



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

- 5/1 Wednesday – Gregor Cann Memorial Service, 10 a.m. followed by a collation
- 5/1 Wednesday - Deacons/Board of Worship Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 5/5 Sunday – Youth Group – Youth Revival CT Conference, meet SCN 1 p.m.
- 5/5 Sunday – Climate Crisis Film/Potluck/Supper, 5:00 p.m.
- 5/8 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:15 p.m.
- 5/10 Friday – Women’s Retreat, Craigville, Cape Cod, 6:15 p.m. (through Sunday noon)
- 5/11 Saturday – Violin Concert, 3:30 p.m.
- 5/12 Sunday – Rev. Leah Rumsey preaching; Baptism, 10 a.m.
- 5/15 Wednesday - Iftar Dinner, 7 p.m.
- 5/19 Sunday – Sanctuary/Immigration Worship; Betty Southworth Memorial Service, 3 p.m.
- 5/22 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:15 p.m. Room 111
- 5/31 Friday – Mayor’s Community Breakfast, 7 a.m.(tickets may be obtained through SC office)
- 6/1 Saturday – Flute Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 6/15 Saturday – Gun Buy-back Day, Parking Lot
- 6/16 Sunday – Church Picnic at Fessenden School, 12 p.m.
- 6/23 Sunday – Baptism, 10 a.m.

Dinner Church meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through May

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

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

Next Spire Deadline: Monday, June 17, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: Wednesday, June 26, 9:30 a.m.

My Bailiwick

Several months ago, I received a call from Brett Ferolito, Community Outreach Officer of the Newton Police Department. He had heard that I have worked for many years on gun violence prevention, and he wanted to know if we – Second Church and the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association – would be willing to assist in a Gun Buy- Back program the police were planning with the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department. Of course, I said yes!

The goal of these buy-back programs is to get unwanted guns out of circulation. A community raises money, purchases grocery gift cards (see below), and “buys back” the guns – no questions asked. Newton Police Chief David Macdonald states: “There are many guns around our city in basements and attics, left to people who do not want them around. The gun buy-back will give these people an opportunity to make their homes and our community safer”.

Here’s how it works: On Saturday, June 15th, between 10-3, people may enter our Second Church parking lot (Dorshei is away that day) via Chestnut Street. They’re given information about the program and the values that will be given to each weapon. They then drive to the next spot in the parking lot where officers will look at the gun(s), assess their value, secure them in a locked truck, and give out receipts for grocery gift cards, available in \$25 increments. They then drive to the third station in the parking lot, where they turn in their receipts and are given gift cards according to the values they were assigned. They then exit the parking lot, gift cards in hand.

Middlesex Sheriff’s Department will secure the weapons as they are received and then all the weapons will be destroyed.

Our working group is seeking donations of both cash and gift cards, asking financial institutions, schools, health care facilities, religious organizations, and individuals to contribute toward the goal of \$20,000. All the money, cash and gift cards, will come to us here at Second Church. All donations need to be received by June 1st.

Here’s how you can help: make a contribution by check, clearly marked gun buy-back; or purchase a grocery card in \$25 increments at Stop and Shop, Wegmans, or Whole Foods (these are the only grocery store cards we will accept or distribute). Later in May, the Clergy Association will be organizing volunteers. I’ll send more information to you about how you can volunteer in a few weeks.

I’m finding this project to be the best way to celebrate Easter hope I have ever experienced.

Pastor Carla Jean Bailey
cbailey@2ndchurch.org

Summer Update from Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Congratulations on completing our first program year with Carla! In the course of this year, we have seen early stages of growth in our children's ministry, learned together through our Lenten all-church read, and launched our 2030's Bible Study. I am so pleased with the progress Second Church has made toward creating relevant, sustainable, and meaningful faith formation programs.

But more on this later! For the moment, I'd like to share with you some of my plans for the summer and fall. I've received the FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) fellowship, a federally-funded fellowship for US citizens training in modern languages and will be using it to study in Egypt during June and July. While I'm away on this study leave, I look forward to remaining in contact with you all via email and to doing some significant planning for the fall with Carla via email and Facetime. However, please be aware that my responses may be somewhat slower during this time due to my academic commitments, travel schedule, and a significant time difference. I would also be grateful if you would include me in your prayers as I am travelling and studying during the summer.

After my return to Boston in August, my academic projects will include preparing for my general exams in April 2020 and serving as a teaching fellow for Intro to Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School. As we look toward next year at Second Church, Carla and I are planning a significant anti-racism curriculum for Second Church adults that combines reflection, education, and action. We're also working on initial plans for the Faith and Citizenship Project, a mentoring and experiential-learning program for Christian students in grades 6-10.

I have appreciated journeying with you through Lent and Holy Week and look forward to our ongoing ministry together.

In partnership,



Leah

Swim! Play! Feast!

Swim! Play! Feast! Our annual Church Picnic will be held at noon on Sunday, June 16, under a tent on the grounds of the Fessenden School at 250 Waltham St. in West Newton. A lifeguard will be on duty from 12:30 to 2:00. Parish Life will provide hamburgers, chicken, etc., and drinks. Please bring some type of **salad** if your last name begins with **A -- N**, or a **dessert** if your name begins with **O – Z**.

Do you have friends who might enjoy our picnic? **BRING THEM, TOO!**

Faith Formation

Sunday, May 5 Meet at SCN at 1:00 First Congregational Church, Bloomfield, CT

Youth Revival with the Connecticut Conference

Join with other UCC youth from New England for an afternoon celebration featuring music, dance, and fellowship! Anticipated return time is 7:30 pm.

RSVP by Wednesday, May 1

Saturday, May 25 Meet at SCN at 12:00 Community Servings, Jamaica Plain

Volunteering at Community Servings

Help prepare a meal for chronically ill neighbors in Boston and beyond. Anticipated return time is 4:30.

RSVP by Wednesday, May 22

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.

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Save the Date for Iftar with the Turkish Cultural Center

Iftar is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset. We have a wonderful opportunity provided to us on Wednesday, May 15th at Second Church by our friends at the Turkish Cultural Center. This invitation has been extended to members of Eliot UCC to join us. We'll gather at 7:00 pm and food will be served at sundown around 8:00 pm. Please mark your calendar, watch church announcements for further details (including information about potential food or beverage contributions), and RSVP to Leah at Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu or the church office at office@2ndchurch.org by Wednesday, May 8.

It's Not About the Jelly Beans

Some of you may recall an Easter sermon at Second Church when the minister asked, "What did they find when the stone was moved?" A young voice from the pews shouted out, "Jelly beans!"

For children, faith may involve the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus. For adults, faith can and should take on a different meaning. God did not give us jelly beans. He gave us His Son. Jesus gave his life. What can we give to God?

The Stewardship Committee brings acts of faith into everyday life. The Nominating Committee creates a pipeline of church leaders. The experience of serving on either will satisfy far beyond a sugary treat of Easter candy. Speak to one or both of us about joining either of these committees.

Your Co-Moderators,
Bubba Sooho
Sally Anderson

Communication Committee

The Communication Committee is in the process of searching for a part-time Director of Communication. This position, which was approved at the February 2019 Annual Meeting, is charged with managing the internal and external communication functions of the church, including the calendar, directory, website and social media. We expect to fill this position by mid-summer.

Pat Bonnet

Space Utilization and Allocation Committee

The Space Committee charge is to advise the Church Council on how the church property is used and how space is allocated for various purposes. The committee's first task is to establish relevant policies and procedures that address utilization and allocation of space. The current goal of the committee is to have a policy document to present to Council by the end of the current program year. An accomplishment of the Space Committee is the new office for Minister of Faith Formation, Leah Rumsey.

Pat Bonnet

News From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

On April 14th Marc O'Neil from Straight Ahead Ministries held a training session for church members interested in continued visits to the Pelletier juvenile detention facility in Westborough. Ten people attended and we discussed many good ways to interact with the young women and the staff during our visits and reflect on our time spent with them. A small group visited the facility on April 15th and we plan to continue to visit every two months. A schedule for visits is being worked out. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or would like to participate, please contact Kim Gluck (kgluck@bostontrust.com) or Lissa Gilbert (emgilbert22@gmail.com) with your questions.

We will be hosting another Mothers' Day event with Eliot Church and Agape Waltham at the Transitional Housing Hotel in Waltham. The party will be Saturday, May 11th from 2-3:30 p.m. We plan to present scarves to all the mothers who attend. We will provide healthy snacks and several art activities as well as face painting and a magician. Please contact Lissa Gilbert if you can help with any of these activities.

Second Church enjoyed a long history of participating in Shelter Cooking for a location in Boston. When this opportunity ended, many folks missed that activity in the life of the church. Martha Felch has been in touch with someone at Middlesex Human Services and has experience with a program at Bristol Lodge in Waltham. We would need to schedule well in advance to participate, so we have booked a cooking session for Friday, August 30th. We will be cooking for about 60 guests. There will be more details to follow and we are discussing scheduling some Saturday dates in the future. Please speak to Martha (msfelch1@gmail.com) or Lissa with any questions or if you can join us on August 30th.

Climate Change Movie and Potluck

On Sunday May 5th from 5-8pm, Second Church will host the powerful film *Paris to Pittsburgh*. This 90-minute National Geographic documentary "celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change." Thank you to *Mothers Out Front* (mothersoutfront.org), a grassroots movement "to ensure a swift, complete, and just transition away from fossil fuels and toward clean and renewable energy."

Come to fellowship hall with a dish to share and learn more about the climate crisis we face and the efforts people are making to turn things around. Questions? Email Andy Gluck at Gluckers@aol.com

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 walks on Tuesday, May 21 and Tuesday, June 18)

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.**

From Andrus Madsen

The last few months have been a period of intense activity for the choir. I would like to be the first among many to express gratitude for all of the work they do to enliven and enrich our worship experience at Second Church. In addition to their regular Sunday worship the choir sang several challenging pieces at the Rev. Dr. Carla Bailey's installation service, and the choir will also sing at Gregor Cann's memorial service. Singing parts of the Brahms Requiem for Lenten cantata this year also posed quite a challenge, and required quite a bit of extra rehearsal, but the choir put their nose to the grindstone and did it. I think anyone who was present would confirm that what they did created a powerful worship experience. It is amazing how music can touch us all so deeply in ways that are intangible and do not make rational sense. Yet still those miraculous flights of fancy that we experience while under the influence of music come at a price of hours and hours of effort and preparation. If you feel you had been especially moved by the music in the services recently, take a minute to thank a choir member. They have worked hard to create that moment for you.

Upcoming music events

Saturday, May 11, 3:30 pm The Wizards of Saxony

Jesse Irons plays music by Johann Pisendel and his tremendous students, Johann Gottlieb Graun and Franz Benda, who were certainly the three greatest violinists in Germany in the 1730s-1770s.

Saturday, June 1, 7:30 pm Sarah Levy and the Ferocious Flutes

Flutists Mary Oleskiewicz and Christa Piehl Evans team up with Andrus Madsen to play more ridiculously over the top music from Sarah Levy's circle of brilliant composers, including works by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Johann Gottlieb Janitsch, and Johann Gottfried Graun.

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 6:15 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 \$15 _____

Will not be there for Friday night dinner _____

Special Needs: _____

Please include dietary restrictions above.

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.

