

THE SPIRE

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
35 Conant Street, Beverly MA 01915

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Transitional Associate Minister : Heather Ramsey Mabrouk
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February 2012



Lenten Food Drive:

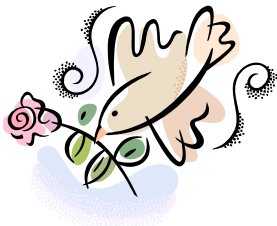
Feeding the Multitudes
February 22nd to April 7th



2012 Feeding the Multitudes - Lenten Food Drive for Beverly Bootstraps: (Feb. 22 to April 7th): More and more people are depending on food pantries in order to get food. In Beverly, the food pantry at Beverly Bootstraps is a popular place to go for people who are in desperate need of food. Once again, Second Church will hold its "Feeding the Multitudes" food drive to help keep the shelves stocked at Beverly Bootstraps. Some items needed are: juice boxes peanut butter canned fruit, pasta, sauce, cereal, baked beans, small canned hams, to name a few. Next time you go grocery shopping, please pick up a few extra items for the food drive. There will be further details in your bulletin or during the Sunday announcements.



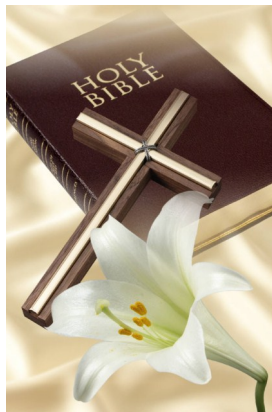
February Worship and Events:



- February 5:** Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Sermon: Rev. W. Alan Froggatt, Jr.
Lay Reader: Wendy Linares
Fellowship Hosts: Boy Scouts
- February 12:** Sermon: Rev. Froggatt
Lay Reader: Suzanne Munroe
Confirmand: Melena Schug
Fellowship Hosts:
Sue Purdy & Laurie Larkin
- February 19:** Sermon: Rev. Froggatt
Lay Reader: Jack Terrill
Fellowship Hosts: John & Christie Knott
- February 22:** Ash Wednesday Service
in Sanctuary 6:45pm
- February 26:** Sermon: Ms. Heather Ramsey Mabrouk
Lay Reader: Nancy Lague
Confirmand: Rebecca Drown
Fellowship Hour: Bill & Lisa Drown

Season of Lent

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 22 with a Soup Supper in lower fellowship hall at 6pm, hosted by the Board of Deacons. A Service of Holy Repentance will follow in the sanctuary at 6:45. Children are welcome to join families in this annual tradition.



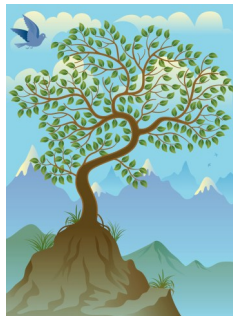
Light of the World



During February the Church Spire will be lit in loving memory of Bill Lawson Sr. & Bill Lawson Jr. by Evelyn Lawson.

The Tablet on the Cabot Street end of the building continues to be lighted in loving memory of Marian Tannebring by her husband Bill Tannebring.

Tree of Life



Welcome into God's Family: Joshua Willard Backstrom, child of Mark & Agnieszka Backstrom, who was baptized on January 8.

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to families and friends of: Helena

Standley (mother to Paulette Misins) who died January 13 and James Jacobson (brother to George Jacobson), who died January 16.

An Invitation

You are invited to attend an Ecclesiastical Council on Sunday March 4 (snow date: Sunday March 11) at 3pm in the Sanctuary of Second Congregational Church, for the purpose of examining Katherine Pinkham as to her fitness in character and training for Ordination in the United Church of Christ. A Reception will precede the Council meeting at 2:30 in fellowship hall, hosted by Spirited Women. Guests are welcome to view the proceedings; however, voting members of the Council will be represented by clergy and lay delegates in the Essex Association.

NOTES FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

REV. W. ALAN FROGGATT

(Several of you present at our New Year's Day service suggested this sermon be reprinted. Herewith:)

VINTAGE 2012

With your indulgence, I'd like to start the New Year off with an old joke I first heard from Allan Sherman, a folk singer from the fifties and sixties who specialized in parodies of popular music. Apropos to the day is the following ditty: "I knew a man named Mr. Lang, and he had a neon sign. Now Mr. Lang was very old, so he called it... old Lang's sign."

On the morning after the night before it may be the last thing people want to think about, but this morning we're going to talk a little about wine – specifically, about new wine. New Year's Day is a day for celebrating, for honoring the year gone by and for greeting the year to come. And as Jesus made abundantly clear in both the way he lived and the lessons he taught, wine is a useful commodity at times like these. In his very first miracle, his coming-out party you might say, Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana. He likened his ministry, which was refreshingly unlike anything his followers experienced, to new wine. And when he looked for a symbol of his own life, which was about to be poured out for many, Jesus turned again to the fruit of the vine. For Jesus and the community around him, wine was not only a staple, but it was something rich in character and representation. It was not so much wine for its own sake, but for the way it brought to mind the celebrations, and celebration, of life. We find an echo of Jesus' attitude in Shakespeare's Othello, when Iago, assured Cassio, "Good wine is a good familiar creature if it be well used."



"No one puts new wine into old wineskins," we heard this morning. "Otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; rather, new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved." But before we turn to the new, we need to finish the old. Leviticus reminds us, "You shall eat old grain long stored, and you shall have to clear out the old to make way for the new." Or, as some of you may have sung last night, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?" The Washington Post ran an article last week about the most important religious news stories of 2011, and as a way of preparing for vintage 2012, it may be useful to "clear out the old to make way for the new," to remember what vintage 2011 was like. The Post listed eleven important religious news stories, and there are three that I think will continue to have particular resonance in the year to come, and they are conveniently the three Ms – Mormonism, Muslims, and Millennials.

(continued on p. 4...)

Those of us who live in the fourth M – Massachusetts – know as well as anyone the reason for the first M, Mormonism, as our former governor runs for the Republican presidential nomination in a culture – or at least within his own political party – that still wonders whether Mormonism is even Christian. Couple that with the hit Broadway musical, “The Book of Mormon,” and we understand why the topic has been in the front of the public consciousness for the past year. And with the primary season ahead of us, the Christian authenticity of Mormonism is likely to remain in the conversation for the better part of the year to come.

And while some people of faith are suspicious of Mormonism, others still aren’t sure what to make of Muslims, or people who practice the faith of Islam, the Arabic word for Peace. Ten years after 9/11, there are still too many people, within and outside the church, who associate Muslims with terrorism, as though every evangelical Christian were a Timothy McVeigh. Just two weeks ago the Lowe’s Home Improvement chain and Kayak.com pulled their advertising from a television show about Muslims living in America. A group calling itself “The Florida Family Association” criticized the program as “propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda’s clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values.” I don’t know which is sadder – that the Florida Family Association calls itself a Christian organization, or that Lowe’s and Kayak caved to such a shameful claim. But it is a tension that Christianity – real Christianity – is going to have to countenance in the years to come if we expect to be taken seriously. But it does raise a related question: while the mainline church has been fairly vocal about denouncing anti-Muslim attitudes, why haven’t we heard the same voices – our voices, really – saying more about anti-Mormon attitudes? This is a mild inconsistency we’re going to have to remedy toward the latter if we expect to be taken seriously about the former.

Which in a way brings us to the third M, because it is the Millennial generation that the church is losing in large part because this is the view of Christianity – intolerant, judgmental, xenophobic, and selectively prophetic – that too often serves as the prevailing cultural caricature. It is an unfortunate truth that it is usually the loudest and most belligerent expressions of the church that tend to become the face and voice of the church to the rest of the world. This is one of the reasons it remains so important for us as a congregation to make the public witness that we are a church that welcomes everyone, regardless, period. For the church to have a future while remaining faithful to our past, we need to be clear that prejudice of any kind – especially religious prejudice – is unacceptable and untrue to our own faith.

Some of Jesus’ contemporaries had difficulty reconciling the old with the new. “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” they asked him. For them it was categorically wrong to heal on the Sabbath, even if healing meant health and wholeness to the one who was healed. For them it was a sin to eat with sinners, even though the very act brought the presence of God to those who needed it most. For them fasting was about the ritual itself, a ritual that was so deeply convinced of its own piety that it completely missed the good news of God’s forgiveness that was found in Jesus. Jesus came to celebrate life, and to do so people needed to be healed, they needed the presence of God, they needed to know they were forgiven. And it was a celebration that came to be represented by the taste of new wine he described.

When Jesus’ peers had problems with him – many of them good people, religious people, people trying to do what they believed was the right thing – it was usually because they were focused on the old forms of religious practice: Sabbath rest, avoiding the defilement of the wrong company, ritual abstention from certain food and drink. This is the way they had always done it. But what Jesus wanted was to focus them instead on the content of their religious practice: the sheer joy of knowing the presence of God, bringing bread to the hungry and wholeness to the broken lives around them, and yes, engaging in the spirit of celebration and thanksgiving at the good news of Christ’s peace and redemption. There was nothing wrong with the old ways of doing things, in their own time, but the skins had become fragile and brittle. New wine belongs in new skins; the new covenant belongs to a new day and a new age.

Will the church of 2012 look like the church of 2011? Probably somewhat. But I hope we can also look forward to new ways of doing things, of finding creative ministry among ourselves and in our community, discovering God in unexpected places, and drinking new wine from fresh wineskins.

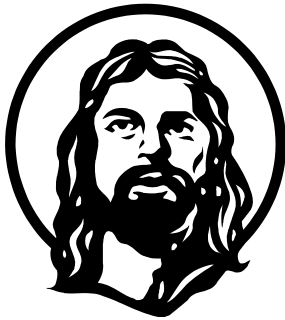
Happy New Year everyone!



Lent & Spring Study: “Saving Jesus – Redux”

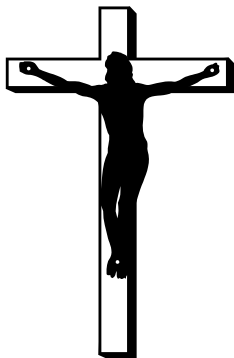


Ever feel like Jesus has either been kidnapped by the religious right, or co-opted then abandoned by the left? *Saving Jesus – Redux* is a DVD-based small group exploration of rediscovering the Jesus of the earliest church and understanding his place in the third millennium. Starting this Lent, we will engage in thought-provoking conversation around Jesus’ life and teachings, what they meant for him and his followers, and what they mean for us today. This is an extension of the familiar “Living the Questions” conversations we have had during previous studies, and features such theologians and church leaders as Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg, Amy-Jill Levine, Tex Sample and Yvette Flunder. Our sessions will meet weekly in the church parlor on Thursdays at 7:00 pm, and will look like this:



- February 16:** Jesus Through the Ages
- February 23:** Who Was Jesus?
- March 1:** What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
- March 8:** The World into which Jesus Was Born
- March 15:** Jesus’ Birth: Incarnation
- March 22:** Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition

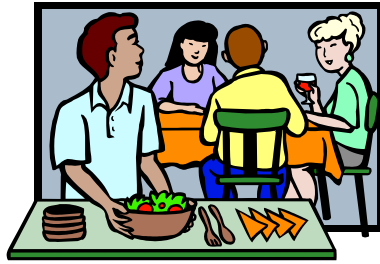
Then we break for Holy Week and Easter, and the series will resume in mid-April:



- April 12:** *Jesus’ Program: The Kingdom of God*
- April 19:** *Jesus’ Ministry of Compassion*
- April 26:** *Who Killed Jesus”*
- May 3:** *The Atonement*
- May 10:** *The Resurrection of Christ*
- May 17:** *Why Jesus is Worth Saving*

Additionally, our sermons during the season of Lent will also focus on Jesus’ life and ministry. Do join us at our Thursday Lent discussions, they are always lively and enriching.

Notes from the Board of Deacons



The Board of Deacons is planning a GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER, a socializing party, on March 24, 2012. Ruth Moran and Lois McKay will be looking for people to sign up either to be a HOST or HOSTESS (to make dinner for 4 -6 people) or a GUEST (to eat the delicious meal). It will be a time of fun and conversation.

The Deacons are planning a SOUP dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 6 pm before church services. Join us to begin your Lenten journey.

As a part of the Church Vision, an Evaluation Committee is being formed to have ongoing conversations with the Ministers about meeting the needs of the congregation of Second Church.

Thank you to those who signed up to be Hosts or Hostesses at coffee hour. Glenn Morris is still looking for volunteers.

Parish Nurse

This spring Second Church will have the services of Michelle Mastin available to serve as a parish nurse for our congregation. As a parish nurse, Michelle will aid the congregation in identifying their health and wellness needs. She will promote health and wellness within the congregation by making health education tools and informational programs available to the church's membership as well as disease management and comfort care as identified by the surveyed needs of the congregation. To this end, Michelle will be distributing a short survey to ascertain the congregation's needs and desires in this regard. Watch your mail for a copy. It will also be available in the Narthex. Please give Michelle your ideas for programs to help all of us understand better how to be healthier.



SPIRITED WOMEN

Spirited Women will meet on Mon Feb 20th at Elaine Roy's home 19 Bancroft Ave. in Beverly. Marty will be leading us in " Lectio Divina" (divine reading)

Please bring a Bible and part of the meal if you are able. Hope to see you there!

Yoga Continues

Yoga continues on Thursday evenings, 5-6:15 in the upper hall/church parlor. We are trying something new: pay as you go \$10/class. If you wish to join the circle, bring a yoga/pilates mat, blanket and dress comfortably. Questions can be directed to yoga instructor Michelle Couris: mcouris@comcast.net.

Cookbook Deadline: March 4

Take a moment to include some of your favorite recipes in the Second Church Cookbook being compiled by Nancy Lague. You can email them to Nancy: nlague@gmail.com, drop off in the church office or put them in the designated Narthex basket. It won't be complete without you being included. Don't forget to include the story behind the recipe (if there is one).

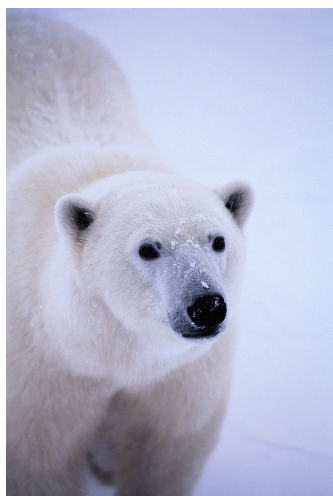


Bean Supper: February 18, 5-6pm

Prices have risen for our monthly community outreach: Adult/\$7, Senior/\$6, Child/\$3.50, Pie/\$1.50. The menu remains the same - ham, home baked pea & kidney beans, coleslaw, brown bread/rolls, beverage and pie. Stop by for a good old-fashioned Saturday night supper with good food and fellowship guaranteed! Connect with Gail Goodell to become a member of the Bean Supper Team (the folks who prepare, serve & cleanup).

NSCDC Polar Plunge

Feb 5th Super Bowl Sunday



As part of this youth group activity, Second Church has been the #1 fundraising team the last two years and we hope to make a good showing this year as well.

Our work here in support of NSCDC has publicly highlighted 2nd Church's commitment to local mission work. BSAM agreed to fund up to \$1200 in matching

donations. See Dave Mourer about plunging... Hurry team slots are going fast!or donating to the cause.

HAWC Walk

Sunday May 6th

HAWC walk Sunday May 6th HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change) formerly known as Help for Abused Women and their Children) is the oldest and



the most comprehensive domestic violence agency on the Massachusetts' North Shore. HAWC is committed to creating safe space for heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender individuals who are or have been in an abusive relationship.

BSAM has agreed to support this activity with a congregational walking team and a water table similar to last year. Let us know through the Church office if you are interested in participating. <http://www.hawcdv.org/walk-for-HAWC.html>

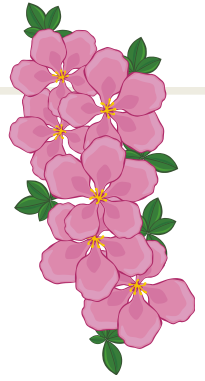
Recovery High School

We have continued our conversations with the RHS students with our January meeting focus continued on the theme of forgiveness - the conversation centered on the relative ease of forging yourself versus forgiving others. The students discussed whether one was easier than the other for them and in some cases opened up about particular challenges they had in Forgiveness. As their lives have been less than ideal, they had in some cases, stories of abuse and addiction that challenged their ability to forgive. Powerful and insightful observations..... A poem from one of the students (name withheld for privacy)

Forgive and Live On

We live in this world together
And we're all beautiful people
We make mistakes
Some more than others
Some worse than others
Yet
We all have the power to
Take in this thing called forgiveness
Some choose not to
Some realize
What this power can bring them
We are strong, we are complete
And we are relieved
Those among us who
Cannot grasp the
Concept of forgiveness
I will tell you this:
Be strong
Forgive and live on
For it will help others,
It will help yourself
And it will give you the power
To live past what you've done
And past what others have done to you
There is a place in your mind that will let you forgive
But there is another place
That tells you how to get back at somebody
You can sink to their level
Or even lower
Before you make your decision
Look at both perspectives
If you made a mistake
Would you want to be punished for it?
Or would you want to make peace
With whatever you've done?
If you understand what I'm saying
And you've made the choice
That I have made
Make peace with your demons
Find tranquility of the mind
Forgive and Live on.

PRUDENTIAL BOARD REPORT



Thank all of you for your pledges for 2012, and your pledges contributed in 2011! Our 2012 pledges from 113 families total \$230,600 - \$800 more than last year. Further 2011 collected pledges of \$227,500 are very close to what was budgeted. On the revenue side, as reported last month, reduced rental revenue caused by the unexpected departure of a few significant tenants reduced revenue by \$9,500 from projected to \$351,400. However, this was more than offset by expense reductions of over \$27,000. This resulted in a 2011 deficit of \$18,473 rather than the projected \$37,098. The primary expense reduction is in the Transitional Associate Minister's compensation and the elimination of the Christian Education Director's position. Since Heather, a beginning minister, replaced Angie, a six year experienced minister, further, Heather's new Transitional Associate Ministers position includes the entire Christian Education and Youth programs, her compensation and health insurance are substantially less than Angie's and the Christian Education directors position was eliminated when rolled into Heather's responsibilities. This was a \$16,300 savings. In addition the Music and Christian Education programs have managed to spend almost \$5,000 less than budgeted. Thanks everyone for being so careful with our limited funds. Utilities are also a couple of thousand under budget.

Much of these savings are carried over into the 2012 budget which projects a deficit of \$14,308.

Just a reminder to those of you who prefer to have your pledges paid electronically and automatically, you can arrange on the Church's web site - beverlysecond.com - to have the pledge payments made either directly from your bank account or by credit card. Simply click the "Give Now" box in the lower right hand corner and proceed to follow the instructions.

Please remember that UCC dues of \$18.50 per confirmed family member are due in February. There is an envelope for that in your box, If you do not have envelopes you can make a special electronic payment, or drop the check in the collection plate marked UCC Dues in the left hand corner.



Thank you for your prayers. I was so touched by the note I received saying that you were all praying for me. I am blessed and so grateful. It means the world to me. Love to you, from my heart to yours, Kate (Pinkham)

Thank you so much for my Christmas stocking and cards. I will enjoy trying to do the crossword puzzles while calming myself with the delicious sweets. I wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year. (Connie Whitaker)

Thank you very much for my Christmas stocking filled with goodies and good wishes. Thank you for remembering me. Happy New Year to all! Love, Connie (Dunn)
We were thrilled to receive a Christmas stocking. A big thank you to Lauren Noonan for bringing it to us and to the Middle School youth for filling the stocking with the great and useful gifts. The Christmas card with the many signatures and greetings was so special. it means a lot to us to be remembered. We wish you all a blessed new year. Love, Beverly & Hal Nichols

Thank you for the Christmas greetings. I love my life here at the Meadows. There is lots to do and many ways to keep busy. My only regret here is I miss my Church so much. My very best to all for Christmas and a healthy 2012. I miss you and love you, Doug (Littlehale)

February

Church School Calendar



- Feb 5** Church School Classes
- Feb 12** Church School Classes
- Feb 19** Sunday Club
- Feb 26** Chapel
- Mar 4** Age 4-grade 2: Godly Play Class & Special Project
Grades 3-8: Special Project & Communion

Youth Group Calendar:

- February 5th** Polar Plunge (Middle School and High School)
- February 12th** High School Youth Group
- February 18th** 26th Public School Vacation
- February 26th** Cooking for Lifebridge (Middle School)



Our Spring Service Project Theme:



Lent starts at the end of February and runs to Easter Sunday. Throughout Lent, the children of the church school will be working alongside the congregation in helping to provide food for those

in the community who do not have enough. In preparation for this project, during both Sunday Club on 2/19 and Chapel 2/26, we will be talking about the needs of the hungry and the homeless, what kind of food donation help provide the nutrition all families need, and how we are called as people of God and disciples of Christ to minister to the poor and hungry.

Gathering Change:



The children will be provided with cans so they can gather spare change to help provide fresh food to supplement canned goods distributed to families in our community. With the help of the Mission &

Social Action Board, the CE leadership will also be providing some more info and ideas for families to use as they help gather food donations. Look for more information in the weeks ahead.

Mexico Mission Fundraisers:



This month, the Mexico mission Team will be holding their first fundraisers! In February, the team will be selling Panera Gift Cards. The cards can be purchased for \$5 and the Mexico Mission earns \$2.50 for each card. These make great appreciate gifts or thank you gifts. Buy yourself or a co-worker an extra special coffee break and support a great cause!

A Night at Cielito Lindo

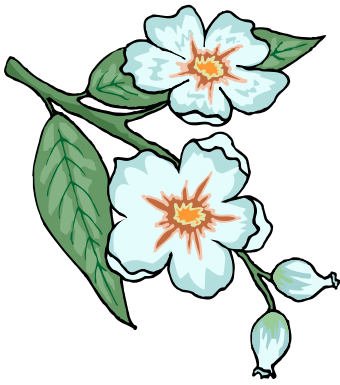
Cielito Lindo has been generous enough to once again host us for a fundraiser night. Mark your calendars for this February event. (Details to come.) Bring the family or some friends to enjoy some great food and help support Casas San Jose!

Memorial Scholarships

Applications for the three annual memorial awards offered by Second Church are available for high school & technical school seniors and college students. One application for all three scholarships can be



picked up in the church office, Narthex table or can be mailed to you by connecting with the church office (Phone:978.922.5722, Email: BeverlySecondUCC@aol.com). Please check the criteria for each award and apply for the ones for which you are eligible. Don't forget: financial need is a primary criterion for all three. The application, three letters of reference and transcript of grades are due by the April 15th deadline and it is the responsibility of the applicant to see that all have been received in the church office.



Bringing Church Home:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22 and is the season of preparation for Easter. It is a time to think about the ways in which God has blessed us through the gift of Jesus and a time to focus on the ways Jesus teaches us to live. In the Church School, as we learn more about Jesus, we will also be talking about the ways in which he has instructed us to minister to the poor and hungry. Here are some ways you and your family can serve others as you prepare for Easter during this reflective season.

Children of all ages:

1. Bring coins to church for **Gathering Change** to support **Beverly Bootstraps**!
2. Take on an extra chore to earn some spare change to donate.

Secretly select someone who seems forgotten or left out at school and do or say something nice for them every day. Drop a coin in jar for each time you do and see how many coins you have by the end of Lent.

As a whole family:

4. Throughout the season, work as a family to collect items from your home that can be donated to help others. Set a goal and keep track of the number of items you donate.
 5. Adopt a neighbor or family member who may be ill or lonely and commit as a family to caring for him/her each day or each week in the season by visiting, sending notes or cards, calling, or helping with tasks and errands.
- Pray each day of the week for a population in need and/or an organization who serves the that population.

Week 1 (2/26-3/3):

Pray for the **homeless** and for those who help them through Lifebridge and River House

Week 2 (3/4-3/10):

Pray for the **hungry** and those who provide food through food pantries and soup kitchens.

Week 3 (3/11-3/17):

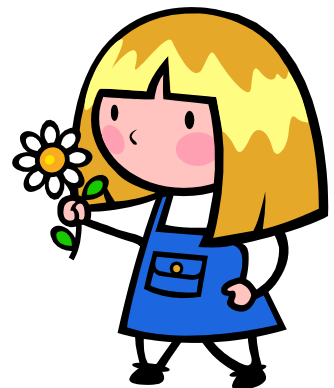
Pray for the **children** who go to school hungry or do not have enough warm clothes to wear in the winter and for those who support places like Bootstrap to help families get what they need .

Week 4 (3/18-3/24): Pray for the **elderly** who are lonely or do not have enough money to stay warm; pray also those individuals who visit them and the organizations who provide heat, food, and medicine.

Week 5 (3/25-3/31): Pray for those **who cannot find** work and for those who help them train, apply and find a job.

Week 6 (4/1-4/7):

Pray for those who are **sick or ill** and those who help care for them and make sure they have a safe, warm, comfortable place to be.





Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
35 Conant Street
Beverly MA 01915
(Address Service Requested)

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A Capital Congregational Meeting!



On Sunday February 19, Second Church will hold a Special Congregational meeting following worship to discuss and vote on our proposed Capital Campaign. The campaign is closely aligned with our Church Vision of Extravagant Welcome, Taking Care of People and Mission & Outreach, and will help us expand our ministry even as we deepen our involvement in our wider community and world. A detailed proposal will be distributed one week before the meeting, which we hope you will read and attend prepared to help us move forward into our next 300 years!