



# 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, followed by coffee hour

10/3 Wednesday – Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

10/4 Thursday – “Yes on 3” Forum, 7 p.m. at Eliot Church

10/6 Saturday – 20/30’s St. Francis Day with Agape Community, carpooling 8 a.m.

10/7 Sunday – Neighbors in Need Offering and World Communion Sunday, 10 a.m.

10/8 Monday – Indigenous Peoples’ Day Holiday

10/10 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:30 p.m.

10/14 Sunday – Accessibility Forum with Frances West

10/17 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

10/19 Friday – “God Talk” with Jack Holder, 8 p.m.

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

Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey, Senior 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

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

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**Next Spire Deadline: October 15, 10 a.m.**

**Next Spire Mailing: October 26, 9 a.m.**

## My October Bailiwick

Dear Friends,

I think October is my favorite month of the year. It's full of beautiful colors, cooler air, apples, and winter preparations, and of course, Hallowe'en. This year, my first October with you, the month brings some interesting issues as well. As I write, heavy rain is causing water to leak into various rooms in this beautiful, old building. We are starting to plan for the departure of Clearway School, not until early summer, but still, a significant challenge to both our church finances and mission hopes. I've begun reviewing a number of documents that have guided many of our decisions – staff position descriptions, various contracts, budget expenses, income, and projections, the Crossroads report, and so on. And then there is the annual pledge campaign. Whew!

You will be receiving a little October gift from me, via The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, one of my former congregations. It is an October devotion guide – a collection of prayers meant to be offered one each day for 31 days. At the end of each daily prayer are two questions: God, what are your hopes for me and what are your hopes for our church? In this very interesting, challenging, hopeful, demanding, daring moment in the life of our church (and of our nation, I would add), I can think of no more important questions to be asking. How shall we discern God's intentions for us? Will be bold in our response? Generous? Forgiving? Trusting? Humble? Honest? Unafraid?

May this glorious month of October bring you joy and peace. May the prayers in your October devotional guide make you brave, curious, and hopeful. And may God's light shine on us all.

Love to us all,

Carla

### “Yes on 3”

An important election is coming up on November 6th. I'm surprised by how many people, when I bring up “Yes on 3” ask, “What's that?” As in many mid-term elections, people are often more focused on candidates than ballot measures. “Yes on 3” is an important one for the LGBTQ community, and all of us who believe in equal rights for all of God's children.

A Yes vote will keep in place the anti-discrimination law passed in 2016 in Massachusetts, a law which activists are now trying to undo through a ballot question in the upcoming election. Those trying to overturn the current law have focused their campaign message on bathroom safety. A recent front page article in the *Boston Globe* outlines what a two year independent Williams Institute study has found, that “there is no evidence that today's law threatens anyone's safety.” But there are many in Massachusetts who still need to be convinced of that. How this vote goes could have an impact across the country.

**I encourage you to attend our “Yes on 3” forum at the Eliot Church of Newton, 474 Centre St., Newton on Thursday, October 4 at 7 p.m.** We need facts and language to talk to others who may be less informed, on the fence, or hold opposite views.

This is also an opportunity to talk to our transgender neighbors, to hear their stories. Taj Smith, the Faith Organizing Director of Freedom for All MA will be speaking, and we are lining up others to tell their stories, both teens, parents and adults.

Pastor Susan Brecht  
Eliot Church of Newton

## Birth Announcement

Wynn Posey Graham-Jones was born August 30, 2018 in California. She is the daughter of Allison and Pierce Graham-Jones and granddaughter of Dale Bengtson

## Fall Fest a Success

The Second Church lawn was a bustling, welcoming spot on Saturday, September 8 when The Second Church in Newton held its first Fall Fest on a lovely early fall day. Fall Fest was part of Welcoming Weekend for the beginning of our new church year and a special welcome to our new Senior Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey and her husband, Warren Turner.

Enthusiastic church volunteers circulated in t-shirts printed with, “Ask me about Second Church.” Scores of Newton families chatted with each other and the smiling volunteers. Many sat on the grass while munching popcorn and drinking cider, while others explored our 102-year-old American Gothic Sanctuary. The children enjoyed packing personal care bags for homeless people, playing games, petting adorable animals at the petting zoo, climbing on a firetruck guarded by a ten foot Minion, and ringing the church bell. Tables representing our building neighbors, including the Second Church Nursery School and Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, mission partners like the Newton Food Pantry and Family Access, along with Newton Baroque and Youth Pro Musica, were visited by the attendees.

The success of Fall Fest was due to the energetic volunteers who graciously welcomed people and made everything work. They deserve a huge thank you and a round of applause. Fall Fest was a joyful event that was enthusiastically attended by the Newton community. It brought Second Church out into the community, providing an opportunity to share our mission and outreach, our church, our programs, and ourselves with others in the Newton community. Pastor Carla met Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, and they posed for a fun photo with a Silky chicken. “There was so much joy, interest, and good conversation,” Pastor Carla exclaimed, “exactly what we would hope to happen on our church lawn.”

Jody Mahr and Joy Paine

## Progressive Dinner

The **Progressive Dinner**, our annual moveable feast, will be **on Saturday, November 3**. We start with potluck appetizers at one house, break into smaller groups for dinner, and reunite at a different home for potluck desserts. **Save the date**, and please start thinking about whether you could host a dinner for 4 or more guests, be a co-host (that is, help a host and maybe bring a side dish), or whether you could host the large gatherings for potluck appetizers or dessert. An E-vite will go out in mid-October.

Louise Kittredge

# Faith Formation

## **October Youth Group Schedule**

In **October**, we'll go for **brunch on the 14th and the 28th**. We've also been invited to join Eliot Church's youth group for an **afternoon of volunteer work at the end of October**. I am waiting for them to share a firm date with me and, as soon as I have it, I will pass it along to you.

## **October 20/30's Schedule**

### **Saturday, October 6 St. Francis Day with the Agape Community**

This is a chance to return to the Agape Community (where we had our summer retreat) and join them in their huge St. Francis Day Celebration, which this year centers of thinking theologically about systemic racism. We'll carpool from the church at 8 am and return around 6 pm. Please bring water and a lunch and wear clothes appropriate for being outside most of the day. **RSVP by Sunday, September 30.**

### **Potluck Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock**

Dinner Church will continue this fall. We'll 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. If you are unable to bring something, don't let this prevent you from joining us. Come anyway! Write Leah with questions: [Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu)

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### **Digital Inclusion for All, a Forum on October 14, 11:30 a.m.**

Technology is affecting every aspect of our lives, from working to learning to playing to living. Making sure technology is accessible to all people, regardless of age or ability is gaining importance and attention around the world. Come to this Sunday session to learn what is happening and what is being done by public, private and nonprofit around the globe to address digital inclusion and accessibility.

Frances West

### **Scotch and God Talk**

Friday, October 19th, Scotch and God Talk returns to Newton. Please come and enjoy each other's company and theology and talk about how we might be more centered in God's purpose. It will be a relaxing evening of good conversation with great company. There will be a veggie platter as well as a cheese plate provided, and please bring your favorite bottle of spirits or soft beverage to enjoy with all.

The event will be at my home, 13 Fuller Terrace, West Newton at 8 P.M. All are welcome!

Jack Holder

## **From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen**

October is a busy month for music at Second Church

As always, Newton Baroque concerts are free of charge for Second Church members and their guests

Wednesday, October 3, 7:30 p.m. **Celebrating Clara Schumann**

**Newton Baroque will perform a concert celebrating the great pianist and composer, Clara Schumann.** Byron Schenkman returns to play chamber music by Clara Schumann with violinist Jesse Irons, and cellist Kate Bennett Wadsworth. Andrus Madsen and Nicole Estima will also perform Clara Schumann's Opus 13 Lieder.

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 p.m. **The Immigrant Song**

A Benefit Concert on behalf of the charity Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization making bunk beds for children in low income and immigrant families. The concert will feature inspiring chamber music by unheralded immigrant composers.

Saturday, October 27, 7:30 pm **Viola Victorious**

Astonishing chamber music from Berlin, featuring one or more violas with Sarah Darling and Anna Griffis. Included works by Wilhelm Friedemann Bach, Johann Gottlieb Graun and Johann Gottlieb Jannitsch.

## **Verify Picture Directory Information**

Please check your online picture directory listing at

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com> You will need to login with your email address and then create a password to access the directory. Notify the church office 617-244-2690 or [office@2ndchurch.org](mailto:office@2ndchurch.org) if your listing needs to be changed.

Thanks, Shirley and Barbara

## **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. [Loukitr43@gmail.com](mailto:Loukitr43@gmail.com))

## **Cell Phone Numbers Needed**

Please send your cell phone numbers to the church office: [office@2ndchurch.org](mailto:office@2ndchurch.org) or leave in Barbara Cancellieri's box under the counter. We need them for updating in the new online picture directory. Thanks for your help!

## From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

Neighbors in Need Offering to be received October 7th

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through [ucc.org/justice](http://ucc.org/justice), our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make A Just World for All possible. For this to occur, it needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at any time: [ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)

### 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.

Though housed in Newton City Hall, the Newton Food Pantry is an independent, all-volunteer nonprofit organization that receives no direct funding from the city, state, or federal government. They rely exclusively on donations of time, food, and money from individuals, businesses, religious organizations, and grant-making nonprofits. Second Church donated five bags of groceries to the Newton Food Pantry during this past summer.



It's a new Day and a new event!  
**DECEMBER MARKET @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Church**  
Saturday, December 1st, 10 am to 3 pm

Yes, we had fun at the old Bazaars while working at raising funds for a good cause, but this year, we're trying some new ideas! We will combine donated and new merchandise for sale. Proceeds will be divided evenly between an organization chosen by our Mission and Advocacy Board and our own church's general budget. Yes, this is a fund raiser and the public is invited.

In other words: **December Market @ 2nd** becomes the melting pot retailer for new and donated, attractive, gifting merchandise as well as the vehicle for social support to the sourcing communities. It is also our opportunity to be together as we find gifts for the season and get into the spirit, one day before the start of Advent.

Now is the time to assemble your donations for this year's **December Market @ 2nd**. Attics and basements as well as the back of cupboards and closets are best locations to find these special donations. "White Elephants," Books, Christmasy ornaments / decor, Kitchen stuff, toys, scarves, shawls, linens, pocketbooks, crafted objects, etc. are welcome items to bring to the stage in Fellowship Hall. You may bring your items beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>. As in the past, please no electronics, furniture, or adult clothing. Also, no donated jewelry, please. Yes, there will be **Decorated Wreaths!**

**NEW Highlights:**

**Home Baked Goods:** Look up your Grandma's favorite recipe and start baking after Thanksgiving. No need to package your goods, we will do that while we price all donations. Plan to deliver your baked goods to the kitchen at 2nd Church, on Friday, Nov. 30.

**Food to purchase and eat at the December Market @2nd:** There will be light refreshments, including Pastor Carla's famous Holiday Cranberry Tea. (No full lunch service)

**Prices:** purchasing items at **December Market@2nd** will be a good value, fairly priced. Haggling, bargaining or special favors request will not be entertained.

**Core organizing team:** Carla Bailey, Lissa Gilbert, and Dorothea Mautner. Please contact the office or one of us if you like to help with the planning. We will definitely need your help at the **December Market @ 2<sup>nd</sup>**, so reserve the day, donate items, and get ready to both sell and shop!

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.*

