



# 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

5/4-6 Friday – Sunday – Women's Retreat, Craigville, Cape Cod, 6 p.m. for Friday dinner

5/5 Saturday – Newton Baroque Concert, Fuller Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

5/6 Sunday - Youth/Young Adult Brunch following worship

5/12 Saturday – Commonwealth Chorale Concert, 8 p.m. (sanctuary rental) admission fee charged

5/13 Sunday – Wendy Vander Hart preaching, 10 a.m. followed by Forum, 11:30 a.m.

Introducing the Poor People's Campaign, Room 111

5/17 Thursday – 20/30 Group Jazz Worship and Dinner, 6 p.m. Old South Church; RSVP Leah

5/19 Saturday-Deacons' Retreat/Lunch, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Walker Center, Auburndale; RSVP Barbara

5/20 Sunday – Fuller Scholarship Recipients Recognized, 10 a.m.

Faith Forum, Progressive Christian Spiritual Practices, 11:30 a.m., Room 111

5/29 Tuesday – Iftar Dinner, 6:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Dinner Church will be held each Wednesday in May, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

The Search Committee meets most Wednesday evenings

Rev. Mark Seifried, 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, Director of Faith Formation

Molly Doris-Pierce, Faith Formation Assistant

Charlie and Henry Loftus and Dan Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

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

**Next Spire Mailing: May 25, 9 a.m.**

## Meaning Making

Reflections from Pastor Mark

*There is no such thing as talent. What they call talent is nothing but the capacity for doing continuous work in the right way. ~ Winslow Homer*

In case you didn't read the Constant Contact email or hadn't heard it from others, my last Sunday in the Second Church pulpit will be June 10. I will take a few weeks to regroup and begin interim ministry at Brighton-Allston Congregational Church in July. All this is taking place while the Second Church Pastoral Search Committee is in their second round of interviews with well-qualified candidates, one of whom is likely to be your next pastor. If all goes as planned, you will meet her / him within a couple of weeks of my departure.

I have to admit that I have already begun grieving my losses because of the need to disengage the good folks at Second Church who have called me "pastor" and whom I have loved with my whole being for the last two-plus years. Some of the grief is knowing I cannot have the same relationships with you because the UCC asks pastors to pull back from the congregation so that the new pastor can be your pastor – 100%. To emphasize that reality, on my last Sunday, I will say words with both sadness and with joy: "After today, I will no longer be your pastor."

What this means is that the ways we have connected with visits, frequent phone calls, emails and text messages will cease. I will no longer be the administrator for the church's Facebook page. I will pull back from commenting on your social media posts and generally set firm boundaries. This is not out of spite or lack of concern, but rather so that your next pastor has the same opportunity as I had to serve you and to love you. And so that I can serve my new congregation with the same devotion as I have served Second Church.

I am proud of the work we have done together. When I arrived two years ago, the church was so anxious about the loss of the two pastors and the accompanying fall out in the congregation that you could feel the disquiet in weekly worship services. There is now a sense of peace and unity that is far more prevalent day-to-day and week-to-week. Despite the fact that we developed a vision statement and mission statement that should direct the core of the church's ministries for the next five years, the peacemaking work within the congregation that we have done will be far more important in the long run.

We will have time over the next weeks to discuss other more specific accomplishments. Pat Bonnet and Bubba Sooho, your co-moderators, are helping to coordinate a party for the evening of June 9 when we will have an opportunity to celebrate our shared ministry and to make meaning of the work we have done.

I can tell you now that my deepest sense of gratitude for our time together is that you trusted me enough to be your pastor and then you trusted God enough to let the Spirit whittle away at the collective anxiety. That work sometimes takes a whole generation to work through, but we did it in two years. Imagine all that Second Church will become if you put more trust in God, throw caution to the wind and give things your all because you feel that God had called you to the work. Praise God because that seems to be the direction in which the church is heading.

It has been an honor and privilege to witness this beloved community grounded and growing in faith. It has been a joy to grow with you, personally and professionally. It will be an even greater joy for me to see the ministry bear fruit in the years to come as you continue to grow in Spirit and then reap the rewards by growing in numbers! Your next pastor will be blessed with a refreshed and refreshing congregation who is poised for growth, even as you continue to revitalize the ministries of this beautiful historic church.

## Interim Pastorate

The Crossroads process kicked off the current phase of Second Church's ongoing journey of self-discovery three years ago. Pastor Mark has guided us since March, 2016. On June 10, 2018 his time with us comes to an end.

On Saturday, June 9, 2018 we celebrate our accomplishments and send Pastor Mark off in style. Join us for dinner and more in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. Share your ideas to enhance the evening with the Moderators: Music? Dancing? Limerick Contest? (There once was a man, MS. He came to help us assess the plans we want to achieve. Now it's time for him to leave. Good-bye. Godspeed. God Bless.) More to follow - but **SAVE THE DATE**.

On Sunday, June 10, 2018 the service will focus on honoring the past while finding new ways to spread the Gospel. God's love is eternal, but all else changes.

If you wish to contribute to a gift purse for Pastor Mark, make a check to Second Church with "Mark Seifried" on the memo line. Give the check to Pat Bonnet, Bubba Soho, Barbara Cancellieri or Mary Ayotte.

## From the Music Desk of Andrus Madsen

On May 5th the renowned Swiss/Argentinian soprano, Maria Christina Kiehr, will appear with Newton Baroque to perform a program of cantatas sacred and secular. She won a Grammy for her 1997 recording of Caldara's "Maddalena ai piedi di Cristo." With Newton Baroque she will perform cantatas by Telemann and Mancini with oboist Alison Gangler.

The concert will take place in Fuller Chapel at The Second Church in Newton  
May 5, 7:30 p.m.

## Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

We invite you to join us for the 44th Annual Theodore D. Mann Newton Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast to be held at McElroy Commons, Boston College, on the morning of Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 7:30 A.M. (doors will open at 7:00 A.M.).

Dr. Adkins-Jones, Assistant Professor of Theology and Core Faculty in the African and African Diaspora Studies Program at Boston College, will be the featured speaker. The proceeds from this event will be used to support the vital work of the Foundation for Racial, Ethnic and Religious Harmony.

To make a reservation, call the church office 617-244-2690. The church will contribute the cost of and order tickets.

# Faith Formation

## **The Second Church in Newton Youth Group Summer Service Trip 2018**

**The Agape Community, Ware, Massachusetts**

**June 28 – July 2**

**Led by Rev. Leah Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation**

### **Description:**

The Agape Community in Ware, Massachusetts is an intentional lay Catholic community committed to radical nonviolence, eco-theology and organic homesteading, faith and daily prayer, music and celebration, community service, and voluntary simplicity. Each summer, they host a number of student groups for Rural Immersion experiences. During rural immersion, students experience Agape's patterns of prayer and community, assist with various service projects related to sustainability and food justice, and connect nature with spirituality at Agape's beautiful location near the Quabbin Reservoir. You can learn more about the Agape Community on their website: <http://agapecommunity.org>.

### **Itinerary:**

Our group will depart from Second Church on Thursday, June 28 and return on Monday, July 2.

### **Lodging**

The group will stay at Agape's Francis House, with 2-3 students to a room. Towels and bedding are provided.

### **Cost**

Students are asked to contribute \$150 toward the cost of their food and lodging. Scholarships are available.

### **Questions and Registration**

Registration packets are available at the church office. You can also request one via email or ask additional questions by writing Leah at [leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu). A student will be counted as registered when they have returned completed application and permission forms in hard copy. Group size is limited to ten people, so register early! Final registration deadline is June 15.

## **May Youth Group**

### **Youth and Young Adult Brunch**

Sunday, May 6

### **IHOP**

Immediately following worship

## **Second Church 20/30 Group - Jazz Service and Dinner**

**Open To:** People in their 20's and 30's. You need not be Christian to attend, but should feel comfortable at a Christian service. You will not be asked or pressured to participate beyond your comfort level.

**What:** Jazz Service (with communion) at Old South Church in Copley Square and dinner together afterward.

**When:** Thursday, May 17. The service starts at 6:00 pm. Please try to arrive by 5:50 so we can sit together as a group.

**Meet:** Inside the church. You'll see our group sitting together.

**Bring:** Money for dinner (cash if possible to make dividing a check easier).

**Email:** Rev. Leah Rumsey, Director of Faith Formation at Second Church, at [leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu) to let her know that you're coming. Old South is just a few yards from the Copley Square MBTA stop, but you can also let Leah know if you need a ride. Also let her know if you have a favorite restaurant in the Copley Square area.

## Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6 o'clock

If you haven't checked out Dinner Church, now is the time! This lively informal service happens every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. It features communion, a collaborative sermon we build together, and a full vegetarian dinner. Write Leah with questions.

[Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu](mailto:Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu)

### Second Church "Newton Serves Day" Sunday, April 29

Come to worship in work clothes, tell Nancy Brown ([nlbrown161@gmail.com](mailto:nlbrown161@gmail.com)) if you'll need a sandwich lunch, and after worship join our annual clean-up of the historic West Newton Burying Ground at the corner of Cherry and River Streets. This cemetery is the final resting place of Second Church's first pastor and other early members. Large rakes are provided, but you might bring a favorite rake or pruners.

**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](mailto:Loukittr43@gmail.com))

### Moment for Mission

May 13: **Families in Transitional Housing** – The Second Church Board of Mission and Advocacy, with colleagues from Eliot Church and the Agape Spiritual Community, Waltham, has hosted a Valentine's Party and an Easter Egg Hunt at a Waltham inn for families in Transitional Housing. Lissa Gilbert will tell us of the good times that were had at these parties Mothers' Day, May 13.

### 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.

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.*

