

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

The Caller

Gathered 1885



TWO SERVICES BEGIN ON

SEPTEMBER 17TH AT 9:00 AND 10:30AM
Church School @ 9AM

*“Celebrating the Body of Christ ~
Sharing our Gifts”*

**Invite family, friends, and neighbors looking for a church
home to come worship with us...**

**THE SEEKONK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEEKS TO BE
A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
RADICALLY INCLUSIVE**

**FAITHFULLY COMMITTED TO LOVE AND JUSTICE
CONTINUING IN TODAY'S WORLD
THE GOSPEL MOVEMENT
BEGUN BY JESUS CHRIST**

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



From the Senior Minister ~



With great gratitude for all those who shared in leading the worship for August during my vacation and overflowing thanks to our amazing staff and deacons and leaders who continue to give so graciously and conscientiously of themselves!

We are extraordinarily blessed in this Seekonk Congregational Church~United Church of Christ! Why? Because so many who call this their church home bring the gifts of who they are and when we combine all these gifts we create this GREAT SCC-UCC.

WE ARE CALLED TO ‘**BE THE CHURCH**’ and our denomination (*The United Church of Christ*) has created a BANNER that I truly think ‘says it all’!!



Just THINK about those words and phrases... and consider the outspoken language of hatred and the acts of evil that seem omnipresent in these days... What IF... in Jesus’ name... i.e.- in the Name of Love we all strive to **BE THE CHURCH** and witness in all WE say and do to make those words a reality in our lives and out into the world? **Imagine!!**

THIS SCC-UCC is the place to let your gifts rise up!! Remember: “One of the names for God is: **I am making all things new**”! So perhaps there are new discoveries to be made:

You may have the gift of welcoming others... you may have the skill to tell others about this unique and special community of faith! You may be the peace maker in the midst of a confusing and chaotic world. You may bring songs or poetry or stories to share. You may unleash exciting new ideas about how to increase pledges or how to hold a fantastic new fund-raising event. You may be the perfect hand-holder or attentive listener. You may be the one who lights a candle in a healing service be the one smiling as you serve at a supper or help clean up the kitchen. Endless opportunities!

And the list goes on.

We are all ONE in this particular UCC community of faith – and so in this 2023 ~ 2024 year ahead... LET’S ALL ‘BE THE CHURCH’ TOGETHER ... what hidden treasures or strengthening gifts of yourself will you offer? And what will you offer as gratitude for the gifts shared with you by others?

We are all ONE striving to witness in the spirit of Christ’s love! I give thanks for all of you ... as together we discover even more about who we are and whose we are AS God’s people called to this time and place to BE THE CHURCH!! AMEN!

With blessings in faith, love, and peace
~ Joy

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION YOUTH & FAMILIES

SEPTEMBER 2023

10th - Welcome Back “Celebration Sunday!!!” at 9:30 AM

- Preschool & Nursery stay in lower hall
- K-8th GRADE begin in church with parents
- Teachers commissioned
- K-8th Grade move to Hall for theme project

Special Outside Coffee Hour: treats, games, spin art and surprises!

17th - CHILDREN BEGIN IN CLASSROOMS

(9:00 AM church school begins this day)

- 2nd grade Communion Class start in worship for Commissioning and Bible Presentation

24th - Regular Classes (Confirmands Commissioned)

OCTOBER 2023

1st - **World-Wide Communion Sunday** (processional of costumes and breads)

- K- 8th grade BEGIN (with family) IN CHURCH then gather in lower hall to meet a special guest who will “Share their Gifts” (*Diversity*)

8th - Regular classes

15th - Regular Classes

Saturday Oct 21 TRUNK OR TREATS! 3-6 PM in Fall River Ave. Parking Lot

22nd - Regular Classes

29th - Regular Classes - Special Coffee Hour Treats!

- Children invited to wear a costume for a special parade in worship!

Parent & Youth Confirmation Orientation

(Calling ALL 9th - 10th - 11th - 12th Graders)

Sunday, September 17th

9:00AM - All prospective confirmands attend Worship

10:15AM - Parent and Youth Orientation

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR



HELP WANTED!!!!

Seeking people to join the Senior Choir. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to attend rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

We are always looking for new members to join the Senior Choir, Handbell Choir or Guitar Choir. Please come to any rehearsal and see how much fun we have!

Senior choir sings an average of 3 Sundays a month and Guitar choir plays one Sunday a month. Handbell choir plays on special occasions.

Susan Barrow, Music Director

BECOMING A MEMBER OF The Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC

September 24th - 11:30-Noon

Please sign up if you wish to become a member.
(child care provided if needed)

Sign up on wall in Church or call the office

Led by Rev. Joy Utter

INVITE THOSE WITH NO CHURCH HOME TO VISIT OUR CHURCH

... If we seek to be a church that is welcoming – it begins with each one of us extending an invitation~~

PEOPLE AND PASSAGES



Our thoughts, condolences and prayers are with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones ~ especially:

~The family and friends of Bettina (Tina) Letcher who passed away on 7/16/2023. She was a close friend of Rev. Joy.

~The Heelan family on the passing of Tom's Mother Carmela (Millie) Heelan, 96 on 7/26/2023.

~The family and friends of Alice White, 107 who passed away on 8/6/2023. She lived a long wonderful life.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

- ◆ All the Weeders who have come to weed the church grounds. Feel free to come and weed anytime, the grounds are beautiful.

Congratulations to Elysha & Joshua Santos on the birth of their second child, a daughter **Mariella Lily Santos** born on 8/18/23. Her big brother is Adriano. Proud grandfather Craig Grant will be very busy.

The Columbarium Committee is available to answer any questions on the Columbarium itself, and how the whole process of **internment** works. In the near future, we will be offering some brief informational meetings about the Columbarium.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?
FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL
THANK YOU!

~TRUNK O' TREATS~
Saturday, October 21 from 3-6PM
Outside in Fall River Ave. Parking Lot



Stay tuned for date in October
for an educational gathering on
“Introduction to the Bible”

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



~ **Craft Group** ~

Our group meets Tuesday from 11am to 1pm in Room 1. Come and join us for some lively conversation and craft work. Maybe you knit or crochet or do bead work, coloring or painting. We like to share and have some laughs. Bring a snack or lunch if you like. Contact Mary Silvia at 774-644-5387 with any questions.
Hope to see you!

WORKSHOPS

If you have a special talent and would like to hold a workshop to teach others and make special items...
Please call the church office

BOARD OF DEACONS



Well, if you didn't believe in global warming before this summer, maybe you will now. Or maybe you would prefer to remember the mild winter we experienced, and just forget the very hot and humid days we had to endure this spring and summer. Although the official end of summer is not until September 22, The Seekonk Congregational Church's summer ends just before that when, on September 17 we go back to two services again, 9 & 10:30 AM.

As we start out this fall season, don't forget to wear your nametags (as we are sure you did all summer long). This is part of being "radically inclusive", making sure our arms are open to ALL who walk through our doors and letting them know who WE are, and that we are interested in knowing THEM. Besides, you really don't want to get on the bad side of Donna Euell, because you know she will find you without your name tag!

How do you get a nametag? Thank you for asking. See Donna Euell or call the church office at 508-336-9355.

Before we leave summer, the Deacons extend out grateful thanks to all of those who participated in the August services;

*Aug 6 – Tony DeJesus – service leader & message

*Aug 13 – Kristin Putney – message

*Aug 20 – Evelyn Watkins as service leader,

Sarah Stevenson the message

*Aug 27 – David Supinski service leader,

The Guitar choir the message.

A special thanks to Alice Supinski who played the organ & keyboard. And finally, thanks to the many other people who helped in various roles during the summer.

While we are into the spirit of thanks, we also thank Kristin Putney and the many, many, many people that helped her create another great Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience! It is always very impressive to go by the church during the VBS and see so many people involved! It is also very impressive to see the videos that Kristin shared with us on Aug 13.

As we segue into our fall season, we renew our many fundraising activities, such as the Harvest Supper. If you want to be a committed member of our church family, these various fundraisers are a great place to volunteer and meet new people, while making a difference for this church community. Check Donna Euell's newsletter or her Sunday announcements to plan your volunteer opportunities.

Below is a listing of our Board of Deacons. We can easily be recognized as the ones who are wearing the red or purple (and sometimes white) stoles in church. We are here to serve, so if you have any concerns or questions, please give us the opportunity to help you.

DEACONS: Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus (Co-Senior Deacons)

Dawn Houle	Jim Siegfried	Bonnie DeBlois
Mark Johnson	Russ Noble	Ann Varna-Garis
David Supinski	Leslie Daigle	Lori Ferreira
Cindy Pearson	Ruth Graham (ad hoc)	
Jonathan Ryder (ad hoc)		Donna Euell (ad hoc)
Louanne Jennings-Abelson (Deacon Emerita)		

Submitted By: David Graham (Deacon Emeritus)



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 to 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 form.

We thank all who give faithfully and encourage others to consider a small gift for this fund each month.

OCTOBER 1st WORLD WIDE COMMUNION

- 9:00AM and 10:30AM Worship
- Church School at 9AM
- K-8th Begin in Church with family
- Breads from around the world
- "Visitors" from many countries



ALL SAINTS DAY: November 5th

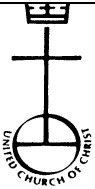
On the first Sunday in November, it is our tradition to carry out an ancient tradition that has been in existence for over 1000 years. It is the tradition of remembering with love and gratitude those who have gone on before us to eternal rest.

If you have lost a loved one since last November, please feel free to call the office and we will include the name on our Roll Call for that day. Also plan to come to a most inspiring and uplifting service with toe-tapping jazz that will lead us all to greater heights!

From the Board of Trustees

The Trustees will not be meeting again until the *All Committee Meeting*, Monday September 18th. The Trustees will continue to meet on the third Monday of every month.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for maintenance of the Church and the grounds. If you see any maintenance related issues, please see a Trustee



ATTENTION

**All who serve on a Church Board
or Committee that meets regularly!**

*Boards of Christian Education, Deacons,
Mission & Social Action, Trustees
and Stewardship Committee plus Church Council*

**September Meetings will be held at
ONE time...**

**Monday, September 18th
beginning at 6:00pm in Hall**

**Note* We will cover several important areas of church life and
leadership altogether and then each Committee will hold its
monthly meeting that night.**

*(Regular monthly/bi-monthly meeting
times will resume in October)*

STEWARDSHIP

NEWS FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PLEDGED!



PLEDGE GIVING (2023-2024) IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE.

Thanks to all who have returned their pledge cards.

**If you would like to continue your pledge
from last year, please call the office of go to
our website so we are aware of your intentions
and can update our records.**

508-336-9355/www.scc-ucc.com

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 it's anyone's business...but some folks would like it known that they give with a check each month or two while still others give electronically which is transferred directly to the church ...and of course there are those who give faithfully into the plate every week!

*So...there are different ways of giving
and we give thanks for the variety.*

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION



Mission and Social Action would like to thank all those who made sandwiches, snacks, or provided water for Feed the Homeless on August 23. We provided 150 bag lunches for their Pawtucket location across from Park Place Congregational Church. They were very grateful. We will be providing a hot lunch next time. Further details will follow.

Our Mission book club selection this month was “How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America” by Clint Smith. Dr. Smith traveled to Dakar, Senegal, Jefferson’s Monticello, Whitney Plantation, Angola Prison, Blanding Cemetery.

The most surprising chapter to me was the one devoted to slavery in New York City. The author documents the millions of NY slaves, as well as the city’s financing the South’s slavery industries and the Atlantic slave trade. This is definitely one of my favorite non-fiction books and I feel that this should be required reading for every high school student in America.

Our next novel will be All Souls Rising: A Novel of Haiti by Madison Smartt Bell. This is a heavily researched historical fiction account of the Haiti uprising of 1792. There are many interesting characters that bring the novel to life from the doctor who learns herbal medicines to those who practice voodoo. Please join us for a discussion on October 12, 6 pm at Bonnie Deblois’ house. If you would like to join us, please contact:

Betty Graham at bettygraham5@yahoo.com or
Bonnie Deblois bhdeblois@gmail.com.

We continue to work on getting certified as a UCC Green Church. We have passed Level 1 completely and have only a few things to do on Level 2.

A group of us from Mission and Social Action met with members of Jake Auchincloss' staff to discuss the dire situation in Haiti. Our contacts in Haiti are begging for the US to send help to deal with the gang violence and the lack of food. They heard our message, but it remains to be seen if anything will come of it.

Our ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY project began in April! 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. 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.*

- **CANS & BOTTLES MA Deposit Only:** Bring donations to the green bins - Money goes for hunger/shelter/mission concerns
- **FOOD CERTIFICATES NEEDED...**We need Gift certificates in \$5 or \$10 amounts from area stores for those in need. Please give to Rev. Joy or leave in office any time.
- **FOOD PANTRY** (in Porch Area) is for anyone you know who has financial challenges. Needed: canned meats, tuna, stew, peanut butter, paper goods, cereals

The Seekonk Congregational Church has a recycle bin on the Fall River Avenue parking lot for anyone wishing to recycle their cooking oil.

Locally Green engages in green practices by recycling and reusing cooking oil in order to offset carbon emissions. In partnership with the Alternative Fuel Foundation, a non-profit organization, used cooking oil is turned into clean burning biofuel. With the proceeds from the recycled cooking oil, Locally Green supports local schools and universities by donating funds from the biofuel to eco-friendly programs.

WELCOME TO THE EARNEST WORKERS!

If you have not attended an Earnest Workers Meeting before, please know that you are very welcome to join us starting in September 2023.

Wednesday, September 13th will be our first meeting for the 2023/2024 year. The group typically meets the first Wednesday of each month for community and activities. However, in September we meet the second Wednesday due to the Labor Day weekend.

So here are some “Save the Dates” for Fall Earnest Worker meetings to add to your calendars. If you wish to have a complete copy of the Earnest Worker events and activities, please contact our Earnest Worker Secretary, Evelyn Watkins, at 401-680-2490 or email: evelynwtkins@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Meet and Greet and Making Cookie Walk Containers! For our first Earnest Workers meeting of the 2023-2024 year we will meet and greet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building, introducing ourselves to each other and going over our calendar of meetings, programs and fundraising events for 2023-2024.

This is a wonderful time to invite new friends to join us for our Earnest Workers meeting to introduce them to who we are and what we plan to do for the coming year! We will also make containers for the Earnest Worker Cookie Walk which will be held on Sunday, October 29th during both Coffee Hours after Church.

Sign-up sheets for making cookies for the October Cookie Walk will be available at this meeting and also at our October 4th meeting.

Please bring a bagged lunch and a beverage. Apple pie, ice cream and decaf coffee will be served.

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 - Guest Speaker – Gloria Stewart - We will meet at 10 a.m. in the Hall of the Gardiner Building for our business meeting. Gloria Stewart will join us at 10:30 to share her knowledge and experience about working with Vision Impaired programs in many capacities. Gloria has a wonderful story to share. Sign-up sheets will be available to sign up to make cookies for our Cookie Walk on October 29th. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. Dessert and decaf coffee will be provided.

OCTOBER COOKIE WALK – Sunday, October 29th during both Coffee Hours {Note: We will bring our cookies to Janice's Room on Saturday, October 28th in the morning to get ready for our Cookie Walk the next day.

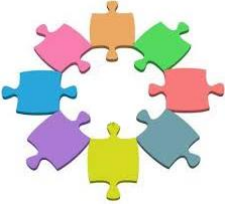
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – (Please note that this is the second Wednesday of November) FLOWER ARRANGING with Christina Greene - We will meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building at 10 a.m. for our business meeting followed by Flower Arranging with Christina at 10:30 a.m.. If you have special flower containers you wish to use, you may bring them with you. There will be a charge for the supplies for this program. Details will follow. Please bring a bagged lunch and beverage. Dessert and decaf coffee will be provided.

DECEMBER 6, 2023 – CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON at Davenports and YANKEE SWAP

Please save this date. We will meet at Davenports at noon for our traditional Christmas Luncheon and Yankee Swap. We have much fun at this event each year. More details to follow.

Please have a wonderful Fall and we hope to welcome you to our Earnest Workers!





**Tuesday, October 3, 2023 ~
6-7PM in the Memorial Room...
Be a Well Being Group...
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.

This group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Please join the group!! If you have any questions, please email Sarah Stevenson at mamastaloney@gmail.com

YARDSALE

**CHURCH YARD SALE
Saturday, October 14, 2023
8:30AM – NOON**

Rent a table and sell your treasures!

Rent a table and sell your treasures! \$35 a table. Call the Church Office (508-336-9355) or send an email to seekonkucc@gmail.com to reserve a table. Coffee, muffins and doughnuts will be sold.



QUILT SHOW

The Piecemakers

Quilt Show

Saturday October 28, 2023

9AM – 2PM

Admission: \$5.00. Over 100 quilts on display. Quilter's Boutique, drawings for baskets, bargain table...Quilter's Cafe and more.

See our Starry Night Christmas Quilt!

Tickets available at the show. Drawing December 2, 2023 at the Seekonk Congregational Church Bazaar. Tell your Friends & Neighbors.

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Eat In or Take Out

Buffet serving from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

MENU: Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Butternut Squash, Harvard Beets, Onions, Cole Slaw, Rolls & Butter and Apple Bread pudding...

TICKET PRICES:

Adults \$15.00 and Children (ages 5-12) \$6.00.

RESERVATIONS are SUGGESTED.

For tickets or an information please contact the Church Office at 508-336-9355 or Donna Euell at donna.euell@gmail.com or 401-523-5283. You will also be able to order Take Out orders on-line.

Vegetables are donated by 4Town Farm!
Tell your Friends & Neighbors.



Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND GIFT FESTIVAL

December 2, Saturday, 9am-2pm.

Handmade crafts, knitted goods, decorations, jewelry, Live Wreaths, centerpieces and more!

Online orders available for Wreaths and Centerpieces
www.scc-ucc.com.

Baked goods as well as a luncheon being served featuring various soups, sandwiches, homemade desserts, doughboys, etc.

Special room with Christmas items, drawing table with winners announced at the end of the day.

Pictures with Santa. Come and enjoy the fun!

For questions:

Call 508-336-9355 or Email: seekonkucc@gmail.com.



The Seekonk Congregational Church United Church of Christ

2023 September/October Caller

Senior Minister: Rev. Joy C. Utter
for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson

Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney
Co-Senior Deacon: Evelyn Watkins & Tony DeJesus

Director of Music: Susan Barrow
Moderator: Stacy Inman

Office Administrator: Maria Tavares
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan

Treasurer: Donna Euell
Co-Trustee Chairs: Craig Mace & Linda Sable

The Congregation Ministers

To care is to do!

