



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

July - August 2017 issue

New to the Staff

Reverend Leah Parsell-Rumsey has begun ministry with Second Church as Director of Faith Formation, joining the Youth Mission Trip June 26-29. Leah grew up in the UCC in East Lansing, MI. She received her BA in English, Religion, and International and Area Studies from Kalamazoo College and her MDiv from Harvard Divinity School. Ordained in the UCC in 2015, Leah served as Director of Religious Life and College Chaplain at Franklin College before returning to Harvard to pursue her PhD in religion. She is currently studying religious and intellectual leadership in modern Egypt. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, Mohamed, and their cockatiels, Georgie and Harvey. We are excited to welcome Leah into our community and look forward to sharing ministry with her!



Rev. Mark Seifried, Interim Minister Barbara Cancellieri, Secretary
Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper
Pat Bonnet and Alan Bubba Soho, Co-moderators
Rev. Leah Parsell-Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation
Susan Benes, Nursery School Director
Molly Doris-Pierce, Youth Group and Sunday School Leader
Will McCabe and Charlie Loftus, Sunday Sextons
Frank Neal, Property Manager

NEXT SPIRE DEADLINE: Monday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.

NEXT SPIRE MAILING: Wednesday, August 30, 9:00 a.m.

Summer Worship Plans

Reflections from Pastor Mark

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." - *Walt Disney*

A couple of months ago, one of the saints of the church said, "The one thing we can expect nowadays is that not knowing what to expect in worship." I had just offered a guided meditation that day. The week prior, Andrus and the choir offered spiritual music that melted even the hearts of the "frozen chosen" in the congregation.

July and August at Second Church are typically times when the church slows down. The choir doesn't sing in worship and we don't have Sunday School each week. Generally, boards and committees don't meet and the church staff tries to take some vacation time.

That said, we are going to continue doing new things in worship - as we did last year. I will only be away a couple of weeks so the services I lead will be more interactive and dialogical rather than monological. We will also have some guest musicians and a few folks helping me with worship leadership. And Mary Ann Donaldson will lead hymns with her soulful playing on the piano. Except for the first week, worship will be in Fellowship Hall.

Below are the plans that are unfolding:

- July 2 Worship at Eliot Church with Eliot UCC & Newton Presbyterian
- July 9 Andrus Madsen and Rob Dobson, Medieval Chant and meditation
- July 16 Gail and Allen Wiegner, Michael Ross, Marie Duprey, and their daughter Wren offering Bluegrass Music, maybe some dance, and Spiritual Leadership around "Who and What Is God?"
- July 23 Pastor Mark begins a series on the Parables of Jesus with this week's focus on "Good Soil / Open Spirit." Look for co-leadership from our new Director of Faith Formation, Rev. Leah Parsell-Rumsey.
- July 30 More of Jesus' parables focused on his favorite topic: the Kingdom of Heaven, with help from Connor Choka and Kathryn Huse.
- August 6 Holy Communion and a worship theme of "Loaves and Fishes."
- August 13 How Can You Live a "Cup Overflowing" Life? Pastor Mark will have help from Kathryn Huse and Connor Choka.
- August 20 Rev. Leah Parsell-Rumsey to lead worship.
- August 27 Alfredo Kniazzezh and Lissa Gilbert lead worship and offer special music.

- September 3 An **Agape Feast with Eliot Church**. The theme is "Spirit-Led Living." Holy Communion will be served as we share in a potluck brunch. Please come in casual dress and feel free to invite friends. Please see list of food items below to bring:

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Food items (according to first letter of last name):

- Salad: *A through E*
- Entree: *F through L*
- Side Dish: *M through T*
- Dessert or pastry: *T through Z*

If your name ends in the letter signified by each category, please bring that item. For example, because his last name is Seifried, Mark will bring a side dish because “S” falls between “M” and “T.” Feel free to swap with someone else if you prefer to bring a dish other than that which falls to you.

Please plan to join us each of the Sunday mornings we will be at Second Church. The Deacons will offer coffee, tea and pastry at 9:30 a.m. We will meet at 10:00, as usual, for worship.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SUMMER OUTING!

Wednesday, July 19, 6:30 p.m.

Paisano's Restaurant

233 High Street, Waltham MA 02453

www.paisanowaltham.com



Our summer get-together this year will be an outing to Paisano's restaurant just up the road in Waltham on Wednesday, July 19. Meet up at 6:30 p.m. for their Guatemalan and Mexican cuisine. We will need a head count, so please contact Allen Wiegner at 617-416-6080 or awiegner965@rcn.com if you will be joining us.

Congratulations to the Newlyweds!

- Bion West married Elizabeth Yuan on May 20 in Newport, Rhode Island.
- Daniel Mahr married Sarah Nguyen on June 24 at Second Church.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Team has been formed. With more nominations than we ever anticipated, it necessitated that we narrow the list for diversity of age, time affiliated with the church, and other demographics. We are excited about the wide range of views and experiences that will be represented on the committee. Please thank the following folks when you see them for their service:

- Tracy Carter,
- Connor Choka,
- Charlie Loftus,
- Kathy Lucey,
- Jaime Matheney,
- Alex Richter, and
- Gail Wiegner.

We are especially grateful to the other nominees who agreed to serve but were not called upon. Please keep the Search Team in your prayers. We will report on progress in the fall.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We are proud to have received from the Massachusetts Conference, UCC, an award for being the number one giver to the United Church Mission in 2017! Thanks also to Pat Bonnet, Martha Comfort, Mary Ann Donaldson, and Alan (Bubba) Sooho who went to the Annual meeting to represent our congregation.

In Historic Vote, Three Conferences, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Vote to Move Toward Union

To read more about this, click here:
<http://www.macucc.org/newsdetail/three-conferences-vote-to-move-toward-joining-8526722>

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for a few folks to work on a pictorial directory in the fall to include the following:

- Photographers
- Data Manager
- Editor
- Publisher and Copier

Please let Pastor Mark know if you can help: markseifried@icloud.com

Updates for the Church Directory

Please email the church office (office@2ndchurch.org) with recent changes to your address, phone, or email. We will publish an updated booklet this summer.

A Note from the Treasurer

Although things slow down and people are vacationing during the summer, our obligations remain. We would appreciate it if you could stay current on your pledge throughout the summer.

The Second Church in Newton
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West Newton, MA 02465-2405