



The Spire

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

Rev. Judy Arnold
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September 2023

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Happily we bask in
this warm September
sun, which illuminates
all creatures.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Southern Living

September Services at Second Congregational Church

Sunday, September 3: Labor Day Weekend
NO Worship

Sunday, September 10

Preaching: Rev. Judy Arnold
Lay Reader: Joyce Mosher
Music: JS Del Dotto on piano

Sunday, September 17

Preaching: Rev. Judy Arnold
Lay Reader: Ruth Moran
Music: JS Del Dotto on piano

Sunday, September 24

Preaching: Rev. Judy Arnold
Lay Reader: Kathy Taylor
Music: JS Del Dotto on piano



Light of the World

During September the Church Spire is being illumined *"In loving memory of Christy Nichols and Grampy Hal by their family."*



Tree of Life

Congratulations and God's Blessings upon the following summer marriages:

- ◇ **Leslie Clark & Ed Graziano** on July 9 in Bermuda (Leslie, daughter to Mary Jane & Tom Clark)
- ◇ **Angela Mosca & Jeremiah Yang** on July 15 in Dallas, Oregon (Angela, granddaughter to Jan Allen)
- ◇ **Mary Mulholland & Scott Munroe** on July 22 in Olympia, Washington (Scott, son to Suzanne & Bob Munroe)

Message from Rev. Judy Arnold

Dear Friends

I am so glad to be with you for a while longer. The Second Congregational Church has a special feel to it. Even though your numbers are small, there is a palpable sense of community. I've had the gift of worshipping with many churches in the last year and, while each has been different, each is undergoing a new conception of church. Many churches are on a similar process to yours albeit at different stages. One thing you all have in common is your faith. Yes, there is something different coming; yes, we do not know what it will look like, yet. And, yes, we know that God is in the center of this transition bringing in alternative ways to serve God and each other. I am grateful that your transition has brought you into my life. I'll end with this short blessing from the Iona Community:

The Journey Ahead "Bless O God, the journey ahead. Bless the travelling and the arrival. Bless those who welcome and those who accept hospitality, that Christ may come among us in journeying and in stillness."

In Peace,
Judy





Neighbors in Need

Mission Offering

October 1, 2023

This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we must be better stewards of our planet!

One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations, as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Specially marked offering envelopes will be available at worship on September Sundays for your mission outreach gifts, to be dedicated on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023. Make check payable to Second Church; note: NIN Offering 2023.



***Thank you** for choosing me to receive the Second Congregational Church Scholarship. I can't wait to attend UMass-Amherst – Cody Broadbent*

***Thank you** so much for the scholarship and job opportunity. I am so grateful for everyone in the community and the chance to improve my skills for college. Again, I am so grateful that I was able to work at 2nd Church over the past few years-Claire Patch*

***A word of thanks** and appreciation for your church's contributions supporting the mission and ministry of the Conference and the UCC's national setting from January 1-July 1, 2023 in the amount of \$7,737.54 – Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, Executive Minister for Programs and Initiatives for the Southern New England Conference.*



The Central Board met August 16 as now scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, after having taken off meeting during the month of July. We received a brief overview of the interview process from Lauren Noonan, who is also on the **Search Team**. It was good to hear that the interview process for a Limited Term Pastor was moving along, and that the 2nd Zoom license approved by the CB was helpful in simplifying scheduling logistics.

Summer Services - The CB noted good response to the lay-led prayer services in the chapel introduced this year, mixed in with the traditional Homecoming Service at Lynch Park August 6th, and we expressed appreciation to those that took the lead to make those possible. Rev Judy Arnold has helped us with three regular summer Sunday services, which has allowed us to stay connected and enjoy music during the busy summer travel season.

Bridge Pastor (short term interim) - Given the current Search Team status and understanding that currently employed candidates will likely need to give 60-90 days of notice to their current employer once selected, the CB voted to invite Rev. Judy to stay with us in a Bridge Pastor position for the next few months. She has agreed to an eight-week engagement and will help us start the new church year on September 10th.

Legacy Team - The CB received an update from the Legacy Team. We are currently reviewing the Letter Of Intent we received from Lifebridge and Family Promise North Shore Boston, their service partner, as authorized at the June 18 Congregational Meeting with our lawyers. We hope members enjoyed the July Forward Chat Meet 'n Greet with Jason Etheridge from Lifebridge and Rachel Hand from FPNSB.

Zoom/Recorded Services – We bid farewell to Claire as she starts her college journey at Emerson this fall, and thank her for supporting us the last few years. The CB is working to confirm availability and training times with another BHS student, so we can continue to offer this option to those unable to attend in person going forward.

The next Central Board meeting will be September 20th, 2023, at 7:00pm. Contact the church office or one of the CB members if you'd like to attend to observe.



Report from Pastoral Search Team

We have interviewed several candidates this summer. At the present time, we have narrowed the search to two candidates each of whom we will interview for a second time in early September. We are optimistic that we'll have a new pastor by late fall.

The Search Team: David Brandt, Gail Goodell, Co-Chairs, David Boynton, Corresponding Secretary, Cheri Marquart, Recording Secretary, Donna Kendall, Lauren Noonan, Chaplains.

Finance Team Report - Regular meetings are held on second Tuesdays via Zoom.

The Finance Team skipped the July meeting and then reassembled via Zoom on August 8th where we approved the June and July Treasurer's Reports. Since our last report in the May Spire:

- Major maintenance figures now include a payment for a new rear door near the kitchen.
- Payments for Building Our Legacy Team expenses are tracked in the Non-budget Fund and the YTD total of \$7,870 includes a commercial real estate appraisal and legal expenses.
- Below is a quick YTD summary through July 31, 2023. The planned budget vs. actuals shows that we are in good shape relative to the budget with donations ahead and overall expenses below allowing us to bring in investment income only as

ACCOUNT NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Budget-YTD	2023 Actual-YTD
BUDGET INCOME			
INTEREST/INVESTMENT INCOME ¹⁾	\$ 140,724	\$ 82,075	\$ 70,182
TOTAL BUDGET DONATIONS	\$ 107,832	\$ 64,300	\$ 71,874
TOTAL BUILDING USE	\$ 81,134	\$ 47,334	\$ 52,742
REVENUE ENHANCEMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$ 329,690	\$ 193,709	\$ 194,798
BUDGET EXPENSE			
PLEDGE MISSION (10% OF PLEDGES)	\$ 10,316	\$ 6,020	\$ 6,001
PASTORAL SERVICES	\$ 114,762	\$ 66,962	\$ 69,783
MUSIC COMM. EXPENSE	\$ 30,355	\$ 17,710	\$ 15,573
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 46,354	\$ 27,048	\$ 27,881
UCC "PROPORTIONAL GIVING" & ASSOCIATION	\$ 4,400	\$ 2,569	\$ 2,095
INSURANCE CHURCH	\$ 16,628	\$ 9,702	\$ 9,695
MAJOR MAINTENANCE	\$ 28,423	\$ 16,583	\$ 9,308
MAINT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,050	\$ 1,197	\$ 1,039
SEXTON & SECURITY	\$ 14,355	\$ 8,372	\$ 7,830
CHURCH UTILITIES	\$ 49,841	\$ 29,078	\$ 29,485
ADMIN OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 13,921	\$ 8,127	\$ 5,955
SEARCH TEAM EXPENSE	\$ 1,000	\$ 581	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 332,405	\$ 193,949	\$ 184,644
1) includes budget balancer of \$63,519			



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ZOOM PRAYER

You are INVITED to join Zoom to Prayer!!

Tuesdays at 10 am on zoom – we gather to touch base with one another and share our joys, concerns and thanksgivings. Please join us... each week or whenever you can! Email Mary Jane in the office to receive the link for this zoom!