



# 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

## My Bailiwick

I've been reading that many people are filled with anxiety as they (we) come out of pandemic mode and back to being together in offices, schools, restaurants, worship spaces, and elsewhere. I understand that anxiety – I feel some of it myself. On the other hand, like many of you, I can't wait to gather for in-person worship!

We've waited a long time to be together. Though it's difficult to do so, we need to wait a few more weeks. In this **Spire** you'll find the Reopening Task Force plan – continuing with pre-recorded worship through June, outdoor worship together on our church grounds July and August, then back in the sanctuary together on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Parish Life is already planning a picnic, and won't that feel good!

In the meantime, how shall we think about this long time apart in the context of who we are at Second Church? Our Deacons and I have been reading How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season, by Susan Beaumont (Rowan and Littlefield, 2019). Susan Beaumont describes the time in which contemporary Christian churches find ourselves as *liminal* – “a quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs during transition, when people are between something that has ended and something else that is not ready to begin.” What used to work doesn't work anymore; membership in mainline churches is falling steadily; we have these huge, expensive buildings which consume our energy and resources; we've lost sight, many of us anyway, of why we became disciples of Jesus in the first place; what's ahead looks quite different than what is behind. I commend the book to you. You'll hear more about its insights as we move into the fall.

I've been thinking we might need to recapture something essential about our faith, and so, as we plan the summer outdoor worship services, I would like to hear from you. For ten summer Sundays beginning July 4<sup>th</sup>, we'll explore ten essential Scriptures for faith. What are the most important passages to YOUR faith? What stories should an unchurched person learn first? What Scripture would you want our children and youth to know as they navigate their life journeys? From now until June 30<sup>th</sup>, email your scripture verses to me. I'll choose the top ten and Leah and I will shape summer worship around your recommendations – one each Sunday.

The thing that works best for me when I feel anxious, even about something as long-awaited as coming out of the pandemic, is to go back to basics – what do I know to be true? I almost always find those truths in Scripture, don't you? Tell me yours.

Love to you all, Carla

[cbailey@2ndchurch.org](mailto:cbailey@2ndchurch.org)

Summer 2021

## **From Our Co-Moderators Kathy Lucey and Sally Anderson**

We would like to give a **Huge Thank You** to All who have helped keep our Second Church going through the Pandemic. Carla, Leah, Andrus, Bible Readers, John, the Altar Committee, Board Chairs and their members, Barbara, Mary, and Dale for keeping the office in order, Susan for keeping the Second Church Nursery School alive, Frank and John for keeping the building going and clean!!! So many have helped in so many ways!!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANKYOU!!!

### **Reopening Information**

The Reopening Task Force has been collecting information on how and when to reopen our church safely for all. Using information from the city, Commonwealth, US Health reports, CDC, and many more, the Task Force has set a plan in place.

- First and foremost our clergy and worship staff must have been fully vaccinated and had a 2-week waiting period following their final shot.
- Through May and June we will continue with our virtual worship service, recorded on Thursdays and available on-line on Sunday mornings.
- From the 4th of July through Labor Day weekend we will hold in-person, outdoor services on Sunday mornings, on the upper driveway next to the sanctuary, weather permitting. If it rains, we will gather in our Fellowship Hall with chairs placed to social distance. On the Sunday after Labor Day we will celebrate Welcome Back Sunday with worship in the sanctuary and a party!

This all depends on the shape of the Pandemic, decreasing cases and vaccinations accepted as we get through the summer.

This plan was presented and accepted at Church Council on April 21st.

May All our Second Church Members and Friends be safe and well through the Spring and throughout the summer. Hopefully we will be worshipping and partying together in the fall. May God Bless Us All!

## **From The Board of Deacons**

Second Church Deacons Martha Felch, Kathryn Huse, Barbara Joseph, and Alan Sooho, began leading Strategic Planning for Second Church on February 29, 2020. Covid quickly led to putting that work on hold. More than a year has passed since we've worshiped in the sanctuary. When we gather again, Covid will force some changes. But what additional changes does the congregation want? What traditions do we keep?

The Deacons all attended Super Saturday in March, 2021. This meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ had a keynote address, multiple workshops and ideas which challenged the familiar construct of Church. Covid has accelerated the pace of change within mainstream denominations. We live in a time of uncertainty. However, we do not have to live in a time of anxiety. We belong to the Body of Christ in the beloved community.

Deacons, Co-Moderators and Senior Minister are reading [How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season](#) by Susan Beaumont. The book does not offer a road map. There is none. We are in unexplored territory. But if Moses can lead the Jews to the Promised Land, why can't we find our Land of Milk and Honey?

On May 16, 2021, the Deacons, Co-Moderators and Senior Minister hold a retreat. We will plan how to best hear from you about the future of Second Church.

## Fuller Scholarship Awards

In 1982, Marion S. Fuller bequeathed funds to create the Fuller Scholarships. Her ancestor, John Fuller, was an early settler in Newton, having arrived about 1640. In honor of him and out of a long-term love for both Newton and Second Church, Ms. Fuller specified that "the income of said fund shall be awarded as a scholarship or scholarships for some kind of education beyond the high school or secondary school level for young people of Newton, Massachusetts, without regard to race, creed or color, where the recipients shall be chosen by the Minister and the two Senior Deacons of the Second Church in Newton now located in West Newton Massachusetts or by the corresponding officers in any successor church."

This year Second Church will award scholarships of \$2,000 to:

MICHAEL KEIRAN LEARY, Newton North

Keiran's teachers and his boss cite his work ethic. In class, he is self-motivated to tackle challenging academics. At work at an ice cream store, he has risen to become manager.

Keiran plans to study marketing.

CHARLES LOGMAN, Newton North

Charles sees chemistry as a means to understand the natural world - from DNA to the climate. He has even taken a college level organic chemistry course.

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute he will study chemistry in preparation for a chemical engineering career.

DONNY TOU, Newton South

Mathematicians often have musical interests. Donny has worked as a math tutor and plays classical piano music. However, in college he will focus on the social sciences.

At Northwestern, Donny will double major in economics and social policy. He plans a career in government, law and/or foreign relations.

CHIKA UDEMAGWUNA, Newton North

At Second Church we know the importance of recording church services. At her church, Chika is the videographer. She works both the main and crane cameras.

Chika will be pre-med. Neurosurgery is her goal.

MICHELLE JI YU, Newton South

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics - plays a big role in Michelle's life. She has worked on apps to solve real world problems. Michelle has won an award for computer science education. Young girls have seen her as a role model.

At Cornell, Michelle will study engineering in preparation for a career in mechanical engineering.

## Death:

Quindara Dodge died peacefully in her sleep the night of Friday, May 7, just shy of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday June 6. There will be a celebration of her life in the fall.

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

Return Address Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Boston, MA  
Permit 57055

*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.*

Don't forget to send the most important Scripture passages  
for YOUR faith to Carla by June 30<sup>th</sup>.  
They'll shape our ten summer worship services!



And mark your calendars for another Vespers music  
presentation  
from our Minister of Music Andrus Madsen at 5:00 PM on  
Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Invite a friend to come with you!

Carla Jean Bailey, Senior Minister   Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation  
Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music   Barbara Cancellieri, Church Administrator  
Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper   Frank Neal, Property Manager   Susan Benes, Nursery School Director  
John Ferrera, Communications Coordinator – [johnferrerawork@gmail.com](mailto:johnferrerawork@gmail.com)  
Sally Anderson and Kathy Lucey, Co-Moderators