



The Second Church of Plymouth, Manomet, MA

518 State Road, Plymouth, MA 02360

PO Box 1754, Manomet, MA 02345

SecondChurchPlymouth@verizon.net

508-224-7220

The Bell

Office Hours: M 9am-5pm

Available by appointment M-F 9am-5pm

Food Pantry Hours: M - 10am - 12pm

June 2024

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From Pastor Bruce Kindness & Generosity

*God . . . revealed his kindness and love, not because of the righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy. Titus 3:5*

Life has many opportunities to choose between being kind and being right. In my life I've repeatedly learned the many advantages of being kind over being right. I've also learned that it's always better to speak a tough word to someone face-to-face and in private. That's one of Jeanie's many terrific traits. Over the 40+ years of our marriage, there have been times I needed to hear a difficult word from her because I had messed up or was in the process of messing up. On the many occasions when she knew I needed it, she talked to me when we were alone. The compassion gene in our spiritual DNA knows that, long-term, we are incapable of feeling better at someone else's expense. Resisting the knee-jerk desire to "be right" paves the way to being kind. I'm not saying I always do that, but I am saying the best choice to make is always for kindness. And I always have the chance to make that choice.

Luckily, when my goal is to build people up, make them feel better, share in their joy, I reap the rewards of their positive feelings. When I pause long enough to ask, "What do I really want out of this interaction?" chances are, what I want most is to be a source of kindness and hope in someone's life. Each time I resist "being right," and instead choose kindness, I notice a peaceful feeling inside. This choice has nothing to do with being weak or wimpy, or not standing up for what I believe. And, when I do miss the boat, I can always start again with the next person I see.

There are many ways to measure health and success in life. Over the years my go-to "yardsticks" have come and gone. If you had asked me what made for a healthy self, family or church in my 20s and 30s I might have answered service and a sense of community. Somewhere in my 40s the answer became spiritual growth and transformation. Now, it seems I tend to hold two traits above the others: Kindness and Generosity. It wasn't surprising to me to learn, a few years back that a study on healthy and loving marriages all had one thing in common - the

presence of . . . Kindness and Generosity. Through that research, psychologists Julie and John Gottman came to these marriage conclusions:

- + One vital question to answer in relationships is, will I come to it with kindness and generosity: or contempt, criticism and hostility?
- + Research shows that being there for each other when things go right is actually more important for a quality relationship than being there when the going is rough.
- + In relationships there are really only two categories: masters and disasters.
- + When trying to do the right thing, even when it's poorly executed, other one appreciates the intention.
- + There are two ways to think about kindness. You can see it as a fixed trait that you either have or you don't, or as a kind of muscle that grows stronger every time you exercise it.

These ideas don't just apply to marriages. Practicing kindness leads to acts of generosity which inspires more kindness. Even if you already do kindness and generosity well, the more it's exercised - the stronger it becomes. This summer I'm challenging myself to increase my capacity for kindness along the journey toward generosity. You're welcome to join me.

*We are increasingly faced with a choice, I believe, not between kindness and hostility, but between kindness and nonexistence.
Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?
By Brian McLaren*

Upcoming Events at Second Church

August 17th is the church Yard Sale from 9am to 2pm. Volunteers and donations are needed for this big fundraiser as well. Please contact the office for more information.



The Food Pantry is open!
Mondays 10am-12pm



From your Life Deacon, Deborah LaBreck

God will stick closer to you than a brother or sister.



If you want to honor or memorialize someone and aren't sure what to do, why not consider a Gift of Love. A Gift of Love is a donation made in someone's name, to the church. A letter is sent to the giver (these gifts are tax deductible) and an acknowledgement is sent to the honoree (or the family in the case of a memorial). If you are interested, please pick up a form in the narthex or contact the office.



We continue to have church in person and virtually on Sunday's at 10am. Come on in! Or check us out on Facebook via Second Church Virtual Services! If you have been watching, see you on Sunday! You can also watch the services on PACTV. Thursday at 8am and Sunday at 6pm. (Comcast channel 13 or Verizon channel 43)



You can watch services that have already happened!

It's easy to do. If you've never used YouTube, just type it in your search engine (Google, or whatever you use). Or go to youtube.com. In the search bar at the top of the screen, type in "second church of plymouth" and click on "Subscribe". Don't worry, it's free. Follow the prompts and you're in!

If you have any problem getting set up, please feel free to contact the office.



Visit us at www.secondchurchofplymouth.org . Our goal with the website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about Second Church of Plymouth and what the church offers. The website contains our social media buttons for Facebook and YouTube. We are constantly updating our content with updated information on church events and announcements.



Birthdays

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

June 2 - Karen Woodhall
June 12 - Joal Sisman
June 16 - Gary Allen
June 17 - Timothy Bennett
June 18 - Robert Bennett
June 27 - Joe Bishop

*Happy
Anniversary*

June 16 - Dana and Laurie Savery - 45 years!!



A Life Celebration Home

Funeral Directors

John J. Vincent, Jr.
Daniel H. Holland
Mary R. Aveni
Heidie L. Grant
Kathy Cartmell-Sirrico

Main Office

373 Court Street Plymouth, Ma. 02360
P: (508) 746-2162 F: (508) 747-3929
cartmelldavis@gmail.com
www.cartmelldavis.com



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Cell: 508-783-2360
Office: 508-747-3153
Fax: 866-455-6358

85 Samoset Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

DwayneStefano@comcast.net
www.DwayneStefano.com



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R. CLAYTON HOME SERVICES, LLC.

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PLYMOUTH, MA

Nolan Insurance Agency, Inc.

WILLIAM F. NOLAN, Jr.

Office: (508) 224-3600

Cell: (781) 831-0250

Fax: (508) 224-3618

e-mail: BillNolanJr.@nolan-insurance.com

728 State Road • P.O. Box 938 • Manomet, MA 02345

June 2024

Second Church of
 Plymouth
 146 State Road
 Plymouth, MA
 02560

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10am Church Service 7pm AA	3 10am Food Pantry 12pm Missions	4 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	5 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	6 7pm AA	7 7pm AA	8 9am AA
9 10am Church Service Congregational Meeting 7pm AA	10 10am Food Pantry	11 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	12 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	13 7pm Trustees 7pm AA	14 7pm AA	15 9am AA
16 Father's Day 10am Church Service 7pm AA	17 10am Food Pantry	18 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	19 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	20 7pm Church Council 7pm AA	21 7pm AA	22 9am AA
23 10am Church Service 7pm AA	24 10am Food Pantry	25 6pm Band Practice 7pm AA	26 6pm TOPS 7pm AA	27 7pm AA	28 7pm AA	29 9am AA
30 10am Church Service 7pm AA						

