

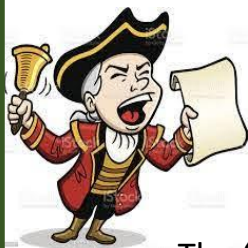


November-December 2020

Newsletter of
Second Congregational Church of Cohasset



THE VILLAGE BEACON



The Christmas Fair is Coming!!
Saturday, December 5th
10am to 3pm

The “Three C’s” of SCC’s Fair will once again
make a virus-safe appearance.

CHEESE ~ CHOWDER ~ CRAFTS

**Chowder by the cup and quart will be available for
take-out only as we stay safe and healthy!**



In these rapidly changing moments, traditions become even more precious... even though we’ve never done it like this before! Hand-made ornaments and gifts on-line? Take-out chowder?!? Cheese? MetCo wreathes, ASP pictures *near* Santa... even a transformed Secret Room.

There will be doings on the Common and rich happenings through Second Congregational Church.

We know it’s coming up soon. When we know more, you will! Thanks, as always, for your support!

Newsletter of the
Second Congregational Church
Cohasset, Massachusetts

November 16, 2020

Vol. 33, No. 7

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OUTREACH SUNDAY
is
November 22

See details about our Guest Speaker and this year’s Thanksgiving In-Gathering of Food for the Cohasset Food Pantry on page 13.

Speaker Postponed





From the Minister's Study

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, v 4
Isaac Watts (1719) based on Psalm 90

The abbreviation *TBD* seems inescapable these days. The letters stand for *TO BE DETERMINED*, as in “the details of this year’s Village Fair are *TBD*,” or “the specifics of our Christmas Eve Services are *TBD* this year.” There is, of course, a much longer list than this. At home, at work, at church, and in our communities, we are plagued by uncertainty.

And yet, let me suggest that *perhaps* we are less plagued than challenged – not by uncertainty about *WHAT* to do, but by the challenge of figuring out *HOW*.

Sure, there are a lot of things we cannot or should not do. But many of those things have more to do with the mechanics of making a particular activity or event happen.

For example, we choose to observe careful protocols to be sure church members can safely worship on Sunday mornings. We can spread people out, space arrivals and departures, open windows for good ventilation, take attendance and change the pattern of the service. We can also live-stream to give people an even safer alternative. By managing the mechanics, we are able to meet the *challenge* of providing weekly services on Sunday mornings.

Have you noticed? We’re actually getting good at this!

- ❖ Church committees, Crafty Ladies, Confirmation, Sunday School and Youth Group all have modified the format for their meetings, but they still meet.
- ❖ The Thanksgiving In-Gathering of Food is transformed because this year we’re able to offer gift cards, complete with a message of encouragement and hope drawn on envelopes by our kids.

From the Minister's Study (continued)

- ❖ We are looking forward to a Village Fair... albeit a very different form of fair than in the past.
- ❖ We're planning a Christmas Pageant that won't put any of our children at risk!
- ❖ We'll have my annual "Open House" from the comfort of our separate homes, complete with decorations and refreshments.
- ❖ Instruments will play, since our singers can't sing, so we'll still have glorious music on Cantata Sunday.
- ❖ And, this year, we hope to experience Christmas Eve by spreading the wonder broadly across the Common – starting at 4 pm in front of our church, with St. Stephen's sharing their own celebration around their church when we are done and First Parish picking up when St. Stephen's has finished, with their service on the North End of the Common. In between, the Carillon will play. Each congregation will honor their own traditions while making time and space for the other's.

This newsletter's theme is, clearly, *TBD*... but not because we're giving up what we value. We are simply determining how best to do the things that make our church and our holidays special.

We'll figure this out. By God's grace and our faith, not to mention a good measure of tenacity and some old-fashioned ingenuity, we already are. And it will be glorious, indeed.

With blessings,

Pastor Karen

P.S. It didn't fit cleanly in the list above, but we are *also* planning a second Christmas Eve service, in-person and on-line, with special music and candlelight at 7 p.m. More, *TBD*!



*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.*

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, v 6

Can you picture the very first Christmas?



Of course! There is probably at least one manger scene in your living room, dining room or kitchen. Care to share?!?!

It's easy:

- ♥ **Take a picture on your phone of your Nativity display**
- ♥ **Send it to PastorKaren02025@gmail.com or text it to 781-923-0486**
- ♥ **Come to Pastor Karen's on-line Open House to see what your friends and neighbors sent in!**

On Sunday afternoon, December 13th from 4 to 5 pm, Pastor Karen will "host" her annual Parsonage Open House on Zoom. Grab a cup and fill it up with your preferred holiday toast. Choose your own favorite snacks and get comfy. We'll show Christmas slides, maybe sing along to a carol or two and have chances to "break out" for more intimate conversations.

Like everything else this year, it's an experiment... but it could be a lot of fun! Email PastorKaren02025@gmail.com to receive Zoom invitation information... and, please, if you can, include a picture of your manger display.





Let Us Pray for:

All who are grieving the loss of loved ones and those with friends and family members approaching the end of life.

Those undergoing medical testing, receiving care or awaiting surgery and those convalescing following hospitalization, surgery or other medical procedures.

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 all 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 political tensions, strain relationships and demand our faithful attention.

All who long for family and friends as we approach this holiday season.

*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.*



Flower Donations



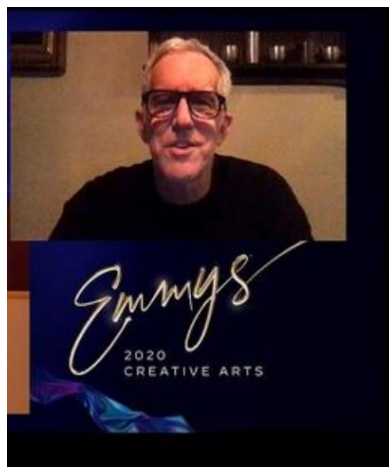
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- Nov. 1 Joe Kinnealey in loving memory of his parents Joe & Harriet Kinnealey
 - Nov. 8 Judy & Phil Tedeschi with prayers for those suffering during this pandemic, and by Kristin Voldan in loving memory of her father, Bernard Harris Zilinskas, on this first anniversary of his passing.
 - Nov. 15 The Young & Willette families in memory of their grandparents, Jim & Jessie Gibson and Clark & Gertrude Young
 - Nov. 22 Judith Bucher, in memory of her father, Hubert VanDerlugt
 - Nov. 29 Jack & Pam DeLorenzo in memory of Jack's parents, Dorothy and Harry DeLorenzo

*Please look for our Poinsettia order form
later in the newsletter!*

Congratulations to.....

Bill Henry, son of Bill & Carol, who won an Emmy Award for his editing of the last episode of the 2nd season of HBO's hit drama "Succession"! There were 8 other editors in this category. It was Bill's first nomination.

Bill is now editing the opening two hour episode of "The Gilded Age" for HBO. It is a new series by Julian Fellos, who was the head producer of "Downton Abby."



Want to know more? Call Carol at 781-383-0398



Fruit of the Vine
The Water of Life
The Cup of Promise

Grace abounds...

The following reflection was offered by Finance Committee Chairperson, Paul Carlson, during worship on November 15th

Good morning. I would like to offer some comments on our stewardship program. You should receive the mailing this week. The current year has been very challenging for our church and its members. You responded with faithful pledging and heroic fundraising. As a result of your generous support, for the first time in many years, we will not need to tap our endowment to pay our operating expenses. This is very good news for our long term sustainability.

Because of your generosity we continued the important programs that make our church a special place for all of us: the ministry, both in worship and pastoral care; beautiful music; engaged Christian education; active outreach; efficient office work and careful facilities maintenance. Our dedicated staff, volunteers and congregants strengthen our church. Overall, we are blessed to be finishing this year in a positive position in our faith, our activities and our finances.

In addition, we were able to borrow from the nation's Payroll Protection Program. The loan proceeds have not yet been added to our operating funds.

As we look into 2021, we must consider many challenges and uncertainties including the ongoing impact of the COVID virus.

Our church community requires consistent funding. We operate very frugally. Our five dedicated staff members account for 66% of total expenses. We also have utility, insurance and other operating expenses as well as our outreach program. We must cover these expenses all year long. Our budgeting and the efficient functioning of the church depend on your pledge payments.

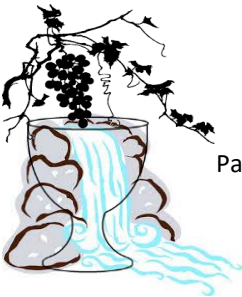
We no longer have the support of the major donors of the past. Instead, we are blessed to have a broad base of people whose pledges support our church and our programs all year long. You got us through this year's challenges. And for that we all should be very grateful.

As you go through your stewardship package, please pray over your decision and pledge generously to preserve this wonderful and vibrant religious community. Please consider how important our church is to you, your family and our community of believers. God's faithfulness has graced us.



PLEDGE CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 20TH

We will bless this year's pledges at the 10:00 worship service. Please bring your completed pledge card or mail it to the church office so that all may be included.



Thank you!

The SCC Finance & Stewardship Team
Paul Carlson, Kim Maynard, Jeff Nothnagle, Jack Creighton
Ruth Nedrow, Cindy Courtney and Pastor Karen



We Build Sacred Community

*Treasurer's Report
September-October 2020*

	<u>Sept. 2020</u>	<u>Oct. 2020</u>
<i>Income for Month</i>	9,302	9,150
<i>Income Year to Date</i>	127,578	136,728
<i>Expenses for Month</i>	19,381	18,937
<i>Expenses Year to Date</i>	159,360	178,297
<i>Operating Fund</i>	33,996	28,493
<i>Payroll Protection Loan</i>	29,255	29,255
<i>Restricted Funds*</i>	<u>Sept. 2020</u>	<u>Oct. 2020</u>
<i>Regular Reserve</i>	4,390	4,390
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	7,420	9,312
<i>Money Market reserve</i>	55,293	55,297
<i>Fund Raising to Date</i>	10,510	11,487
<i>Total Portfolio</i>	467,973	tbd

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

HELP WANTED

Ushers needed for in-person Sunday worship. Sign-up in church or contact Tina Cline.

Thanks!



Trustees Corner

The Trustees have remained devoted to our church home over the past many months. Here are some of the projects we have tackled...

- Bob Tuscher and Herb Marsh are cleaning up the brick walk at the Church.
- Wayne Sawchuk has trimmed shrubs and will mulch areas in courtyard. (Thank you !!)
- Wayne has ordered and will be replacing the church ramp door.
- Parsonage chimney was cleaned and inspected.
- Parsonage has an insect contract with Terminex to rid area of ants and hornets.
- Jon Bailey-Francois landscaped the driveway side of Parsonage and is replacing a rail on the deck. (Thank You!)
- Phil Lehr installed a Lexan sneeze shield on podium at church.
- Two hands free sanitizing stations are set up at church entrances.
- Church furnace was repaired/ updated. Thanks, Jack DeLorenzo for following that project through.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT An Intergenerational On-line Nativity

To be played at 10 a.m. Worship
Sunday, December 13th

*Rehearsals start Sunday, Nov. 29 during regular 11:15 Sunday School.
We will be recording on Sunday, Dec 6th. Email SCCTeachers@gmail.com for more information.*

All Ages Welcome
Get the Whole Family Involved



Christian Education

Whirl! Kids Sunday School Schedule

15-Nov	Susi Coley	The Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14-30
22-Nov	Christina Brown	Beginning and End Revelation 1:4-8
29-Nov	Joanne Molloy & Tiffany Harrison	Pageant Casting & Rehearsal
6-Dec	Pastor Karen & CE	Recording Pageant Full Costumes at 11:15
13-Dec	10 a.m. Pageant Presentation	No 11:15 class
20-Dec	Pastor Karen	Simeon and Anna Luke 2:22-40
27-Dec	BREAK	MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SCC Youth Program Schedule

15-Nov	CONFIRMATION	
22-Nov	COMBINED CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	
29-Nov	OFF	Thanksgiving Weekend
06-Dec	COMBINED CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	
13-Dec	AS INTERESTED – DETAILS TBD	Christmas Pageant Open House
20-Dec	COMBINED CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP	Youth Christmas Party
27-Dec	OFF	Christmas Break



Whirl! Kids Sunday School classes meet on Zoom at 11:15am and Youth Programs meet at 5pm on Sundays. Invitation links sent directly. Register at our website, www.2ndcc.org or contact SCCTeachers02025@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. Guests are always welcome!

Outreach News

Outreach Sunday (11/22):

Outreach Sunday will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22. Our honored guest speaker will be Scituate resident, Rich Bonanno, aka "The Bike Man", and founder of the Rolling Wave Foundation. Rich is an amazing person who has donated over 4,000 bicycles (many personally restored by him) as far afield as a homeless veterans' shelter in Georgia, a Sioux reservation in South Dakota and Spain. Enjoy reading the following 2 articles to learn how Rich began his philanthropic journey after finding a single mountain bike in someone's outgoing trash.

<https://www.patriotledger.com/news/20180628/over-3500-bikes-donated-thanks-to-scituate-man>

and later,

<https://scituate.wickedlocal.com/news/20190228/fundraiser-will-support-richard-bonannos-rolling-wave-foundation>



FOOD PANTRY

Thanksgiving "In-Gathering"

Are you able to help a local family in need this Thanksgiving?

Instead of decorating bags for this year's in-gathering of food, our Sunday School children are decorating envelopes to remind clients of Cohasset Food Pantry that they are in our thoughts and prayers. The envelopes will be used to package \$25 and \$50 gift cards from Stop & Shop or Shaw's. Buy your own or send a check to SCC and we'll buy it for you. **We will bless and deliver the cards on Outreach Sunday, November 22.**

Please note, the Cohasset Food Pantry can accept only gift cards -- not food donations -- because of COVID.

Second Congregational Church
CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Date	Activity	Place / Time
Sun. 11/15	Stewardship Kick-Off Whirl! Kids Sunday School Confirmation	10am in-person & on-line 11:15am on-line 5pm on-line
Wed. 11/18	Deacons	7:00 pm on-line
Sun. 11/22	Outreach Sunday Whirl! Kids Sunday School Combined Confirmation / Youth Group	10am in-person & on-line 11:15am on-line 5pm on-line
Sun. 11/29	1 st Advent Sunday Worship Pageant Casting & Rehearsal	10am in-person & on-line 11:15am on-line
Tues. 12/1	Crafty Ladies	1:00 pm on-line
Thurs. 12/3	Christian Education Committee	7:30 pm on-line
Sat. 12/5	Village Fair / Christmas activities (tbd)	10am to 3pm
Sun 12/6	2 nd Advent~ Communion Sunday Pageant Rehearsal / Recording Confirmation / Youth Group	10am in-person & on-line 11:15am on-line 5pm on-line
Tues. 12/8	Church Committee	7:30pm on-line
Sun. 12/13	3 rd Advent ~ Pageant Sunday (no Sunday School) On-line "Open House"	10am in-person & on-line --- Manger Display (on-line)
Wed. 12/16	Deacons	7:00pm on-line
Sun. 12/20	4th Advent ~ Christmas Instrumentals Pledge Consecration Sunday Whirl! Kids Sunday School Youth Christmas Party	10am in-person & on-line During worship 11:15am on-line 5pm on-line
Thurs. 12/24	4:00 pm Candlelight Service on the Common 7:00 pm Candlelight Service w/ special music	(possibly live-streamed) In-Person & On-line
Sun. 12/27	First Sunday of Christmas	



Second Congregational Church
POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
For 2020 Christmas Services



Order placed by (your name):

Phone # _____

Please choose one of the following to be printed in the bulletin:

"Given in celebration to the glory of God by

"

"Given in memory of

"

Other message: " _____

"

AFTER the service, I plan to:

_____ TAKE the plant with me (*please indicate which service*)

___ 4:00 p.m. or ___ 7:00 p.m.

_____ LEAVE the plant for decoration & to be given away

Please note: As in past years, the poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary for the 12/20 Christmas Service and for Christmas Eve. The CURRENT plan is to hold the 4pm service outside and only the 7:00pm service in the sanctuary. Both will be candlelight services.

COST per plant is \$15.00.

Please make checks payable to "Second Congregational Church," with "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Drop off or mail to the church office at 43 Highland Avenue. Thank you.

PLEASE ORDER BY NO LATER THAN: Monday, December 14th

Second Congregational Church

43 Highland Ave

Cohasset, MA 02025

Office: 781-383-0345

SCC02025@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Cohasset, Mass.
Permit No. 3

