

Keeping In Touch

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

A Message from Our Pastor

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At the time you are reading this, we are close to entering into the month of February! It is amazing how time flies, as the old cliché inevitably reminds us! With the coming of February, we enter the experience of the season of Lent. *Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 14 and leads us into the week before we celebrate Easter which goes by the name "Holy Week". Throughout these upcoming Lenten weeks, we will have the opportunity to enter into the experience of Lent in several different ways:*

- Through our Sunday worship
- Through participation in educational forums during that time
- Through participation in the worship opportunities we will have as well as the other opportunities in which we can partake during this season.

In upcoming emails and through information I will be presenting both online and at Sunday worship, we will be providing specific information about both our worship and educational opportunities that are intended to prepare us for the outbreak of Easter joy coming at the conclusion of the Lenten season and its culminating time which we know as Holy Week.

As we draw nearer to the start of Lent, I will be providing information about specific worship and educational experiences we will be having that are intended to be important aspects of our Lenten experience. *When Holy Week comes along, we will have some specific opportunities centered on the events of that week.* As of this writing, we do not yet have specific times established but they will be announced both at worship and via the emails I send out. In addition, they will be posted on my Facebook page as well.

Our Holy Week experience as we draw close to Easter will include in person worship opportunities as well as online worship and educational programs which I will be posting on my Facebook page. *For those who do not access Facebook, I will provide printed copies of these services here at church or you can request them of me online if you use email.*

I will continue to keep you posted as we draw near this season through announcements at worship, via email and through information provided on Facebook. IF YOU DO NOT GET EMAIL INFORMATION FROM CHURCH BUT WOULD LIKE TO, please send your email address to me at rpbksl@cox.net

Looking forward to sharing in this Lenten season and preparing ourselves to experience the joy of Easter here at Second Congregational Church!

In Jesus always,
Pastor Bob

Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle, Designated Term Pastor

TREASURER'S REPORT

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 1,570.63	\$ 1,100.00	143%
R22—Pledges	\$ 18,902.00	\$ 19,000.00	95%
R23—Contributions	\$ 4,883.94	\$ 7,000.00	70%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 11,221.10	\$ 10,000.00	112%
Capital Campaign	\$1,983.00	\$ 2,528.00	78%

Thru December 31

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council did not meet in January due to inclement weather. Our next meeting will be February 20, 2024.

Bruce Ladr
Moderator

TRUSTEES

Hey everyone, we have set up appointments for all general maintenance early this year to get it out of the way. Banner Water has confirmed that they will do an annual water test for us so we can safely have dinners, Holly Bazaar, and any other events involving food. We have also not extended our policy with Travelers to do our biannual water heater and boiler inspections as our new insurance company has provided us with a company they use through the insurance board. It was brought to my attention that doors in both buildings are being left unlocked. I have been much more mindful of making sure I lock doors as I leave the buildings as I am probably the biggest culprit! We ask everyone to be mindful, and double check before leaving Sunday. If you see any other doors unlocked in the future let me know so I can continue to make sure I am locking them when I visit. Secondly, when I visit the church to do my rounds, maintenance or meet with contractors I have noticed a lot of lights are being left on (specifically in the secretary's office of the Parish House, and in the Narthex of the church) in both buildings. The heat in Fellowship Hall has been left on many times as well. Since I don't turn on any lights or adjust the heat when I visit, the Trustees ask everyone who enters the buildings throughout the week, or if you're the last to leave on Sunday to make sure no lights are on, and the heat is turned down. We continue into the year to try and save the church money everywhere we can. Thank you very much!

Respectfully,
Andrew Greaves, Trustees Chairperson

IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: prayers for world peace ... prayers for Somers—the children now with the Angels and their family—the fire , EMS and Police staff and the teachers and staff at the elementary and middle schools ... prayers for Rebecca as she enters her last month of pregnancy ... continued prayers for Lucy, Donna, Doris and Sarah. Prayer for a productive job search ... prayers for Ann, Pat and Karen ... prayers for the people of Ecuador ... prayers for good weather ... prayers for Alicia, Dave and Kevin ... prayers for Janet and Rich ... prayers for those living under oppressive regimes ... prayers for strength for Derek ... prayers for continued health for Charlie Benet to take

a bottle with her daddy, and for her dad if she doesn't ... prayers for world peace ... prayers for those who suffer with mental illness and addiction as well as their families ... prayers for Coralie ... prayers of quick healing for Kim and Sarah ... prayers for three year old Camilla battling kidney failure.

Celebrations: prayer of joy granddaughter Lily Fox celebrated her 13th birthday ... joy for Aiden celebrating his 19th birthday ...

A LIGHTER MOMENT. . .

What's the best part about Valentines Day?

The next day all the chocolate is on sale!

Where do hikers go for a drink after a long day in the mountains?

To the granola bar!

What is the basketball player's favorite type of jewelry?

Hoop earrings!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

February	7	Adam Starvish
	7	Tricia LaRochelle
	9	Bruce Ekenbarger
	13	Kathy Ladr
	15	Kevin Ladr
	21	Heather Hatch
	24	Jeanne Sanger
	27	Ruthanne Talamini
	29	Dorraine Parker

February Anniversaries

None

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the coming weeks we will be trying out a lesson plan with the younger kids that involves workbooks to go along with the class scripture. The older kids will continue with Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals along with a comic book we will be incorporating into the lesson. We are planning a movie night early March for all the students, their friends and families. Sarah got a projector for Christmas and has been eager to try it out! Popcorn and beverages will be served and board games will be available to play as well. In the Spring we will be reaching out to Crystal Lake Pantry to see if we can tour their facilities to learn where all of our donated food goes. An email will be sent to all parents and teachers involving all of this as well. As always if anyone is interested in Sunday School or our nursery let myself, Sarah, Judy or Kathy know!

God Bless,
Andrew Greaves, Christian Education

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Second Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	
4 Worship Service 9:30 AM Annual Meeting 11:00 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 9:30 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	19	20 6:30 Church Council	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 9:30 AM	26	27	28	29		