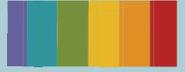


# THE SPIRE

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

2/1 Friday – 2030's Group to Escape Room, meet at SCN at 6:30 p.m.

2/3 Sunday – The Rev. Leah Rumsey preaching

2/6 Wednesday – Deacons/Board of Worship Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

2/9 Saturday – Valentine's Party for folks in transitional housing, Waltham, 2 – 4 p.m.

Vermeer's Concert 1664, 7:30 p.m.

2/10 Sunday – Annual Meeting Luncheon, 11:15 a.m. – followed by the Annual Meeting

Youth Group – Annual Meeting Lunch, 11:15 a.m.

2/13 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:30 p.m.

2/18 Monday – Presidents' Day Holiday

2/20 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

2/22 Friday – Potluck Party for the Taylors at the Davis home, 6:00 p.m.

2/24 Sunday – Sanctuary Tour, following worship

Youth Group Brunch at IHop, following worship

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

Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey, Senior Minister

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

Barbara Cancellieri, Administrator

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

Rev. Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation

Pat Bonnet and Alan Bubba Sooho, Co-moderators

Susan Benes, Nursery School Director

Molly Doris-Pierce, Faith Formation Assistant

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

February 2019

**Next Spire Deadline: Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.**

**Next Spire Mailing: Monday, February 25, 9 a.m.**

## My Bailiwick

It's February – Valentine's Day, Congregational Meetings, and most years, Ash Wednesday. What a month of contrasts! For the Bailey-Turners it will also be a month of recovery from Warren's knee surgery. He is looking forward to watching British crime dramas, reading good books, listening to the New York Times Daily podcast, and eating my Valentine cookies. He's pretty good on crutches, so he'll be around church sometimes as well.

Because of her recent death, the poetry of Mary Oliver is much on my mind – especially the last lines from this one, "The Summer Day":

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
**Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?**

As for my "one wild and precious life," for the month of February at least, what I plan to do is care well for my beloved life partner, pay attention, be both idle (not my strong suit) and blessed. Thanks to email and the internet and a wildly independent spouse, I'll also be able to care for you, my lovely and loving Second Church friends, and that is why I'm blessed, of course.

God has entrusted into our hands our wild and precious lives. Tell me, what is it YOU plan to do?

Carla

## Potluck Party for the Taylors

Dana and Jeff Davis are graciously offering their home, 41 Lenox St., West Newton, for a church wide farewell party for Shirley and Tom Taylor on Friday, February 22, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Potluck ~ appetizers or wine offerings would be appreciated, but optional.

## Hooker and Handel and Church Mice – Oh My!

February 24 following worship

Do you know that each Sunday we worship with Hooker and Handel and church mice, to say nothing of Isaiah and martyrs and saints and Charlie Chaplin and snails and angels? Come and let's explore the marvelous carvings and stained glass in our Sanctuary together. Maybe we'll have a chance to go outside and look at the gargoyles, the figures on the Spire and the empty niches (where did the saints go?). Maybe you'll come away with a favorite image or area that you can carry into your worship experience. Maybe you will want to show others what you have found. All ages are invited to come and explore.

# Faith Formation

## **February Youth Group**

**2/10: Annual Meeting Lunch 11:15 a.m., (before the Annual Meeting)**

**2/24: Brunch after Worship**

## **Youth Group Schedule March - May**

### **Sunday, March 31 Prayer Vigil at ICE Detention Center, Boston**

Meet at 1:00 pm at SCN, Vigil at 2:00 pm, return to SCN by 5:00 pm

This is a gathering specifically for prayer, witness, and solidarity, organized by Boston area faith communities on a rotating basis

RSVP by Wednesday, March 27

### **Sunday, May 5 Youth Revival with the Connecticut Conference**

Meet at SCN at 1:00 pm, Revival at 3:00 pm, return to SCN by 7:30 pm

For more details: <https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/9th-annual-ctucc-youth-revival-12265792>

RSVP by Wednesday, May 1

### **Saturday, May 25 Volunteering at Community Servings**

Meet at SCN at 12:00 pm, Volunteer at 1:00 pm, return by 4:30 pm

For more details: <https://www.servings.org/>

RSVP by Wednesday, May 22

## **2030's Schedule February -March**

### **Friday, February 1 Escape Room at Puzzlebreak**

Meet at SCN at 6:30 pm

RSVP by Wednesday, January 30

Suggested Contribution: \$10 as you are able

### **Friday, March 1 Theology on Tap (Pub Night)**

Meet at SCN at 6:30 pm

Please note that we'll be at a quiet pub and that there is no pressure to buy an alcoholic drink.

Plan to cover your own drinks. Appetizers provided.

### **Saturday, April 20 Agape Community Easter Vigil, Ware, MA**

**TBD in May: Hiking or Canoeing**

## **City upon the Hill**

Almost 400 years ago, in 1630, English settlers founded Massachusetts Bay Colony. As they would purify the Church, they became known as the Puritans. They saw their model of Christian charity as the city upon the hill.

The Puritans established the Congregational Church. The Second Church in Newton belonged to this denomination until it merged with others to form the United Church of Christ. From the beginning, Congregational churches had annual meetings. All male members who owned land could vote. Both religious and civic matters were decided until 1832. Then, Massachusetts, by law, separated the functions. Separate annual town meetings came into being.

American democracy has roots in the annual Congregational church meeting. Come to our annual meeting on February 10, 2019. Take part in history. Help Second Church upon West Newton hill become the city upon the hill.

Pat Bonnet and Alan “Bubba” Sooho  
Co-moderators

### **Official Call to the Annual Meeting Sunday, February 10, 2019**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of The Second Church in Newton, United Church of Christ, will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 10, 2019, following the worship service and lunch for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon the budgets for Church Support and Benevolence as recommended by the Church Council and to authorize appropriations from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.
2. To receive and act upon the Financial Report for twelve months from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.
3. And to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Mary Ann Donaldson, Clerk

December 31, 2018

### **Annual Meeting Lunch**

All are invited to the Annual Meeting Lunch which will be served after worship and before the Annual Meeting on February 10. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested. The Youth Group will gather for the Annual Meeting Lunch.

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

Dinner Church will continue this winter. 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)

## From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

**The Newton Food Pantry** is the only food pantry in Newton that delivers to clients who are homebound. 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.

**Moment for Mission:** February 24 – Pelletier lock-up facility, Westboro. A group from Second Church has been visiting Pelletier on an almost monthly basis. Hear about their interactions with the young women there.

**A Valentine Party** will be held February 9 from 2 – 4 p.m. at a transitional housing motel in Waltham for folks living there. Speak to Lissa Gilbert if you would like to volunteer at this event: [emgilbert22@gmail.com](mailto:emgilbert22@gmail.com) 617-332-8795. We will join with people from Eliot Church to provide art supplies to make valentine cards, and there will be healthy snacks, a magician, a face painter, and a guitar player on hand.

## From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

This month I would like to highlight the Tenor section of the Second Church Choir. So often in church choirs, the tenor section is the weak link, but that is certainly not the case at Second Church. Tom Oesterling is the Tenor Section Leader. This year marks the 10 year anniversary of Tom singing with the Second Church Choir. He is a very active voice teacher teaching at Amherst College, as well as teaching for the New England Conservatory prep division. Rob Dobson, our most active volunteer, also serves on the worship board. Rob sang professionally with other choirs before he came to Second Church as a volunteer. He can be heard on many Boston Camerata recordings. Rob is also the Art Director for Newton Baroque. Karl Gazarian has been singing with the Second Church Choir for decades now, and while his work as a hospital chaplain often takes him away from Sunday services, Karl is a key contributor to the choir. Connor Choka also often sings with the tenors in addition to all of the other hundreds of things he does with the church as a volunteer.

On Saturday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m., Newton Baroque will present: **Vermeer's Concert 1664**

A reconstruction of the domestic concert portrayed in Vermeer's 1664 painting entitled "The Concert" with Teresa Wakim and Nicole Estima, soprano; Jason Priset, lute; and Andrus Madsen, harpsichord. The concert will feature repertoire that was in fashion in Holland in the 1660s, including cantatas by Luigi Rossi and Giacomo Carissimi.

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.*

