



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

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Worship each Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, followed by coffee hour

4/3 & 4/10 Wednesday – *Courageous Faith* Discussions Dinner Church, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

4/3 Wednesday - Deacons/Board of Worship Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

4/4 & 4/11 Thursday - *Courageous Faith* Discussions, 10 a.m. Living Room

4/7 Sunday – Rev. Leah Rumsey preaching; *Courageous Faith* Discussion, 11:15 Living Room

4/10 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:30 p.m.

4/14 Sunday – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering; Youth Group, IHop; following worship
Prison Training/Lunch 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

4/17 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:30 p.m., Room 111

4/18 Thursday – Maundy Thursday Simple Supper, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

4/19 Friday – Good Friday Music Service, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

4/20 Saturday - 2030's Easter Vigil at Agape Community, Ware, MA

4/21 Sunday – Easter Celebration, 10:00 a.m., followed by Easter Egg hunt

4/28 Sunday – Youth Group, IHop, following worship; Newton Serves Day, following pizza

Dinner Church meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m., except not April 17

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

Molly Doris-Pierce, Faith Formation Assistant

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

Next Spire Deadline: Friday, April 12, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: Wednesday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.

My Bailiwick

New Zealand has been much on my mind recently, with deep sadness that they've now experienced what has become all too common here in the US – a mass shooting, and this one of people who were gathered for worship. Many years ago, one of my sisters was an AFS student in New Zealand for a year. We named our new puppy Kiwi in her honor. Several years later, the daughter of the family with whom she lived, came to the U.S. and lived with us for a year, attending the college where my dad was president. As a result of those student/family exchanges, New Zealand has a precious little spot in my heart. That little spot broke with the news of the horrific and meaningless loss of life. I can only be filled with hope that one day, one of these terrible occasions will be the tipping point for the U.S. to pass sane gun legislation, if not eliminate the Second Amendment altogether. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

We are entering the holiest of seasons in the Christian year. In the northern hemisphere, Easter coincides with the arrival of spring, so it is natural for us to talk about new life and hope when we see the first signs of crocus popping up through snow. Even the resurrection itself is easier to understand when its story comes to us at the end of a cold winter. Not so in New Zealand. There, Easter coincides with the beginning of winter's cold and dark. This year, with the murders of so many very much on their minds, how will they celebrate Easter?

In fact, I think Holy Week and Easter would actually bear the meaning it's intended to have if it were to come to us at the start of the season of cold and dark. The elements of this holiest of stories contain heartbreak and betrayal, senseless murder, deep grief and despair. Its pinnacle is observed not so much with trumpets and chocolate bunnies as with quiet incredulity. God is the last to speak. God will always be the last to speak, and God's last words will always be about love, forgiveness, and hope.

Elsewhere in this Spire you'll find a listing of the events of Holy Week we are offering to you this year. I hope you'll make every effort to participate in all of it, beginning with the troubling story of Palm Sunday, through the rising confrontations in Jerusalem, the last meal with his beloved disciples, his terrible execution, the silence of Saturday and then the wonder of Easter itself.

And keep in mind, that for others, both here and far away, it is a message of hope accompanied by the deepest despair imaginable.

On Lenten Fridays you will receive a week of devotional readings, based on Scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver. These will come to you via Constant Contact on Friday. If you are not on the email list to receive the Constant Contact messages, please send your email contact information to our church office, office@2ndchurch.org

Faith Formation

FOR OUR ALL-CHURCH LENTEN READ

We have chosen the book **Courageous Faith**, written by Emily Heath. We have purchased 22 paperback copies, which you may purchase from the church for \$20. If you have a Kindle, you can buy the book from Amazon for \$10.

You may come to dinner church on Wednesdays, April 3 and 10 from 6-7 p.m. to discuss Courageous Faith.

If you are able to bring food to share for dinner, that is wonderful. If not, there's always enough. The conversations about Courageous Faith will be led by Leah Rumsey on Wednesday evenings.

You may come to church on Thursday mornings, April 4, and 11 for coffee and conversation about Courageous Faith.

These Thursday morning conversations will be held from 10-11:15 in the Living Room, and they will be led by Carla Bailey.

You may join conversations about Courageous Faith on Sunday mornings from 11:15 to 12:30.

The last Sunday conversation will be April 7, and will be led by Carla Bailey.

Youth Group Schedule April

4/14: Brunch after Worship

4/28: Brunch after Worship

2030's Schedule April

Saturday, April 20

2030's Easter Vigil at Agape Community, Ware, MA

Depart SCN at 2:30 pm

RSVP by April 12 appreciated, but not required

Potluck Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

Dinner Church will continue this spring. 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 **Please Note:** We will not meet April 17.

God created all. All belongs to God.

God entrusted to each of us some of her creation. Safekeeping it, however, does not mean prevention of loss above all else. The goal is not hoarding. Rather, as good and faithful stewards, we increase what is entrusted to us. We return a portion to God.

Writing a check to support the church is easy. Such an action, though, does not make you a committed follower of Jesus. At a minimum, you also need to make contributions of your time and talent.

Year round, the Stewardship Committee will look for ways in which people can deepen their faith. The Stewardship Committee will work with other committees and boards. The Annual Stewardship Campaign will only be a part of the Stewardship Committee's endeavors.

If you would like to join the Stewardship Committee, contact Co-Moderator Bubba Soho at sohoalan@gmail.com.

“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! If you are interested in and able to take on this role, please be in touch with your Moderators, Sally Anderson sallyjaneanderson@gmail.com and Alan “Bubba” Soho sohoalan@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

From the Taylors

Dear Friends,

We have landed in Oberlin, Ohio, and while there are boxes and boxes waiting all around, we already feel that we are a part of this community of very welcoming folks. We attended the First Church of Oberlin (UCC) on Sunday, and they greeted us warmly as well.

Many, many thanks for all of the help you generously offered that got us on our way. And thank you for the wonderful, wonderful send-off celebrations - cakes, and songs and speeches – oh my. You have created memories that we will not forget.

You are an amazing community of faith, and we have enjoyed the various projects that we have shared over the past 44 years. We will miss you all very, very much. And, of course, we will be watching from afar and visiting when we can.

With love, Shirley & Tom

Sunday, April 28 is Newton Serves Day

Newton Serves Day is when people all over the city tackle a variety of clean-up jobs and then enjoy ice cream at City Hall. We clean the historic West Newton Burying Ground (corner of Cherry and River Streets), where Second Church’s first pastor and other early members are buried. Come to worship in work clothes, and bring work gloves. If you promise by Saturday (4/28) to come, we’ll have pizza after worship. Contact Louise Kittredge (loukitr43@gmail.com, 617-610-2503).

From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

GREEN NEWTON:

It is fitting that we are highlighting our support of *Green Newton* in this April edition of the *Spire*. April is of course the month we celebrate Earth Day, which began on April 22, 1970 when millions of people took to the streets of the world to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development.

Green Newton is our local grassroots environmental watchdog. Their website explains, "Founded in 1990, Green Newton is a non-profit organization. Our members and volunteers work to create sustainable solutions to environmental problems facing our city and our world, often in collaboration with City government and schools, and with other nonprofits across Massachusetts.

Our programs and advocacy build awareness, provide opportunities for public dialogue, and educate about and empower citizens to take personal and civic action to protect our environment."

Green Newton has recently pushed hard for opting-up to 100% renewable energy through the city's new Newton Power Choice program, encouraged Mass Save home energy audits, promoted solar installation on homes and businesses, and many other initiatives. Second Church provides an annual stipend to *Green Newton* to help with their communication materials, e-correspondence, educational programs and general operating costs.

Thank you, Second Church members, for supporting this important work and remember to "THINK and ACT GREEN!"

If you have any questions about *Green Newton* please contact Andy Gluck at gluckers@aol.com

Acting Green!

In 2017, our church voted to adopt a new investment policy statement that calls for divestment from fossil fuel companies and shareholder advocacy by our investment managers. Second Church then transferred our endowment to Boston Common Asset Management, an organization more in line with the Second Church commitment to social responsibility and a leader in global impact initiatives dedicated to the pursuit of financial return and social change.

A Note from Mission and Advocacy about Prison Ministry

Last year Jason Ludwig from Straight Ahead Ministries presented a forum about his organization and how we might become involved. Since May a group of us have been visiting the Pelletier Women's Lock-up facility in Westborough, MA. Our visits include an hour spending time with the girls and the staff, playing games, sharing snacks, and having conversations about a variety of subjects. On April 14 Marc O'Neil from Straight Ahead Ministries will be coming to Second Church to offer a training orientation session for the volunteers who want to continue with visits. This will enhance our ability to interact effectively with the girls and the staff, while representing Second Church. We will also discuss the regularity of visits

The number of volunteers who go for each session depends on the number of girls at the facility at the time. It is a very meaningful experience. Some regularity is certainly good, but it is not crucial that everyone can go every month. Our next visit with the girls will be Monday, April 15.

(continued)

We would like to invite anyone who might be interested in joining us in this work to attend the Orientation Training session on April 14 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will provide pizza, salad, and some simple dessert. Please RSVP to Lissa Gilbert (617-332-8795) or Kim Gluck (617-965-4097) by April 8 if you are interested in joining us.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of the United Church of Christ

The theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering is “**More than we can imagine!**” The theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone - neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger - for we are the church together
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person;
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence

And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. We can help – through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence to make this world ever more like the way God imagine it would be!

Please, give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering April 14, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God’s!

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 walk on Tuesday, April 16)

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.**

The Annual Second Church
Women's Retreat
May 10 - 12, 2019

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. This year our Senior Pastor Carla Bailey will be with us on retreat.

- Date/Time: Friday, May 10 – arrival time 3 p.m.; dinner 5:45 p.m. - Sunday, May 12 after lunch, 1 p.m.
- Place: Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod
- Cost: \$182.00 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 \$90 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 \$12 _____

Will not be there for Friday night dinner _____

Special Needs: _____

Please include dietary restrictions above.

Easter Flower 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 April 12, 2019. You may put it in the offering plate
during Sunday morning worship. Thank you.

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.

