The Seekonk Congregational Church United Church Of Christ

The Gathered 1885 Caller



BE COOL AS YOU COME TO WORSHIP THIS SUMMER IN 'AIR-CONDITIONED' COMFORT AND DISCOVER THE WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE!

~ SPECIAL SERVICES PLANNED ALL SUMMER ~

One Service at 9:30AM



~ CELEBRATION SUNDAY ~ SEPTEMBER 8TH @ 9:30AM

Come welcome one another & join all ages in community!

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE 'WITNESSES'!!

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

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

Seekonk Congregational Church United Church of Christ 600 Fall River Avenue Seekonk, MA 02771 508-336-9355 Fax: 508-336-3296 Church Office Email: <u>seekonkucc@gmail.com</u> Web Site: <u>www.scc-ucc.com</u>

TO BELIEVE IS TO CARE-----

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

JULY AND AUGUST 2024

Clergy Director of Faith Formation: Kristin Putney Director of Music: Susan Barrow Office Administrator: Maria Tavares Treasurer: Donna Euell



THE DEACONS BENCH



Hopefully, all of you made it through that wicked hot week in June without requiring emergency services! But wasn't the month of Joy"Full" June wicked cool? And thanks to ALL of you who helped to show Rev. Joy C.

Utter how much we love her!!

If you have read Donna Euell's June 13 Newsletter you will have found the article that our Moderator, Stacy Inman wrote explaining the process of finding a new minister. If you have NOT read it, find that email and read her article. What Stacy describes is a process highly recommended by our national organization, the UCC (United Church of Christ).

In the meantime, our own Jonathan Ryder will be preaching for the 4 Sundays in July, and Emily Carle, will be preaching the first 3 weeks in August. Emily graduated from Mt Holyoke College in 2021 and was recently approved by Ecclesiastical Council on June 6 for ordination. Finally, Theresa Lever, a friend of Bonnie DeBlois, will be preaching the last Sunday in August. Theresa is a member of the Bethany UCC, and is currently licensed as their co-pastor.

Have a GREAT summer, and we'll see you in church!

DEACONS: Tony DeJesus (Senior Deacon)Dawn HouleCindy PearsonJim SiegfriedBonnie DeBloisMark JohnsonLori FerreiraBrian BurnsLesley DaigleChristina GreeneKeli Hoyt-RupertTom HeelanLouanne Jennings-Abelson (Deacon Emerita)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 <u>www.scc-ucc.com</u> 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.

COME CELEBRATE IN COMMUNITY WITH YOUR CREATOR!

MAKE YOUR SUNDAYS MEANINGFUL WITH 4 HOURS OF WORSHIP in Community and Service (One hour each week to worship God...

...one hundred sixty-seven hours to play, work, serve, etc.)



BE THE CHURCH Our short-term and long-term plans

FROM AN UPDATED EMAIL FROM DONNA EUELL

The Deacons and Council Members met with a current interim from a local church (I'll get to that in a minute) who reassured us and explained the process.

An Interim comes after pulpit supply, they are an ordained minister we hire to stay with us and assist us to find a permanent minister. They have taken additional course work to become an Interim. They fill in with office hours, pastoral visits, perform any services needed in the Sanctuary & elsewhere in the church. There are 2 different types of interims – one that serves only in that position and does not want to be a permanent minister in the church and another that would be willing to stay if asked.

Just remember you asked and I am doing my best to answer.

When we met with the interim she provided the following very helpful process:

1. The Initial Phase (led by the Interim Pastor)

• To help members to grieve the loss of their previous pastor

 \cdot To educate that the interim time can be an opportunity to learn new things and look forward to the future with hope (the interim process itself)

- To bring a sense of stability to the church's organizational functioning (equip lay leaders)
- · Provide pastoral care
- · Build bridges for those who have left the church
- · Identify gifts among members

2. The Assessment (led by a Transition Team)

• To hold cottage meetings to discuss what people are looking for Seekonk Congregational Church and its pastoral leadership

- Interview the staff
- To present these findings to the congregations
- Based on the above, to write the profile
- The transition team will lead the selection of members for a search committee

• Keep the congregational informed about the process (transparency) so that they know what is happening (good communication)

· To work with the Trustees to determine a range of salary and benefits: options for housing

3. The Search Process (led by the Search Committee)

 \cdot Train the search committee in how to contact potential candidates, how to interview and follow up with them

List Seekonk as a church looking for a new pastor

 \cdot Narrow down the assessment to non-negotiables and what we are looking for in a new pastor (also a training session on red flags)

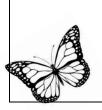
Read through the profiles

• How to make decisions (criteria) for who to bring in for an interview, neutral pulpit, check references, review background check

- How to reach a consensus
- To select one candidate to be our next pastor
- Introduce to the congregation
- Plan the going-away party for the interim



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION



SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM

In Lower Hall below sanctuary



Nursery – Preschool – K...Noah's Ark room – star & moon room 1st – 5th grade...In lower hall courtyard 6th grade and up ... stay in worship

Fill out FALL Registrations for 2024-2025 Church School & Confirmation Class

Our excellent and all-encompassing program of CONFIRMATION will begin in September for NINTH GRADERS AND OTHER HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS.

Please register as soon as possible!

* (Registration forms must be filled out for Fall Classes to update yearly church records) *

RYE 2024

Regional Youth Event ~~~July 28-31 ~~Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Sharon, CT

SAVE THE DATE for the 2024 Regional Youth Event! theme: "LOVE IS GREATER THAN FEAR"

Sunday July 28 through Wednesday, July 31 Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT All youth are welcome to attend!

This program is for youth who are currently in grades 6-12 as of January 2024.

RYE is a place to grow your spirits and connect with teens from all over New England. There will be time for swimming and service work, reflection and recreation, worship and workshops. Our beautiful outdoor ministry site has waterfront activities and a challenge course for team- building.

CONTACT Kristin Putney for more info 774-991-1555 A parent -youth informational meeting coming soon. Fee is around \$345

Kristin will be organizing car pooling...Youth will do fundraising and scholarship funds available. Registration opens mid January with early bird discount \$50 off

COLUMBARIUM NEWS...



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



BLOOD DRIVE (make your appointment at) donate.ribc.org There are Many Reasons to Give Blood

Blood Drive dates 4-7pm in the Hall Monday Sept 9th Monday Dec 9th

PEOPLE AND PASSAGES

BAPTISM

May 5, 2024 Savannah Paglia



May 12, 2024 Annie Jane Scherma and Collins Josephine Scherma

> *May 26, 2024 Lyla Rose Russo*

June 16, 2024

William Lawrence Hindle

NEW MEMBERS



June 16, 2024 Beverly DelRosso, Andrew Nunes, Claire Baptiste, Stan Baptiste, Nancy Carey, Deborah Silvia and Denise Whitelaw



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

~ The family of John Hopkins. He was the husband of Lisa StLaurent Hopkins and father to Jacob and Abbie.

~ The family of Mercedes Rodriguez, twin sister of Marina Rodriguez

~ The family of Edward August, Sr. Father of Jan Rupert, Dianne Chase and Kelly Downs and his grandchildren and great grandchildren...he was a long-time member of the Seekonk Congregational Church.

~ The family of Bruce Saunders. He is survived by his partner Jean Anderson, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and he was a long-time member of the Seekonk Congregational Church

~ The family of Virginia Waldron sister of Pat Johnson.

~ The family of Lindsey Buker. She was the niece of Kristin Putney.



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

Flower Committee...Reminds everyone there is a sign-up sheet in Gardiner Building for flowers to be given in memory or in honor of a loved one.

CRAFT /KNITTING GROUP... Our group meets on Tuesday from 11 am to 1 pm in Room1. 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. See you on Tuesday! Mary

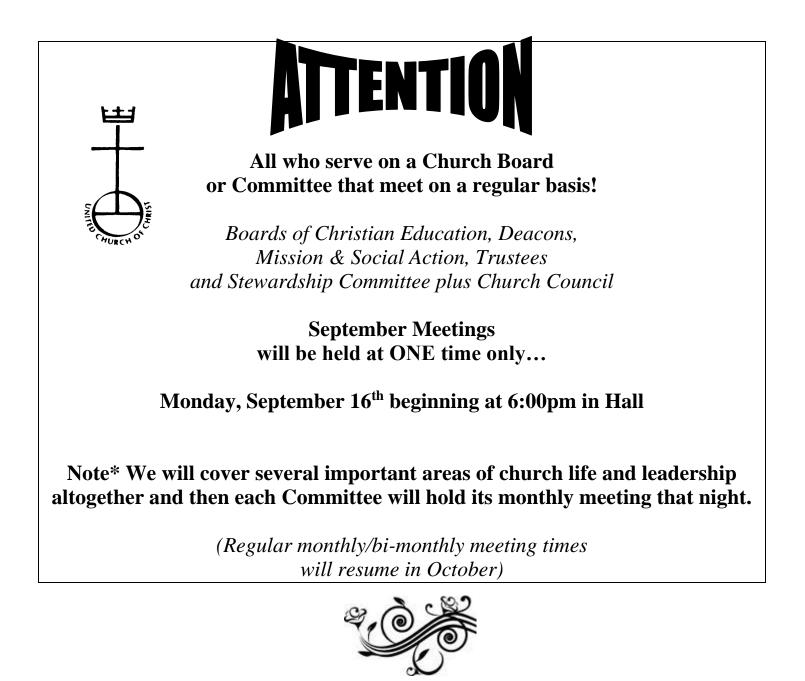
FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If you have any questions or recognize a problem on our campus, please contact a Trustee. Messages to us could also be relayed via Maria Tavares in the office. Yours in faith and service,

Board of Trustees

Neal Abelson, Brian Burns, Ray Deslauriers, Kim Johnson, Jason Langille, Ron Rupert, Tony Sousa, Craig Mace (Co-Chair), and Linda Sable (Co-Chair),

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



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



ROOTED in LOVE

John 15:12 – This is my Commandment. That you Love one another as I have loved you!

As of May 28, 2024, our Church members have returned pledges totaling \$187,324 for our upcoming 2024/2025 Budget. This represents just over 74.9% of the \$250,000 budget goal.

We thank you for responding to our Stewardship Campaign for this coming year. We thank everyone VERY MUCH for this wonderful support and we will be very happy to receive more pledges at any time!

Our theme, *Rooted in LOVE*, really does represent our church in many ways! Because of your generosity we have a thriving Church School, a Mission and Social Committee that participates and leads us in many activities to help our communities and our environment and more!

We also thank our wonderful Church Staff for all they do to make our Church a wonderful home for everyone from our youngest children to our most senior members and friends. We have offer Church services open to all, an amazing program for our Children and Youth, fun music and arts programs and staff that are always there for us.

Thank you very much to everyone who submitted a pledge and to those who are planning to do so. We will have pledge envelopes in Church at the end of June and will mail some to those who choose to use them. Thank you again for your generosity!

The Stewardship Committee thanks Reverend Joy for her support throughout the Stewardship Campaign this year and for many years and wish her the best as she begins a new world of retirement! We also thank the Deacons, the Trustees, and our Treasurer Donna Euell for partnering with us as we work together for our Church. Finally the Stewardship Committee sincerely thanks Maria Tavares, our Church Administrator, who provides us with current pledge data, mailing lists and helps in a myriad of other ways.

Your Stewardship Committee: Lori Ferreira, Christina Greene, Teresa Helgerson, Larry Hindle, Lisa Majewski (Ad Hoc), and Evelyn Watkins



PLEDGE GIVING (2024 – 2025) "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE."

Thanks to all who have returned their pledge cards (If anyone would like to continue with their pledge as last year, please call the office so we are aware of your intentions and update our records) You can update your electronic pledge by calling the office or going on the church web site www.scc-ucc.com

BOARD OF MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION



On June 9 Mission and Social Action served 100 bagged lunches at Feed the Homeless RI. These contained 2 sandwiches, a sweet snack, and a salty snack, along with a bottle of water. Thank you to all who so generously donated food!

We plan to do this again on August 18, and will once again be seeking donations to be brought to church by noon on Saturday, August 17.

Our book club will next be reading the Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride.

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there were just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows."

Date to be announced.

The clothing shed is in place at the end of the County Street parking lot, and we have been collecting many bags! Thank you to all who have been dropping off clothing and other textiles - Please keep them coming! Drop off your clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, curtains, pillowcases or stuffed animal donations in a tied up bag.

CANS & BOTTLES MA deposit Only: <u>Save the environment</u> and people!! Bring donations to the <u>green</u> <u>bins</u> - lift lid - drop in clean bottles and cans.

For the time being, our food pantry is well stocked with canned goods - thank you to all who have been donating. Our need right now is for items that do not need to be heated, such as granola/cereal bars, cereal (especially Cheerios), food in pouches that doesn't need heating, or peanut butter.

In keeping with our on-going awareness of being Green, Staples has a list of items that they re-cycle.

Our ***ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY project will once again begin in April! Please check in with the office or Mission Committee if you are willing to help out with the "highway" clean-up. 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 or Mission Committee know where the bags are and Mass DOT will pick them up.*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE CALLER IN THE MAIL? BE GREEN ~ KEEP IT ON THE SCREEN

We are attempting to **GO GREEN**. If you are interested in <u>receiving the Caller in the mail</u>, you can contact Maria by text: 401-447-9433 or email: seekonkucc@gmail.com and one will be mailed to you.

The Caller will be available online using a link to the CALLER at the top of each weekly email from Donna and on the church website...

Please wear your **name tags** every Sunday, if you need one, just let Donna Euell know or call the church office. As you leave each Sunday please place them back on the rack as you walk up the ramp.

SEEKONK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – GARDEN UPDATE

Since March 2020, the Deacons have partnered with the Landscaping Committee, the Trustees, and many of our Church members and volunteers to care for our gardens and to make our Church Gardens more beautiful.

Here are a few of things we have accomplished this Spring and Summer:

- NEW VOLUNTEERS - We have many sections of our Church Gardens maintained by members and friends. Volunteers have always helped to maintain and update our Church Gardens. This year we have had new volunteers join the group. They spend time pulling weeds, trimming and helping spread mulch! Thank you all very much! We can always use more volunteers if you are interested!

- JOY "FULL" JUNE - We have beautiful daffodils, tulips and other flowering perennials that help make the front of the Church look beautiful, especially this year with our sign celebrating Joy "FULL" June.

- ADOPTING A GARDEN AREA - Families and Church members have adopted garden spaces and/or updated spaces to add new plants and make the spaces beautiful. This year the Del Rosso family adopted a garden and helped to mulch and trim much of our Church grounds in memory of Ken Del Rosso. We thank you! There are more garden areas to adopt if you are interested.

- WORKING TOGETHER - We work together with the Landscaping Committee and thank Larry Hindle for helping provide mulch for our gardens. We also appreciate all the work our Trustees do to maintain our Property and Grounds. Our lawns are mown every week by Jason Langille – thank you all very much!

- SPECIAL BENCH - The Earnest Workers are very thankful to the family of Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson for donating a beautiful garden bench in Betty's name. This bench is located in the Earnest Worker Garden near the office door of the Gardiner Building.

We thank everyone who spends time helping to take care of our Church property: mowing, weeding, raking, spreading mulch, and trimming flowers and bushes. It helps make our Church a beautiful place to come together for Church, children's activities and special events. Thank you all VERY MUCH!

We also thank Trish Sweeney for stepping forward to help coordinate the Church Garden map of memorial spaces, and organize the gardening tasks! If you wish to help please call Trish (508-736-8434) or Maria Tavares at our Church Office.

Your Deacons, Landscaping Committee and Trustees!

SAVE THE DATES

SCCUCC Fundraising Committee News for the FALL 2024! Please save these dates on your calendars!

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - Chili Bake Off Dinner and DELICIOUS Dessert Auction starting at 5:30 PM. You are invited to bring your favorite Chili Recipe to share and/or bring a Delicious Dessert for our Dessert Drawing!

More details to come!



Saturday, October 5, 2024 - YARD SALE!!!

Many of us have great items that we would like to participate in our Church Yard Sale this coming October 5th! You will either be able to reserve a table for \$30.00 each to sell your own items or donate your items to the Church for

sale at the "Church" section of the Yard Sale. Please check out Donna's emails and listen for more information during our Church announcements as we get closer to Fall. If you have items, please put them aside so that you can bring them to the Church the week before the Yard Sale. If you have questions, please contact Lori Ferreira at 401-525-1874 or Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490. Have a wonderful Summer sorting and saving for this year's Yard Sale!

Saturday, November 2, 2024 - HARVEST DINNER

Join us for our traditional Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 2nd. We will have take-out and eat in options. More details to come!





Saturday, December 7, 2024 - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please put this date on your calendar - it is a wonderful Seekonk Congregational Church tradition. We have beautiful wreaths and centerpieces, ham and beans and amazing baked goods, Grandma's Attic with all sorts of Christmas items, a table of knitted items, great lunch options, pictures with Santa and SO MUCH more!

Thank you very much for supporting our Church Fundraising events and for inviting your neighbors and friends to join us also!





EARNEST WORKERS

Welcome to the Earnest Workers for the Fall of 2024!

If you have not attended an Earnest Workers Meeting before, please know that you are very welcome to join us starting in September 2024.

Here are some "Save the Dates" for Fall Earnest Worker meetings to add to your calendars! We will have a more complete list of dates and activities to share later in the summer. If you have questions, please call Evelyn Watkins (401-680-2490).

Note that the Earnest Workers are a group who generally meet the first Wednesday of each month for community and activities. However this September we will meet the third Wednesday due to the Labor Day weekend and other calendar commitments. Wednesday, September 18th at 10:00 AM will be our first meeting for the 2024/2025 year. This will be our "Meet and Greet" meeting for the new year and hope to see as many of our current Earnest Workers as well as hoping that we will have MANY new folks visiting. Current Earnest Workers – please invite your friends and any new Church members/visitors you may know! We will go over our schedule or the year and we will also make Cookie Containers for our Cookie Walk that will occur on Sunday, October 27th during Coffee Hour after our 9:30 Church Service. We meet in the Hall of the Gardiner Building. Please bring a bagged lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

In October we will meet on Wednesday, October 2nd at 10:00 AM in the Hall of the Gardiner Building. We will have a business meeting and then at 10:30 we will move the Church Sanctuary to listen to our special Guest, Ellen Bensusan, who has shared many every enjoyable Armchair Travelogues with us in the past. This year Ellen will share pictures and stories about her travels to New Zealand and Australia. Please bring a bagged lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Wednesday, November 6th – Flower Arranging with Christina Greene – More information to come. Wednesday, December 11th – Earnest Worker Luncheon at Davenports! Enjoy this beautiful Summer Season with family and friends!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Evelyn Watkins at 401-680-2490.



2024 Graduates



Alvssa Rosario Seekonk High School Future Plans: to attend Bristol Community College for general studies and join workforce

> Aubrey McVay East Providence High School Future Plans: CCRI

> > Jazmyn Melo Seekonk High School Future Plans: UMASS



Allison Houle Salve Regina University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Award: Pell Honors

Marcel Gendreau Seekonk High School Future Plans: To attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) To study Civil Engineering

Carter D'Agenais Saint Raphael Academy Future Plans: attending Bryant University for Finance / Marketing

Eric D. Smith MBA from Curry College in Milton, MA He will continue as a strength coach and football coach at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, PA Son of Elizabeth Smith



Elizabeth G. Smith

Doctorate (Ed.D.) from the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. She will continue as a Director in the Office of Medical Education at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University



Amanda Suzanne Troiano *Providence College* Masters in School Counseling Future Plans: Math teacher at North Attleboro Middle School Granddaughter of Susan Boucher and Cindy Pearson



2024-2025 Church School & Confirmation Class Registration Form Seekonk Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk, MA 02771

CHILD'S NAME:				
(First)	(Midd	tle)	(Last)	
DATE OF BIRTH:	BAPTIZED:Y	ESNO (DATE of BAPTISM): _	
PARENTS' NAMES				
Address				
City/State	Zip Code	Telepl	hone: ()	
PARENT'S EMAIL				
events on social m	book We are now p edia. Please indicate pictures posted. (508-	to the offic	e if you need to opt	out of having
CHURCH SCHOOL SESSION	ſ			
Entering in SEPTEMBER 202	4 (circle one): Nursery (B	<u>irth to 3YR)</u>	Preschool 3YR / 4YR	<u>Kindergarten</u>
(<i>circle one</i>): 1^{st} 2^{nd} 3^{rd}	$\underline{4^{\text{th}}}$ $\underline{5^{\text{th}}}$ $\underline{6^{\text{th}}}$ $\underline{7^{\text{th}}}$ $\underline{8}$	<u>Sth Confirm</u>	nation class (9^{th}) <u>10th</u>	$\underline{11^{th}}$ $\underline{12^{th}}$
Confirmation Class (9th grade or above)	10 th , 11 th ,	12 th	
EMAIL OF CONFIRMAND _				
Medication/Allergies/Special I If a	Needs (please notify us) additional space is need plea			
Church Activity/Interests (Please	se check any that your child	-	-	
Sacred Dance Bells/Tone Chin	 1es	Play Drai	Musical Instrument	
Children's Choir		Aco		
Youth Choir (6-	7-8)	Othe	er	
If you have	additional concerns or help	pful informat	tion, please use back	

TO BETTER UPDATE THE CHURCH RECORDS \sim THIS FORM NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT EACH YEAR \sim

VBS 2024 Form for August 5th – 9th from 8:45AM – 12:15PM



"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3)

Camp Firelight VBS 2024

Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC

AUG 5 - 9 (M- F) 8:45 AM - 12:15 PM Preschool- 6th grade FEE \$25

pet station, moon bounce, fire pit & s'mores, nature, art, music, games

REGISTRATION FORM Child's Name Grade in Fall Parent/Guardian
Parent/Guardian
Address:
Address:
Email:
Parent/Guardian Cell Number:
Allergies / Concerns:
FEE \$25 per child Cash Check Scholarship
I give my child permission to be photographed for church social media / VBS video Parent / Guardian Signature for child to participate:

VBS 2024 EXTENDED DAY FORM Form for August 5th – 9th from 12:15 PM up to 5:00 PM

"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3)

Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC, 600 Fall River Ave, Seekonk, MA

AUG 5 - 9 12:15 PM up to 5:00 PM FEE \$25 PER DAY (per child)



Preschool- 6th Grade Child needs bag lunch, bathing suit, towel, sunscreen

Child's Name (siblings can be on one form) 1 2 3 Parent/Guardian:

Allergies / Concerns:

Parent/Guardian Cell Number:

FEE \$25 per child- per day for VBS afternoon program		
Mon		
Tue		
Wed		
Thu		
Fri		
Total Days		_
Total Children Total Amount:	Cash	Check

I give my child(ren) permission to be part of the VBS afternoon activities including water fun & the moon bounce. **Parent / Guardian Signature** for child(ren) to participate: