



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

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

- 1/1 Wednesday –New Year's Day Holiday
- 1/11 Saturday – Strategic Planning, 8 – 11:30 a.m. Room 111
Newton Baroque Concert, 7:30 p.m. Fuller Chapel
- 1/12 Sunday - Faith & Citizenship Institute, 5-6:30 p.m.
- 1/20 Monday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday.
- 1/30 Thursday – Parish Life Seniors' Lunch, 12 p.m.
- 1/31 Friday – Bristol Lodge meal prep, 2 – 4 p.m. Second Church Kitchen
Faith & Citizenship Institute to Community Servings, 5 p.m.
- 2/9 Sunday – Annual Meeting Lunch, following worship, Fellowship Hall
Annual Meeting, following Lunch
- 2/15 Saturday – Newton Baroque Concert, 7:30 Fuller Chapel
- 2/17 Monday – Presidents' Day Holiday and start of school vacation
- 2/26 Wednesday – Ash Wednesday Service and Imposition of Ashes,
7 p.m. Fuller Chapel (following Dinner Church)

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 Soho and Sally Anderson, 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

Next Spire Deadline: Tuesday, February 11, 10 a.m.
Next Spire Mailing: Tuesday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.



My Bailiwick

*God bless your year ~
your coming in,
your going out,
your rest,
your traveling about,
the rough,
the smooth,
the bright,
the drear,
God bless your year!*

I can't remember a time when I've been as ready to flip the page to a new year! Even though this year promises to bring its share of challenges, it will also bring more than its share of good tidings of great joy, and that is worth celebrating. I am feeling quite hopeful for our life together at Second Church! We are taking big steps toward more financial transparency and sustainable planning. We are thinking about how to streamline our board and committee life while at the same time deepening our understanding of what it means to be committed to a church's ministry – what it means to be a disciple. What should we be reading? What kind of music will bring us to new insights? How do we continue to nurture the faith formation of our littlest peeps and challenge our bigger and older peeps (YOU!) to dig deeper into our faith?

Leah and I have already begun to think about study opportunities for the Lenten Season, and Andrus has chosen and ordered the music for the Lenten cantata. These weeks between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday put me in mind of W.H. Auden's Christmas Oratorio "For the Time Being":

*The Christmas Feast is already a fading memory,
And already the mind begins to be vaguely aware
Of an unpleasant whiff of apprehension at the thought
Of Lent and Good Friday which cannot, after all, now
Be very far off. But, for the time being, here we all are...*

Here we all are. May our time together in these weeks between be filled with joy and renewed hope.

Happy New Year to you all! *Carla*

Expanding the Role of the Deacons

"See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (1)

The second sentence may be a bit extreme, but the point is, change is in the air!

WHAT

In October, Carla brought to the Church Council a proposal that the role of the Deacons be infused into the responsibilities of all of the boards and that all board members take on the work of deacons.

WHY

For the past few years Deacons have expressed some uncertainty about the current structure of the Board of Deacons and its role in the work of the church.

As an experienced UCC minister who has worked with in many different church structures, including the traditional Board of Deacons structure, Carla has expressed that she feels more comfortable working in a less formal structure. She feels that ALL of the people who do the work of the church are Deacons. Given these two facts, why not develop a structure that provides the "concept" of Deacons more purpose and direction, and, at the same time, is something within which Carla (the person whom we called to us precisely because she so well fits the description of the minister we really wanted!) feels more comfortable working?

IMPACT

"For everything there is a season....a time to break down and a time to build up..." (2)

The roles of the current Board of Deacons would be infused into that of all the existing boards. For example, the main role of the Deacons is to "address the spiritual life of the church". This is in the By-Laws. This role can easily be addressed through each of the existing boards. The Board of Worship helps the minister plan and implement accessible and meaningful worship. The Board of Mission and Advocacy brings our spiritual and social justice commitment to the outside community. Faith Formation helps us to understand and expand our spirituality through education for all age groups. Parish Life promotes activities and programs to bring us together in spiritual fellowship. The Board of Resources supports all of these programs and our spirituality by encouraging wise use of all of our resources, both human and financial.

Other traditional responsibilities of the Deacons; i.e., ushering, assisting in the administration of the sacraments, aiding in spiritual care, and visitation, can be spread throughout the boards on a rotating basis, or done by others who specifically have talent for and are interested. Visitation is a good example of this.

The people who work on these boards and others are ALL addressing the spiritual life of the church. They are ALL acting as Deacons.

Another impact of this change is that it would add weight and significance to Board membership, which would increase the importance of leadership, meeting attendance, and meaningful agenda setting.

HOW

This would require a By-Laws change which requires a congregational vote. The purpose of this article is to inform the congregation as a whole of this proposal and

its potential impact. We also plan to have a forum soon to discuss it. IT IS NOT A DONE DEAL! We ask that you think about this so that you can make an informed decision when, and if, a vote takes place. If you have questions, please contact one of the moderators:

Sally Anderson - sallyjaneanderson@gmail.com

Bubba Sooho - soohoalan@gmail.com

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (3)

1. Isaiah 43:19; 2. Ecclesiastes 3:1; 3. Jeremiah 29:11

A Stepping Aside

After nine continuous years serving on Pastoral Relations, on the Board of Deacons and as Moderator, I am rotating off. During this time, my relations with you and with God have deepened in ways that I did not anticipate. What a delightful surprise. Second Church, though, needs constant refreshing. Otherwise, stagnation becomes a real possibility. I am stepping aside but not stepping away.

Thanks for entrusting me with the welfare of Second Church. It has been part of my life going back to 1960, encompassing my confirmation, my wedding, and the funeral of my father. It was an honor to serve. I have confidence in Sally Anderson and the incoming Co-Moderator to guide us through future challenges.

Bubba Sooho

Official Call to the Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of The Second Church in Newton, United Church of Christ, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 9, 2020, following the worship service and lunch for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon the budgets for Church Operations, Capital Projects, and Benevolence as recommended by the Church Council, and to authorize appropriations from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020;
2. To receive and act upon the Financial Report for twelve months from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019;
3. To elect church lay leaders;
4. And to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mary Ann Donaldson, Clerk

December 31, 2019

Annual Meeting Lunch

On February 9, lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall after worship, before the Annual Meeting begins. As with the Christmas Lunch, a donation of \$5 for adults is suggested to help cover the cost.

Second Church has evolved since its founding in 1781

What changes are necessary for Second Church to thrive in the future?

Martha Felch will lead a Strategic Planning Retreat on Saturday, January 11, 2020, Second Church from 8 – 11:30 am. Pastors, officers, board chairs and **ANYONE INTERESTED** will outline a vision for the future. This meeting will set us on a journey of coordinated efforts towards a shared goal. If you cannot attend, please feel free to share any input with Martha, the co-moderators or senior pastor.

Bubba Sooho

Annual Meeting, Southern New England Conference

On November 2, 2019, Carla Bailey, Pat Bonnet, Mary Ann Donaldson and Bubba Sooho attended the Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ will merge on January 1, 2020. Then, the Southern New England Conference of the UCC comes into being. The current state conference ministers, Marilyn Kendrix of Rhode Island, Kent Siladi of Connecticut and Don Remick of Massachusetts, will remain as transitional interim conference ministers. Each will have new, distinct responsibilities in the new conference.

A search committee for the inaugural conference minister for the Southern New England Conference has formed. None of the state conference ministers has indicated interest in applying for the position.

The delegates at the annual meeting passed the following resolution: We believe that it is our call to “live the love and justice of Jesus.” Based on both the established commitments of our three historic Conferences and our aspirational priorities as a new Conference, the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, at its first Annual Meeting on November 2, 2019, pledges in covenant:

- To be an Open and Affirming Conference;
- To be a Just Peace Conference;
- To be an Accessible to All Conference;
- To be an Immigrant Welcoming Conference;
- To work for climate justice and the restoration of God’s creation on which all life depends;
- To advocate for economic and restorative justice;
- To be a multi-cultural multi-racial church working to eradicate racism in all of its forms, both within the church and in the structures of our society and world;
- To advance immigrant justice and human rights for all people;
- To oppose all forms of sexism and violence against women, especially women of color.

We recognize that these are expressions of both identity and intention, and we commit to align our resources and our efforts with these priorities. We encourage our local churches and other covenant partners to do the same.

From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

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.

Moment for Mission: Bristol Lodge – Men’s, Women’s and Family shelters in Waltham and Lexington. Second Church is preparing dinner in our church kitchen and then serving it at Immanuel United Methodist Church, Waltham on January 31 for Bristol Lodge. Would you be able to help?

Bristol Lodge Shelter Cooking and Service Project—Call for Volunteers

Our congregation has the opportunity to prepare and serve a hot meal to 60 clients (men, women and families) of Bristol Lodge (in Waltham and Lexington) on Friday, January 31. This is one of the only dates available for 2020 through their agent, Middlesex Human Services, given the large number of organizations which support this shelter cooking program. Additional dates available to us will be May 23 and July 17. We will need 3 volunteer groups (with as much overlap as you choose): shopping, food prep at Second Church, and serving in Waltham. The shopping team will select a recipe and purchase the necessary ingredients. The cooking team would meet at Second Church in the early afternoon to prepare the dinner, and between 5 and 10 of us will proceed to Immanuel United Methodist Church at 545 Moody Street in Waltham, at the corner of Cherry and Moody Streets, to set up by 4:30 and serve from 5-7 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall through January. Please contact Martha Sloan Felch at msfelch1@gmail.com with any further questions.

Potluck Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

We meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays. Please 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: leahrumsy@g.harvard.edu

Musica Napolitana

In the 1720s and 30s musical style emanated from Naples like light from the sun. All over Europe Neapolitan music was in high demand. Nobles all over Europe with brilliant musical establishments were combing Naples for singers, composers, and other musicians. Naples had a rich network of music conservatories and was churning out musical talent in a manner that may never have been exceeded, yet today the great musical minds at the center of all of this activity are relatively unknown. History has its bias, and the chronicle of 18th-century music unfortunately had an anti-Italian bias. Newton Baroque is working to correct that bias. Francesco Durante, Nicolo Porpora, and Giovanni Battista Pergolesi may not be well known today, but they were the stars of their era. Newton Baroque will play fiery concerti, a joyous sinfonia, and arias from the Neapolitan opera to melt your heart. Discover for yourself this piece of Italian culture that in its day shone brighter than all else, but was swept away to make room for a northern European-centered narrative of 18th-century musical history.

Saturday, January 11, 7:30 pm, Fuller Chapel

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

The Second Church in Newton
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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.

