



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 • (617) 244-2690

My Bailiwick

One of the things I find most helpful about the Christian liturgical seasons, is that they provide time markers. This Season of Lent marks the time when we are invited, encouraged actually, to think more intentionally about our discipleship. What should we be doing to demonstrate our trust in the ways of Jesus? How can we deepen our prayer lives? Is it possible for us to listen more carefully for the voice of God?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th. It isn't about giving up some food or other. It isn't even about giving up a habit, unless it's a habit that gets in the way of living your most faithful life. We are told that Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness before he began his public, confrontational, life-giving ministry. Forty days without food, of course he was vulnerable to temptation. Who wouldn't be? But the temptations described in Scripture were about power and wealth, about challenging the authority of God, about taking the easy way forward.

So this Lent, I encourage you to think about the life of faith Jesus led – the life that challenged unjust powers and principalities, the life that placed the individual well-being of outcasts before the self-serving privilege of religious and political leaders. Think about preparation for doing the important work our faith demands of us – the work of advocating for the poor, confronting racism and sexism, staying in the struggle for justice and peace, whatever its cost.

This issue of the Spire is filled with Lenten programs to help you in your preparation for faithful discipleship. There's music and study, times to gather to be silly and times to gather for prayer, worship, purple candles, quiet places. May you find something here at Second Church that will help you prepare for the holiest challenge of all – the willingness to go to the cross, if necessary, confident that God is with us all, even to the empty tomb on Easter Day.

Pastor Carla Jean Bailey
cbailey@2ndchurch.org

Deep within Jesus' spirit there may have been a sense of foreboding, or a heightened quality of exhilaration that comes from knowing that there is no road back.

~ Howard Thurman

March & April 2020

✠ The Season of Lent at Second Church ✠

Worship during Lent

Ash Wednesday

February 26th join us for Dinner Church, with Communion, at 6 p.m. followed by a quiet service of Prayer and Ashes, 7 p.m. upstairs in Fuller Chapel.

Lenten Cantata

Sunday, March 22nd the Chancel Choir at Second Church in Newton will present Arvo Pärt's *Stabat Mater*, a late 20th-century choral masterpiece, stunning in its earnest simplicity. The choir will be joined by string players from Newton Baroque, and before the service Newton Baroque will perform Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*, one of his most beloved instrumental works.

Lenten Theater

We are going to create some music theater during worship on March 29th, and **we need actors**. Newton is such a hotbed of great acting, and we would love to see your inner thespian engaged at the service. If you would like to participate in this Lenten-themed drama/service, please talk to Andrus Madsen or Allen Wiegner

Sunday, **March 29th**, 10 a.m. come prepared to experience some sacred folk/country Lenten theater as Gail and Allen Wiegner along with the choir and a team of actors probe Lenten themes of redemption and forgiveness from a down-to-earth perspective.

Hand Bells

Palm Sunday, April 5th, the Bell Choir will perform during the worship service. We will rehearse on March 22nd and March 29th at 11:30 a.m. after worship. If you would like to play with the Bell Choir, please contact Andrus Madsen.

Pick-up Choir

In March, April, and May, we are going to have an open choir rehearsal on the last Sunday of each month. We will do easier music and anyone is welcome to join us for our 9 a.m. rehearsal in the choir room and jump in with the choir for the 10 a.m. service.

A New Way to Pray

The Board of Worship is introducing a new prayer opportunity in worship, beginning March 1st. Worshippers will be invited to write a prayer request on an index card (found in your pews), and the minister will collect your prayer requests during the hymn following the sermon to be included in the Pastoral Prayer.

⊕ *Study during Lent* ⊕

Forums

On March 15th, at 11:30 a.m. Pat Bonnet and Andrus Madsen are offering a forum, *A Prelude to this year's Lenten Cantata: the Stabat Mater by Arvo Pärt*. In this one-hour forum we will focus on engaging the music and text as contemplative meditation and prayer with echoes from medieval chant to Eastern meditation. Arvo Pärt engages in a lean, minimalist compositional style that connects in very rich ways to both Christian and Eastern meditative practices. We will examine these connections and look at ways to use the music as a meditative tool to come to a deeper spiritual connection to the events of Holy Week.

Sunday, April 5th, 11:30 a.m. Pat Bonnet and Andrus Madsen will lead a forum, *Contemplating the Passion: Ancient meditative practices and their intersection with the Tenebrae Lessons and the Mystery Sonatas by Franz Biber*. We will look at three of these sonatas and the elements in the music that connect with the meditative practice. We will also examine ways to use the Good Friday service to come to a more vibrant connection right at the crux of our Christian heritage.

Our Study Book. The Board of Faith Formation invites you to join in the study of the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, by Amy-Jill Levine. "From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his prayerful agony in Gethsemane, Levine brings forward aspects and details that open doors for beginners as well as seasoned readers of the Bible. She shows how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience."

You may participate in the book study three ways: Join us for Dinner Church on Wednesdays (6-7 p.m.), **or** Thursdays over the noon hour (bring your own lunch - 12:30 -1:30 p.m.), **or** on-line, following discussion questions by the author. We begin on Ash Wednesday – February 26th, and continue through April 2nd. Books are available for sale in the church office for \$10 each, or you may order the book from Amazon for Kindle. Additionally, we will keep two copies of the book in the church office on "closed reserve" for you to read here at church.

The Penalty for Success – An Evening with Josephine Bolling McCall, March 8th at 6:00. Ms. McCall will share the story of her father who was lynched when Josephine was just five years old, as well as her work promoting literacy in Lowndes County Alabama. This pot-luck and conversation event is at Union Church in Waban, 14 Collins Rd. You may RSVP to Pastor Stacy Swain at Stacy@UCW.org or go to the Union Church homepage at UCW.org for more details and to sign-up.

⊕ **Fellowship and Food during Lent** ⊕

Dinner Church – Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

We gather at 6 on Wednesdays. Please bring food to share! There is no advance 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. If you are unable to bring something, don't let that stop you from coming! There is ALWAYS enough food to share. During Lent, we will be conversing about the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Write Leah with any questions: leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu

"Hello Dolly" ~ The Blockbuster Broadway Musical comes to Newton North High School.

On Sunday, March 22nd at 2:00 p.m. Parish Life is organizing a group from our church. Hope you'll be one of them! Tickets are \$18. Truly one of the best values in town. Don't miss it! Please let us know if you need a ride. Please mark your calendar and contact Dana Davis to reserve tickets (**by Friday, March 6th**) – dcampdavis@comcast.net Cell 917-887-6444. Hope you can join us!

Green Potluck! Literally!

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day **Green** Potluck Dinner on Friday, March 13th, at 6:00 PM, here at church. Kids are especially welcome! You can bring any food you want, **but** it must be **green**! And that's not all – there may be singing, and Rev. Carla has promised to teach us some Irish **curses** (and a few blessings). (We are not making this up.) Come and enjoy!



Opportunities to host Sunday coffee hour and/or usher in worship

We could use your help! We need Sunday coffee hour hosts. Please sign up at the church or by calling the church office.

And we need Sunday ushers! We are changing the role of Deacons so we are looking for Sunday worship greeters/ushers. It's a lovely way to welcome people to worship, tell families with children about the story time in the Minister's Study, hand out bulletins, take the offering, and generally demonstrate that we are glad people have joined us for worship on Sunday mornings! Please let us know that you can help!

✠ *Ways to Serve during Lent* ✠

As the Board of Mission and Advocacy we choose to support many local groups both through financial support and personal interactions and mission work. During this season of Lent we would like to inform you of two scheduled opportunities to become involved with folks in our community and engage in service.

MARCH 8th Friday Cafe at the First Church in Cambridge

We are signed up for 2 slots from 11-2 to work in the kitchen preparing food for service. We have also signed up for 4 slots to work in the Dining Room serving food and interacting with the guests. Please look at their website (Firstchurchcambridge.org) for more specific information or contact Lissa Gilbert to sign up. We can arrange for carpooling and or getting to Cambridge on public transportation. You can also make food contributions such as a casserole, quiche, dessert, clementines, and bring them to the church kitchen by 9:30 Friday morning, March 8th. They also are accepting new or used men's clothing, hand warmers, and sleeping bags. There is also need for travel size shampoo and new men's underwear in all sizes. We will set a drop off location in Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 3rd.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY MARCH 27th and 28th

Food Basket Preparation and Distribution

Allston Brighton UCC, Washington Street in Brighton

Join us on Friday afternoon from 1-3 to receive the donations of Food from Loving Spoonfuls and get ready for the Saturday food distribution.

On Saturday come from 10-1 to help distribute the food baskets to 90 needy families in the Brighton area. Please see Lissa to sign up for either of these events.

Thank you for your participation as we work to provide support for people in our communities!

The Newton Food Pantry is the only food pantry in Newton that delivers to clients who are homebound. The items they stock: soup, vegetables, fruit, peanut butter, beans, meals in a can, tuna, rice, cereal, oil, pasta, and tomato sauce. Also needed are toiletries. Bring these contributions to Second Church – they are delivered weekly to the food pantry by Kathy Lucey.

✠ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering ✠

The offering date is March 22nd. The theme is "Invest in Futures." When we participate in the OGHS offering, we provide valuable support. Among the support we give, water sanitation and adequate nutrition top the list of resources needed. Assets such as irrigation systems, wells, latrines and wash houses change peoples' lives in amazing ways.

Clean water and adequate facilities improve health and gives dignity to people at the same time. Clean water, seeds, tools, and training on modern farming techniques produce a great harvest – leaving more money for families to live on. Lives are changed when health improves and when communities thrive.

Storms, such as the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the small island of Sulawesi, Indonesia (September 2018) destroy everything in their paths! In Sulawesi, gardens, houses, water systems, latrines and livelihoods...all were gone. Many people could not imagine how they could go on. But with support of OGHS, 13,000 people now receive clean water. With water, sanitation and adequate food, children are more likely to attend school, and women, no longer searching for water, are able to earn money to contribute to their families; well-being and overall health.

Stand with UCC congregations by lending a hand through support to the OGHS offering. Your financial assistance will directly help people and communities affected by disaster, violence and poverty. Your financial assistance will be an investment into the lives of people and communities who need it most.

Together, we are co-workers in God's service, planting and watering seeds for God to nurture. Thank you on behalf of the individuals and communities who will benefit directly from your support.



⊕ Holy Week at Second Church ⊕

Palm Sunday – April 5th – Worship at 10 a.m.

We celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with palm branches, Hosannas, and handbells. But the service turns more serious as we prepare for the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

Maundy Thursday April 9th Simple Supper with Communion at 6:30 PM

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a supper of soup and bread. We will read Matthew's version of the events of that evening, how Jesus and his disciples went to an Upper Room to share a meal together.

Following the meal, we will celebrate communion at our tables. We are looking for hearty soup donations – please contact Carla if you are able to make soup to bring and share.

Good Friday – April 10th

Afternoon –Carla will be in Fuller Chapel from 1:30-3. You are invited to come spend a few minutes in quiet prayer and meditation.

Evening – Tenebrae Lessons in a darkened sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

Violinist Daniel Lee will perform three of the Mystery Sonatas by Biber, "The Crown of Thorns," "Jesus Carries the Cross," and "The Crucifixion", from a collection of sonatas that connect with one of the mysteries meant to be pondered while engaged in the prayers of the Rosary. The Stations of the Cross were a similar meditative practice that resonates deeply with this music. Soloists from the choir will also sing works, including *Tenebrae Lessons* by Giovanni Paolo Colonna, and the *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Felice Sances, all in an unlit sanctuary.

Easter Sunday – April 12th, 10 a.m.

On Easter Sunday we will have guest musicians and the service will culminate in a rousing rendition of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, in which all are invited to come join the choir in the chancel.

Easter Egg Hunt

Children in 5th grade and younger are invited to an egg hunt on the church lawn after the service! Please be aware of the following details:

- We will ring the bell in Fellowship Hall to gather the egg hunters about fifteen minutes after the service ends.
- Parents and caregivers should plan to come outside and supervise children during the egg hunt.
- It is helpful if egg-hunters can bring their own Easter baskets, but extras will be available at the church if needed.

Calendar – Lent at a Glance

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

- 2/26 Ash Wednesday – Dinner Church, followed by Service, 7 p.m. Fuller Chapel
- 2/29 Saturday – Strategic Planning follow-up, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Room 111
- 3/1 Sunday – Faith and Citizenship Institute, 5 p.m. and also 4/5
- 3/13 Friday – St. Patrick's Green Potluck 6 p.m.
- 3/14 Saturday – Super Saturday, Wilbraham, MA
- 3/15 Sunday – Music and text of Lenten Cantata Forum, 11:30 a.m. Room 111
- 3/22 Sunday – Lenten Cantata 10 a.m. One Great Hour of Sharing offering;
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 11:30 and also 3/29, Sanctuary
"Hello Dolly" Performance NNHS, 2 p.m.
- 4/5 Palm Sunday – Worship/Bell Choir, 10 a.m.
- 4/9 Maundy Thursday – Simple Supper/Tenebrae Service, 6:30 p.m.
- 4/10 Good Friday – Music Service, 7:30 p.m.
- 4/12 Easter Sunday – Worship Celebration, 10 a.m.,
followed by Easter Egg Hunt, north lawn

Potluck Dinner Church meets in Fellowship Hall Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
2030's Bible Study meets first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 8
Next Spire Deadline: Monday, April 13, 10 a.m.
Next Spire Mailing: Thursday, April 23, 9:15 a.m.



Strategic Plan Launch

It took the Israelites 40 years to achieve their goal, to cross over into the Promised Land. Second Church's Strategic Plan is more modest. Over the next three years, we will enhance Worship, Communication and Mission.

The Boards of Faith Formation, Mission and Advocacy, Parish Life, Resources and Worship will each have Strategic Initiatives in any of these three areas as part of the Strategic Plan. Each board will work with a Deacon who will serve as coach. The Deacons will assume oversight of the Strategic Initiatives. The Church Council will have final responsibility and authority for the Strategic Initiatives.

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, 9 a.m. to noon, Room 111, Second Church; the Senior Minister, Co-Moderators, Board chairs and members and **ANYONE INTERESTED** will launch the Strategic Plan. Come and be part of the start of a journey of discovery.

A Note from Co-Moderator Sally Anderson

A year ago I took on the role of Co-Moderator for many reasons, two of which were rather selfish - to get to know Carla better and to try to better understand the inner workings of Second Church.

I think I have been successful at the first of these endeavors, as working with Carla has been very rewarding. I see her as a strong, keen administrator, whose passion for social justice shines through everything she does. Isn't this just what we hired her for! I also see a very talented and compassionate Pastor who reaches out to us through her preaching and most of all through the interpersonal relationships she has developed with all of us. Along with the successes that Carla has achieved, I see also the challenges she faces. Life is certainly not all fun and games at Second Church! I think that Carla is working her way through those challenges, and I look forward to supporting her in that work this coming year.

Getting to know the inner workings of Second Church is a work in progress, as there is so much going on here! I don't think I've ever been to so many meetings in my life! But each one brings new knowledge, insights, and better understanding of the life blood of Second Church. There are so many people who work very hard for this church, and I'd like to acknowledge each and everyone of you - BRAVO!

I'd like to say goodbye (at least as Co-Moderator) to a person who has provided so much insight into the work of the church and has done it with compassion and good humor throughout the year. We have all been so fortunate to have Bubba Sooho as a lay leader for the past three years, and he deserves all of our gratitude and thanks. Again, BRAVO!

Lastly, I'd like to say hello and welcome to a person who has been a good friend to me here at Second Church for many years. Kathy Lucey and I have worked on committees together, sung in the choir together, and shared some of life's experiences together. I truly look forward to working with her this year as Co-Moderator.

Thanks so much for all of your support this past year. I look forward to continuing on as one of your lay leaders.

Sally Anderson
Co-Moderator

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
Sally Anderson and Kathy Lucey, Co-Moderators
Susan Benes, Nursery School Director; Sydney Koo, Faith Formation Assistant
John Ferrera, Communications Coordinator: johnferrerawork@gmail.com
Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons
Frank Neal, Property Manager

The Annual Second Church
Women's Retreat
May 1 - 3, 2020

Join other Second Church women and their friends as we take some time to get away for a weekend to reflect on our lives. Our time together will include opportunities to rest and be creative, to walk on the beach and sing with the Spirit, to join others in conversation and meditate in private. We always return home refreshed and revitalized. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend.

- Date/Time: Friday, May 1 - arrival time 3 p.m.; dinner 5:45 p.m. - Sunday, May 3, after lunch, 1 p.m.
- Place: Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod
- Cost: \$193.00 includes 2 nights, 6 meals, and program

We are also accepting contributions for scholarships this year, so that those who would like to go but are unable to afford to pay the full price are able to attend. Please speak with Barbara Cancellieri if you would like to contribute or if you need financial assistance. Please speak up sooner rather than later.



Return to Church Office with a \$95 deposit as soon as possible

Please be prompt - Second Church has already paid the deposit.

Name: _____

Can provide a ride _____ Need a ride _____

Optional Linen Service at \$15 _____

Will not be there for Friday night dinner _____

Special Needs: _____

Please include dietary restrictions above

Easter Flower Order Form

In Memory and/or in Honor of (please circle).

Name as you want it to appear in Easter Bulletin:

Easter lilies/plants are \$15.00 each:

Number of lilies/plants@\$15 _____

I will take mine home _____

I will donate mine to a shut-in _____

Donation to Second Church Flower Fund _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please return this form with your check to Barbara Cancellieri in the church office
No later than Sunday, April 5, 2020. You may put it in the offering plate
during Sunday morning worship. Thank you.



Newton Baroque Concert

Saturday, March 28th at 7:30 pm Newton Baroque will perform, Passions in the Parlor: Stunning Salon Music From 1730's Dresden. Mary Oleskiewicz, flute, Nicole Estima, soprano, Sarah Freiberg Ellison, cello and Andrus Madsen, harpsichord.

The Second Church in Newton
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West Newton, MA 02465-2405

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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.

