

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church Of Christ

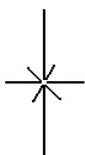
The Caller

Gathered 1885



COME TO WORSHIP!!

9:30AM



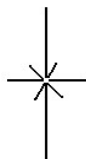
REMEMBER~~

God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it...AND there is everything you can do about it... like honor the Holy Source of Life with your presence in worship...!!

Here in our Seekonk Congregational Church UCC we have **ONE** hour a week to worship with praise and thanksgiving... and **167** hours to live out our faith in the world!!

*Who am I?
I am a child formed by God...
Nourished by God's love
Preserved by God's grace and mercy
Open to God's promises
Expectant of God's future
I am the human expression of the Divine hope
I am God's best and last chance in the world
That is who I am
I am all of that...and more...
Set Free and Empowered
Thanks be to God!*

(adapted from a sermon by Rev. Peter Gomes)



FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER   

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING....

...perhaps Pastor John Robinson heard God speaking back when the Pilgrims were about to set sail from England... & said to those who were setting forth...

“Make sure you don’t cling to where Calvin and Luther left us... God has more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word.”

And then there are the German forebears of our blended tradition who gave a great ecumenical spirit... and there are all those who worked with those who were oppressed and together they heard God’s voice above all voices...

What impressed me about the United Church ~ of Christ~ when I first moved to New England and joined the United Church of Christ 47 years ago... was the diversity...

...I attended a national gathering and came back with a picture of those who are part of the UNITED CHURCH = of Christ = there is every color... many nationalities... in the + churches across our land – there are some predominantly African American... Native American... Hawaiian... Japanese, Chinese, Armenian, Hispanic, Laotian, Korean ... Cape Verdean... Samoan... and many similar to ours. WHY? Because God has been Speaking over the ages – to those with the courage to start new churches... saying You ALL are fully human – ALL God’s beloved and together... we are the UNITED church...of Christ!

During the past nearly 400 years our ancestors in faith have continually listened to the still~speaking God and provide us with an important legacy of firsts...

Think about it...

• In 1620 Pilgrims first set sail from Holland to the new world...and the Congregational Church was first...

• In the 1700s our forebears in faith were the first voices to oppose slavery...

• 1st to established Harvard and Yale and then many historically Black colleges after the Civil War...

- 1810 ~ 1st to form a Board of Foreign missions
- 1839~ 1st to free the slaves on the Amistad
- 1853 – first to ordain a woman–Antoinette Brown
- 1959 – 1st to challenge FCC rules which denied people of color the use of air waves
- 1963... fought for Civil rights...
- 1972...1st to ordain an openly gay person...Bill Johnson
- 1st to give Public witness along side those farm workers whose working conditions were deplorable...

God has spoken down through the ages through those who came before us... a combination of fierce independence and belief in love and justice, compassion and witness ...a still ~ speaking God shining new light into our spirit, our intellect and our social responsibility in THESE DAYS.

So what holds us together? Covenant - holds us together in a lasting relationship with God... we are made ONE through our baptism... called by name...

...Do we hear those words of God to Jesus and to US
...YOU ARE MY BELOVED WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN...

Do we hear God speaking through Jesus' prayer just before he died: "O that they may all be one!"
God still speaking in this time and place... NEVER PLACE A PERIOD WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA!

So... How is God still speaking in YOUR life?
Whenever I look at the children and youth of all ages here in our church ...I am reassured ... God is speaking to us through these children...

• God is still speaking through natural beauty... that heavy wet snow clinging so tenaciously to the trees and bushes yesterday WAS a reminder of great beauty

• God is still speaking in the creative tensions of our lives – as one person faced with challenges said to me recently again... I KNOW God is with me speaking comfort through so many people praying for me ~~

God is still speaking through those who are working for peace and justice...for the well being of those who are without health care or food or shelter...

God is still speaking!

God does not intend for our faith to be punctuated by periods, as if we ever could know God's final word on any matter on earth or in heaven.

Many thanks for all who helped create the worship for December 2022. It was almost back to 'normal' if we recall what normal really was or is or will be! And how exhilarating to see the church nearly to capacity each week of Advent with so many families and children and youth and seniors! and Christmas Eve was so uplifting with both the 5 pm and the 10 pm services overflowing -

Indeed, we are blessed with everyone sharing gifts and time and talent and presence... and ... As God's people many we carry the Light of Christmas into this New Year 2023 with Hope Peace Joy and Love... !!!

Blessings ~~ Rev. Joy



TWO SERVICES ON JANUARY 8TH

This coming Sunday, January 8 we will have 2 services (since last Sunday was a holiday) - (9:30 and 11:00) and for all those who like to sleep longer on a Sunday morning or like a shorter service or prefer more space in the pews as the rising numbers of illness strains cause concern – this second service for the 8th is perfect!! We will affirm our own baptisms and celebrate being marked as God's Beloved people.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF EXTENDS TO ALL
IN THIS FAMILY OF FAITH
A *HOPEFUL, *JOYFUL, *PEACEFUL, *LOVE-FILLED

Happy New Year!

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH
FORMATION:**

January Confirmation Schedule:

Jan 1 9:30 AM worship (optional)
Jan 6 Friday... Confirmand Gathering 6:30 - 8:30PM in hall
Jan 8 9:30 worship & **Class 10:30-1:00 lower hall**
(Racial Justice Awareness)
Jan 13 & 14 **Homeless Sleep Out** arrive Fri at 4 PM,
leave Sat at 10 AM
Jan 15 9:30 worship (present about homeless &
donations collected)
Jan 20 Arrive Fri at Church 4PM, return Sat Jan 21 at
8:30PM **Craigville Overnight Outreach Event**
Jan 22 no worship
Jan 29 9:30 worship

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN:

5th grade-8th graders
Sunday Jan 15 at 4:00PM
overnight to Monday Jan16 pick up 10AM
fee \$15 RSVP KRISTIN by Jan 10 774-991-1555
(moonbounce obstacle course, games, crafts, pizza,
ice cream, candle ceremony)



PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

BABY CELEBRATION NEWS

*We are thrilled to announce the adoption of a baby boy -
August Finn Hoyt-Rupert
to Parents Keli & Maggie Hoyt-Rupert.
August was born on 11/26/22
Proud Grandparents are Jan & Ron Rupert
and Great-Grandfather Ed August*

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

*Ron & LoriAnn Mowry
Announce the Engagement of their Daughter
Elizabeth to Tyler Rokowski of Norwich, CT.
A November 2023 Wedding is planned.*



Our thoughts, condolences and prayers are with:

*~ The Family of Bill Codega...His Memorial Service will be held
on January 28
~The Family of June Mace, mother of Craig Mace...prayers for
Craig and Linda and whole family
~The family of Laurie Mailhot on the loss of her mother
~ We grieve with Joe Pacheco and family at the passing of Karen
Riendeau-Pacheco on 12/27/22*



NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

OVERFLOWING THANKS!!! ~~~

♦ To the December CALLER collators – Evelyn Watkins, Cheryl Gherardini, Joyce Greene, Maarit Yando, Diane Burbank, Cathy Strycharz, Joyce Almeida, Jane Ransom and Mary Silvia...and to David Graham for delivering the mailing to the Bulk Mailing Center.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE CONTINUED

❖ To all who participated in the Advent and Christmas worship services – readers, sacred dancers, youth choir, children's choir, cherub choir, senior choir, bellchoir, guitar choir, candle-lighters, ushers, greeters, 5th graders, church school children, givers of flowers, decorators, liturgists, story tellers, and worshippers!

❖ **5TH GRADE HANGING OF THE GREENS:** *Miranda Bujold, Lillian Booth, Jason Cardoso, Lillith Moakler, Twyla Maloney-Stevenson, Alexis Roy, Stephen Bentley (6th grader)...Logan Moakler (8th grader)*

❖ **Children's Choir K-5th grade**

Ella Desjardin, Mason Heelan, Aubriella Perry, Ronan Flynn, Elijah Freitas, Gracyn Ferney, Caden Celio, Bennet Devane, Angel Costa-Mello, Jaylyn Kenney, Rowan Kenney, Azalea Matonis, Shaylin Tessier, Kiptin Poland, Koda Poland, Zoe Freitas, Dylan Saunders, Madeleine Bentley, Madeline DeSousa, Genevieve Bujold, Miranda Bujold, Jason Cardoso, Henley Sandagato

❖ **Youth Choir 6th- 11th grade**

Stephen Bentley, Alanna Celio, Nathaniel Higgins, Michael Ryder, Arielle Fox, Nolan Travassos, Ryan Travassos, Adison Sobczak, Ruby Guerra, Melissa Keller

❖ **Skit: Elves...***Arielle Fox, Ryan Travassos, Nolan Travassos, Adison Sobczak,*

❖ **Star Child...***Jaylyn Kenney*

❖ **Sacred Dancers:***Aubriella Perry, Gracyn Ferney, Azalea Matonis, Shaylin Tessier, Madeleine Bentley, Genevieve Bujold, Miranda Bujold, Adison Sobczak, Amy Deslauriers*

❖ **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** *Susan Barrow*

❖ **SENIOR CHOIR:** *Shelley Alves, Betty Graham, David Graham, Craig Grant, Brian Burns, Pat Smith, Cindy Pearson, Haley Salgueiro*

❖ To all who gave with such self-giving generous hearts to the mission of Christmas through angel tree gifts, food donations and gift certificates

❖ To 4 Town Farm and their beautiful poinsettias...

❖ To Evergreen Tree and Landscaping for so many gifts of assistance with wreaths, centerpieces and help.

The thank you list is truly endless – know you are blessed!!

Many tanks to Andrew Correia, Director of J.H. Williams & Co., Funeral Home for donating calendars for the New Year 2023. Calendars are available for you to pick up on the table in front of the office or at either entry of the church.

New Member Seminar

Sunday, JANUARY 22, 2023

following Worship

at 10:30 in Room 1 of the Gardiner Building

*All who wish to join as members of the Seekonk
Congregational Church UCC or want to know more
about this faith community are welcome to attend.*



Be a Well Being Group

TUESDAY~01/10/2023 at 6 PM

ALL INVITED

The purpose of the Be a Well Being group is to provide a supportive and non-judgmental forum for exploring stress management strategies. Meditation, prayer, gentle movement, breath work and group discussion will be utilized. The group will be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6pm-7pm in the Memorial Room...

Please join the group!!

If you have any questions, please email Sarah Stevenson at mamastaloney@gmail.com


Flower Committee...Reminds everyone there is a sign-up sheet in Gardiner Building for flowers to be given in memory or in honor of a loved one.



SPONSOR THE CALLER

\$85 for one month ...See sign-up sheet in the Hall
please contact the office 508-336-9355.
All help is appreciated!

Italian Night Dinner!



Saturday, February 4, 2023
More information will be posted soon

**CORNEB BEEF &
CABBAGE DINNER**
SATURDAY - MARCH 11TH



YARD SALE
(PURCHASE A TABLE AND SELL ITEMS)
SATURDAY - APRIL 22ND



The Deacon's Fund goes to help those in our faith community in need of emergency help or those who have special needs! For those who give via paper envelopes, the envelopes are GREEN and in the offering envelope box for the first Sunday of each month. OR if you give on-line, go to www.scc-ucc.com and click on the online giving button at the top right hand corner and fill out the online giving form. We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month.

From the Board of Trustees

The Trustees would like to extend our best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year.

We would also like members to know that if they see something that needs attention in or around the buildings, please let a trustee know. The trustee of the month is listed on the office door. Otherwise, leave a message with the office.

Thank You, Trustees

REMINDER...People needed to help shovel walks when we have snow storms... JUST COME and HELP!!
We have shovels or bring your own.

PARKING



We have a problem and it is a WONDERFUL issue to have, it is parking. WE are so very happy that you are coming to church. But have you noticed when you come to church recently especially if you arrive closer to 9:30, there are few and maybe no spaces in the lots. As a reminder we have 2 lots, one to the left of the church on Fall River Avenue and the other on County Street.

You could also park on Belview Street 1/2 block off Fall River Avenue past the front of the church... and on Alta Street 1/2 block up from the County Street parking lot.

Please note that Fall River Avenue is a state highway and parking is prohibited on all state highways.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

PLEDGE GIVING (2022-2023)

**“IT’S NEVER TOO LATE
TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE.”**

You can call the office at any time

Is your Pledge up-to-date?

Electronic Giving ~ Traditional: Church Envelope

For more information regarding Electronic Giving (*forms*) and Pledge Cards for those who have not yet pledged please call Maria in the office 508-336-9355.

Your Stewardship Committee

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL????

30+ Years ago we, as a church, were told that if we keep asking that question...in 20 years we would see the results! --

So far...not so great!! --

Our Senior Minister even told us that in her will it stipulates that 10% of whatever remains at the time of death will go to the church.

Have you prayerfully taken this step of making the church a beneficiary to insure the future of our Seekonk Congregational Church UCC??

It's never too early to make that move.



PRISM OF PRAISE MUSICAL CONCERT

will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023

... more details to follow

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION



Mission and Social Action has been busy this month. We have been collecting non-perishable food items for UCAP this year and were able to donate 25 food baskets this year.

At the church bazaar, we raised almost \$400. for Haiti projects. As most of you know, it has been a very difficult time in Haiti and it is hard to get money and supplies to our partners in Haiti. With Suzanne Swanson's help, we have been able to transfer funds to some of our interpreters. Our church conference has been able to get some additional money through to some of our other projects such as One Egg Haiti, clinics, schools, and orphanages. Mission and Social Action sent an additional \$300. To help in this endeavor. Our church also sent \$1400 from the Daehler Hayes Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Our food pantry has been moved to the foyer in the hall for easier access to people when no one is there is open the doors. We continue to deliver food from Doorways to the shut-ins at the Seekonk Commons every other Saturday.

The Mission and Social Action Book Club is reading "Water in Plain Sight: Hope for a Thirsty World" by Judith Schwartz. Her premise is that we have enough water to go around, it is our lack of land management that is causing the problems. By working with the water cycle and understanding what makes natural systems thrive, we can revive lush, productive landscapes. We welcome all who are interested to read the book, which is available at the library, and to join us on a Zoom meeting on January 18 at 6pm. If interested, please contact Betty Graham at bettygraham5@yahoo.com for a Zoom invite.

<p>CANS & BOTTLES MA Deposit Only: <u>Save the environment</u> and people!! Bring donations to the <u>green bins</u> - lift lid - drop in clean bottles and cans. Money goes for <u>hunger /shelter / mission concerns.</u></p>

EARNEST WORKERS

Happy New Year!



Earnest Workers SOUP SALE

Soup Sale Sunday morning after Service in Hall during
Coffee Hour on **January 8th, 22nd and 29th**

Here are some of the upcoming events for the Earnest Workers...

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 -Guest Speaker Ellen Bensusan - Armchair Traveling to the Caribbean for Scuba Diving

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building for a short Earnest Workers Meeting and then go to the Church Sanctuary for Ellen's presentation at 10:45 am. After the presentation we will travel back to the Hall for our bagged lunch time together. Desert will be provided.

EARNEST WORKERS SOUP SALES: Sundays: January 8, January 22 and January 29th - Earnest Worker Soup Sales - during Coffee Hour after the 9:30 Church Services.

Betty McVay and Cathy Strycharz will be coordinating the Earnest Worker Soup Sales for January 8 and January 22nd. We will have a sign up sheet at our January 4th Earnest Worker meeting for members to sign up to bring Soups for all 3 dates.

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 - Gardening: what flowers should we plant to have blooms all year long? - Guest Speaker Larry Hindle from Evergreen Tree and Landscaping

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 for a short Earnest Workers meeting and then welcome Larry to speak to us about Spring gardening. Please bring a bagged lunch and a dessert will be provided.

**February 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday Soup Luncheon -
Following the noontime Ash Wednesday Service.**

More details to follow....

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - Guest Speaker -
Elizabeth Barker: Childhood in England and More...**

We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10:00 am, have our Earnest Workers Meeting and then share time listening to Elizabeth's stories. NOte: you may wish to read a book about Blecheley Park in England during World War II called The Rose Code b Kate Quinn. It is a novel that tells the story of 3 women in England at the time of the War who worked a Blecheley Park. This is a good read for the winter months... Please bring a bagged lunch and dessert will be provided.

**March 19, 2023 - EARNEST WORKERS MAD
HATTERS TEA -**

Join us on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 in the Hall of the Gardiner Building. Look for more information about tickets (only 75 seats available) will be coming!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490.

Please feel free to invite guests to join us for events and even to join the Earnest Workers!



Christmas Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

Rev. Dr. H. Daehler Hayes
 Janice Moran
 Loved Ones
 My husband Albert Baker
 My wonderful Dad
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Santos
 Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Travassos
 Wayne Travassos
 Charles Cote
 Silverio Santos
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Deslauriers
 Paul Deslauriers
 Marie Jeanne McNerney
 Theresa Patenaude
 Robert Lindell Jr.
 Joan Botelho
 Vo, Shain, Grandma & Grandpa
 Jack Alves
 John L. Cordeiro
 Claire T. Kaufman
 Our Sisters, Cheryl Ruegg and Gloria Boucher
 Our Parents
 Brett Keeney
 Duncan Hall
 Loved Ones
 George, Mary & Stephen Northup
 Geraldine Jones
 Duncan Hall
 Daehler
 John Johnson
 Howard W. McVay
 Parents Helen & Jack Landry
 Parents & Grandparents
 Irene & Herve Routhier
 Madeline & Arthur Gagne
 Irene & Jack Driscoll
 Erma & Will Peigelbeck
 Gary Peigelbeck
 Lorraine Ridgely
 Loved Ones
 All Loved Ones in Heaven
 Elliott M. Fox Jr. (PaPa)
 Ruth David (Nanny)
 Manuel Matos (Vo)
 Herb Brown
 My Parents – Janice & Walter Patrick
 William Brosnan
 Peter D. Salvatore
 Lilius Pippert
 Our Loved Ones
 My Parents, Lloyd & Lillian Johnson
 Mike & Dotty George



Given By:



Rev. Joy Utter
 The Staff
 Elizabeth Barker
 Elaine Baker
 Jan Randall
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 The Deslauriers Family
 Cathy Strycharz
 Cathy Strycharz
 Lynelle & Michael
 Shelley Alves
 Marsha Cordeiro, Rebecca Kenney, Ashley Lambresa
 Family of Marsha Cordeiro, Rebecca Kenney, Ashley Lambresa
 Cindy Pearson & Susan Boucher
 Bob & Jean Hill
 Debbie Keeney
 Debbie Keeney
 Lisbon-Motta Family
 Donna-Lee & Frank Connors
 The Zitano & Inman Families
 Gladys Hall
 Linda & Vivian
 Kim Johnson
 Betty McVay
 Donna Euell
 Addie & Tom Heelan
 The Darling / Driscoll Family
 The Darling / Driscoll Family
 The Darling / Driscoll Family
 The Darling / Driscoll Family
 The Darling / Driscoll Family
 Inman & Zitano Families
 Kris & Edna Bujold
 The Bujold Family
 Elliott, Liz, Mason & Arielle
 Elliott, Liz, Mason & Arielle
 Elliott, Liz, Mason & Arielle
 Bett-Ann Brown
 Diane Burbank
 Ellen Salvatore
 Ellen & Katie Salvatore
 Ellen, Katie & Noah Salvatore
 Jane & Larry Ransom
 Lesley Daigle
 Chris & Barbara Brassill

In Honor Of:

*Michael & Lynelle
Our Granddaughters
The Confirmation Class
Loved Ones*

Rev. Joy

Ed and Laila Smith

Children & Grandchildren:

Michael, Veronica, Sofia & Lucas

Eric, Lindsay, Chace, Lyla & Vivian

Marguerite Chenier

Our Children & Grandchildren

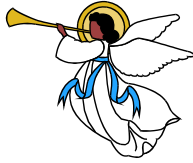
Family & Friends

Caroline Pippert

Katie & Noah Salvatore,

Marylou Salvatore & Tom Forbes

Our sweet, Reed Oliver



Given By:

Mom & Dad

Bob & Jean Hill

The Zitano & Inman Families

Beverly Martell & Lori Ferreira

Linda & Vivian

Pat Smith

Donna Euell

Addie & Tom Heelan

Addie & Tom Heelan

Ellen Salvatore

Ellen Salvatore

Ellen Salvatore

Carrie & Garrett Scherma



***Special thanks to all who have given poinsettias
in honor or memory of loved ones***

*The Wreaths on the walls of the sanctuary are given in loving memory of
George and Nancy Clark given by their family*

*The two wreaths hanging on the front doors of the Church
are in Loving Memory of Loved Ones Given by Rene Andrews*



Peace on Earth



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE THANKS YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

Our SCCUCC Fundraising Committee wishes to thank all the wonderful people who helped with our In-Person Christmas Bazaar this year!
It was a wonderful success!

Thank you to all the people who;

- Helped with Advertising for our Christmas Bazaar!
- Donated items for our Drawing Table!
- Baked delicious items for our Baked Goods Table!
- Made beautiful Centerpieces and Wreaths!
- Made knitted and crocheted items for our Knitting table!
- Helped with donating items, setting up and selling items in our Grandma's Attic!
- Helped the week before the Bazaar to set up and get ready for the Bazaar!
- Helped the day of the Bazaar - selling Jewelry, Special Christmas Items, Pet treats and toys, Church Gift Cards, Ham/Beans/Brown Bread/Cheese, Haiti items, Rada Cutlery and wherever needed!
- Helped with Santa's pictures, the Children's Craft Room and wherever needed (especially the Confirmants)!
- Helped in the Kitchen - donating food items, cooking, serving our guests!
- Helped with the Drawing table!
- Helped clean up when the Bazaar was over!

There is so MUCH involved and it was WONDERFUL to have so many people help to make this year's Christmas Bazaar so very special - our first in-person Bazaar since 2019!

The Fundraising Committee thanks you and hopes that you and your friends and families have a wonderful New Year 2023!

Thank you!



**Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

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Seekonk, MA 02771

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*A Special Thanks to Margaret MacKenney for sponsoring this month's Caller
In Memory of Robert & Dolores Barrow*

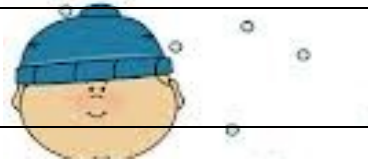
OR CURRENT RESIDENT

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

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

JANUARY 2023

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



Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson
Co-Senior Deacons: Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus
Moderator: Stacy Inman
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan
Co-Trustee Chairs: Craig Mace & Linda Sable
The Congregation Ministers