



# THE SPIRE

THE SECOND CHURCH IN NEWTON  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Sharing life's journey in Christian faith, love, and service.*



60 Highland St. West Newton, MA • [www.2ndchurch.org](http://www.2ndchurch.org) • (617) 244-2690

## Calendar Highlights

Sunday Worship, 10 o'clock, followed by Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

9/3 Tuesday – John Ferrera Welcome Lunch/Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m.

9/3 Tuesday – Nursery School Parents Meet/Greet, 7 – 8 p.m.

9/6 Friday – 2030's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

9/8 Sunday – Baptism, 10 a.m.; BBQ and Potluck Picnic, following worship

9/12 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

9/20 Friday – 2030's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

9/25, 26 Wednesday and Thursday – Nursery School Potlucks, 6 p.m.

9/25 Wednesday – Scripture Readers' Workshop, 4:30 p.m.

9/26 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

9/26 Thursday – Scripture Readers' Workshop, 6 p.m.

10/4 Friday – 2030's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

10/5 Saturday – Super Saturday

10/6 Sunday – World Communion Sunday; Neighbors in Need Offering received

10/18 Friday – Second Chance Sale, 12 – 5 p.m.

10/18 Friday – 2030's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner Church meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey, Senior Minister

Barbara Cancellieri, Administrator

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

Rev. Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation

Alan Bubba Sooho and Sally Anderson, Co-Moderators

Susan Benes, Nursery School Director

John Ferrera, Communications Coordinator; Sydney Koo, Faith Formation Assistant

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

**Next Spire Deadline: Tuesday, October 15, 10 a.m.**

**Next Spire Mailing: Friday, October 25, 2:00 p.m.**

NOVEMBER 2020

## My Bailiwick

This past summer, dear friends of ours made use of the miracle-working doctors at Boston Children's Hospital for tricky neurological surgery for their son. All went well, and after a long stay at Spaulding Rehab Center, they are back home, grateful such care was available to them within driving distance. Of course, they are US citizens, employed in good-paying jobs and have excellent health insurance. I thought of them as I read a recent story in the Boston Globe (August 26, 2019).

*Severely ill immigrants, including children with cancer, cystic fibrosis, and other grave conditions, are facing deportation under a change in Trump administration policy that immigration advocates are calling cruel and inhumane. All had been granted "medical deferred action," a special status that allows immigrants to remain in the country legally, receive Medicaid, and work while they receive treatment for dire health conditions. [But they all received] letters that told them that if they did not leave the United States in 33 days, they would become undocumented and face deportation proceedings.*

Really? That's really happening to families in the same hospital where I visited my friends' son? Just a few miles from our church? How can that possibly be?

I have never had such a difficult time hanging on to hope as I have in recent months as we have watched life-threatening indignity after indignity heaped upon God's children – our sisters and brothers – our children. It's why I am so looking forward to getting our church year started again. My hope for God's intended future is strengthened when I am with you, doing churchy things, even evening meetings!

In this Spire are announcements about lots of churchy things that we are doing together this fall – everything from singing in the choir to organizing a second-hand rummage sale, grappling with white supremacy and working on anti-racism to helping young teens study food insecurity and food sourcing from the perspective of our Christian faith. And it all starts with Welcome Home worship on September 8<sup>th</sup> with a grand picnic after worship.

I need you to bolster my hope that God's intended future is realizable. And I think we all need our loving, engaged, hard-working community to strengthen the hope of people all around us who are being treated as if they are not also God's children.

Come ~ let us work and hope together.

Pastor Carla Jean Bailey  
[cbailey@2ndchurch.org](mailto:cbailey@2ndchurch.org)

## Faith Formation

Beginning this fall, we will provide opportunities for anti-racism education and activism as part of our Faith Formation offerings. Led by the teachings and example of Jesus (as well as the apostle Paul, the church fathers and mothers, and many of our modern saints and martyrs), we believe that anti-racism education is essential for powerful and meaningful Christian discipleship. It's time to bear witness to our call to be anti-racist people in this age of bitter hate.

In September and October, we'll begin working with the UCC's "Let's Talk: White Privilege" Curriculum and the New York Times' 1619 Project, as well as some one-time engagements with the Massachusetts Council of Churches and other local partners. A full schedule will be available on Welcome Sunday and opportunities will be listed in the weekly newsletter. We are committed to thinking together about systemic racism in America and to helping white people (like the two of us) take responsibility for our role in dismantling it, so some of the offerings (such as the "Let's Talk" curriculum) will be geared primarily for white Christians, while other offerings will assume a broader audience.

With hope for our time together,

Carla and Leah

### Scripture Readers' Workshops

Did you know that, in many churches, being a scripture reader is an ordainable position? While this is not a tradition of the UCC, reading scripture is one of the most important leadership positions in a worship service and, with this in mind, Second Church is building a group of regular scripture readers who are excited about proclaiming the words of the Bible, serving as leaders in worship, and growing their own relationships with scripture. If you would like to be part of this group, please plan to attend a workshop on **either** Wednesday, September 25 at 4:30 pm or Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 pm. RSVP to [leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu) is appreciated but not required and the workshop runs for an hour.

### 2030's Bible Study Starts September 6

2030's Bible Study is back starting on Friday, September 6 at 6:00 pm. We'll be meeting bi-weekly unless otherwise noted in the weekly announcements. You can plan on dinner, time for prayer, and a structured discussion with questions provided around a reading from either the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament or the New Testament. This cozy and intimate group meets in the church library (take the stairs on your right in the lobby as you enter the church from the parking lot). RSVP's to Leah ([leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu)) are helpful but not required.

### Children's Stories Return on Sunday, September 8 in the Minister's Study

Children's stories will begin again in worship on Welcome Sunday! Our format will remain the same (all students begin together for a story and then may choose between the Prayground or unstructured childcare). Welcome Sunday will bring one change: students should meet in the Minister's Study (off of the sanctuary behind the Children's Chapel) instead of Room 111. Stories are designed for students in fifth grade or younger, but middle schoolers are welcome to join too!

## Welcome Back Sunday Picnic – September 8

Following worship on September 8, we're serving Blue Ribbon Barbecue pulled pork and chicken for sandwiches. We're also providing drinks and rolls. Please bring a salad, or garden vegetables, or dessert to share. In case of rain, the picnic will be held in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!

### “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” \*\*

The role of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE is not easy. Finding people who are willing and able to do the work of the church requires patience and persistence and a good “feel” for reading people and understanding their strengths and challenges. This role in itself is an essential part of doing the work of the church!

Kathryn Huse has graciously agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in being a member, please contact Kathryn at [kathryn.huse@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.huse@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance and hopefully there will be many people who will answer the above question with these words: “Here am I, Lord. Send me.”\*\*

\*\* Isaiah 6:8

Sally Anderson

Co-Moderator

[sallyjaneanderson@gmail.com](mailto:sallyjaneanderson@gmail.com)

## Super Saturday

Each spring and fall, the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC holds a Super Saturday event - a full-day of skill building, networking and discussing best practices. Each event offers numerous workshops, a keynote address, worship, a marketplace of vendors and ideas and an opportunity for church leaders, both clergy and lay, to network with one another.

The next Super Saturday will be on October 5, 2019 at Keefe Regional Technical High School, Framingham, MA. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Dwayne D. Royster, Political Director of Faith in Action (formerly the PICO National Network). Faith in Action is the nation's largest faith-based organizing movement committed to racial and economic justice with 40+ federations in 22 States and 5 Countries. Bishop Royster was previously the Executive Director of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild), the Faith in Action federation of Philadelphia, PA. In addition, Bishop Royster serves as the Pastor of the Faith United Church of Christ in Washington, DC.

Bishop Royster is a voice for justice for and with those most marginalized in our society. He partners with those that have been oppressed as a result of their race, nationality, socio-economic level, gender, and faith. Since we are all created in the image and likeness of God, Bishop Royster believes that it is imperative that a prophetic faith voice is heard in the halls of power calling for the equity and respect of the moral value of every human life.

Second Church will pay the registration for any member attending Super Saturday. If interested in attending, please contact me. My email is [soohoalan@gmail.com](mailto:soohoalan@gmail.com).

Bubba Sooho

Co-Moderator

## Meet our NEW Communications Coordinator ~ John Ferrera!

At our annual meeting last February, the congregation approved an operating budget that includes a new staff position to assist us with our communications -- social media especially. We had a great committee who helped with every step -- from creating a posting for the position to telephone and in-person interviews. We received many resumes, and gradually but steadily, John kept rising to the top.

John is a graduate of Framingham State University with a BFA in Communication Arts. He designs graphics, photographs anything and everything, produces videos, brochures, exhibit materials and posters. We were so impressed with some of the work he's done for places like the Christa McAuliffe Center, Ignite Mental Health, and JMF Designs. We were particularly impressed with John's ability to listen carefully, and then interpret what he hears into a visual presence.

Though the particulars of John's hours and job priorities are still a work in progress, he will be on-site roughly 15 hours each week, including Sunday mornings. Our Communications Committee will be meeting with John early in September to help prioritize our church's communication needs with him. Plan to meet John on Welcome Back Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!



## From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

Once again choir practice will be starting back up on Thursday, September 5 at 7:30 pm. The choir meets every Thursday night in the choir room from 7:30-9:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. The choir also meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 am to rehearse before the Sunday service.

## **TWO SALES @ SECOND CHURCH!**

Do you remember last year's December Market? We sold Christmas gifts, books, baskets and bird feeders. There were children's activities and a raffle. There was used furniture and second-hand dishes. It was wild!

This year we are separating our Markets. On **Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> noon to 5:00**, we'll hold a **Second Chance at Second Church Sale!** Bring us your garage and attic sale items, books, furniture, knick-knacks and tchotchkes. You may bring your donations to sell beginning Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will price everything that week. We'll need lots of volunteers during the week and especially on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. All the proceeds from this sale will go to our church capital improvement projects. After the sale, everything will be carted away for good!

**Then on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we'll hold a Christmas Market!** There will be children's activities, Pastor Carla's cranberry tea, ornaments, wreaths, SERRV items, candles – all manner of gifts. We'll tell you more about our Christmas Market in our next Spire. For now, just mark these dates, look through your attics, basements, and garages, to donate in October and enjoy the fun!

## **Upcoming Southern New England Conference**

The Second Church in Newton belongs to the Metropolitan Boston Association (MBA). About 65 other nearby churches do as well. Wendy Vander Hart is the Associate Conference Minister who serves as our liaison with the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (MACUCC).

Nine other associations and the MBA make up the MACUCC. Don Remick, the Transitional Conference Minister, leads us. Thirty-seven geographic conferences and the Calvin Synod, composed entirely of Reformed, or Calvinist congregations of Hungarian descent, make up the United Church of Christ denomination. John C. Dorhauer serves as General Minister and President.

At the recent General Synod of the UCC, the resolution to merge the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences of the UCC passed. On January 1, 2020, the Southern New England Conference will replace the three state conferences. The purpose of the merger is to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Second Church will benefit from the enhanced support that the Southern New England Conference can offer. However, we remain self-governing

## **Join the Jericho Walks in Burlington, MA**

**March in Solidarity with those being mistreated by an inhuman immigration system.**

**Every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm (3-2-1)**

(Next walks on Tuesday, September 17 and Tuesday, October 15)

The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. "The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths."

**Walks take place at the ICE offices in Burlington, MA**

**(1000 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803)**

**For anyone interested in taking part and carpooling from Newton,**

**or for additional information, contact Amy Mazur at [acmazur@comcast.net](mailto:acmazur@comcast.net).**

## **From the Board of Mission and Advocacy**

### **A Note from Martha and Lissa**

A while back Martha Felch and Lissa Gilbert visited the Friday Cafe at First Church in Cambridge. Lindsey O'Donovan has close contact to this program and suggested we explore it as a Mission and Advocacy Opportunity.

The Mission of the Friday Cafe is to create a space of hospitality and welcome with homeless and food-insecure adults from Cambridge and surrounding areas. They offer food and coffee, clothing, and other resources - but most importantly, community. The numbers range from 65-80 guests in warmer weather and 100-150 on cold winter days.

The Friday Cafe program operates from September to June. There are several ways to participate. If you are interested in going in person, there are shifts on Fridays that include food preparation, food service, interaction with guests, and clean up.

If you are unable to go to Cambridge, there are other opportunities to support the Friday Cafe. They always accept donations of toiletries, new white socks, and knitted hats and other clothing items. They also accept food donations, ranging from baked goods to casseroles. Martha and Lissa will be going this fall and are working out the logistics (see Constant Contact for details); we will be glad to deliver your donated items. Please speak to one of us if interested in joining or to get more information.

Lissa Gilbert    [emgilbert22@gmail.com](mailto:emgilbert22@gmail.com)                      Martha Felch    [msfelch1@gmail.com](mailto:msfelch1@gmail.com)

## **Neighbors in Need Offering**

### **To be received on World Communion Sunday, October 6**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

This year's theme is Love of Children.

## **Potluck Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock**

Dinner Church will continue this fall. We'll meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, and instead of signing up to provide dinner, we'll bring food potluck-style. There is no sign up – just bring whatever you wish, ideally enough to feed five or more people – think cookies, veggies from your garden, or a new recipe you've been wanting to try. We know that this may mean there are nights when we do not have a traditional “balanced meal” and we accept this as part of the fun. If you are unable to bring something, don't let this prevent you from joining us. Come anyway! Write Leah with questions: [leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu)

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Return Address Requested

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*The Second Church in Newton is an inclusive community of curious and creative spiritual seekers, committed to learning, teaching, social justice and embodying a progressive practice of Christianity through loving kindness, engagement and joyful worship.*

