who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially in this time of separation.

Those convalescing following hospitalization, surgery or other medical procedures. Please pray, in particular, for Sandy Parnell's nephew, Nick, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive cancer and suffering complications.

Those undergoing medical testing, receiving care or awaiting treatment that has been postponed.

Those who are sick, quarantined, worried and otherwise affected by the Corona Virus; those with responsibility to help keep them and all of us healthy and safe and those with the expertise to provide testing and, we hope soon, a vaccine.

Students, teachers, school administrators, parents and those who support them, as each seek to find safe and manageable ways to provide healthy and meaningful ways to teach and learn.

Our communities, region, states and nation as the effects of this pandemic, racial injustice and heightened political tensions, strain relationships and demand our faithful attention.

*God of Solace, Clarity and of Strength,
Grant courage for this journey and companions on the way.
May those who long for your help, your guidance and your grace, be
blessed by your abiding spirit and your unfailing love.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Do you need a mask?

Mask making truly is a labor of love. Mask wearing is, too. If you need a mask and don't have one, our mask makers have offered to put one aside for you. Please call Jo-Ann Faust at 781-545-6578 to make arrangements.



We Build Sacred Community

*Treasurer's Report
July - August 2020*

	<u>July 2020</u>	<u>August 2020</u>
<i>Income for Month</i>	12,537	14,440
<i>Income Year to Date</i>	100,155	117,251
<i>Expenses for Month</i>	13,193	15,825
<i>Expenses Year to Date</i>	118,511	139,319
<i>Operating Fund</i>	48,218	45,879
<i>Payroll Protection Loan</i>	29,255	29,255

<i>Restricted Funds*</i>	<u>July 2020</u>	<u>August 2020</u>
<i>Regular Reserve</i>	4,870	4,864
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	6,346	8,316
<i>Money Market reserve</i>	55,265	55,272
<i>Fund Raising to Date</i>	6815	10,010
<i>Total Portfolio</i>	459,872	tbd

*investment information for August is not available as of this printing.



Thank you to the many of you who have sent in your gifts and pledges by mail, through your bank or using the on-line giving link on our website.

PLEASE know how very important your giving is to sustain the church. Your generosity sustains our commitment to be the church for today and for tomorrow.

Thank You!

FUNDRAISING

Last May, as I listened to the Zoom church committee meeting, I realized that we were going to lose both our silent auction and strawberry festival fundraisers. At that point, I wondered if there would even be a Christmas fair come December and decided I needed to think of a fundraiser immediately.

I had an idea so I called the “Head Craft Lady,” Linda Campbell. My idea was to sell Lilly Pulitzer masks. I knew I could get the fabric if she was willing to sew them. She said yes, and we started our adventure!

We were immediately so successful that we needed more help. We set up the fundraiser so that, along with the Lilly Masks that were purchased, the customer was also buying a second mask for the Interfaith Social Service Food Pantry. At that point, Helen-Anne Babiy joined us.

Our first sale online sold 60 masks in the first hour and a half. So, we continued. Our idea continued to be a success until others saw our concept and decided to undercut our price. Before we stopped, we had sold over 300 masks and donated close to 400 masks to the food pantry. **Our fundraiser managed to raise \$10,010 when we were done!**

The fourth member of our team that volunteered to help us make masks for the food pantry was Dienna Lehner a member of Unitarian church. If you know her and happen to see her please tell her thank you from our church.

Stay safe everyone, and if you are in need of a mask, please let the church know.

Thank you,
Linda Index



Christian Education



WHIRL! Kids



Classes

Re-ZOOM

Sunday, September 20 at 11:15

REGISTER NOW!!!

Kids love the characters and the conversations they help start. The ability to “transport” weekly Whirl! Kids lessons to Zoom has strengthened the connections that our students and their families have to each other and to our church.

Weekly classes are led by volunteer teachers and are geared to students in K-5th grade. Materials and Zoom invitations will be provided directly to families so REGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT.

For more information, contact SCCTeachers02025@gmail.com

Teachers Needed!!!

It is easy and fun to lead a **Whirl! Kids** Sunday School class. And don't worry if you don't have much experience with Zoom. Materials and all the support you need are provided. Contact Rick Kilmeyer or write SCCTeachers02025@gmail.com to learn more!

Whirl

ALL KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

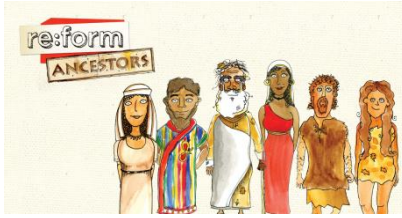
Date	Day	Lesson Title
20-Sep	Re-Zoom Sunday!	A Light to the Nations
27-Sep		Two Sons in the Vineyard
04-Oct	World Communion	False and True Fasts
11-Oct		The Widow and the Judge
18-Oct		Night and Day Prayers
25-Oct		Working Together
01-Nov		Pray for Everyone
08-Nov		Ten Bridesmaids
15-Nov		The Parable of the Talents
22-Nov	Thanksgiving	Beginning and End

All classes meet on Zoom at 11:15 on Sundays. Invitation links sent directly to Sunday School Families. If you have not received registration information by 6/13/20, please contact SCCTeachers02025@gmail.com And, please, consider signing up to teach. It's easy and it's fun! Thanks.



SCC YOUTH

Sunday Evenings from 5 to 6 p.m.



Exploring an interactive on-line approach to Youth Group and Confirmation. Questions? Contact PastorKaren02025@gmail.com

Starting Sunday, September 20th

5pm to 6 pm

On Zoom



CONSIDERING CONFIRMATION?

On-line Information Session

Sunday, September 13th

5 pm

Students in Grade 9 or above who are interested in learning more about Confirmation at Second Congregational Church are invited with their parents to an on-line information session at 5 pm on Sunday, September 13th. As you might expect, we are trying some new things this year, including “peer-to-peer” learning in conversation with students who have been Confirmed. Want to know more? Contact Pastor Karen at PastorKaren02025@gmail.com

SCC Adult Education

Community Conversations on Race



Second Congregational Church, in collaboration with the Diversity Committee for the Town of Cohasset, local congregations led by the Cohasset Clergy and other town organizations, hope to host public conversations intended to foster community learning and honest conversation about matters relating to race.

Recognizing that there are multiple approaches and diverse perspectives on this volatile subject, we hope to encourage a broad and open dialogue, supported by shared readings, lectures and other resource materials. One such article was shared by Principal Brian Scott in the year-end newsletter to high school students and their parents. It offers the perspective of Ramesh Nagarajah, a now-graduated student who treasured his experiences as a METCO student in Weston and who is also honest in his description of the disconnects associated with being the “token black friend” in a majority white school community. Take the time to read his reflection... and consider continuing in these important conversations.

<https://humanparts.medium.com/reflections-from-a-token-black-friend-2f1ea522d42d>

Summer Services on Cohasset Harbor

9:00 a.m.

Please Join Us for Sunday Worship

In-Person Outside next to the Sailing Club

AND on "SCC Live Streaming" at www.2ndcc.org

Check www.2ndcc.org for weather accommodations after 7:30 am on rainy Sundays



Pastor Karen and Jin Kim



Second Congregational Church



Thank you, Cohasset Sailing Club, for your continuing hospitality and your help this summer to ensure that SCC could have our beloved summer services on the harbor!

Outreach News

Beirut Relief Aid

Through the Outreach Committee our Church will be offering some assistance to the people of Beirut, Lebanon in their recovery from the massive explosion in Beirut's harbor on August 4. This horrific event wreaked further havoc on an already marginalized population resulting in almost a quarter million people losing their homes.

After reviewing several charitable options, we decided to donate to 'Impact Lebanon'. Connie Afshar's daughter, Alia, works in international development in the Middle East and has colleagues with close ties to Lebanon (MENA, Middle East Near Asia, is a division of Alia's company, DAI).

These folks coordinated with colleagues in Lebanon to identify a nonprofit that could make good use of funds to provide disaster relief support specifically, and also provide support to charitable initiatives in Lebanon generally. After discussion with their local staff, they decided upon 'Impact Lebanon', a nonprofit organization that brings the community together to pursue initiatives that deliver impact for Lebanon.

As part of their disaster relief efforts, Impact Lebanon is donating funds to thoroughly vetted local organizations who have submitted project proposals detailing how money will be spent on direct disaster relief efforts in a way that ensures high impact across diverse groups. Impact Lebanon has established a team dedicated to vetting these NGOs to ensure they are apolitical and non-sectarian, registered and recognized, have ongoing initiatives to address the crisis, and have passed an audit test. Impact Lebanon has also partnered with 3QA, a third-party quality assurance organization based in Beirut, to support due diligence and monitoring of these organizations. As donations are processed, Impact Lebanon will update donors on exact amounts donated to various organizations and the way the organizations

intend to use funds. You can learn more about Impact Lebanon and their ongoing initiatives [here](#).

The Outreach Committee is asking the congregation to please assist in this endeavor. Outreach is happy to match up to \$400 in congregational contributions made to 'Impact Lebanon'. Please write your tax deductible check to Second Congregational Church with 'Impact Beirut' in the memo line. Thank you for supporting the people of Beirut, Lebanon as they struggle to reclaim their lives during this difficult time.

Outreach's Ongoing Initiatives

Outreach's regular quarterly donations are continuing to go out. These recipient organizations include Wellspring Multi-service Center, Carolina Hill Family Shelter, DOVE, Interfaith Social Services and the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. However, due to Covid-19 restrictive protocols, our in-person cooking and serving at Father Bill's has been temporarily suspended. We're donating our monthly budget via check in lieu of our personal presence ... and eagerly look forward to resuming our in-person volunteer activity at Father Bill's when it's deemed safe for both the residents and volunteers.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

This year, during the 24th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace Season, we set out to reach a goal of \$400,000 to expand our services, advocacy, and training. With your help and consistent support, we not only reached our goal but we surpassed it! As a collective, we raised \$423,585. Thank you for being an instrumental part of transforming society's response to homicide.

With love, the PI Family



Cohasset Appalachia Service Project

While Cohasset ASP could not be on site in the mountains of Appalachia swinging hammers, playing with kids, and building



new relationships, work went on in a number of counties. ASP staffers and subcontractors worked through the summer to make needy families' homes warmer, safer and drier. They were able to do this because groups like CASP were still willing to help, even though COVID-19 made it unsafe to send or receive

volunteers. Through the generosity of Cohasset volunteers and families, CASP was able to:

1. Make a direct donation of over \$14,000 to continue needed work this summer;
2. Hold approximately \$10,000 towards registration for ASP Summer 2021; and,
3. Keep some registrations and donations on account for next summer when we expect to rejoin the effort in person.

In the letter reporting these efforts, Program Director David Clinton (Bucky) asked all ASP'ers to join him and the Cohasset ASP Board of Directors in calling on their ASP spirit to *"find a way, great or small, to help someone less fortunate. Be Creative! Be Bold! Be Kind! Be Love in Action! Be the Grace in the world that we need today!"*

Cohasset ASP Board of Directors:

Phil Lehr, JoAnne Lehr, Caitlin Fithian, Matt Fithian, Jack Dane, Barbara Hoyler, Janet Hoyler, John Chapman, Dave Clinton



**Welcome back to a NEW YEAR
at Second Congregational Church**

**Re-Gathering Sunday is
September 20TH at 10:00 a.m.**