



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

Worship each Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, followed by Coffee Hour

6/2 Saturday – Spring Clean-up at Second Church, 9 a.m.

6/3 Sunday – Confirmation Sunday/Baptism, 10 a.m.

Narcan Training Forum, 11:30 a.m.

6/9 Saturday – Supper Party honoring Mark Seifried, Fellowship Hall, 5 – 8 p.m.

6/10 Sunday – Worship/Communion service – Mark's last day with us, 10 a.m.

6/11 Monday – Liz Magill starts Interim Ministry at Second Church

6/17 Sunday – All-Church Picnic, Fessenden School, 12 noon.

6/18 Monday – Nursery School Picnic, Church lawn, 11 a.m.

6/23 Saturday- Piano Concert with Byron Schenkman, Fuller Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

6/24 Sunday – Youth Group Brunch, following Worship

6/30 Saturday – 20/30's Hiking at Middlesex Fells Reservation, 9 a.m.

Potluck Dinner Church will be held each Wednesday in June, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
The Search Committee meets most Wednesday evenings

Rev. Mark Seifried, Interim Minister

Barbara Cancellieri, Administrator

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

Pat Bonnet and Alan Bubba Sooho, Co-moderators

Susan Benes, Nursery School Director

Rev. Leah Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation

Molly Doris-Pierce, Faith Formation Assistant

Charlie and Henry Loftus and Dan Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

Next Spire Deadline: June 18, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: June 27, 9 a.m.

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Honor

Reflections from Pastor Mark

As I conclude my ministry at Second Church in these next weeks, you may find me odder than usual. I get quiet when I am scared, sad, or tired. Presently, I am feeling the strain of grief, which may be a little mix of each of those things. These last weeks, my nights have been hellish, sleeping only an hour or two before I awaken for long periods of time, thinking about nothing in particular, but a distinct sense that my life is being turned inside out. My only prior experience with grief like this was in the wake of my mother's death.

This sense of woe has come as a surprise because it is so acute. But it shouldn't be. Every loss affects us differently. We consciously and unconsciously revisit all our grief with every life transition. Maybe what I am experiencing is delayed or unresolved grief from leaving my eight prior ministries as well as this one. Maybe it's finally getting to me that I have had to say "farewell" to hundreds of deceased congregants over the years and several thousand whom I have served as pastor ... and then had to leave. I don't know.

What I do know is that grief is a byproduct of love. I have grown more than fond of more than a few people from Second Church. So, in a sense, I am honoring my love for you, our love for each other, with my grief. I just wish it wasn't so difficult! I know that I will get through this. I just have to keep moving and have faith that there is a lesson for me to learn.

I'm being overtly honest about this because so many people experience profound grief and think it's wrong or that no one understands. I want to model truthfulness and I want to witness to how much this ministry has meant to me. I want to attest to the gift of love from the God of love. I want you to know how honored I have been to serve you, how honored I have been by the sense of mutuality in the ministry we have shared, and how honored I have been by the outpouring of affection that many have shown me.

Someone recently sent me a poem that I found helpful. If you are struggling with grief or know someone who is you might find it useful, too. It was written by Connie F. Kiefer Byrd in memory of Jordan Alexander Kiefer who died in 2005. Here are a few lines I am excerpting that are significant to me:

To Honor You

To honor you, I get up every day and take a breath...

To honor you, I laugh and love ...

To honor you, I take the time to appreciate everyone I love...

To honor you, I take chances, say what I feel, hold nothing back...

Risk making a fool of myself...

You were my light, my heart, my gift of love, from the very highest source.

So every day, I vow to make a difference, share a smile, live, laugh and love.

Now I live for us, so all I do, I do to honor you.

As we say, "farewell," on June 9 and 10, if I run out of words to describe how I am feeling about my time as Interim Senior Minister, please forgive me. Please know, though, I am honoring you in many ways and I have been honored by you. Thank you for being you and letting me be who I am, perfectly-imperfect beloved children of God and followers of Jesus.

Death

Champe Fisher died peacefully in Stuart, FL on April 29, 2018. He was in his 90th year and is remembered fondly by long-time members of Second Church. The Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, May 29 at 11:00 a.m. at Second Church.

Graduating Seniors

Alex Clay will be attending the University of Notre Dame.

Victoria Joseph will be heading to Colorado College in the fall.

Sydney Koo graduates from Newton North and will be attending Boston University..

Caleb Levy is graduating from Newton North and plans to attend American University.

Fifer Charlie Loftus will be graduating from the Cambridge School of Weston and attend Sarah Lawrence College in the fall.

Thomas Walsworth will be attending the University of Vermont.

Kate Weinberg will be attending Bates College. She is excited to ski for the Bates Nordic Ski Team.

Jennifer Davis is graduating from Tulane with a degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Spanish. She plans to spend the summer in Costa Rica as a Group Leader with Global Leadership Adventures. She will be managing teens in a program which is a combination of community service and surfing.

Maria Rudorf will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Sociology and International Development & Social Change with a specialization in Community Health from Clark University. In the fall, she will continue at Clark University in an accelerated Master's degree program in Community Development and Planning.

Ben Weinberg is graduating from Kenyon College on May 19, 2018. He will be working for Overland Summer Programs this summer leading a teen bike trip from Seattle to San Francisco.

He is looking to continue his study of Mathematics and is hoping to also assist and mentor middle or high school students in the area of math and cross country running.

Jack Holder graduated May 18th with a Master's degree from Boston University's School of Theology.

Andrew Pogue has graduated from Nursing School.

From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

Saturday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.

Byron Schenkman plays the Streicher

Byron Schenkman will deliver a program of 19th century German music on the marvelous 1870s Viennese Piano at Second Church.

Summer Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

Dinner Church will continue to meet over the summer! For June, July, and August, we'll continue to 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. Leah will be away some weeks for travel and will share facilitation responsibilities with lay leaders.

Second Church All-Church Picnic – June 17

Swim! Play! Feast! Our annual Church Picnic will be held at noon on Sunday, June 17 under a tent on the grounds of the Fessenden School, 250 Waltham St. in West Newton. Parish Life will provide hamburgers, chicken, etc., and drinks. A lifeguard will be at the pool. Please bring some type of **dessert** if your last name begins with **A -- N**, or a **salad** if your name begins with **O – Z**.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

NAME TAGS, the friendly accessory to your wardrobe. Please remember to wear yours. The Board of Parish Life is organizing the box of name tags in Fellowship Hall, and soon we hope to offer a choice of our magnetic tags or another type. (Which would you prefer, name tags with a clip or with a lanyard? Louise Kittredge wants to know. Loukittr43@gmail.com)

Moment for Mission

June 10: **The Tri-Conference Annual Meeting** – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island “Together as One” will be held In Springfield, MA June 15 – 16. Come hear folks from Second Church talk about this important, upcoming merger and how it will affect us.

Newton Food Pantry

The items most needed are: Oil, Canned Beets, Ground Coffee, Soy Sauce, Spices, Soup and Chicken Broth, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes, Dish Soap, Body Lotion, Laundry Detergent, Bar Soap, and All Purpose Household Cleaner. Place your donations in the Sunday offering basket or the downstairs lobby basket. Items are then delivered to the Newton Food Pantry in the basement of city hall.

The Newton Food Pantry is the only food pantry in Newton that delivers to clients who are homebound.

The John Fuller /Second Church Scholarship Awards - 2018

This Memorial Award was established 1983 by Marion Fuller, a long-time member of Second Church. Her ancestor, John Fuller, was an early settler in Newton, having arrived in about 1640. In honor of him and out of love for both Newton and The Second Church, Mrs. Fuller specified that “the income of said Fund be awarded ...for a scholarship or scholarships for some kind of education beyond high school...for young people of Newton , MA, without regard for race, creed or color...” The scholarships have been awarded on the basis of need and service to school and community as well as strong academic achievement. Four 2018 graduates have been chosen to receive scholarships of \$2000. They are Analise Castillo and Yejin Eunice Kim from Newton South High School and Sophie Ferreira-Iannone and Nikolas Severino from Newton North High School.

Analise Castillo is described as smart, dedicated, inquisitive, self-motivated, cheerful and compassionate. A National Hispanic Scholar, she has taken advanced Latin 5 honors as well as two world languages, included in the six major subjects each year. She has had a job this year, captained Ultimate Frisbee team, snowboards, plays piano and ukulele. She has volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Pantry and Rosie’s Place. Described as mature and a natural leader, she is said to embrace her inner voice and to be motivated to make a positive impact.

Sophie Ferreira-Iannone is a deep and complex thinker, mature beyond her years while being fun and quirky, kind and polite. Trilingual, she has received many academic honors including a Wellesley College Book award as a young scholar in her junior year. But she also makes time for art and theatre courses. However, the particular thing that is unusual is her passion about social justice and equity. She was appointed by faculty for the active anti-racism course Leadership in a Diverse Society, in which she was described as a “superstar.” She is a facilitator in the school’s anti-bias initiative (and participates on service projects in this area). She is gifted as a writer and in STEM subjects as well.

Yejin Eunice Kim is a curious, bright, and enthusiastic student who has challenged herself at the highest academic level while maintaining a healthy balance of diverse honors classes and activities in both visual arts and music. As well as achieving academically, she is president of the art club, on art staff of school paper, in the Chinese Music Organization, in honors band and woodwind ensemble. She plays tennis. Described as seeming happiest when she is serving others, she is in her church choir and rock band, volunteers at Bristol Lodge, the Korean School and did an Appalachian Service Project last summer. And has a job.

Nikolas Severino received extravagant references describing him as a scholar with a voracious appetite for learning, who participated in swimming and diving teams as well as playing for the school on Lacrosse and Soccer teams, participates in multiple music ensembles, the school art magazine, and cofounded a non-profit fundraising organization which supports relief for international emergencies. Niko works for landscaping companies, lifeguards for three pools, and babysits for other families, as well as assists his mother with the care of his 11 and 3 year old siblings as needed.

We at Second Church are honored to share Marion Fuller’s gift with these promising young people and wish them the very best as they continue their educations.

June Dates to Remember:

Sunday, June 3, 10 AM, Confirmation. We will welcome three of our youth into membership of the church and celebrate their “coming of age” as disciples of Christ. We will also welcome an additional new member who will be joining the church by the Sacrament of Baptism.

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 AM, Narcan Training. Because of the high rate of overdose from opioid drugs, the deacons and co-moderators are sponsoring this training. Narcan is the drug that most police, fire, and rescue services use to revive drug users who go into cardiac arrest. Second Church will discuss keeping Narcan on site after this training and would encourage as many people as possible to become familiar with signs of overdose and administration of the drug.

Saturday, June 9, 5 – 8 p.m., A farewell party to Mark, complete with a sandwich supper.

Sunday, June 10, 10 a.m., Mark’s final Worship/Communion Service with us.

Limerick Contest

For the celebration on June 9, 2018 honoring Pastor Mark's time at Second Church in Newton, there is a limerick contest. Create your own or complete the following:

There once was a man named Mark.
With his help, we embark
On a quest to renew

To bring light out of dark.

Submit your poetic inspiration to Bubba Sooho at sohoalan@gmail.com by 5 pm, Saturday, June 2, 2018. Winner gets to recite the limerick at the celebration.

Help Needed -- Join the Spring Cleanup!

Saturday, June 2, 9 am - 12 pm is Spring cleanup time at Second Church. The more help the better! We need volunteers to help with projects such as de-cluttering the backstage area in Fellowship Hall, cleaning and polishing the kitchen stove and stainless steel counters, and Murphy soaping the church pews. Contact the church office or Ced Paine, cedpaine@gmail.com, if you can help or with questions and suggestions.

The Board of Resources

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

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.

