

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD
PASTOR: REV. DR. ROBERT R. LAROCHELLE

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A Message From Our Pastor

Dear members and friends of Second Congregational Church:

As I see it, one of the most important and fascinating aspects of church life is found in the SEASONS that we celebrate as a congregation. While we are all quite aware of the major seasons of ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, LENT and EASTER, experiencing an overall sense of the seasons is an important part of our experience as a church. Those of you who receive my emails and access information I offer on Facebook will oftentimes get information about specific readings that we will be hearing at worship, readings which express the meaning of the seasons we are celebrating.

One of the most fascinating events over the course of the church year is coming up soon as we celebrate the culmination of the Easter season with our celebration of PENTECOST come Sunday May 19. I encourage you to consider wearing something RED if possible for Pentecost Sunday worship.

Looking at my calendar, I find it amazing to see how this year has flown by so quickly. As you know, I began serving here as your Designated Term Pastor on September 17 and now, as you read this, it is almost May. During this time, I have been very pleased with the spirit and energy of this church.

As you may know, Tricia and I will be celebrating our son's wedding in New Jersey in early June. I am excited about officiating at the wedding. I am grateful that Sarah Roman Greaves will be leading our worship services on the couple of Sundays when I will be away. Thank you, Sarah!

I would also like to reiterate that if you need to contact me, the best way is to call 860-670-6461. You may also reach me by email at rpbksl@cox.net SPEAKING OF EMAIL, if you are not on our regular email list but want to be, please send me your email address and I will be sure that you are receiving emails from me.

In addition, if you have friends or family members who may have an interest in coming to worship in our church, please consider sharing some information about our congregation with them and don't hesitate to give them my contact information.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude for the wonderful commitment so many people make to our church in so many positive ways. As we draw near to our celebration of PENTECOST, a day most certainly NOT to be overlooked, I am grateful for the spirit present here at Second Congregational Church and grateful as well for having this opportunity to serve this wonderful congregation.

In Jesus always,
Pastor Bob

Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle
Designated Term Pastor

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 772.00	\$ 375.00	206%
R22—Pledges	\$ 4,426.00	\$ 4,750.00	93%
R23—Contributions	\$ 1,179.00	\$ 1,312.50	90%
R24-Fund Raising	\$ 450.15	\$2,600.00	17%
Capital Campaign	\$ 718.00	\$ 750.00	96%

Thru April 30

C H U R C H C O U N C I L

Church Council met on Tuesday evening April 17th at 6:30 and discussed numerous items; the following are some of interest:

- **Pastor Bob** reports that in addition to preparing worship, sermons, educational programs for the adults and meeting with individuals he continues to use social media to get the word out about our church.
- He also expresses hope that there may be a way to get adolescents connected in our church and participate in some kind of youth ministry.
- He was pleased that during the Lenten season the opportunities of both online and in person services were well received and attended.
- **Treasurer** reports that all bills have been paid and commitments met. He was going to move some money from invested funds to the checkbook.
- **Church Clerk** reports that church membership on Jan. 1, 2024 was 64; we have since that time lost three members. One by transfer and two (George McGinness and Dan Irish) by death. Our current membership stands at 61.
- **Diaconate** Easter flowers were delivered to our shut-ins.
- We have a new Deacon! Thank you Teresa Raymond for joining diaconate.
- We purchased gluten and allergen free wafers for communion if you need them.
- We received a lot of flower donations from the congregation for Easter. Green carnations were donated by Michelle's Floral and Garden Dream is again donating flats to be used at our Earth Day event.
- **Trustees** Sign up sheet for Spring work day available in kitchen, sign up for a job and complete it at your convenience marking it done after completion.
- We have a new company for the fire extinguishers as our current provider is retiring after 54 years of service.
- Tom Hoefle will cut up a tree that fell and will replace our leaking kitchen faucets. Thank you Tom.
- The annual Safe Conduct Policy training will be done after service on Sunday April 21 in the Library. This class is for Nursery volunteers, teachers, aides and Safe Conduct Committee.
- **Sunday School / CE** We now have 14 students in Sunday School and have added 3 teacher aides to help out.
- Our Nursery is open and available for anyone who wants to use it.
- On April 28 after the service, we will carpool to Fenton-Ruby Park in Willington for a hike.
- We are looking at June 23 to possibly be Childrens Day; we still have some things to iron out but we will have a date set by the next council meeting and maybe have lunch after.

Our next council meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 6:30.

Bruce Ladr Moderator

T R U S T E E S

Our Spring workday is underway. A sign-up sheet has been put in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. This will be done the same way it was last Fall where anyone who signs up can do their role when they see fit and check off that the work was done. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far.

Tom Hoefle noticed a tree came down behind the barn and has offered to cut this up for us. There was no damage to the barn or any church property. Tom will also be replacing our kitchen faucets as one of them has been leaking from its base. Thank you Tom!

We had our annual safe conduct policy training on Sunday April 21 in the Library. Pastor Bob led this training and it was given to our nursery volunteers, Sunday School teachers, teacher's aides, and our Safe Conduct Committee. Safety is extremely important to all of us and if anyone has any questions on safety in our church and it's policy don't hesitate to ask anyone who attended that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Greaves, Board of Trustees

D E A C O N S

Hello everyone!

Though I was absent that day, I hear (and see, from the video!) that the Easter service went well! Thank you to all who led parts of the service, brought in flowers and celebrated this special time with us. The butterflies will stay around the sanctuary for the Spring season- the children did a wonderful job with them! Each colorful and unique.

The deacons met on 4/28 and filled the deacon schedule for the month of May. Special thanks to Teresa, who will be joining us as a deacon, and for Linda who was able to do deacon training!

I then let the deacons know that I will be entering MID (Member in Discernment) status soon, pending the accumulation of necessary forms. Thank you to all of the deacons for their support, as I enter this new journey. I am grateful for you, and excited to venture onward.

Sincerely submitted,

Sarah R.G.
Head Deacon

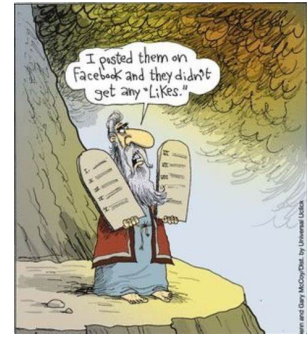
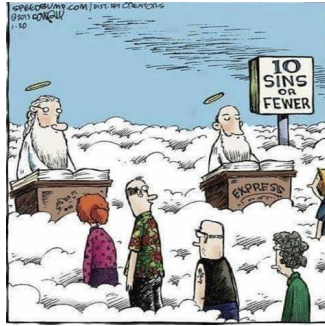
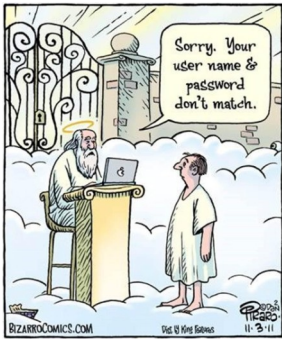
I N A N D A R O U N D T H E C H U R C H ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for Joshua, Kelsi and baby Jameson ... continued prayers for Carey ... prayers on the passing of our dog Cassie. We hope she is chasing her tennis balls in the afterlife ... prayers for those in war-torn nations, especially those in Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East ... prayers for Al's bladder surgery ... prayers for the Dignazio, Krar & Raynock families ... prayers for Joe and Flo Demars ... prayers for Mark, Al, Melissa, Liam, Austin and Zee ... prayers for health and happiness this spring season ... praying God's Will is done ... prayers for the little girl who was attacked by a dog ... prayers for peace on earth ... prayers for my brother Mark who has liver disease ...prayers for my church friends - you are all so friendly. I love my church ... prayers for Gerry, now in hospice ... prayers for Christine and Charlyn ... prayers for the continued growth of our church family and gratitude for the growth we have had ... continued prayers for Carly Crawford ... prayers for Gary and Bob Dickson as they deal with health issues ... prayers for sister-in-law and nephews as they mourn my brother ... prayers for those who suffer silently with mental issues ... peace and healing prayers for the Kiniry family for the passing of their loved grandmother ... continued prayers for Donna, Doris, Lucy and Sarah ... prayers of joy for wedding of Rachel and Michael ... prayers for all Christians around the world ... prayers for all who continue with ailments and cancer treatments ... prayers for my sister Angela who is battling lung can-

cer ... prayers for family friend struggling with cancer treatments ... prayers for people going and returning from vacation ... prayers for Brian undergoing bypass surgery ... prayers for Janet who lost her mother ... prayers of healing for my daughter Lynn ... prayers for Patrick Gilhuly undergoing chemo treatments ... prayers for Bob Campbell ... dear Lord please release the hate I have in my heart for someone that I can't seem to let go of ...

Celebrations: joy as Andrew celebrates his 40th birthday ...

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

May	5	Liam Parker
	21	Tom Hoefle
	22	Sheila Hoefle

May Anniversaries

May	16	Ellen Lancaster
	17	Ross and Lee Kerr
	19	Adam and Rosalie Starvish
	19	Andrew and Sarah Greaves

MAY FLEA MARKET

Our Spring flea market will be held on Friday May 10th and Saturday May 11th. We will do a set up on Thursday May 9th and a clean-up on Saturday May 11th. A sign up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall or you can just let me know if you are available to work at the sale. We will also have a bake sale during the market. Items may be dropped off and left in the church kitchen before the sale or brought to the bake table on either sale day. It is a lot of work to set up and take down the sale and we have found that it takes more than three or four people so if you have an hour or so free either day, please consider coming to help especially on Saturday afternoon around 3 o'clock. All the items that did not sell will need to be re-boxed and stored back in the barn. If you, or someone you know wants to reserve a space for either or both days, please let me know. We charge \$10 on Friday and \$20 on Saturday. Spaces are 14 feet wide and the depth depends on the lay of the land. We offer a hot dog lunch on both days.

SEE YOU AT THE SALE !

Linda Sprague, Flea Market Coordinator
860-684-5689

MISSIONS

First, I want to thank you for your generous offerings to SafeNet Ministries during our fifth Sunday worship on March 31st. The total monies collected for this ongoing mission were \$120. Again, thank you all.

Just as impressive, is the food bank collection for the month. Forty-nine pounds of nonperishable food items were delivered to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry on your behalf. The folks there were very grateful for our generous offering. The next delivery will be on May 21st following Food Bank Sunday May 19th and our goal weight will be at least 50 pounds of food items. We can do it; I know we can! Please keep in mind their special request for pasta, Spam, coffee and diced tomatoes. Thank you all.

Your Missions Committee
Judy, Linda and Michele

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have now jumped from 11 registered students to 14 in our Sunday School. Due to this growth we added three teacher aides to help out Judy, Kathy, and myself when the numbers are higher. We are excited to have so much growth in our classrooms this year!

As a reminder our nursery is open and ready to go for anyone who wants to use it. If anyone has an extra baby monitor I wanted to test if they work from the sanctuary to the nursery so nursery volunteers and parents can hear the sermon. If anyone has one we can borrow please let the Sunday School know!

On April 28th we carpoled after the service to go on a hike at a place recommended by Michele in Willington. It is called Fenton-Ruby Park and offered a nice safe hike for us to enjoy with plenty of areas to rest. She hiked this many times with her parents and it is dear to her.

Children's Sunday is going to be Sunday June 23rd. We are planning a pot luck after the service to celebrate the end of the school year and to gather as a Congregation. We will have outdoor games and lots of good food I'm sure!

Andrew, Kathy, and Judy
Christian Ed



May 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3	4 Little Shop 10 - 2
5 Worship Service 9:30 AM	6		7	8	9	10	11 Little Shop 10 - 2
12 Worship Service 9:30 AM	13		14	15	16	17 SPRING FLEA MARKET	18 Little Shop 10 - 2
19 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	20		21 Church Council 6:30 PM	22	23	24	25 Little Shop 10 - 2
26 Worship Service 9:30 AM	27 - Memorial Day	28	29	30	31		