



# 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 each Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, preceded by continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

7/1 Sunday – Joint Summer Service at Eliot Church, 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour

7/8 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

7/15 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, preacher TBD – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

7/20 Friday – 20/30's Retreat through 7/22

7/21 Saturday – Meredith Wood Memorial Service, 11 a.m. Collation following

7/22 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

7/23 Monday – Don Massey Memorial Service, 9:30 a.m.

Intergenerational - Community Servings in Jamaica Plain, 1 – 4 p.m.

7/29 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

8/5 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Pat Bonnet preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

8/12 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

Youth Group Brunch, following

8/19 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

8/26 Sunday – Informal Summer Service, Liz Magill preaching – Fellowship Hall, 10 a.m.

Potluck Dinner Church will be held Wednesdays, except July 4, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Rev. Dr. Liz Magill, Bridge 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, Minister of Faith Formation

Molly Doris-Pierce, Faith Formation Assistant

Charlie and Henry Loftus and Dan Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

JULY - AUGUST 2018

**Next Spire Deadline: August 20, 10 a.m.**

**Next Spire Mailing: August 28, 9 a.m.**

## Welcome, Liz Magill!

I'm thrilled to be here with Second Church this summer. Somehow it fits with the disorder of my life this year. I've been on sabbatical since early January, writing a book proposal, traveling to see food ministries, quilting. I've been active in the Poor People's Campaign and even got arrested. I've written a grant, met with a publisher, made a bed-sized quilt for the first time. It has been wonderful, disorderly, and creative. It has \*not\* lead to a job.

And then Pat called! "How would you like to "summer" in Newton?" Not exactly my dream vacation, but for a summer job, it's a win! Who wouldn't want to spend the summer with folks you love, thinking about how we can make the world a better place? Who wouldn't want to summer at The Second Church in Newton, UCC? This is totally good news in a not very organized way.

In Mark 4:30-32 Jesus says "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

There are a lot of theories about what Jesus is talking about here. In a plain reading, by a non-farmer, the Kingdom of God can start as small as can be and grow very large. But farmers know that mustard is not the smallest seed, no one plants it because it sprouts naturally and that the shrub that grows is a weed—out of control, disturbing the order of the field. Even in an herb garden, where mustard is supposed to grow, it can become unwieldy and block out other herbs.

This parable is not a clear-cut story of little or insignificant things becoming big and wonderful. It is a story about disrupting order. The mustard disrupts the order of the crops; the Kingdom of God disrupts the order of the status quo.

The Kingdom of God is not about better rules, better policies, better guidelines. The Kingdom of God is about putting aside the way things are so that there is innovative space—that is disorderly, chaotic, uncontrolled space—for God to do God's creative work. It is easy for us to long for order, but God created the world out of chaos.

I am hoping you have a reasonably chaotic summer. I hope the chaos disrupts your work and your routine, making space for play and fun, and imaginative new endeavors. I hope that the world around us is disrupted by the Kingdom of God this summer, interfering with laws that are brutal, unkind, racist, bent on showing who has power, and making space for caring for one another, for talking with someone who thinks differently than we do, for experimenting with new ways of connecting to the other.

Let us play and pray and disorder the world in hopes of making space for God to create the Kingdom among us.

Liz  
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Magill

## Special Congregational Meeting

The congregation gathered on June 24 to hear the candidating sermon of The Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey and voted, at the Special Congregational Meeting which followed, to call her as the Senior Pastor of The Second Church in Newton. Pastor Carla will start here September 1, 2018. We are delighted to welcome her.

## Deaths

Meredith Wood died June 2, 2018 in Danbury, CT. She was 104 years old. Meredith's memorial service is to be at Second Church on Saturday, July 21 at 11:00 a.m., with a collation following.

Mark Massey's father, Don Massey, has died. A celebration of his life will be held at Second Church Monday, July 23, 9:00 a.m. Don Massey was Ed Keenan's brother-in-law.

Bridge Interim Pastor, Liz Magill, will officiate at both services.

## From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

It is such a pleasure to work at Second Church in Newton. I find it so gratifying to make music with all of you each and every Sunday. The choir at Second Church works so hard, and while there is joy in their effort, they still put a lot of time and energy into making our services richer and more spiritually meaningful. If you get a chance, thank a choir member for the effort they make. If you can think of a way that their efforts have touched you, bring it up and let them know about it.

If you are interested in volunteering with the choir then come join us at Choir Practice. Choir practice is off for the Summer, but will resume September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Also if you are interested in volunteering in any other music related capacity feel free to contact Andrus Madsen at [andrusmadsen@yahoo.com](mailto:andrusmadsen@yahoo.com). You can still make music in church, even if you may not be able to make choir practice. Also there is room for volunteers in other capacities, even volunteering to help at concerts

Andrus

## Summer Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock, except July 4

Dinner Church will continue to meet over the summer! For July and August, we'll meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, except July 4, 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.

## 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)

The Second Church in Newton  
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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.*

