



# 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

## Calendar Highlights:

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

4/7 Friday – Senior High Youth Group, 6 – 8 p.m.

4/8 Saturday – Junior High Youth Group, 6 – 8 p.m.

4/8 Saturday – Newton Baroque Concert, 7:30 p.m.

4/13 Thursday – Maundy Thursday Simple Supper/Communion, 6:30 p.m.

4/14 Friday – Good Friday Music Service, 7:30 p.m.

4/16 Sunday – Easter Sunday Worship 10 a.m.; Easter Egg Hunt, 11:30 a.m.

4/23 Sunday – Investment Forum, 11:30 a.m.

4/29 Saturday – Serious about Syria fundraiser Dinner, 6 p.m.

4/30 Sunday – Deacons' Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Mark Seifried, Interim Minister

Barbara Cancellieri, Secretary

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

Pat Bonnet and Alan Bubba Soho, Co-moderators

Susan Benes, Nursery School Director

David Gaillardetz and Molly Doris-Pierce, Youth Group and Sunday School Leaders

Gillian Hurst, Children's Music Director

Will McCabe and Charlie Loftus, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

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NEXT SPIRE DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.

NEXT SPIRE MAILING: Wednesday, April 26, 9:00 a.m.

## Dying while Living

Reflections from Pastor Mark

*“If every human being disappeared off the face of the earth in an instant, the earth would still keep spinning and the planet would develop new life forms.” ~ Graham Nash*

I recently attended a regional clergy meeting. Those in attendance came from various settings – some are hospital and hospice chaplains, some settled pastors, some interim pastors, some are pastors of new churches. The terms “Church 2.0” and “Church 3.0” came up several times. Church 2.0 is a reference to the church that emerged after the Protestant Reformations. The term 3.0 refers to the church that is being born in our midst – whether we realize it or not.

The fact is that 90 percent of churches in the United States are contracting or changing so dramatically that they are becoming something that hardly resembles what they were twenty years ago. Less than one-percent of those churches in the growing 10% are medium size, which is what most people perceive Second Church to be. More large and small congregations are growing. There are a number of reasons for that, but the primary reason is that these churches aren’t tied so much to tradition as they are to connection and building community.

This is where the Church 3.0 discussion comes in. The churches that are growing and living into the new paradigm aren’t using the same metrics we once used to gauge success. While worship attendance is important in both Church 2.0 and 3.0, Church 3.0 does not focus on numbers. The Church 3.0 focus is on “How many lives were transformed?” Put differently, the important question about worship isn’t “Did you go?” but rather, “How did it affect you?”

What we discovered with the decline of Church 2.0 is that a lot of people went to church but not many lives were transformed. In fact, it is clear that peoples’ prejudices were amplified through their church experiences. You can see what the implication for this is: Church 2.0 is partly responsible for perpetuating racism, sexism, homophobia, and other social maladies.

Several people from Second Church went to Super Saturday with 750 other UCCers from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island last week. They heard Brian McLaren talk about the emerging church paradigms of Church 3.0. He charged the gathered faithful to regain a bold faith that birthed the church as can be seen in Acts. McLaren said the modern church is called to do the following:

1. Rediscover our core message (We are called to follow the way of Jesus.)
2. Recognize the house is on fire (Keep doing Church 2.0 and you will die!)
3. Engage the environmental crisis (This is the greatest moral issue of our lifetime! We have no credibility as moral leaders if we avoid this work.)
4. Engage the crises of prejudice, segregation, and scapegoating (This is the ongoing work of Jesus.)
5. Engage economic justice (The politics of Jesus demands that we attack the root causes of poverty.)
6. Rediscover the “E” word (“evangelize,” which progressive Christians have misunderstood because it was so badly abused in Church 2.0.).

We just passed the one-year mark of the interim time at Second Church. I would like to announce the theme for the year, which is timely in that it comes during the Lenten / Easter season. It’s from John 12:24 where Jesus says: “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

I’m guessing that every member of the Second Church Community has ideas about things we are doing that no longer serve us well – things that should die so that new life can come forth. Will you pray about those things and share them with me and other church leaders?

New life awaits us, if we are willing to die to our old selves so that God can use us in the Spirit-movement of Church 3.0. My prayer for us is that the Resurrection becomes something so real in the year to come that all have stories of the empty tomb to share ... and that the “Hallelujah Chorus” becomes our theme song.

# Christian Education Corner

## Sunday School

April 2: We will create "Alleluia Crafts" and talk about the significance of Palm Sunday

April 9: The classes will join upstairs to hand out palms and celebrate Palm Sunday

April 16: Easter when everyone comes together to enjoy this wonderful day.  
Easter egg hunt follows worship

April 23: Gillian Hurst will lead an exciting music lesson

April 30: We talk about filling our minds with goodness

## Youth Groups

Senior High: Friday, April 7, 6-8 pm

Junior High: Saturday, April 8, 6-8 pm

In April, we will be talking about acceptance of self, of others, and about fears of failure

## Holy Week Services

### Palm Sunday

Also known as Passion Sunday, April 9 begins the drama of Holy Week. We observe Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The church school children will distribute palms to open this special worship service.

### Maundy Thursday

We will gather in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. for a simple supper of bread, cheese, fruit, and tomato broth. The meal will conclude with a Communion and Tenebrae service. We will depart in silence.

### Good Friday

On April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary the Good Friday Tenebrae Service will take place. It will include Good Friday readings, as well as the ancient tradition of extinguishing 15 candles as was practiced historically on Good Friday.

### Easter Sunday

Easter, April 16 is a joyous celebration of Resurrection. The sanctuary will sing with new life from the lush floral decorations to special music, and be topped off with a congregational *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

Folks are asked to bring bread, cheese, or fruit to share to the Maundy Thursday simple supper on April 13, 6:30 p.m. To facilitate the serving of the meal, please cut your fruit, bread, or cheese into serving sizes. The Board of Worship will provide tomato broth. All are encouraged to attend this meal and service which will be held in Fellowship Hall. 3

## Music, Music, Music!

April is a busy month for music at Second Church

Sunday, April 2 during the Sunday morning service, you have the opportunity to enjoy Blue Grass / Gospel with Gail and Allen Wiegner along with friends they have invited to join in the service

On Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. Newton Baroque will perform very astonishingly beautiful works for strings and harpsichord by the largely forgotten Johann Christoph Petz, in a program entitled: *Finding Lost Petz*. Violinists will include Susanna Ogata and Jesse Irons along with Douglas Kelley on viola da gamba, Sarah Freiberg Ellison on violoncello, and Andrus Madsen on harpsichord.

On Friday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. we will have our Good Friday Tenebrae Service. This time the service will take us back to Good Friday in 1580s Munich with music by Orlando di Lasso

On Easter Sunday, April 16 you will have the opportunity to enjoy Easter Music from St. Mark's in Venice in addition to the always beloved rendition of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

On Saturday, May 20 Newton Baroque will offer up a program of 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Lieder with fortepiano featuring performances by Shiba Nemat-Nasser, Julia Steinbok, Pamela Delall, and Tom Oesterling

## Growing in Faith

Beginning this month, on April 30, the deacons will be hosting a monthly forum for those who would like to grow together in faith and engage scripture in a deeper manner than we are able to treat it during worship.

Please join us in the living room as we discuss "Jesus as healer and how Christians may tap into his healing balm today." The forum will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The scriptures we will be discussing are Mark 1:21-28, Mark 4:31-37, Luke 4:40-41 and Acts 3.1-10.

## Save the Date

May 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., a Spiritual Retreat for anyone in the church looking to practice and deepen their faith in community. At the Walker Center in Auburndale, the guided spiritual retreat is sponsored by the Deacons.



*Women's Retreat at Craigville*  
*The Annual Second Church*  
*Women's Retreat*  
*May 5 - 7, 2017*

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 5 – arrival time 3 p.m.; dinner 5:45 p.m. - Sunday, May 7 after lunch, 1 p.m.
- Place: Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod
- Cost: \$173.00 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 \$86.00 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.

## Serious About Syria

Dear Friends and Family,

Please consider donating to or attending a fund raiser to support SAMS - Syrian American Medical Society on April 29th at The Second Church in Newton.

I, along with a few friends, have decided to hold a fundraiser which would give 100% of the donations to the SAMS Foundation. Please donate to this effort to support SAMS and their life-saving work. I started researching charities supporting refugees and was particularly impressed with the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 that has been getting amazing results. Their passionate mission to save the lives of Syrian refugees moved me. I met with the president of the New England chapter of SAMS, Dr. El Shaar and his daughter Ala'a and learned more about SAMS and the impact they are making.

In 2016 alone they treated 309,622 refugees, supported 192 medical facilities, and delivered over 39,000 babies. These medical doctors who could live comfortable lives and make a great living take chances with their own lives to help heal and support the victims of war torn Syria. Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSnpDyPRRzw>.

To Donate or Learn More: [SeriousAboutSyria.org](http://SeriousAboutSyria.org)

To attend the benefit dinner on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Second Church:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/serious-about-syria-tickets-32375798886>

100% of donations will go directly to the Syrian American Medical Society Foundation ([www.sams-usa.net](http://www.sams-usa.net)) and are tax deductible.

We hope you can attend but if not, please donate to [seriousaboutsyrria.org](http://seriousaboutsyrria.org).

~ Barbara Joseph

## Investment Forum

April 23 at 11:30 AM. Please join the Investment Committee for an ongoing conversation about the Second Church Investment policy. We will discuss our core values and explore the prospects of maintaining an investment strategy that meets specific congregational ideals and goals. All are encouraged to attend, especially those who feel strongly about the topic of divesting from securities in specific areas such as fossil fuels, armaments, tobacco, etc.

## **From the Board of Mission and Advocacy**

### **Moment for Mission**

April 23: **Green Newton** – Earth Day is April 22, but we at Second Church will hear of it on Sunday, when Andy Gluck talks about saving the environment and Green Newton. Sign up for their E-Newsletter on line at [www.greennewton.org](http://www.greennewton.org)

### **Bellies Filled With Laughter for the Newton Food Pantry**

Fellowship Hall was transformed into a cabaret on Friday, March 10 for Comedy Night which was a successful fundraiser for The Newton Food Pantry. The Newton Food Pantry will be able to purchase a commercial freezer for their location in Newton City Hall. Comedy Night attracted ticket buyers beyond the Second Church community. The evening brought much laughter to the audience and dollars to The Newton Food Pantry. As a result of ticket sales and generous donations in excess of the expenses of Comedy Night, The Newton Food Pantry will receive \$1,935.75.

Carolyn Paine hosted and performed a stand-up routine along with five other comedians: John Sucich, Scott McLaughlin, Adam Langlois, Caitlin Arcand, and Andrew Mayer. Tracie Longman, President of The Newton Food Pantry, spoke during the evening about the needs of the Food Pantry and our neighbors who depend on them. Although Newton is known as an affluent community, one in eight households earns less than \$25,000 annually. The Newton Food Pantry helps 650 Newton residents a month by providing food and toiletries. Tracie asked for ongoing donations of personal care products as well as canned beets and pineapple.

A heartfelt “Thank You” to the members of Second Church who helped to make Comedy Night successful through their support and generosity.

## **From the Board of Parish Life**

### **Get out your rakes-**

On April 30, and help clean up the Historic West Parish Burying Ground, resting place of our Second Church ancestors. We will begin about 12:30, and work for a couple of hours. All ages are welcome. If you would like a sandwich lunch, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet, or call Nancy Brown at 617-527-4195.

This is our annual project for Newton Serves Day, and our efforts have been much appreciated.



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

