

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church Of Christ

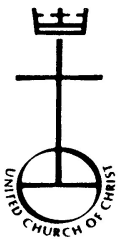
The
Caller

Gathered 1885



BE THE CHURCH ~~~

This is Our Motto and ... LENT is lifted up as:
the best season—and reason—to "Be the Church"
and it states that what has always been at the very core of our
faith as part of the United Church of Christ (UCC) is
encompassed in the following 10 powerful statements:



- **Be the Church**
- **Worship, Learn, Pray, Heal, Serve, Care!**
- **Protect the environment.**
- **Care for the poor.**
- **Embrace diversity.**
- **Reject racism.**
- **Forgive often.**
- **Love God.**
- **Fight for the powerless.**
- **Share earthly and spiritual resources.**
- **Enjoy this life.**

These statements call us all to embrace Christ's message
and BE God's people by faith.
So tell the story of hope and healing...
and invite others to this season of Lent, Holy Week, and
Easter ~
join in worship and in serving ... because together we all
will expand the power of the Holy Spirit
... the power of hope, peace, joy and love –
and what it means to call ourselves Christian...
and faithfully living out what it means to
BE THE CHURCH!!

Lenten Reflection from our Minister



Yes... the past two years have been difficult and challenging – for all of us! TWO YEARS of trying to make the reality seem normal while hoping that it won't always BE the norm ... and now we are moving through the Lenten season ... a time to look inward and reflect.

For me personally, I admit it has been difficult to adapt to life living alone... yet SO grateful to have the community of our church and the staff and the ministry of striving to keep the church on as even a keel as humanly possible! It has been 2 long years of living non-stop answering 100's of text messages and 1000's of emails every single day – making countless numbers of phone calls ...using my car and home as an ongoing office in addition to my church office... meeting on zoom ... staying connected with all of the Boards and Committees... hoping everyone will read Donna's updates – making alternative plans for the main plans – telling myself we cannot always do things the way we have always done them even though for many (including myself) that has often been the expectation... and reminding myself that a vital church never says: "we've always done it that way"....

So – enough introspection !!

–Yes- Lent is an important time to look within and name the shortcomings and faltering and even the failures ... but more important~ Lent is a time to claim the hopeful and reflect on the positive and the fact that our church has been so incredible in all of the ways we have been striving to be faithful in the midst of the challenges, changes, confusions and celebrations!

Worship every week for two years- no break ... virtual for 6 months – both in-person and online for 1 ½ years...Church School, Youth groups and Confirmation as well!! constant on-line communication...taping, music, new members joining... baptisms, church school, confirmation, youth

groups, boards and committees, totally committed staff and officers and members, fund-raisers, prayer services, vigils, weddings, funerals, giving financially, the list is endless and we have much to celebrate!!

We give thanks and prayers... and in the midst of these 40 days of Lent ... we also are empowered to keep growing in our faith... looking inward and discovering who God is calling each of us to BE... and at the same time asking how this our faith community can be all that God is calling us as members to BE ~~ sharing Christ's love through GIVING! LOVING! SHARING TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES...!!

Blessings and love as we look both ways on this our journey to Easter Day and beyond! Rev. Joy

P.S. (From Joy)

Special thanks to all of our staff who have been working so hard behind the scenes to make our church so alive and active with music, educational ministries and all the details.

I would remind everyone that Maria needs to continue working from home due to serious health concerns yet she is working all of her many hours for our church ...so don't hesitate to call the church or send her emails and she will take care of whatever is needed... and feel connected in everything.

Also please watch for Donna's emails and notes as she connects us as well.

With gratitude!! Joy

PALM SUNDAY BEGINS HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 ~ ~

~TWO Services 9:30a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour: A Walk Through Holy Week Art Gallery~created by the children and families of the church

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022~ 7:00 P.M.

Service in the Hall for all ages (*no food*) ~

Re-enactment of disciples at the Last Supper and Garden Scene... with water of blessing.

Good Friday, April 15, 2022 ~ ~ 7:30 P.M.

Service of The Seven Last Words in the Sanctuary with cross carried to the altar ~ and special music...

Vigil follows with one or more people in the sanctuary until the Easter Dawn...

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 ~ ~ ~ TWO Services

Celebrate at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Children begin in church with families

Coffee Hour: Live Chicks for Easter!

***Holy Humor Sunday ... April 24th*
*+ Dedication of Pledges***

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation:

April 3 9:30 Worship, NO CLASS

Apr 4 or 5 Mon or Tue, **Mentor** & Confirmand zoom chat
7:30-8:30PM

Apr 10 9:30 Worship and Palm Sunday coffee hour event

Apr 14 7 PM Maundy Thursday Event (**Mentors invited**)

Apr 15 7:30PM Good Friday Service (**Mentors invited**)

Apr 17 EASTER 9:30 OR 11:00 Worship (REQUIRED)

Apr 24 school vacation week- no class

CHURCH SCHOOL:

NEEDED! *Kristin needs artwork created by the church school!*

PALM SUNDAY, April 10 9:30 a.m. Walk Thru Holy Week Gallery of Art

Children are invited to create CLASS THEME art for the days of Holy Week, to be on display (give to Kristin)

Themes:

Preschool- hand palms

K-1st Grade - butterfly designs

2nd grade- Last Supper (grapes & chalice and bread/ Jesus/ Remember Me)

3rd & 4th grade - Garden of gethsemane (stars & moon in the garden, Jesus praying)

5th& 6th grade - Crucifixion (design cross, 3 crosses on hill)

7th & 8th grade - Market Place (animals in cage, coins, market items)

9:30 Church School: Nursery & preschool every week in lower hall

April 3 ALL Ages Worship in sanctuary (interactive!)

April 10 Church School preschool-8th in classrooms & Palm Sunday coffee hour (HOLY WEEK ART GALLERY!)

April 17 Easter - Start in worship, then kid's program Pre-6th in hall, baby chicks!

April 24 Church school preschool-8th in classrooms

Youth Event (5th-8th grade) Bring a Friend!
April 1st (not a Joke! nor April fools!) Candy Bingo & Mystery Game Night

BRING A CANDY BAR and dress up as a character from the CLUE board game or wear the color of the character!

Miss Scarlet
Colonel Mustard
Mrs. White
Rev. Mr. Green
Mrs. Peacock
Professor Plum

LOOKING AHEAD!

May 13 "Talent Night Cafe" (5th-8th graders) Bring a Friend!

Decide to be a performer and show your talent (a variety is encouraged!) or be part of the audience!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

- May 15 (Sun)
Communion Celebration Ceremony 2:00 PM
(there will be a regular 9:30 worship)
- May 22 **Children's Sunday** 9:30 IN PERSON
- June 5 (Pentecost Sun)
Confirmation Ceremony IN PERSON at 11:30
(there will be a regular 9:30 worship)

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dates for Handbell Rehearsals –

March 20th -10:45a.m. in Memorial Room

March 27th - 10:45 a.m.

April 3rd - 10:45 a.m.

April 10 - Palm Sunday

Senior Choir

Rehearsals in the Sanctuary beginning March 23rd,
March 30, April 6 - Wednesdays at 5:30

Guitar Choir rehearsal - Wednesday, April 20th - 5:30 in the
sanctuary

COME CELEBRATE IN COMMUNITY WITH YOUR CREATOR!



**MAKE YOUR SUNDAYS MEANINGFUL WITH 4
HOURS OF WORSHIP in Community and Service**

(One hour each week to worship God...

...one hundred sixty seven hours to play, work, serve, etc.)

Some Facts About Lent

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday. That day is so named because in the early church ashes were sprinkled on the heads of penitent Christians.

This custom remains today and is becoming more wide spread in the Protestant Churches. The sign of the cross on forehead or in the palm of the hand symbolizes our being open to God and offering ourselves with clean hearts before our God.

The color for Lent is purple, reminding us of Lent's penitential mood.

Lent lasts forty days, until Easter. but if you count the days from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, you get 46. That's because Sundays are excluded from the count (and from Lent). They are designed as "feast days," commemorating the resurrection.

The origin of the word LENT is the Anglo-Saxon word, LENCTEN, meaning "spring", the time when the days lengthen.

In some families there is the tradition of "giving up" something for Lent. That evolved from the idea that Lent was a period of fasting in preparation for baptism which was observed on Easter Eve.

Thankfully, most of us have progressed from the idea of "giving up" (Self denial) to the idea of "taking on" for the good of others.

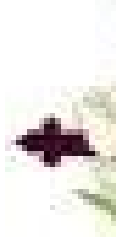
There are many ways Christians benefit from Lent today. The season encourages us to set aside time for quiet contemplation...to read, meditate, and pray; to reflect on the direction of our own personal lives and on the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It reminds us that we are a part of a community of faith that makes a profound difference in our lives and in the way we reach out to those near at hand as well as those on the other side of the world.

In short, Lent is a time to reflect on the relationship between our lives and our faith, between Jesus' journey and our own.

DEACONS CORNER

Is this stupid pandemic over yet? Yes, we all have been very frustrated with the tenacity that this little bug has been showing, but fortunately, most of our congregation has been fully vaccinated, and the statistics show that the little critter has slowed down considerably! However, in answer to the question, NO, the pandemic is not over yet! You may now put your mask down in most places, but do NOT let your guard down. We are still hearing about friends & family getting Covid, even those who have been fully vaccinated!



As the numbers of people attending Sunday's in-person services rise, so does the risk of infection rise. But unlike during the height of the Omicron surge, the risk is much smaller. If you have a compromised health issue, wear the mask, just like a fair number of attendees continue to do. If you want to socially distance, go for it! Make smart decisions! The pundits and experts now admit that we may never beat this bug, so we may just have to learn to live with it.

The good news is, if you are still uncomfortable in a crowd, we are still posting each service to YouTube, and Seekonk Channel 9 is still running the video during the week. We have no plans to discontinue this. And, we are still making DVDs for those without an Internet connection. Let us know if you need one, and, if you need a DVD player.

We are still planning on doing Live Streaming, but some of the necessary equipment we ordered many months ago, still has not shipped, apparently due to the ubiquitous "chip problem"! Stay tuned for further information.

While on that subject, we must give a huge bunch of thanks to Carl Provost, who not only continues to "loan" us his camera (since March 2020) but who is also taking the video from the camera, editing it in many ways, then posting it to YouTube and sending it to Channel 9. Thanks also to our camera operators, Pat Smith, Lori Ferreira and James Siegfried. And a look back at the pandemic reminds us we should thank Josh Wright again, for allowing us to continue services via his video editing, despite the lockdown in 2020.

Sarah Stevenson will not have a Caring Ministry meeting on the first Sunday in April (April 3rd) but will be having a Lenten Session on Thursday, March 24th at 7:00 pm called Essential Self-Care. Sarah is available on Sunday, May 1st after Church in Room #1 to have a Caring Ministry Meeting. If you wish to attend, please let them know the date and time.

In case you may not be aware, we have a modest supply of ambulatory devices, such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and canes. If you, or someone you know would like to borrow something, let Maria know.

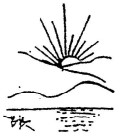
In case you may have missed it, EASTER IS COMING!! We will be doing most of the various services for this season, but probably not all. Check your Sunday Bulletin or Donna Euell's newsletter, or, somewhere in this Caller for the full schedule.

DEACONS: Evelyn Watkins & Craig Grant (Co-Senior Deacons)

Jim Siegfried	Dawn Houle	Russ Noble
Bonnie DeBlois	Ruth Graham	Tony DeJesus
Betty Graham	Brian Burns	Ann Varna-Garis
David Supinski		
Louanne Jennings-Abelson (Deacon Emerita)		
Jonathan Ryder (ad hoc)	Donna Euell (ad hoc)	

Submitted By: David Graham (Deacon Emeritus)

DEACON'S FUND... the envelopes for the first Sunday of each month go for special needs of folks in our faith community. We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month. Please check to make sure that you are using the correct envelope.



Called to Care Ministry...

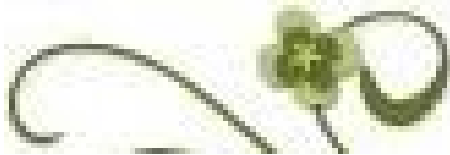
“Our *Called to Care Ministry* is looking for volunteers who would be willing to help our homebound members in a variety of ways.

We are looking for folks who could do any one or more of the following tasks:

- Provide some meals/snacks
- Provide rides to/from church
- Help with laundry or shopping if needed
- Face to face visits

(Our youth could also serve as volunteers for any one of these tasks, with supervision by a parent. We are very mindful of everyone’s busy schedules- even just one hour a month would be a huge benefit to our homebound members. Please email Sarah Stevenson your name and email address, along with what you are comfortable volunteering to do.

Sarah’s email is: mamastaloney@gmail.com





From the Board of Trustees

As we approach springtime, the Trustees will be striving toward the completion of repairs and painting of the church. As we shared last year, rotted wood needs to be replaced before painting can begin. We have had some difficulty attaining bids to have the work completed. We would welcome referrals to companies that could complete the repairs.

Winter storms presented a little bit of a challenge for us in terms of clean up and ensuring safe passage for our faith community members and building users. We were very fortunate to have the help of Kris Bujold again this year. Kris has quietly helped with our snow removal for years. Thank you very much Kris!

As occurs every year, we will need to do a spring cleanup. There are plenty of leaves to remove, branches to pick up, and light painting to do. If you are interested in helping or know someone who needs to complete community-service projects, please let us know. We can accommodate varying schedules and provide necessary equipment. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please call the office to volunteer.

To close, occasionally various fixtures (plumbing, electrical, etc.) malfunction in both buildings. If you find an item that needs repair or replacement, kindly notify the Trustee of the Month. The Trustee of the Month is posted on or near the office door. An additional option is to simply notify the office of the issue needing attention.

Thank you for your continuous support as we endeavor to fulfill our responsibilities as your Trustees.
Yours in faith & service,

Board of Trustees

Neal Abelson, Joyce Almeida, Susan Boucher, Donna Euell, Jon Gherardini, Jason Langille, Craig Mace, Liam Maloney, Linda Sable, Mark Strycharz, and Muriel Woodcock

Blue Envelopes... Thanks to all who contribute to the Mortgage Debt Reduction! The Blue envelopes in your box help us meet the monthly expenses.

STEWARDSHIP



STEWARDSHIP 2022 -2023

Sunday, April 24th is our Pledge Dedication Sunday!
Please send it your pledge if you have not already done so.

It is very easy to pledge - you can:

1. Call our Church office at 508-336-9355
2. Mail in your pledge card, or
3. Fill out a pledge card in Church on Sunday, April 17th or Sunday, April 24th and drop it into the offering plate.

*Thank you very much from your Seekonk Congregational Church,
UCC Stewardship Committee,
Evelyn Watkins (Co-Chair), Lori Ferreira (Co-Chair), Lisa
Majewski, Tony DeJesus, Teresa Helgerson, Hazel Greene, Larry
Hindle, Christina Greene.*

Is your Pledge up-to-date?



~ OUR OFFERINGS ~ DIFFERENT WAYS OF GIVING

Have you ever noticed that some people don't put anything in the offering plate during worship!!?? Not that its anyone's business...but some folks would like it known that they give with a check each month or every two months while still others give electronically and have it taken out of their checking and sent to the church directly...and of course there are those who give faithfully into that plate every week! So...there are different ways of giving and we give thanks for the variety.

EARNEST WORKERS



Welcome to the Earnest Workers!

If you have not attended our meetings before, please know that you are very welcome. We are now meeting the first Wednesday at 10:00 am in Woodworth Hall of each month from September 2021 to June 2022. We have a list of proposed Earnest Worker Meeting topics explaining our activities and dates if you are interested. Please contact the Earnest Workers Secretary, Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490 to ask for a copy of the list or if you have any questions. Please note that we are making some changes as the year progresses and we add or change some of our planned activities. Thank you for your understanding.

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - Making May Baskets - Leaders: Pat Smith and Joyce Greene We will meet at 10:00 to make May Baskets for our May 1st May Basket Sale. Please bring scissors if you have them and be ready to help make pretty baskets. Also you may bring a bagged lunch to eat lunch together after the May Basket Workshop. We also ask for volunteers to make fudge and homemade candies to fill the baskets for our May Basket Sale.

May Basket filling - Saturday, April 30th - 10:00 am in Room #1 of the Hall Please bring your May Basket Candy to the Hall on Saturday, April 30th between 9:00 and 10:00. We will have volunteers starting to fill the baskets at 10:00 am.

May Basket Sale - Sunday, May 1st after Church in the Memorial Room (Church Building) and also in Coffee Hour (in the Hall). Please stop by our Earnest Worker Tables to purchase a May Basket to give to a neighbor, relative or friend.

Wednesday, May 4th at 10:00 - Earnest Worker Planning Meeting for next year. Please bring your ideas and suggestions for activities for the Earnest Worker meetings and gathering for next year. We will discuss and vote on the ideas to develop our Earnest Worker Meeting Schedule for September 2022 to June 2023.

Enjoy this Lenten Season and the beautiful Spring coming our way!

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

FOOD FOR ANYONE YOU KNOW WHO HAVE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES: Canned goods and some staple food items. If ANYONE YOU KNOW is in need of expanding the weekly food budget to make ends meet, please take them some food. **Please continue to bring in food items for our pantry...**peanut butter, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, pasta sauce and cereal are especially appreciated. Food is now in the Porch Area of the Gardiner building.

We continue to collect Massachusetts deposit bottles and cans, and to use the funds for mission projects, such as the soup kitchen. *Please do not crush the cans!! The recycle bins are located on the Fall River parking lot.

Our *****ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** project will once again begin in April! Please check in with office if you are willing to help out with the "highway" clean-up. We have all the supplies. You can do it on your own time - just let the office know you are going out, **you need to fill out a mandatory release form for Mass DOT.** We will let you know what areas need work. Thanks! This can be a fun family activity for adults and children over 10! Our route is 114A, from the church, across route 44, to the state line at the bus turn-around (the end of Ledge Road). *Please leave filled bags on the route, just let the church know where the bags are and Mass DOT will pick them up.*



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE EVENTS

TAKE-OUT ITALIAN NIGHT DINNER - Saturday, April 30th

Please watch for the order form for ordering your Take Out Italian Night Dinner..

You will be able to order on-line using a link in Donna's SCCUCC email, our SCCUCC website or our SCCUCC Facebook. Or you can call Evelyn Watkins (401-680-2490) or the Church Office (508-336-9355) to place your order.

The menu will be available starting April 1st and orders can be taken beginning that date until the order deadline of Sunday, April 24th. Pick up will be on Saturday, April 30th - the time will be announced closer to the date.

SOCK HOP and DELICIOUS DESSERT AUCTION (In Person) - Saturday, May 14th beginning at 5:00 pm.

Please join us for our second ever SOCK HOP. This will be an in-person event in the Hall and partially in the Fall River Parking Lot (weather permitting). Join us for music presented by Mark Johnson, our SOCK HOP CAFE featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and Root Beer Floats (water, coffee and juice also served). We will have fun activities for all ages. If you happen to have a poodle skirt, jeans and a t-shirt you are welcome to wear them or you can wear your outfits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

DELICIOUS DESSERT AUCTION -

As a fun part of our SOCK HOP evening we will be auctioning some delicious desserts made by our own Church members. Lil Lau and Nancy Reiter will be coordinating this Dessert Auction event and you will see and hear more about it as we get closer.

We will have a sign up sheet as we get closer to the date.

Please join us for dinner, dancing, activities and FUN!
Also please let us know if you wish to help decorate or donate items form this fun SOCK HOP evening!

Thank you very much,
Your SCCUCC Fundraising Committee

**Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

600 Fall River Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771

508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296

Church Office Email: seekonkucc@gmail.com

Rev. Joy Email: revjoyucc@gmail.com

Web Site: www.scc-ucc.com

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

-----TO CARE IS TO DO !!!

2022

*Senior Minister: Rev. Joy C. Utter
Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney
Director of Music: Susan Barrow
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares
Treasurer: Donna Euell*

The Congregation Ministers

*Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson
Co-Senior Deacon: Evelyn Watkins & Craig Grant
Moderator: Cheryl Gherardini
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan
Co-Trustee Chairs: Craig Mace & Jon Gherardini*

