

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

Informal Summer Worship Sunday mornings, 10 o'clock,
preceded by a continental breakfast, 9:30 a.m.

7/1 Monday – Faith and Citizenship Institute Information Packet/Application available

7/11 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

7/18 Thursday – Building Management Policy Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

7/25 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

8/8 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

8/22 Thursday – Knitting Group, 10 a.m.

8/30 Friday – Bristol Lodge Shelter Cooking, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Second Church Kitchen

Dinner Fellowship meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; Dinner Church resumes August 14

Next Spire Deadline: Monday, August 19, 10 a.m.

Next Spire Mailing: Friday, August 30, 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Carla Jean Bailey, Senior Minister

Andrus Madsen, Minister of Music

Rev. Leah Rumsey, Minister of Faith Formation

Alan Bubba Sooho and Sally Anderson, Co-moderators

Susan Benes, Nursery School Director

Sydney Koo, Faith Formation Assistant

Henry Loftus, Marion and Gwen Carter, Sunday Sextons

Frank Neal, Property Manager

Barbara Cancellieri, Administrator

Mary Ayotte, Bookkeeper

JULY & AUGUST
2016

My Bailiwick

I've recently come to realize (not for the first time) that when it comes to progress in human rights, the pendulum swings back and forth constantly. A recent trial in Arizona over whether a human rights activist committed a felony when he provided water, food, and shelter for immigrants ended in a hung jury. I suppose that's a better outcome than the conviction of four humanitarian workers back in January. They were charged with operating a motor vehicle in a wilderness area, entering a national wildlife refuge without a permit, and abandonment of property. They drove into the desert to leave jugs of water and cans of beans for immigrants.

Immigration is a complex issue. Providing life-saving food and water for human beings is not. Back and forth, back and forth.

Closer to home, the pendulum swing occurred when Newton's City Attorney advised the Newton Human Rights Commission they should not include a statement of spiritual support in the Newton LGBTQ+ Resource Guide. The statement was requested of the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association by the HRC, but then the City Attorney vetoed it, asserting that to include the statement in a city document would violate the separation of church and state. It would signal an endorsement of religion.

Here is the statement: *The Newton Interfaith Clergy Association (NICA) is committed to building a welcoming faith culture, where people from all walks of life can find belonging and community. Newton's faith community is diverse. While in dialogue with Newton's Human Rights Commission, NICA, along with its faith community partners, desires to build a culture of ally-ship that values the individual and their personal spiritual journey of which we are privileged to shepherd. We are proud that some of our partners have gone through formal processes to be a welcoming community, however it is our hope that members of the LGBTQ+ Community will find a safe place with any NICA partner.*

Pretty benign, wouldn't you say?

The separation of church and state is a complex issue. Adding our faith voice to a list of resources for support and care is not. The lawyer in me rejects the city attorney's opinion. Worcester came to the opposite conclusion when they published their resource guide, including a list of congregations in Worcester that are specifically open and affirming of LGBTQ+ persons. It begs a question, doesn't it?

In many ways, Newton supports its LGBTQ+ citizens. Warren and I attended the raising of the rainbow flag at City Hall to mark the beginning of Pride month. We heard the story of a former Newton teacher who received tremendous support when he came out to his students. We were given rainbow stickers. But in this matter of excluding our faith voice to a list of resources for support, I think Newton has made a mistake.

Back and forth, back and forth.

Pastor Carla Jean Bailey
cbailey@2ndchurch.org

Summer Worship at Second Church

July and August Sunday worship services will be held in Fellowship Hall, around tables, over coffee and breakfast treats. You are invited to come at 9:30 a.m. for a light breakfast. Then at 10, Carla will lead study/reflection on some of the most important themes in our faith. Each week we will look closely at one of these topics (not necessarily in this order):

forgiveness
prayer
Christian community
creation
money, wealth, sufficiency
justice
death and dying
embodiment
discipleship
vocation

There will be music, conversation, Scripture, and quiet reflection and we will finish by 11. The Prayground will be in Fellowship Hall with Sydney Koo, so families with children are encouraged to participate. These summer Sundays will be informal and, we hope, interesting and inspiring.

Here's how you can help:

- Provide the Sunday continental breakfast. You may want to team up with someone to bring juice, muffins, bagels – nothing too elaborate! We will provide coffee, as usual. Please tell Carla or Kathy Lucey of a Sunday you could host.
- We are looking for instrumentalists to play some reflective music for these services. Do you play an instrument? Do you know a student who would be willing to play? Please let Carla know.

We know summer is a busy time. Why not spend an hour or two on a Sunday morning, centering yourself in the themes of our faith?

Death:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Loftus Family as they mourn the recent death of James's father.

Baptisms:

Leah Rebecca Paice, born July 16, 2018, was baptized May 12, 2019. Leah is the daughter of Laura Rowell Paice and James J. Paice. She is the great granddaughter of Becky Reed, long time Second Church secretary, for whom she is named.

Greta Louisa Sheiber, born May 6, 2018 was baptized June 23, 2019 at Second Church. Greta is the daughter of Amy and Rick Sheiber and her big brother is Samuel Sheiber.

Faith and Citizenship Institute at The Second Church in Newton
A New Offering for 6-9th Graders

Dear Partners in Ministry,

In these past two years, we have thoroughly reimagined our programming for young children and adults in their 20's and 30's and, in doing so, have set both programs on a path to sustainability and meaningful participation. In the year to come, we'll continue to maintain both of these programs with our weekly children's story and the Prayground, and with 2030's Bible Study and social opportunities. With these programs well underway, it's time to turn to our youth offerings.

This year, we will offer the Faith and Citizenship Institute, a year-long service-learning and mentoring program in which students learn about Christian faith, progressive Christian values, and learn through practice how to actualize these values in service, advocacy, and participation in the practice of democratic citizenship. In brief, the program will look as follows:

- Students apply online to take part in the program, with Second Church students guaranteed admission. Our goal is an initial cohort of five to eight students who commit to participating for the entire year.
- Each student is paired with an adult mentor to make a group of 10-16 students and mentors. The group meets twice a month during the academic year, once for dinner, worship, and discussion and once for a skill-building workshop, service project, or advocacy effort. This year, these experiential learning opportunities will focus on hunger, food insecurity, and food systems. Students commit to attending regularly.
- During the summer following the program, students and mentors are invited to participate in a five-day service-learning trip. **This trip is fully funded for students who have participated in the FCI and met the commitments articulated in the student covenant.**

The FCI is anchored in Christian language, practice, and belief and is open to students who attend church (SCN or another church), students who consider themselves Christian but don't belong to a particular church or denomination, and students who may not be quite sure of their religious affiliation but will feel comfortable working in a Christian framework.

This is where Second Church members come in. Do you know a young person who:

- Is in 6th – 9th grade
- Lives in the greater Boston area (you can think beyond Newton!)
- Would be interested in learning about democratic citizenship and social justice from a faith perspective

If so (and we're guessing most of you do!), please let Leah know! She'll share further details about the program and check in with you about the best way to be in touch with this person. You can write her at Leahrumsey@g.harvard.edu or text her at 517-449-8145 (and can do so right away – please don't wait until she has returned to the US). A full information packet (including a link to the online application) will be available July 1.

PRIDE

Recently I had the pleasure of attending my step granddaughter's secondary school graduation in Dublin, Ireland. I haven't been there for many of the big events in her life, so this was very special for me. I am so **PROUD** of her! Her teachers spoke very highly of her and her classmates, she played a violin and piano piece that she composed herself, and sung in the school and church choirs. It was a weekend of celebration all around!

I am also **PROUD** of her parents - her mom and her step father (my son) who have been behind her all the way, providing love and support, and helping her navigate the challenges of all of her 18 ½ years (My son has been with them for 11 of those years.). I'm also **PROUD** of my son and daughter-in-law as they face the challenges of an "artist's life," with all of the ups and downs that that entails.

I am **PROUD** of being an American, even though that **PRIDE** has been shaken to the core (Michelle Obama's words) in recent years. I'm **PROUD** of the small part I am trying to take in preserving the values of democracy and decency that I grew up with.

I am **PROUD** of my church because of its engagement in important issues of social justice.

I am **PROUD** of my participation in CAP workshops in which we work with children to empower them to be **PROUD** of themselves and their capabilities so that they can stand up to bullies and the unwanted attentions of strangers and others.

I am most especially **PROUD** this month (and always!) of my daughter and her wife and all of my friends who can stand up and be **PROUD** of who they are and whom they choose to love.

Sally Anderson, Co-moderator

Fuller Scholarship Awards 2019

May is the month of rejuvenation, remembrance and celebrations of new beginnings. It's a month busy with observing traditions and meeting obligations joyfully. One of our congregation's tasks is to evaluate and select Newton High School students to receive Fuller Scholarships. The 2019 available funds are: \$8,000 equaling four scholarships at \$ 2,000 each.

Marion Fuller, a late member and friend of The Second Church in Newton, established the scholarship to remember and honor John Fuller, a direct ancestor who arrived in Newton around 1640. (Also note the Fuller stained glass window in the sanctuary.) Ms. Fuller had specified that the income of the scholarship fund, established in 1983, "...shall be used for some kind of education beyond the high school or secondary school level for young people of Newton, MA." Marion Fuller also specified, "The award should be given to students without regard to race, creed or color. The Minister and two Senior Deacons should award the scholarships to candidates that demonstrate commitment to community service while maintaining strong academic performance."

Ghana Baker, graduating from Newton South High School, came to Newton from Tripoli, Libya five years ago. She experienced war and later the loss of her father and grandmother within weeks, but she remained steadfast in her work and relationships at school. During her high school education, she maintained a 3.6 GPA and volunteered at Newton Wellesley Hospital, the Red Cross and was a Boston Cares Teen Advisory leader. Her goal is to become a medical doctor.

Diane Dame Chloe, also graduating from Newton South High School, is a first generation, college-bound student in her single-parent family. She is graduating with a 3.9 GPA and is deeply involved with the Jesus Love Church where she volunteers as translator and technical assistant. Diane also volunteers with Asia Families and teaches at the Roxbury Tutoring Center. Her plans for the future include post graduate level education and starting her own business.

Michael James Brooks, a Newton South High School graduate, is proud of his family ties to Columbia and a first generation college applicant. His interests include sports, literature, history and biology. Michael graduates with a 4.3 GPA. Due to his brother's Type 1 Diabetes, Michael has worked intensely to promote awareness of the disease and to help raise funds for research towards a cure. Michael volunteered in the Melton Laboratory/Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard School of Medicine. He distributes toys during holidays and was a sports volunteer for the YMCA. At NSHS Michael was a TA for Spanish and Math.

Jessica Chen is a graduate of Newton North High School and has been a dedicated cross country runner for four years, as well as pursuing the visual art. During her four years at NNHS, Jessica managed ten ACP and ten AP courses to graduate with a 4.7 GPA. Her intelligence, organizational skills and determination have helped her to advance and advocate for the Science - Technology - Engineering - Math (STEM) program at the high school. She initiated a "Women in STEM Day" and worked with a team of girls through all steps to create the app "Mind Cloud." For two years she worked for "Support China Education Project" and raised over \$10 000 to help outstanding students in China. Jessica received numerous awards for her leadership and initiatives in teaching technology to girls. Jessica sees herself combining design and technology in the field of innovation.

All the graduates are well liked, engaging and multi-lingual. Each student experienced challenges, learned to work with them and is an independent, maturing member of the community. We are truly amazed and feel honored to get to know these students' stories and help launch their starting months in college with the Fuller gift. Our spiritual support goes out to all graduating students and we wish everyone a successful college experience and the best learning environment this planet can offer.

With best wishes for everyone's summer,
The Fuller Scholarship Team.

Church World Service School Kits

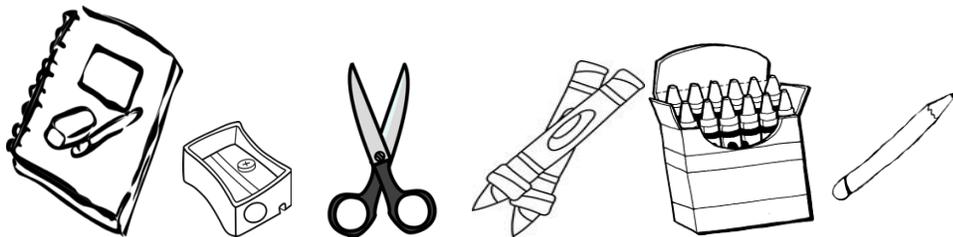
For the past several months, we've been asking if you sew – have you noticed those announcements? We've been preparing for a fall project – School Kits for Church World Service!

If you have been making bags, we need them brought to the church by the end of August. If you would still like to make bags, there are instructions at church, or just go to cwskits.org and look under school kits. You'll find a link to the pattern for school bags. You will also find a list of the items that go into school kits.

July and August are good months for sewing bags. Soon, we'll start seeing back-to-school sales. Please consider purchasing some of these items listed below. You may want to buy the contents of one whole kit or just a number of any one item – your choice! We'll start collecting these items later this summer. Just bring them to Carla's office. Remember, we can't include anything in the school kit that isn't on this list.

Each Kit will include:

- One pair of blunt scissors, removed from the package (rounded tip, only)
- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- One 30-centimeter 12" ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener, removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers, removed from the package
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)



From the Board of Mission and Advocacy

A Note from Martha and Lissa

June 15, 2019

A month ago Martha Felch and Lissa Gilbert visited the Friday Cafe at First Church in Cambridge. Lindsey O'Donovan has close contact to this program and suggested we explore it as a Mission and Advocacy Opportunity.

The Mission of the Friday Cafe is to create a space of hospitality and welcome with homeless and food-insecure adults from Cambridge and surrounding areas. They offer food and coffee, clothing, and other resources - but most importantly, community. The numbers range from 65-80 guests in warmer weather and 100-150 on cold winter days.

The Friday Cafe program operates from September to June. There are several ways to participate. If you are interested in going in person, there are shifts on Fridays that include food preparation, food service, interaction with guests, and clean up.

If you are unable to go to Cambridge, there are other opportunities to support the Friday Cafe. They always accept donations of toiletries, new white socks, and knitted hats and other clothing items. They also accept food donations, ranging from baked goods to casseroles. Martha and Lissa may be going in the fall and are working out the logistics; we might be able to pick up items and deliver them to the church. Please speak to one of us if interested in getting more information.

Lissa Gilbert emgilbert22@gmail.com

Martha Felch msfelch1@gmail.com

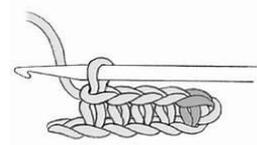
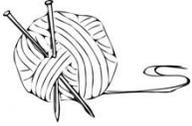
Gift Card Distribution

In June we gave 50 gift cards to Family Access, who is distributing them to families in need that avail themselves of their Early Literacy Services and Counseling and Consultation Services. Of those 50, 8 cards totaling \$200 came from a recipient in the Gun Buyback Program who wanted them returned to the church for persons in need. A very nice donation, indeed!

Bristol Lodge Food Service—Call for Volunteers

Our congregation has the opportunity to prepare and serve a hot meal to 60 clients of Bristol Lodge on Friday, August 30. This is a pilot date, and one of the only dates remaining available for 2019 through their agent, Middlesex Human Services. Additional dates are being held tentatively for us and will be scheduled monthly throughout 2020 depending on our interest. We will need 3 volunteer groups (with as much overlap as you choose): shopping, food prep at Second Church, and serving in Waltham. The shopping team will select a recipe and purchase the necessary ingredients. The cooking team would meet at Second Church in the early afternoon to prepare, and between 5 and 10 of us will proceed to Immanuel United Methodist Church at 545 Moody Street in Waltham, corner of Cherry and Moody Streets, to set up by 4:30 and serve from 5-7 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall through this month. Please contact Martha Sloan Felch at msfelch1@gmail.com with any further questions.

Do you Knit? Do you Crochet?



Let's KNIT-A-BIT TOGETHER!

Carla is looking for fellow fiber artists to gather over the summer. We need people who would like to make prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves – together! You may prefer to work on your own projects and need the motivation of a group. How about every other Thursday morning, beginning July 11th? We can meet in the living room at the church at 10 AM.

To get us started, Carla will bring some of her yarn stash and a book of prayer shawl patterns. But bring your own supplies and your own projects, and join the Fiber Fun!
July 11th, 10:00 AM

Dinner Fellowship: We will continue to meet for potluck dinner with the familiar Dinner Church format on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. during the summer. Margaret Doris has very graciously offered to be the point person for organizing these gatherings and we ask that you contact her for details and/or if you would be interested in joining in. Her phone number is 617-462-6161 and her email address is medoris@bu.edu or medoris@aol.com. Dinner Church resumes August 14, 6 p.m.

Join the Jericho Walks in Burlington, MA

March in Solidarity with those being mistreated by an inhuman immigration system.
Every third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm (3-2-1)
(Next walks on Tuesday, July 16 and Tuesday, August 20)

The Jericho Walk is a silent interfaith prayer and act of solidarity. The walk draws inspiration from the Battle of Jericho, in which the community marched around the city of Jericho seven times, causing the city walls to fall. “The Jericho Walk of today is a silent, peaceful, and prayerful walk to bring down the walls of our unjust immigration system and is open to people of all or no faiths.”

Walks take place at the ICE offices in Burlington, MA
(1000 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803)

For anyone interested in taking part and carpooling from Newton,
or for additional information, contact Amy Mazur at acmazur@comcast.net.

Women's Retreat May 1 – 3, 2020

Plan to join us in the Manor at Craigville Retreat Center, Craigville, Cape Cod for a weekend retreat full of good food, walks on the beach, time for reflection, a Yankee Swap, and frivolity. We haven't yet picked a theme for next year, but will let you know when we do. Mark your calendars now and save the date.

The Second Church in Newton
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West Newton, MA 02465-2405

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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.

