



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

Calendar Highlights

Hymn Sings Sundays, 9:45 a.m., during November and December
Sunday Worship, 10 o'clock, followed by Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

11/3 Sunday – Anti-racism Study, 3-4:30 p.m. each Sunday through 11/24
Faith & Citizenship Institute, 5-6:30 p.m., and 11/17

11/11 Monday – Veterans' Day Holiday

11/14 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m., and 12/12

11/23 Saturday – Progressive Dinner, 6 p.m.

11/24 Sunday – Pledge Sunday

11/28 Thursday – Thanksgiving Day Holiday; Church office closed 11/29

12/1 Sunday - Faith & Citizenship Institute, 5-6:30 p.m.

12/7 Saturday – December Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

12/8 Sunday – December Market 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

12/15 Sunday – Advent Cantata, 10 a.m. Christmas Lunch/Carol-sing following

12/20 Friday – Longest Night Worship, 5:30 p.m.

12/24 Tuesday – Christmas Eve Family Service, 5 p.m.

Candlelight Service, 9 p.m.; Church office closed 12/24

12/25 Wednesday – Christmas Day Holiday

Potluck Dinner Church meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

2030's Bible Study meets first and third Fridays at 6:30 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; Sydney Koo, Faith Formation Assistant

John Ferrera, Communications Coordinator: johnferrerawork@gmail.com

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

Next Spire Deadline: Tuesday, December 9, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: Friday, December 27, 9:00 a.m.

2030's Bible Study

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

My Bailiwick

My father died many years ago. It was an unexpected death – he was just 55 - and it was early in the month of December. That year, our family traditions felt garish, even a little insulting. Didn't the world know my beloved dad was gone? Who would hang the lights on the Christmas tree? Who would read short stories to us on Christmas Eve? It was a bitter holiday season that year, and from that year on, our family traditions were quite a bit different.

We are moving into a season full of traditions – November and December – Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, our daughter decided she wants to host Thanksgiving dinner in her apartment in Washington D.C. But she needs all the family recipes, which I prepare by heart, and she needs to buy the frozen turkey early so it thaws in time – does she know that? And does she have enough baking dishes? I'm needing to let go of my traditions and celebrate her generous hospitality.

That can be hard for a family to do. And it's hard for a church to do as well. Yet, from time-to-time, we need to do just that – let go of some traditions and replace them with rituals and foods and occasions that suit who we are now. Something is lost, but something is also gained. We taste new things. We hear the old stories in new ways. We sing a new song.

This wonderful Second Church, my spiritual home, is doing some work reinventing itself. The changes are not huge, necessarily, but a few things are different now, and that sometimes feels – well – insulting. I'm sorry for that. I know how hard it can be to relinquish a beloved tradition, especially when the world feels so unpredictable and harsh.

But the important things are still intact. Though we cried all the way through it, the year my father died, we all went to Christmas Eve worship together, and found new meaning in the words of the angels – “fear not”. On Thanksgiving, Warren and I will be celebrating our daughter's new home and renewed health and we will be having dessert with a bevy of her friends – a most appropriate Thanksgiving indeed.

I think of that old hymn “Abide With Me”, especially these words – “change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me”. May it be a blessing to us all as we find new ways and new hope.

Love to us all ~ Carla

Super Saturday

Super Saturday occurs twice yearly, sponsored by the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. On October 5, 2019, Super Saturday took place in Framingham. Sally Anderson, Carla Bailey, Mary Ann Donaldson, Alex Richter and Bubba Sooho attended.

The day involved worship, featured speaker Bishop Dwayne Royster, workshops and a marketplace - networking, thought-provoking conversations, and fellowship, too.

Some actionable nuggets from Super Saturday:

- Host seminars to help grandparents help with their grandchildren's faith formation
- Start the program year with board members signing a covenant of behavior.
- Plant a community garden. Besides vegetables and flowers, grow relations amongst the gardeners. Share the harvest with neighbors.
- Decide what type of message goes out on social media daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually.
- Develop a plan to solicit bequests.

The next Super Saturday is on March 14, 2020 in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, about 1 hour 45 minutes west of Newton. Featured speaker is Rabbi Elan Babchuk, Founding Director of Glean Network, an incubator focusing on reimagining the role of religion. He also serves as Director of Innovation, Clal, a think tank focused on the future of American faith. Come and meet others on the same faith journey. Come and be challenged, delighted, and inspired.

Bubba Sooho, Co-moderator

THANK YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL 2ND CHANCE @ 2ND CHURCH SALE

This year we organized our first **2nd Chance @ 2nd Church Sale** (Yard Sale) on October 19. Sales from that event netted over \$1,700. Funds for advertising and operation expenses were donated by the team's generosity. We thank everyone who recycled their abundance to 60 Highland Street for that sale and hope to make this an annual event. So, please think of Second Church in October 2020, for your gently used luggage, kitchen, garden and other household items. By the way, luggage was the biggest hit - it practically rolled out the door by itself. Second most sought-after item was small appliances. Who knew? Proceeds from the sale are ear-marked to take care of, organize, and store our archives professionally.

This one-day event was a lot of fun - meeting new faces of the community and discovering some older connections to Second Church. A number of shoppers remembered that previous family members once belonged to our church. One recounted that in the 70's, when they were teenagers, he and a friend had spent the night in the building without being discovered!

Free popcorn and cider was appreciated by all and volunteers relaxed during lunch breaks (in the kitchen) with soups and bread. Kitchen conversations are the best, church kitchen is no exception.

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again: the leaves are falling off the trees; the days are getting shorter; and the Nominating Committee has turned its attention to filling the slate for the coming year. Second Church relies on volunteers from our community to contribute to the mission of the church in many ways, including these five boards. Will this be the year you would like to get more involved? Have you been serving through another capacity but want to step up? We would love to hear from you.

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

Integral to the mission of Second Church is participation on five program Boards, each responsible for a particular aspect of the church and congregation in: Faith Formation, Mission and Advocacy, Parish Life, Resources, and Worship.

- **Faith Formation** is responsible for the spiritual education of children, youth, and adults with the guidance of Rev Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation. Activities include the Sunday School and Prayground, Youth Group, 2030s Group, and the Anti-Racism study.
- **Mission and Advocacy** supports the work we do for communities in need, such as contributions to the Newton Food Pantry, working with incarcerated youth, and supporting other organizations, as listed on our website and in the Annual Report. Other service projects are also available as they arise.
- **Parish Life** is responsible for activities that strengthen our bonds with one another while providing a welcoming atmosphere for the community, including our Sunday coffee hour after worship. Other activities include the Welcome Back picnic, the cleanup of the historic West Newton Burial Ground, the Progressive Dinner, and funeral collations.
- **Resources** assists with the management and administration of the church's resources, including our physical buildings and grounds, investments and endowment, and our renters.
- **Worship and Deacons** focuses on the worship service, working with our pastor, Rev. Carla Bailey; our Minister of Music, Andrus Madsen; and our Minister for Faith Formation, Rev. Leah Rumsey; to support the congregation's worship life, including Sunday worship, Dinner Church, and other occasional services.

The Boards meet one evening each month September through June, with additional meetings and activities scheduled as needed, and are supported by sub-committees. Terms vary with each Board, and start in March of 2020. Involvement by a diverse group of members is critical for us to sustain our community.

Nominations are also open for other key positions, including Co-moderator, and the Nominating Committee is working closely with Carla, Leah, and our Co-moderators, Sally Anderson and Bubba Sooho.

The Nominating Committee will be reaching out to members about specific positions, but we would also love to hear from you. Please contact Carla, Sally, Bubba, or me if you are interested in serving on a board or in another capacity. My email is Kathryn.huse@gmail.com and my mobile number is 617.733.7747. I look forward to talking with you.

M Kathryn Huse
Chair, 2019 Nominating Committee

NOVEMBER COMES...

November comes and November goes,
With the last red berries and the first white snows.

With night coming early, and dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket and frost by the gate.

The fires burn and the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest until next spring."
— Clyde Watson

All Saints Sunday

People from our congregation who have died this past year:

Hannah (Chung) Balcanoff
Louis Sooho
Tom Wiegner

Gregor Cann
Betty (Mary Elizabeth) Southworth
Darthea Ruth Olsen

Come sing together before Worship!

The Second Church Board of Worship invites you to come early to the sanctuary on Sunday mornings – 9:45 – to sing a few hymns together before our regular worship begins. Ours is a SINGING FAITH, so join us! Sit near the front and let us sing our way into Worship. We will continue this Sunday morning hymn singing every Sunday, November through December!

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR SECOND CHURCH HOME

We have all been deeply blessed. Now let us give thanks to God for our Second Church Home as we consider how we each will support our church financially. Soon you will receive a letter from our Co-moderators, Bubba Sooho and Sally Anderson, asking you to carefully consider your financial support for the church. In that letter you will also receive information about the pledges that support our church, including your 2019 pledge. You will also receive a pledge card and a return envelope. We have set aside Sunday, November 24th as Thanksgiving and Pledge Sunday. Carefully and prayerfully consider your support for our church, and bring your pledge to worship on November 24th.

Anti-Racism Study at Second Church

The first study series in our year-long reflection on race, racism, and anti-racism in America began in October and will continue through November 24 with a study of the UCC's "White Privilege - Let's Talk" curriculum. We'll meet on Sundays from 3:00-4:30 p.m. to work through this study together, with no RSVP required but consistent attendance encouraged. Recognizing the harmful and dangerous ways in which whiteness has been rendered normative in the United States and in which white privilege has been rendered unconscious and unchallenged, this first segment in our year-long study is intended primarily for white people to reflect on race and racial identity in their lives, something that people of color have often had to do from a young age. Other types of study and events, including book studies and film showing, will take place in December and January, so keep your eye on the *Spire*, weekly newsletters, and the worship bulletin.

Unearthing the Roots of Racism at Weston November 23

The Congregational Church of Weston UCC, 130 Newton St, Weston, will host a conversation on UNEARTHING THE ROOTS OF RACISM with Dr. Vincent Rougeau, Dean of the Boston College Law School, about rightly remembering and interpreting our racial history. To address current racial disparities and to change their trajectory, we need to rightly remember and understand our past. Gather at the Weston church promptly at 9 a.m. 130 Newton St., Weston on Saturday morning November 23. For more information: office@westonucc.org or 781-899-5417.

Save the Date!!!

On the evening of **Saturday, November 23** we'll have our annual Progressive Dinner. It's a social event, it's fun, and it's one of the most enjoyable ways we have of getting to know each other.

At 6:00, we gather at one church member's house for potluck appetizers. Next, we break into small groups for dinner hosted by some church members in their homes. Finally, we reunite at another house for potluck desserts.

Your invitation will arrive in your email, via Evite. Invitations will also be printed in Sunday bulletins. **Save the date**, and please start thinking about whether you might host a dinner for 4 – 10 guests. If hosting is not for you, you can sign up to bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage for 5-8 people (you can take drinks not consumed with the appetizers to your dinner host). You can also offer to be a "co-host," assisting or maybe bringing a side dish to one of the dinner hosts.

AND THEN IT'S DECEMBER

Opportunities for Giving this Christmas Season

Family Access of Newton is a community based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower and strengthen local families. It was founded in 1907 to provide early education and childcare. They provide the following services: Early Learning Center, Early Literacy, a Raising a Reader program, Counseling, and Child Assault Prevention.

For the second year, we are providing gifts of educational toys and books for 30 children, age 4 and under, enrolled in their Parent Child Home Program. Family Access calls this program the Mitten Tree, but there are no mittens involved! The idea is to buy an age appropriate book AND a toy for each child you select. At Coffee Hour on **November 17th and November 24th** there will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall. You can select the name of a child, choosing the age and items you would like to buy. Please wrap the gifts, label them with the child's name and number, and return to the office or the stage in Fellowship Hall by **December 8th**. **Please** contact Lissa Gilbert with any further questions: emgilbert22@gmail.com

For many years Wellesley Hills Congregational Church has been providing Holiday gifts for low-income families enrolled in an Early Intervention Program in the Waltham area. Last year they provided gifts for 75 families, and the need is always increasing.

The home visitor sits down with the families and gets gift ideas for family members. Second Church then provides gifts for the children in the home and also for the key adult care givers such as parents and a grandmother. These are suggestions; there is no need to get all items on the lists. The woman who is the coordinator is a co-worker of Lissa Gilbert at the EI program. The Wellesley church really appreciated our help last year as we participated in the program, providing gifts for 10 families. We plan to do that again this year.

On **November 10th** and **November 24th**, there will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall. Lissa will have information about the families and items that have been suggested. If you feel that you can provide for a whole family, that is great. If you can only buy for one or two people, that is fine, too! Items need to be wrapped and brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, December 8th**. You can also drop them off at Early Intervention in Waltham, 465 Waverley Oaks Road. Please feel free to contact Lissa Gilbert with any questions: emgilbert22@gmail.com or 617-332-8795.

Thank you for your participation in these programs!

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Is a Special Mission Offering of the UCC that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

This offering is received on the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve.

DECEMBER MARKET @ 2ND CHURCH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019, 10 AM TO 2 PM

It's that time of year when we look forward to the holidays and being together in celebration - **with a purpose**. Pastor Carla, Lissa Gilbert, and Dorothea Mautner are preparing for our December Market. This year's Market will concentrate on holiday gifts, decor, wreaths and a large variety of baked goods. Naturally, our C&W (Carla and Warren) Cafe will serve Carla's famous cranberry tea and goodies to go with it. Children may enjoy season-related activities with Leah and the Faith Formation team. Proceeds of the Market will benefit our two holiday gift programs – Family Access and Early Intervention Program in the Waltham area.

Preparations for the December Market include:

- ◆ **Bringing items / Donations** to the stage in Fellowship Hall during office hours: Please bring your better, holiday related items, table textiles, accessories, toys, games, etc. to Fellowship Hall, starting Dec. 1st.
- ◆ **Baking cookies and treats:** the week after Thanksgiving please start your favorite baking. Check your family's favorite treats that taste of love and togetherness. **NOTE:** you do not have to package your goods, just bring them by noon on Friday, the 6th. We will package and price edibles.
- ◆ **Canned / preserved Goods:** Your preserved goods from your gardens are much appreciated. Bring them by Dec. 1, as they do not need refrigeration.
- ◆ **Gift Baskets for Drawing:** Similar to previous years, we will make attractive gift baskets to be won by ticket draws. These will include all new items and are mostly themed for specific activities or use. Example: Tea-time, games with children, bird feeding related and other themes. Ideal for re-gifting! Please bring your new, unopened items for this purpose. Baskets will be assembled during the first week in December.
- ◆ **Crafting and Holiday Decor:** Greenery to make your own decorations, and ready-made wreaths and center pieces will be available for purchase. To create with friends is like eating chocolate, minus the calories.

- ◆ **Donated Christmas Items are a favorite!** Ornaments, holiday dishware, decorations - they will be appreciated and find a new home. At the same time, YOU might find just the thing you need.
- ◆ **SERRV items:** In addition, beautiful international gifts, jewelry, ornaments, and soups from SERRV will be sold

SCHEDULE: December 1-6 we will decorate Fellowship Hall, sort and set up tables, and price goods. This is when we need **YOUR HELP!** Please find SIGN UP sheets in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 617-244-2690.

Invite your friends and neighbors! Shop! Celebrate the Christmas Season! December Market @ 2nd Church 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

For more Information, contact Lissa - 617-332-8795, Dorothea M - 617-244-7146



Annual Christmas Lunch and Carol Sing - Sunday, December 15

Immediately after the Christmas Cantata worship service on December 15, come to Fellowship Hall for a festive lunch/carol sing. This is a popular Second Church tradition, and children are welcome. (We always end by singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" – with creative pantomime.) Donations accepted to help pay for food.

Advent Cantata

This year's Advent Cantata will take place at the Sunday morning service December 15. We will feature a Cantata by Christoph Graupner, as well as other choruses and arias by Graupner and Johann Sebastian Bach.

When the Thomas Cantorate position came open in Leipzig, 1723, the first two choices from the search committee were Telemann and Graupner. Both received significant raises from their employers and chose not to take the job; the third choice was J. S. Bach. While Graupner is relatively unknown today, it is not due to the quality or magnitude of his work. He wrote over 1,400 sacred cantatas, a total only exceeded by Telemann. While nearly everything he wrote remains extant, for a long time it was relatively inaccessible at the court in Hesse-Darmstadt, a circumstance that contributes far more than the quality of his work to his present lack of fame. His sacred work is marked by intense expression tied to the meaning of the words.

The centerpiece cantata as well as the other choruses we will perform all focus on watching and waiting for the coming of the "Bridegroom." So come join us to get in the Advent spirit of watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord. And along the way you can also discover a brilliant composer you may have never known before.



Advent and Christmas Worship

The Longest Night – Friday, December 20, 5:30 PM, Fuller Chapel ~ a quiet service of prayer, candlelight, music, and readings to give us the hope of the return of light to our earth. Come and Worship on this Longest Night.

Christmas Eve – 5:00 PM, Sanctuary ~ Let us celebrate the happy news – Christ, our Savior is Born! This service is especially prepared with children and young families in mind, but all are welcome, of course!

Christmas Eve – 9:00 PM (please note the earlier time) ~ On this holy night, with candlelight and beautiful music, we rejoice to welcome our Savior.



The Second Church in Newton
 Christmas Flower Fund/Donation



YOUR NAME: _____

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF (as you want it in the bulletin):

Please check those that apply:

I wish to donate a Christmas Poinsettia

I will take mine home

Please give to homebound

I wish to contribute to the Flower Fund

Poinsettias are \$15.00 each Total \$ _____

Donation to the Flower Fund \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

CHECK OR CASH MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ORDER FORM

Make checks payable to: The Second Church in Newton and drop in the Offering Plate

Or mail to: 60 Highland St., West Newton, MA 02465-2405 or

Return this form to Barbara Cancellieri's church office box by **Monday, December 16, 2019**

The Second Church in Newton
60 Highland Street,
West Newton, MA 02465-2405

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.

