



# 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

1/1 Tuesday – New Year's Day Holiday

1/2 Wednesday – Deacons Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

1/6 Sunday – Focus Group Listening Session, 2 p.m.

1/7 Monday – Annual Report Deadline

1/9 Wednesday – All-Boards, 7:30 p.m.

1/12 Saturday – Open House Brunch at Parsonage, 9 – 11 a.m.

Concert, Violin Unleashed, 7:30 p.m.

1/16 Wednesday – Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

1/21 Monday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday

1/27 Sunday – Board of Mission/Advocacy Forum, 11:30 a.m.

Potluck Dinner Church will be held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. starting January 9

Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey, Senior Minister

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

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

Barbara Cancellieri, Administrator

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

January 9-2022

**Annual Report Deadline: January 7**

**Next Spire Deadline: January 14, 10 a.m.**

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

## My Bailiwick

Writing this January message for the beginning of the year is challenging when I am still a little stuck in the old year. It puts me in mind of something from one of my favorite writers, Howard Thurman: Blessings at Year's End

*I remember with gratitude the fruits of the labors of others, which I have shared as a part of the normal experience of daily living.*

*I remember the beautiful things that I have seen, heard, and felt – some as a result of a definite seeking on my part, and many that came unheralded into my path, warming my heart and rejoicing my spirit.*

*I remember the moments of distress that proved to be groundless and those that taught me profoundly about the evilness of evil and the goodness of good.*

*I remember the new people I have met, from whom I have caught glimpses of the meaning of my own life and the true character of human dignity.*

*I remember the dreams that haunted me during the year, keeping me ever mindful of goals and hopes which I did not realize but from which I drew inspiration to sustain my life and keep steady my purposes.*

*I remember the awareness of the Spirit of God that sought me out in my aloneness and gave to me a sense of assurance that undercut my despair and confirmed my life with new courage and abiding hope.*

This past year has been full of blessings, most lovely of all when you brought Warren and me to The Second Church in Newton. It was not a smooth path. The most important journeys never are. But I am filled with gratitude for you all – for your resilience and patience, for your courage and kindness, for your hopes and commitments. We have some good, challenging work ahead, but it is the kind of work that gives meaning to our lives. I'm ready to dig in, aren't you?

In the meantime, a Happy New Year to you all – to you and those you love.

Carla

All are Invited!

Carla and Warren invite you  
to a Parsonage Brunch Open House  
154 Randlett Park  
Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 9-11AM

Please come celebrate the amazing work  
so many of you did to this beautiful home.

Casual, informal, and muffins!  
(and coffee and orange juice  
and quiche and YOU!)

### Light from the Hill

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Mt.5:14-16

Often, when we hear these words we are focusing on individual deeds as the light. But how do we let the Good News radiate from our congregational works and the light that is brought to our communities both near and far? One important way we strive to let our light shine is through effective communication. We have been fortunate to have talented and loyal members of the congregation help us with modernizing our communication with the additions of Constant Contact, 2nd Church website and *The Spire* online.

Recently, the Church Council proposed that the time is right for us to step boldly into further advancing the ways we use communication technology by creating a new staff position - Director of Communication. This part-time position will be charged with managing and directly contributing to the electronic and paper communication media of the congregation.

**At the Annual Meeting, there will be a vote to authorize this position. Your co-moderators urge your support.**

To all of you, especially if you have a tech light hiding under a bushel, consider lifting the basket and join the Communication Committee and help the congregation's light shine, giving glory to God.

Blessings,  
Pat Bonnet and Alan “Bubba” Soho  
Co-moderators

# Faith Formation

## **Youth Group**

**1/13: Brunch after Worship**

**1/27: Brunch after Worship**

## **Focus Group January 6th**

We are hosting a listening session – think Focus Group – Sunday afternoon, January 6 from 2 – 3 p.m. We want to hear from a variety of parents about what kind of programming would work well for families with young children. Please help us if you can, by sharing your ideas. We'll serve a few light refreshments and offer childcare! Our conversation will be facilitated by Minister of Faith Formation Leah Rumsey, and Senior Pastor Carla Bailey. Thank you.

## **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

## **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.

**Gift Giving Program:** Thanks to all who participated in providing books and toys for the Mitten Tree Project through Family Access of Newton. The gifts were picked up last week and have been distributed to the families. Also, thank you for your generosity in helping to provide gifts to help low-income families from Waltham Early Intervention. Their holidays will be a little brighter this year because of your support.

**Moment for Mission:** January 6 – Brainstorming Luncheon – see below  
January 20 – Homes for Our Troops builds adapted homes for severely injured veterans.

**Please save the date:** Sunday, January 27 after worship, the Board of Mission and Advocacy and Pastor Carla will be hosting a Brainstorming luncheon. We would like your thoughts on how to do God's work in our Church Community and beyond. More details to come in early January. Thanks in advance - Pastor Carla and the Board of Mission and Advocacy.

## Meet Our New Members

Carla Bailey is Second Church's new senior minister, as of this past September. She and her spouse Warren Turner moved here from Minnesota where Carla worked as Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church and as Sabbatical Interim Minister at Judson Memorial Baptist. They have two adult children - Matrika, who lives and works in New York, and Joe, who lives and works in St. Cloud, MN. In her spare time, Carla loves working with yarn and fabric and reading crime novels.

Warren Turner is our new Senior Minister's spouse and likes to act as her back-up support person. Warren is an ordained United Church of Christ minister who has served a variety of churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Now semi-retired, he drives for Lyft for a few days a week. His iPhone is omnipresent and enjoys texting with their daughter who lives in New York City and their son who is in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He loves to feed the birds but the squirrels seem to have other ideas.

I recently moved to West Newton Hill from the south side of Newton Corner, where I lived with my husband and family for 38 years. Our children are grown (ages 33 and 28). I just returned from Seattle where we celebrated our granddaughter's 2nd birthday. I am a retired commercial banker who has recently launched an independent consulting practice which addresses the strategic needs of nonprofit organizations. I enjoy long walks, cycling, knitting, cooking and watercolor painting. I am a docent for Boston by Foot, which offers walking tours of historic Boston neighborhoods. (I am particularly interested in Victorian architecture.) I volunteer for Newton Wellesley Hospital, Center for Women and Enterprise, and the May Institute, where I serve on the Board of Directors. My reading tends to be centered on historic biographies, although I do enjoy a good mystery once in a while...Louise Penny is my current favorite author. I enjoy (and am comforted and inspired by) classical music, especially baroque, and am grateful for Andrus Madsen's role in the Second Church programming! I have visited Second Church for several years and am proud to be a member.

—Martha Sloan Felch

By way of introducing myself, I would like to express my appreciation for the community I have found at Second Church in Newton. My husband of 40 years and I moved to Newton one year ago. Over the course of the year, I became friends with a neighbor. Then I met her friends, and they had the same inner peace as my neighbor! I asked them how they knew one another and they smiled and said, "We belong to Second Church!" That very next week, I was in the last row at the 10 o'clock Worship.

At that first worship service, the music captivated me. Next, I was intrigued and attracted by the sermon which taught me how to apply scripture to everyday living. Slowly, I opened my heart to the warmth that each of you expressed in your greetings. The timing of finding this faith-filled community at Second Church just before Thanksgiving and Advent has given me a gift that I am most grateful for.

If any of you are interested in walking, reading children's literature, going to various libraries in the area or learning how to make origami figures, give me a call! My winter craft project is to learn origami!

My husband, Michael, and I have a beautiful daughter and son-in-law and two precious granddaughters. We moved to Newton to be near them. Little did I know that I would also be blessed with a spiritual family at The Second Church in Newton.

—Debbie O'Hare

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

Saturday, January 12, 7:30 p.m. **Violin Unleashed**

Rambunctious repertoire for solo violin from late 17<sup>th</sup> Century Germany, featuring the incomparable Susanna Ogata. Have your mind blown by the violin fireworks composed by Paul Westhoff, Johann Jakob Walther and Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber. Free to the Second Church Family

## **Winter Warmth Concert**

The band Lantern Light reports that at their December Winter Warmth Concert, they collected 50 children's and youth coats, plus several generous checks, which were donated to City Mission Boston for their Coat Boston program described below.

At City Mission, we believe that all children in Boston deserve to be warm and safe each winter. Coat Boston, with the help from a generous grant from Citizens Bank, ensures that children from toddlers to teens have the warm winter coats they need. City Mission partners with Boston Public Schools, serving low-income families to ensure that all young Bostonians have a warm, safe winter.

Thank you for your support.

## **Altar Flower Opportunity**

Would you like to remember a deceased loved one or honor someone in a special way? Providing Sunday altar flowers is the perfect opportunity. The arrangements enhance the beauty of our sanctuary and worship. After the service, the flowers are given or delivered to church members who are ill or celebrating a life event. Your memorial flower donation keeps on giving!

The Altar Committee handles the ordering of flowers; all you need to do is write a check to Second Church in Newton with Memorial Flowers on the notation line. One arrangement is \$65; two are \$100.00. An acknowledgement of your donation will be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Open Sundays: January 13, 20, 27, 2019.

If you're interested in one of these dates, just call Barbara Cancellieri at the church office, 617-244-2690, or email Donna Johnson [johnsodn@gmail.com](mailto:johnsodn@gmail.com).

## **Hello again from the December Market Team.**

December First was the culmination of a week's preparation, with wonderful donations finding new appreciation and placement in other people's houses. What a great system of recycling! We decorated the hall with wreaths and many transparent stars.

For the first time we included Syrian Soaps and hand-made bracelets, and also SERRV items from around the world. All told, we collected just under \$5,000. This sum is impressive, considering we prioritized community building over financial goals and excluded jewelry and the silent auction, which will be held at another event in the spring.

We are grateful to Joy and Ced Paine and Leah Ramsey for spearheading the free crafting station. Families enjoyed creating centerpieces using greenery and ornaments while watching a slide show of last year's pageant. This activity station also informed visitors about our congregation and programs.

We thank all volunteers who made December Market possible. Friday afternoon was especially busy as many hands packed up wonderful cookies and baked goods for the *Edibles* table. Barbara Joseph and Lissa Gilbert tackled the Pie Project, producing 18 apple pies and 10 pumpkin pies for sale. Decorated loaves of German Bread, pistachio cakes, and other contributions from many kitchens provided an impressive display for sale.

None of this could have happened without the energy and expertise of Andy Gluck and his team in the kitchen. Andy organized a sit down lunch including Amanda Loftus's outstanding lasagna. A surprise of freshly made waffles delighted everyone for dessert.

Thank you to Dorothea Rudolf for beautifully decorating the Christmas wreaths. And a special thank you to Pastor Carla and husband Warren for supporting us while planning, and in their presence at the Café during the six hour event, offering conversation and legendary Cranberry Tea.

We will miss Henrike Roesch and her family when they leave us just before Christmas. From decorative stars, home baked breads, and boundless energy in the choir, Henrike contributed greatly to all aspects of the congregation. At the December Market, her son David baked perfect waffles, and her son Dominique played carols on the trombone, adding spirit to the event's final hours.

At our appreciation dinner the following Tuesday, 24 of our 40+ volunteers enjoyed sharing stories and considerations for next year's event.

With heartfelt thanks and the spirit of gratitude,  
Lissa Gilbert and Dorothea Mautner

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.*

