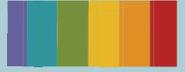


THE SPIRE

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

- 11/1 Wednesday – Dinner Church Service, Room 111, 6 p.m.
- 11/5 Sunday – Forum, Incarcerated Youth, 11:30 a.m.
- 11/5 Sunday – Youth Group, 4 p.m.
- 11/8 Wednesday – Dinner Church Service, Room 111, 6 p.m.
- 11/10 Friday – Veterans' Day Holiday
- 11/12 Sunday – Forum, "Before You Die," 11:30 a.m.
- 11/12 Sunday – Youth Group, 4 p.m.
- 11/15 Wednesday – Dinner Church Service, Room 111, 6 p.m.
- 11/18 Saturday – Progressive Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 11/19 Sunday – Stewardship Sunday, 10 a.m.
- 11/19 Sunday - Youth Group, 4 p.m.
- 11/22 Wednesday – Dinner Church Service, Room 111, 6 p.m.
- 11/23 Thursday – Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- 11/29 Wednesday – Dinner Church Service, Room 111, 6 p.m.

**N
O
V
E
M
B
E
R

2
0
1
7**

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
Rev. Leah Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation
Molly Doris-Pierce, Youth Group and Sunday School Leader
Charlie and Henry Loftus and Victoria Joseph, Sunday Sextons
Frank Neal, Property Manager

Next Spire Deadline: November 13, 10 a.m.

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

God-Speak

Reflections from Pastor Mark

“I’m blessed and I thank God for every day for everything that happens for me.”
~ Lil Wayne

One of my favorite “self-help” books of all times is *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. It’s a wisdom book that could be a primer on living a fulfilling life of faith and integrity. I like it so well that I have given dozens of copies away. Among the premises of the book is to be impeccable in your word.

This is somewhat of a biblical theme – that God created all there is by speaking it into being and then blessing the creation with admiration and affirmation. As Christians, we are called to do likewise: to create a world in which we live in largely by the way we speak. If we want a world of beauty, love and truth, then our words must reflect those ideals. We all know people who are rancorous, testy, and mean-spirited in their words. Those seem to be the people who live life largely unfulfilled and who struggle more than others with relationships.

This “speak your world into being” takes practice and contemplation. And it means that you have to think about what you say. It reminds me of a story¹ that bears retelling.

One day Janice came rushing in to her grandma’s house, “Gran, Gran, there’s something I’m dying to tell you ...”

“Wait a minute,” her grandmother broke in with a wise smile. “Whatever it is that you want to tell me, have you shaken it through the three sieves?”

“Three sieves?” Janice asked in amazement?

“Yes, sweetie. Three sieves! Let’s see whether your story will go through the three sieves.

The first sieve is truth. Have you thought about whether what you are going to tell me is true?”

Janice hesitated and said, “Well, I heard it from someone else, so I’m not absolutely sure.”

“Right,” said Gran. “That’s an honest answer. So, let’s try it through a second sieve. This is the sieve of goodness. Since what you are going to tell me is not necessarily true, then is it at least something good?”

Janice lowered her eyes. “Well no,” she admitted. “Not really. In fact it’s just the opposite.”

“Well,” Grandma continued. “Let’s use the third sieve and see whether what you are going to tell me, even if neither true nor good, is at least necessary and will be helpful to either of us.”

“Well, not exactly necessary ...” Janice said and then sank into silence.

“So,” Gran said, giving Janice an understanding hug, “since what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor necessary, I suggest that we bury it deep in the ground of forgetfulness, where it won’t cause any heartache to anyone ever again.”

¹ Original author and source unknown.

Continued)

A friend of mine just got back from a trip to Japan. He remarked how everyone there seems to trust each other – to the point that, even in a big city, people don't have to lock up their bicycles or worry much about crime. It is a cultural value to treat others with respect. One would shame their community by speaking unkindly or betraying others' trust through criminal activity so they don't do it.

Why do we find it so easy to say whatever is on our mind? As I reflect on the life of faith, I have come to realize that most of our personal problems are self-created. And, in our culture, many of the self-created problems come from the things we say. People who have faith in the goodness of humanity generally are able to trust people more than others and they speak words to reflect that trust. Conversely, people who struggle to trust others are often anxious and continually in verbal tussles, if not physical.

This makes me wonder: what does it mean for us to serve Jesus, the Prince of Peace? Put another way: do our words serve the God we profess to worship?

In this season of thanks-giving, I pray that your words become more and more focused on affirmations of the blessings all around you and that you are rewarded with greater fulfillment.

Pastor Mark Seifried
MarkSeifried@icloud.com

From The Stewardship Committee Journey to Generosity – the Way of Jesus

One of our strengths as a congregation is witnessed though the many ways people give, of time, talent and treasure. We connect with each other in many ways, through worship and in the community. Keeping our strong team of ministers and staff, and the programs we offer depends on being able to plan and budget for the coming year. We are preparing for Stewardship Sunday on November 19th when we will confirm our pledges for the coming year. Look for a letter from us in the mail, and let any of us know if you would like to discuss your pledge.

With gratitude

The Stewardship Committee;

Mary Beth McIntyre, Laura Foote, Frances West, Dale Bengtson, Brittany Bethune, Kacy Clarke, Pat Bonnet, Alan Sooho

(If you would like to discuss your pledge by phone, call Laura at 617-965-9235)

Faith Formation

All Saints Day Intergenerational Service Sunday, November 5

An all-ages worship service featuring stories, art, and candle-lighting to remember the saints in our lives

Everyone is invited and encouraged to dress up as their favorite saint (remember – a saint is anyone who has been a model for your faith, whether that's Mother Teresa or your childhood Sunday School teacher!)

Please mark this on your calendar and be a part of this special day of inspiration, remembrance, and community.

Questions? Write Rev. Leah Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation, at Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu.

Dinner Church Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

If you haven't checked out Dinner Church, now is the time! This lively informal service happens every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. It features communion, a collaborative sermon we build together, and a full vegetarian dinner. Write Leah with questions. Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu.

Holiday Traditions Social

Please join us on Saturday, December 2nd from 2-4 pm in Fellowship Hall.

There will be activities for both children and adults such as making ornaments, picture frames, holiday cards, orange pomander balls, cookie decorating, stringing popcorn and cranberries, and decorating wreaths. Please talk to one of us about any other specific activity that you might be interested in providing.

For one section of the Social we will provide entertainment which may include holiday storytelling, Caroling, and Handbell music.

We will also have a Gift Basket Drawing, a Christmas Shop section, and a home-made area with preserves, baked goods, and other items.

Please follow the weekly Constant Contact email in coming weeks for more news including a schedule of the day's events. Sanctuary tours will also be available.

We need YOUR help to make this event a success. Please let us know if you would like to help with activities, entertainment, donating Christmas themed items, or in any other way.

Come to the event and bring friends, family, coworkers. We are hoping that this will be a fun event for the whole community! We will also be spreading the word to the Nursery School, local businesses, and beyond!

Help us make this a festive and fun time together as we share our space and traditions with others!!

Lissa Gilbert, Dorothea Mautner and the planning team

Death

Marjorie Moerschner died October 9 at Brookhaven in Lexington. She was 92 years old. The funeral service was held at Second Church on October 14, 2017. The interment was at Needham Cemetery.

A Reminder

Daylight Saving time ends Sunday, November 5. Remember to set clocks back one hour the night before

Christmas Card Collection

We will be collecting unused Christmas cards and envelopes for inmates at the Middlesex County House of Correction, Billerica to give to their family members and friends. Look for the decorated box in Fellowship Hall. Deadline is December 3, when a trip will be made to Billerica to deliver the cards.

A Message from the Board of Mission and Advocacy about Holiday Giving

We are trying as a Board to think of ways to help others in need throughout the year in a respectful way. This need exists especially at Christmas when there is so much pressure to provide, be festive and buy for children. There are also adults who struggle to buy warm winter clothes for themselves. We are providing opportunities to help in the following ways:

- 1) Donations to City Mission Society. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall to receive new winter coats and jackets, warm socks, gloves, toys and other items. They will be delivered to CMS in Boston.
- 2) We will participate in the Mitten Tree Program through Family Access of Newton. Parishioners may select a child and buy an age appropriate gift and toy which will then be delivered to Family Access. Last year the gifts were greatly appreciated.
- 3) We plan to join a church in Wellesley, providing presents for low-income families involved in the Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program in Waltham. Lissa Gilbert works at this program and sees the value and joy that this project brings. Please feel free to ask her any questions.

Further information about each option will be provided in the weekly Constant Contact email in early November. We will also put inserts in the weekly bulletins with more information.

Thank you in advance for support of these projects so that we can bring a little something special to adults and children during this holiday season.

A Board of Mission and Advocacy Forum/Lunch

Please join us for a forum on November 5, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served. The speaker will be Jason Ludwig from Straight Ahead Ministries. He will talk about their work as they help Youth bridge the gap from Lock-Up to Independence. Come learn about the program and opportunities for us to help them work in collaboration with a wide network of educational, community, and faith based organizations.

A Deacons' Forum: "Before You Die"

On November 12 at 11:30 a.m., please join Pastor Mark for an after-worship forum entitled "Before You Die," sponsored by the Deacons. During the forum we will discuss the various ways you can prepare for the inevitable through family discussions on treatments, comfort measures, how you want to be treated, what you want loved ones to know, plus we will share tips on financial and medical planning. It's better and healthier to talk about death before it becomes necessary.

A seldom discussed fact is that those who are more comfortable talking about death usually have a much easier time with the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of dying. We will provide participants with resources to begin these blessed conversations and actions.

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.

