



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 each Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, followed by coffee hour

11/4 Sunday – Daylight Saving Time ends

Newton Sanctuary/Solidarity Collaborative Forum, 11:30 a.m.

20/30's Dinner, 5 p.m. Harvard Square/Evensong, 7:30 p.m. at First Church, Cambridge

11/7 Wednesday – Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

11/10 Saturday – Fellowship Hall Reservation, 4:30 p.m.; Concert, Fuller Chapel 7:30 p.m.

11/12 Monday – Veteran's Day Holiday

11/14 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:30 p.m.

11/17 Saturday – Progressive Dinner, 6 p.m.; Suzuki Concert, Sanctuary 7 p.m.

11/18 Sunday – Stewardship Sunday, 10 a.m.

Youth Group Laser-tag Outing, 11:30 a.m.

11/22 Thursday – Thanksgiving Day Holiday

11/23 Friday – Holiday – Office Closed

11/28 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:30 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: November 13, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: November 26, 9 a.m.

My Bailiwick

November is something of a solemn month in my mind, largely because it begins with All Saints Day and because the landscape here in New England becomes brown, gray, and black. I know there's Thanksgiving and that's a feast of familiar flavors, but something about November makes me brood just a bit. Is it that winter is just a breath away? That darkness descends so early? I think of the poem "November" by Helen Hunt Jackson.

*This is the treacherous month when autumn days
With summer's voice come bearing summer's gifts.
Beguiled, the pale down-trodden aster lifts
Her head and blooms again. The soft, warm haze
Makes moist once more the sere and dusty ways,
And, creeping through where dead leaves lie in drifts,
The violet returns. Snow noiseless sifts
Ere night, an icy shroud, which morning's rays
Will idly shine upon and slowly melt,
Too late to bid the violet live again.
The treachery, at last, too late, is plain;
Bare are the places where the sweet flowers dwelt.
What joy sufficient hath November felt?
What profit from the violet's day of pain?*

On the first Sunday of November we will remember those Saints of Second Church who have died in this past year, and we will recognize and honor all those we each have lost to death – friends, parents, siblings, mentors and teachers – the cloud of witnesses that have brought joy and meaning into our lives. It is a holy thing to remember those we have loved and lost and to grieve together, as a community of faith.

But November also brings a time of commitment. We will be pledging our financial contributions to the church for the year 2019. We will commit ourselves to assist with the *December Market* to help raise funds for both our church budget and Family Access. We will be buttoning up for winter – our church building, the parsonage, our individual homes. We will be going to the polls to VOTE on November 6th.

I am finding my way as your pastor through these November days – exerting some leadership in areas that have needed a bit more guidance, watching how you relate to one another, urging some of you to stop waiting, others of you to make room for new ways. May these November days find you reflective and grateful, remembering the Saints who have left us this miracle of a church. And may you find your hearts ready to be generous, courageous, and loving, for the world needs us more than ever – even in, especially in November.

Love to us all - Carla

Looking ahead to 2019: Stewardship

Are you starting to make plans for your household for 2019? Your church family needs to do the same, including setting a budget and knowing what level of core staff and programs can be supported in the coming year. We are preparing now for Stewardship Sunday, which coincides with Thanksgiving Sunday on November 18th. Look out for a letter in the mail enclosing your pledge card, and let us know if you have any questions or thoughts about your pledge.

Your pledge matters. Please consider giving as you are able. A share of our pledges also goes to our community outreach and the wider, caring ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Laura Foote, Frances West, Mary Beth McIntyre & the Stewardship team

Laura's phone number: 617 965 9235

BUILDING BUZZ

Church Facilities News!

The **DISHWASHER** in the main church kitchen cleans dishes by chemicals combined with water, which does NOT need to be hot. Therefore, we have set the water temperature for the whole church building to the maximum allowable by code for child safety. No need to turn up the water heater anymore! The dishes will get clean without a trip to the water heater.

RECYCLING! The City of Newton has tightened up recycling restrictions and we at the church are notorious contaminators! So, PLEASE NOTE: the larger of our two dumpsters is for paper and cardboard ONLY! No cans, no plastic, no Styrofoam. PAPER AND CARDBOARD ONLY!!! We know we can be recycling more than just paper and cardboard, but let's at least get that much right.

Progressive Dinner

The **Progressive Dinner**, our annual moveable feast, will be **on Saturday, November 17 (please note date change)**. 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 or be a co-host (that is, help a host and maybe bring a side dish). Potluck appetizers will be hosted by Lee and Richard Hardaway, 180 Forest Ave., West Newton; potluck desserts will be at the home of Dana and Jeff Davis, 41 Lenox St., West Newton.

Louise Kittredge

Name Tags

Wear a name tag to increase the welcoming atmosphere of our church. You can attach your name tag with a magnet OR an elastic neck band; you can decorate it (some materials are provided in Fellowship Hall); you can go wild and create your own name tag at home. To get a basic name tag, contact Louise Kittredge (loukittr43@gmail.com). A lot of tags are currently on the orange striped board at one side of Fellowship Hall, along with neck bands and some decorations.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4. Remember to set clocks back an hour the night before.

Faith Formation

Sunday, November 4: 2030's Dinner and Evensong

Sunday, November 11: Youth Group Brunch at IHOP (those who are available will still get together even though many folks may be away for the long weekend)

Sunday, November 18: Youth Group Laser Tag

Sunday, November 25: Youth Group Brunch

2030's Dinner and Evensong (November 4): Folks in their 20's and 30's are invited to gather for dinner out and an Evensong service at First Church in Cambridge. We'll meet for dinner in Harvard Square at 5:00 pm so that we can be on time for the 7:30 service, which is entirely sung and lasts less than an hour. Second Church will cover the dinner check, but everyone is invited to contribute as they are able to cover the cost of their meal. RSVP to Leah Rumsey (leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu) by Friday, November 2.

Youth Group Laser Tag (November 18): Youth group members are invited for an afternoon of laser tag. We'll meet at noon at SCN, carpool with mentors to Laser Quest, and return around 3:30 pm. RSVP to Leah by Monday, November 12 to ensure a spot. Space is limited and is not guaranteed after November 12.

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

Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative, a Forum on November 4

Katherine Ballas, from the Parish of St. Paul in Newton Highlands, will be sharing information about the Newton Sanctuary and Solidarity Collaborative (NSSC) including opportunities for us to participate. NSSC is a group of nine congregations and community groups who have pledged to work in solidarity with people who live without documentation and/or have a vulnerable immigration status. NSSC's commitment includes efforts that work for just and fair immigration laws, and the offer of sanctuary to a family who lives under the immediate threat of deportation. Join us on November 4 in Room 111, 11:30 a.m. to learn more about NSSC.

From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

Our choir is a fun-loving bunch, but they also work hard. I would love to take a moment to acknowledge the volunteers and the professionals who devote a Thursday night and a Sunday morning every week to make our worship extraordinary.

This month I highlight the contribution of our sopranos led by Nicole Estima. Nicole has been with us two years. She comes originally from Miami, Florida, but has made her home in the Boston area for a while now. Nicole's voice has blossomed significantly over the last two years, and we are lucky to have such a strong talent with us.

Our regular volunteer sopranos include Jacquie van Haelst, Lissa Gilbert, Gail Wiegner, Kathy Lucey, and Jessica Haggett Silverman. Jacquie is an excellent amateur pianist, and a formidable tennis player, who can crush opponents half of her age. Lissa moved from alto to soprano a few years ago and she has been a blessing to the section. She is a dedicated choral singer, and also sings with other secular choirs in town. Gail sings and plays guitar. You can hear her on Sundays, and also from time to time playing bluegrass with her husband Allen. The two of them are very involved in the Boston Bluegrass Union. Kathy Lucey doesn't like to draw attention to herself, but she takes care of so many things behind the scenes at the church that it is difficult to name them all. Our youngest soprano is Jessica Haggett Silverman, who works for Big Brother, Big Sister. She is an excellent singer, having studied music and biology at Tufts. This summer she married David Silverman.

On December 23rd we will perform the Advent Cantata in the Sunday morning service. We will perform the *Missa Dei Filii* by Jan Dismas Zelenka, a positively ecstatic expression of joy dedicated to Jesus, and intended for performance during the Advent and Christmas Season. I am particularly attracted to this work this year, because it is the work of an immigrant who came from poverty in Bohemia to work at the Dresden court, celebrating the birth of Jesus, a boy born into poverty, who eventually became a refugee himself.

A report on our recent benefit concert: On October 20, Newton Baroque performed their concert, Immigrant Song, raising money for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization making beds for low income families. The fundraiser was a success having raised \$1,880, helping the newly formed Boston chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace buy tools to start making beds

Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, November 10, 7:30 pm **A Bash for François**

A concert honoring François Couperin on the 350th anniversary of his birth, featuring chamber music as well as celebrated works for solo harpsichord.

Saturday, December 8, 7:30 pm **Lieder Abend**

Solo and quartet performances of songs by Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann, Josef Rheinberger, and Johannes Brahms featuring the soloists from our choir, and the beautiful antique Streicher piano in our sanctuary.

From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

Care Package Collection

We are collecting items to go into a care package for our beloved former Interim Pastor, Mark Seifried, and his partner, Gregor Cann. As many of you know, Gregor has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. We are sending our prayers and showing our love through our package! Please write a note and add any small treat you think they might appreciate. Perhaps you have a favorite soothing tea or healthy snack you want to share. Most important will be your notes of encouragement! We will be sending this out in early November.

Moment for Mission

November 25: The Moment for Mission will highlight our Christmas Ministries.

From us here at Global Ministries!

We want to thank you for hosting our mission co-worker Susan Valiquette. Your hospitality is so appreciated by both Susan and our office. We really appreciate your willingness to open your doors and your hearts to our mission co-workers.

Many Blessings to you,
Yashira Fiores

(Susan was with us the weekend of March 24- 26, preaching March 25, 2018)

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.

December Market @ 2nd Church

Saturday, December 1, 10 am to 3 pm

Pastor Carla, Lissa Gilbert, and Dorothea Mautner are creating lists for the *December 1st Market*. Now we invite (and need) everyone to contribute ideas, donations of household and baked goods and helping hands. It is a lot more fun to work together and the more the better as there is plenty of opportunity to express everyone's involvement.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 1st at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Preparations for this fundraiser and community outreach opportunity include:

Bringing items / Donations to the stage in Fellowship Hall during church office hours: Please bring your better items, books, kitchen ware, table and kitchen textiles, toys, games, etc. to the stage between today and Nov. 27.

Baked cookies and treats: The week after Thanksgiving please start your favorite baking.

Do not watch the British Baking Show! Mary Barry will not attend our event!

Rather, check your grandmother's recipes or bake your tried and true treat that puts you in the holiday mood and taste of love and togetherness.

NOTE: Please do NOT package your goods, just bring them by noon on Friday, Nov. 30. We will package and price edibles on Friday, Nov. 30 in the afternoon until it is done.

Canned / preserved Goods: Your preserved goods from your gardens or otherwise are sought and much appreciated. Please bring them to the office on any day as they do not need to be refrigerated.

Gift Basket drawings: These attractive baskets include all new items and are mostly themed for specific activities or use. The drawings will be held at the Market!

Example: Tea time, games with children, bird feeding related and other themes. Ideal for re-gifting! Please bring your new, unopened items for this purpose. Baskets will be assembled during last week of November.

Crafting and Holiday Decor: Greenery to make your own decorations and ready-made wreaths will be available for purchase. This activity is fun for all and inspires creativity.

Christmas Items are a favorite, timely purchase or donation. Please bring your no longer needed items; they will be appreciated and find a new home.

Food at December Market Cafe: We are looking forward to tasting Pastor Carla's famous Holiday Cranberry Tea and other beverages. Although we will not serve lunch some treats will be available to put you in a shopping mood.

SERRV items also for sale, along with "Scents of Syria" soaps through the Karam Foundation!

SCHEDULE: Nov. 26 to 30: decorate Fellowship Hall, sort and set up tables, pricing of all goods, set up the Cafe area. This is a time when everyone can help, please find SIGN UP sheets in Fellowship Hall or contact the office at 617-244-2690

DECEMBER 1st: invite your friends and neighbors and find your presents while being present for

December Market @ 2nd Church 10am to 3pm

For more information or for assistance with transportation of items or general help, please call: Church office 617-244-2690, Lissa 617-332-8795, Dorothea M 617-244-7146. -7-

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.

