

The Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church Of Christ

The Caller

Gathered 1885

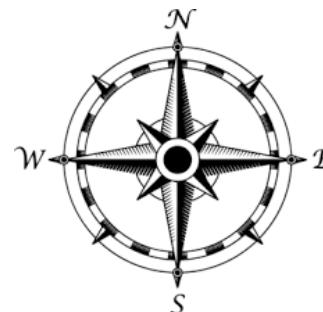


CELEBRATION SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 7TH ~~ 9:30AM

“In What Direction is God Sending Us?”

WELCOME BACK ALL AGES!!



Seekonk Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
600 Fall River Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
508-336-9355
Church Office Email: seekonkucc@gmail.com
Web Site: www.scc-ucc.com

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

2025 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

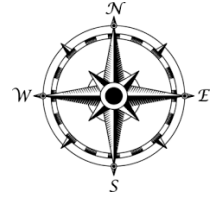
-----TO CARE IS TO DO !!!

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Shaver
Minister Emerita: Rev. Joy C. Utter
Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney
Director of Music: Susan Barrow
Office Administrator: Maria Tavares
Treasurer: Donna Euel



Assistant for Operations: Louanne Jennings-Abelson
Co-Senior Deacon: Lori Ferreira & Linda Mace
Moderator: Stacy Inman
Parish Nurse: Addie Heelan
Co-Trustee Chairs: Linda Sable & Ron Rupert
The Congregation Ministers

From the Interim Pastor



GPS

As I write this, the exact theme for the fall is still in development. It will, however, have something to do with journeying. That idea was sparked by the lessons in the Church School curriculum—they will be traveling with the Hebrew people through the wilderness to Jerusalem and the ups and downs of kings bad and good. Those dovetail with the worship lessons from Luke in the Revised Common Lectionary, in which we journey with Jesus and the disciples to Jerusalem, where Jesus has his final confrontations with the powers of earth and God gets the last laugh. Throughout these stories from the Old and New Testaments, the theme of God's constant presence with us rings true: when we are with God, no matter how bad things get, there is always hope for joy in the morning.

I consider this to be GPS: God's Positioning System. It is unfailing and available to everyone. First, unlike using our amazing yet flawed Global Positioning System, with God, we can't ever truly be lost. God always knows where we are, even if we don't always remember that God is with us. Second, connecting to God's Positioning System is merely a matter of prayer, whether it's an elegant prayer from a traditional source, a halting prayer of gratitude, or a single "HELP!" in moments of desperation. Third, we can strengthen our connection to this holy GPS by regular attendance in worship and intentional time with God in prayer and study. Fourth, we can help others connect to it through our service to one another and out in the world, where too many people are longing for something they can't even describe because what they've been taught about God makes them afraid of a hateful, vengeful god or dismissive of the idea of a loving God who accepts and affirms each person.

Jesus understood this holy GPS better than anyone else. He took time away to renew his own connection with God, helped his disciples learn to pray so their own connections could be strengthened, participated in worship and prayer regularly, and lived to serve others in a way that revealed God to them. Even in moments of deepest despair, Jesus knew that God had not lost him. In Gethsemane, he speaks from his heart: "remove this cup from me" and from his calling: "if it is your will". His honest, fully human desire to live will not offend God, Jesus knows. And Jesus also knows that God's plan, as painful as it will be in the moment, is the right one. But that doesn't stop him from wondering, just for an instant on the cross, if he's lost God entirely: "My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?" If even Jesus could feel lost and disconnected from God in the worst moments of his life, then it's natural for us to feel that way sometimes, too.

But God hasn't lost **you**. So no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, know that God's Positioning System has you pinpointed and that connecting is as simple as praying. Can't find the words? Come to worship and pray in word and song. Open the Bible to a Psalm. Be a part of serving others. And trust that the holy GPS will never fail, even in the midst of the worst times of your life.

Peace,
—Pastor Ruth



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

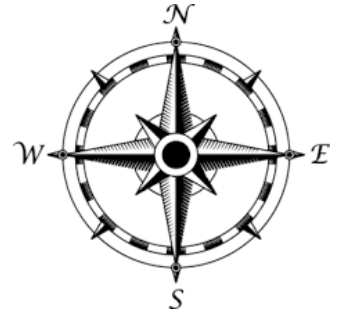
SEPTEMBER 2025 ~

7TH

Welcome Back Celebration Sunday @ 9:30AM

In What Direction is God Sending Us?

- Nursery & Preschool stay in Lower Hall
- K-8th Grade begin in Worship with parents
- K-8th Grade move to hall for theme project
- Teachers commissioned
- 2nd grader communion class receive Bibles and commissioned
- Special theme coffee hour



Sept. 14th ...Preschool – 8th grade: begin in classroom

Special Kiddie Coffee Hour: Church School children will receive a voucher from their teacher to make a **free beaded pen** in coffee hour (by designed in Faith company)

Sept. 21st ...Orientation for confirmands and parents - following worship in lower hall

Sept. 26th ...5th-8th grade Youth Group 6:30-8:30 Lower Hall

Sept. 28th ...Confirmands and mentors commissioned in worship and gathering following worship in lower hall

Sunday, October 26 Trunk or Treats (in Fall River ave parking lot and in hall) 2-4PM

Saturday, November 22, 9AM -noon... Grinch Breakfast



Save the Date
Join us for a Grinchy breakfast
in Whoville!
November 22 9-12



Music & Arts Committee presents **OPEN MIC NIGHT**



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025
from 6:30 to 9 PM in the hall

It's time to share your talents, some singing, musical instruments, comedy, dance - all talent is needed. All ages are invited.

Sign up sheets will be available in the hall or call the office.
We hope you will be part of the entertainment. A fun night for everyone.

Any questions, see Craig Grant or Director of Music, Susan Barrow

BOARD OF DEACONS



Well, the last two August articles started with a weather report. Why change?

As is typical of this time of year, Reflecting back on last year's August article, it seems we had a repeat with regards to the weather we experienced over the summer; hot and humid!

Tired of that? Here's the latest Farmer's Almanac forecast for the end of the year: "Winter is going to be brutal: Farmer's Almanac warns of long and snowy season for most of US Bundle up, winter is coming! The year's snow season is going to be grisly across much of the U.S., according to a new forecast from the Farmer's Almanac. Frigid temperatures will be felt for millions of Americans from the coast of the Pacific Northwest to the northern Plains.

The official end of summer is on September 22, so let's appreciate the weather we have now, and we will deal with whatever weather is thrown at us later.

Thanks to all of you who have been coming to the Sunday services this spring and summer. Typically, attendance is predicably low during this season. The attendance this year has been very good. We would like to give some of the credit for this to Reverend Dr. Ruth Shaver, for her consistently relevant sermons each week.

As we begin to move into this fall season, don't forget to continue to wear your nametags. Why is this important? This is part of our 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.

If you don't have a nametag or lost yours, see Donna Euell, or call Maria at the church office at 508-336-9355.

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! Along with Rev. Ruth Shaver. It is always very impressive to go by the church during the VBS and see so many people involved!

As a reminder, the fall season is when we begin to 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 the church email sent by Donna Euell 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: Lori Ferreira and Linda Mace (Co-Chairs)

Jim Siegfried

Bonnie DeBlois

Brian Burns

David Supinski

Lesley Daigle

Cindy Pearson

Christina Greene

Tom Heelan

Addie Heelan

Tammy Ramos

Louanne Jennings-Abelson & Evelyn Watkins (Deacon Emerita)

Jonathan Ryder (ad hoc) Donna Euell (ad hoc) Russ Noble (ad hoc)

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 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.

OCTOBER 5TH
WORLD WIDE COMMUNION



ALL SAINTS DAY: November 2nd

On the first Sunday in November, 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 or email Maria at the office 508-336-9355, seekonkucc@gmail.com and she will include the name on the Roll Call for that day.

We are tentatively planning a celebration of
The Rev. Joy Utter as *Pastor Emerita* of Seekonk Congregational Church UCC
on Sunday, October 26.

As the time grows closer, more information will be available.
Do please mark your calendars and plan to attend the worship service and
Coffee Hour that morning!

All are invited to the upcoming joint RI Association event with the Old Colony,
Barnstable and Pilgrim associations.

The event, held on Sunday, September 28th at 2pm, is a
A Conversation on Israel, Zionism, and Nationalism
led by the Rev. Peter Miano.
Mattapoissett Congregational Church will be hosting us.



PEOPLE AND PASSAGES



BIRTH

August 12, 2025

Christopher Daniel Ambrose

Son of

Rebecca Cole and Chris O'Connor

Grandson of

Marina Rodriguez

and

Todd Cole



2025 Graduates

Zachary Inman

Dighton Rehoboth Regional High School

Will be attending UMass Dartmouth College of Engineering

Majoring in Physics



Nathanial Inman

Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School

Will be attending New England Institute of Technology

Majoring in Welding Engineering Technology

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Our thoughts, condolences and prayers are with:

~We grieve with the family of Lee Yuille, related to Evelyn Watkins, we keep her family and friends in prayer.

The Columbarium Committee... The Columbarium is available to all church members and their families. Use of the Columbarium Includes the inurnment spot, the container, the plaque, and the actual inurnment. Funeral and cremation costs are not included. We encourage anyone who would like more information on the Columbarium to contact Shelley Alves or Linda Sable

Zumba Classes... The Zumba instructor, Dawn Marshall is offering a free first class to all Seekonk Congregational Church members. You just have to let Dawn know that you are a Seekonk church member. Zumba classes are held on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30PM in the Hall

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

INVITE THOSE WITH NO CHURCH HOME TO VISIT OUR CHURCH



From the Board of Trustees

The Trustees as you can imagine with many activities going on and the hall being in use weekly, we continue to have maintenance as a top priority. So to update everyone, we have recently had an inspection from the Board of Health who cited us for having "crumbs in the microwave" and the temperature in the refrigerator was 1 degree higher than it should be and a thermometer must be placed inside the refrigerator. Obviously with many people and groups using the kitchen, the microwave will be in use and the refrigerator will be opened quite a bit. We ask all that use the kitchen to be mindful of these issues and please clean up after using this space.

Although several of the Trustees are really handy and can repair small jobs, other times we may have to call the "professionals" to fix a problem which is too big for us to handle. This is costly so again, we ask that if you do have to use the Hall, treat it kindly.

The good news is that beginning in September, the East Providence Chorus will be using our Hall every Monday evening and HOW Group will continue to use the Hall on Wednesday evenings. Incredible Days (Mission Group) was so please with the use of our building that they have spread the news and other groups are also interested. We are pleased to be supportive of other mission groups and are certainly thankful!

If you have any ongoing concerns, please feel free to reach out to a Trustee. Also, Maria will advise you who the designated Trustee of the Month is.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be safe.

Blessings to all.
Linda Sable

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

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

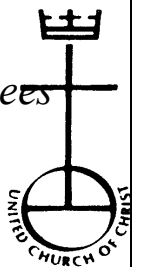
All who serve on a Church Board or Committee that meet on a regular basis!

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

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

Monday, September 15th 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

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

STEWARDSHIP 2025/2026

**EVERY MEMBER'S PLEDGE IS IMPORTANT...
WHATEVER THE AMOUNT...TO HELP US PAY FOR OUR GREAT STAFF, WORSHIP,
CHURCH SCHOOL, UTILITIES, MORTGAGE AND PROGRAMS**

Electronic Giving or Traditional Church Envelope

You can pledge easily by: calling Maria at the Church office 508-336-9355 online giving is available on the church web site...www.scc-ucc.com

Is your Pledge up-to-date?



FALL CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

Saturday, November 8th (9AM – Noon)

**Volunteers needed for cleanup of Church grounds
Sign up sheet in Hall**

(Contact if any question: Trish Sweeney 508-736-8434)

~~ Knitting 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!**



**HOW TO BE A
WELL
BEING**

Be A Well Being Group Tuesday, October 7th ~ 6 PM-6:45PM “A Time to Let Go”

Please join us for 45 minutes of quiet time which includes meditation, prayer and gentle movement all in the candlelit Sanctuary led by Sarah Stevenson.

Focus of the session will be on letting go- with fall upon us the days become shorter, the weather cools, the leaves turn color then fall away. What does it mean to let go in your life? What can you loosen your grip on? How can you stay engaged in your life while practicing friendly detachment from things that no longer serve you? Gentle movement, breath work, meditation and quiet contemplation will be used to explore this concept. All are welcome!



MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION

- ♦ **FOOD FOR ANY YOU KNOW WHO HAVE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES:** granola/cereal bars, cereal (especially Cheerios), food in pouches that doesn't need heating, or peanut butter
- ♦ **THE CLOTHING SHED** is at the end of the County Street parking lot. Drop off your clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases or stuffed animal donations in a tied up bag.
- ♦ **HIGHWAY CLEANUP** - April through November etc. Sign up to make OUR portion of 114A from here to RI line. **Contact church office or Mission Group**
- ♦ **CANS & BOTTLES** MA deposit Only: Save the environment and people!! Bring donations to the green bins - lift lid - drop in clean bottles and cans.

Piecemakers Quilt Show

Saturday, October 25, 2025

9:00am to 3:00pm

Seekonk Congregational Church
600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771

Featured Quilter

Joan Potter

Charter Member of the Piecemakers

"America, America, God Shed His Grace on Thee" by Joan Potter



Over 100 Amazing Quilts on Display

Challenge Projects, Themed Raffle Baskets, Quilter's Bargain Table, Quilter's Boutique, Quilter's Café. Come see our Americana Sampler Raffle Quilt. Tickets available at the show.

Admission: \$5.00 per person

Beautiful quilts on display in the hall and church

See the Christmas Bazaar Quilt

Lunch will be available.

Question Pat Smith 401-429-8696



WELCOME TO THE EARNEST WORKERS!

Earnest Worker September Getting Back Together Meeting. - Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 17th. (Note this is the 3rd Wednesday in September)

We will begin meeting again in the Fall on Wednesday, September 17th at 10:00 in the Hall of the Gardiner Building. The Profile Committee has asked to meet with us to gather our input so that they can complete the Profile for our Search for a new Minister. It is important for us to share our thoughts to help the Profile Committee. At 10:30 we will have our Business Meeting and welcome everyone to our Earnest Worker 2025/2026 Year! We will make Cookie Walk Containers and May Baskets (ahead of our May event) and share news of the fun we have had with family and friends throughout the Summer. Please bring a bagged lunch and we will share wonderful coffee and desserts together!

Earnest Worker Trip to 4 Town Farm with a Tractor Tour of the Fields! Wednesday, OCTOBER 8th (note this is the 2nd Weds. in October)

We will meet at 10:00 at 4 Town Farm in Seekonk to meet with Lynne Clegg. Please bring a bagged lunch because we will have a picnic lunch under the Picnic Roof after our tour of 4 Town Farm. Dessert and Beverages will be provided.

EARNEST WORKER COOKIE WALK - Sunday, October 26th during Coffee Hour after Church!

We will have sign up sheets available at our September 17th and October 8th Meetings for everyone to sign up to make cookies. We will bring cookies to the Hall on Saturday, October 25th to prepare for the Cookie Walk. More details to come!

Earnest Worker November Meeting - Travelogue with Ellen Bensusan - Traveling to Scotland Wednesday, NOVEMBER 5th

Ellen Bensusan has shared many stories about her amazing trips. This year she will share stories and photos about her trip to Scotland. More details to follow..

Earnest Worker ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND YANKEE SWAP at Davenport's Restaurant - Wednesday, December 10th. More details to follow!

We all hope you have a wonderful Summer enjoying many activities with Family and Friends!

Please contact Cheryl Gherardini, Evelyn Watkins, Joyce Greene, Diane Burbank or Mary Silvia if you have any questions about the Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC Earnest Workers.

Evelyn Watkins

SOCK HOP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
FROM 5PM – 9PM
Dancing, Music and games!



Tickets: Adults \$5.00/ Family \$10.00

You are invited to attend this FUN event for all ages - children, youth and adults! Mark Johnson will share music from the 1950's/1960's/1970's so that we can sing and dance along! There will be fun contests to identify some of the special moments from this time in history! **Dinner items will be available for sale.**

Join us for hot dogs, pizza, Ice Cream Sundaes and ROOT BEER FLOATS!

This will be fun for everyone in your family and your friends! More details to come!



CHURCH YARD SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 ~~~ 9AM - 1PM!!

Reserve a table for \$35.00 each to sell your own items or donate your items to the Church for sale at the "Church Section" of the Yard Sale. You can donate items that are no larger than a breadbasket – if you have larger items we may have a section for them.

We ask that items donated to be brought to the County Street Parking lot porch the week before the Yard Sale - starting Saturday, October 11th.

Please look for more information in our Church emails, our Church bulletins and listen for more information during our Church announcements as we get closer to Fall.

Please contact Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490 or our Church Office at 508-336-9355.
Thank you all for participating in our Fall Yard Sale!

HARVEST DINNER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 ~ 5:00 – 6:30PM



Eat In or Take Out.

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

TICKET PRICES: Adults \$18.00 and Children (ages 5-12) \$8.00.

RESERVATIONS are SUGGESTED.

Tickets go on sale beginning on Sunday, October 5th during Coffee Hour.

We will have sign-up sheets available for everyone to sign up to to donate miscellaneous items, to help peel vegetables, and/or set up tables on Saturday morning, November 1st, to help serve the Harvest Dinner and/or to help clean up after the dinner on November 1st.
More details to follow.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**December 6, 2025
Saturday, from 9AM-2PM**

Our Christmas Bazaar is a wonderful Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC tradition offering beautiful wreaths and centerpieces, delicious ham and beans, amazing baked goods, Grandma's Attic with all sorts of Christmas items, pictures with Santa and so MUCH more!

NEW THIS YEAR - BASKETS of JOY!!! - We will have a variety of Gift Baskets at our Drawing Tables - Baskets for all ages!

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH for supporting our Church Fundraising events and for inviting your family, neighbors and friends to join us also!

AUGUST UPDATE ON “BASKETS of JOY “ PROJECT

We hope you and your family are enjoying the summer! We just wanted to provide you with an update concerning the Baskets of Joy project.

The committee is continuing to spread the word about the project to our church members, as well to area communities. We are continuing to reach out to local publications and media.

We encourage everyone's participation either individually or creating a group of friends to share a basket! At our initial meeting, the committee generated a list of some suggested themes for the baskets: car washing kit, house cleaning, charcuterie board & appetizers, family movie night, teen's & children's baskets, yoga, pet care, sewing, knitting, gardening, baking, & Italian dinner night. We certainly invite you to come up with more creative ideas.

We also discussed that if someone is not interested in putting together a basket, that donations or gift cards toward basket materials would be greatly appreciated, too!

The committee will meet again September 8th via ZOOM to plan an assembly workshop for November. **We will be posting a signup sheet for the baskets in Woodworth Hall along with possible themes. Please sign up if interested.**

If anyone has any questions or would like further information about Baskets of Joy please feel free to contact:

Bev DelRosso (bkdelrosso@aol.com) or
Peg Bouchard(pegbouchard@comcast.net).

Thank you for your support!

