



The Spire

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

Rev. Lisa Stedman, Pastor & Transitional Minister
Chaplain: Wendy Linares
Music Director: Marshunda Smith

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April 2023



Easter Season



HOLY WEEK AT SCC

Palm Sunday Worship with Communion -
Sunday, April 2nd at 9:30 am

Week 6 in our Lenten series: *seeking* -
"Which Jesus will we follow into Jerusalem?"

Preaching: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: An expanded SCC Choir with
very special guest music leader: Rev. Kathy
Wonson Eddy, JS Del Dotto on piano

**Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and
Service** - *April 6th Supper at 6 pm,*
Service at 7 pm. Please plan to join in on this
special evening! Rev. Lisa thinks this is the
most meaningful worship service of the whole
year! Please sign up on the sheet in the sanc-
tuary on Sundays and by calling Mary Jane
in the office, to join the supper or just come at
7:00 pm.

Good Friday - *April 7th* - Open Chapel
Devotionals from 11 am to 2 pm.

Eccumenical Easter Sunrise Service -
April 9 at Lynch Park, 6:00 am

Reflection: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman, Pas-
tor & Transitional Minister, Second
Congregational Church, UCC

Easter Celebration Worship - in the
SCC Sanctuary and on Zoom at
Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 am. seeking -
"Who are you looking for?"

Be part of the joyful celebration of
Christ's Resurrection!! Our Choir &
Handbells will share an anthem, and we
will share the Good News of God's
Love!

Post-Easter Worship in April at SCC

Sunday, April 16 - Worship in the Sanctuary
(and on zoom)

First Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Rev. Wendy Linares (Rev. Lisa will
be on vacation)

Music: TBD

Sunday, April 23 - Worship in the Sanctuary
(and on zoom)

Second Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Rev. Lisa Stedman Prayers: Wendy
Linares

Music: SCC Choir with Director Marshunda
Smith, JA Del Dotto on piano

Sunday, April 30 - Worship in the Sanctuary
(and on zoom)

Third Sunday of Easter with Special Worship
Guests: The Just Peace Players presenting
Women of the Greatest Generation

Prayers with Revs. Wendy & Lisa, Hymns with
JS Del Dotto on piano



Tree of Life

Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to family and friends of: **Thomas W. Clark** (wife Mary Jane), who died March 8; **Lorelei Marie Azarian** (husband Bill Squibb), who died March 13; **Richard Bushby** (sister Donna Kendall), who died March 18; and **Walter Holcomb** (wife Susan), who died March 19.

Birthday Blessings to **Ruth Cleveland**, who will celebrate her 100th year on April 19 (10 Museum Road, Beverly) and **Roger Wonson**, his 99th year on April 20 (Putnam Farm #101, 9 Summer Street, Danvers MA 01923).

Light of the World

During April the Church Spire is being lit *In Loving Memory* of Judy Andrews Eramo, her parents Ruth and Wilbur Andrews and son David Kuell.

Easter blossoms

Once again symbols of new life will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th. Featured will be lilies, tulips (red, pink, purple, orange), and daffodils at \$9 each – check: SCC, note: Easter plant.

Please indicate if your plant is in memory or honor of a loved one. Orders will be received on Sunday mornings at worship time or by phone: 978.922.5722 or email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com.

Deadline to place an order is Monday, April 3rd. Plants may be picked up following Easter Worship.



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. After Easter, we'll be exploring a new theme! Please join us... each week or whenever you can! Email Mary Jane in the office to receive the link for this zoom!

Pastoral Ponderings

As we move into the final 10 days before Easter, we have much to be excited about and much to look forward to. Celebrating Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are always special occasions for the church. During these days, we experience the highs and lows of our faith story, remembering Jesus' teachings and expressions of love, as well as his facing betrayal, trial and crucifixion, and his ultimate resurrection.

It is my sincere prayer that you will find the depths and joys of these days in your life, and find that your faith is strengthened and renewed as well. The worship services and the gathering of the community in this time can be especially rich. Please join us!

Faithfully,

Lisa

Rev. Lisa Vacation Schedule Note

Lisa will be off on vacation the week after Easter, Monday, April 10 through Monday, April 17. If you are in need of support during this time, please be in touch with Rev. Wendy or with Mary Jane in the office. Blessings!!



The Poem on the following page is by:

Rev. Sarah Speed, *Founding Creative Partner of A Sanctified Art* Rev. Sarah Speed (*she/her*) is the Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Membership at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. You can find her daily poems on Instagram and Facebook: @writingthegood | writingthegood.com

EASTER SUNDAY

seeking: *Who are you looking for?*

lost and found

Mary wept.

Standing in the garden,
soft dirt under her feet,
sun still tucked away,
sleeping under the horizon.

The other disciples left,
but Mary stayed.

Mary wept.

Shoulders shaking,
tears running down her face.

She said, *They have taken my Lord away,
and I don't know where they put him.*

But here's what Easter taught me:

if you think you've lost God,
if it feels like heaven has slipped through the cracks,
if you feel like the night will never end,
then know, there is no hide-and-seek with the divine
that doesn't end in you being found.

Stay still.

Keep breathing.

God is closer than you think.

Rev. Sarah Speed

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Hello Church Family and Friends,

Well, here we are in the month of April. Springtime!!! I hope this finds you well and ready for new life popping up in unexpected ways and places. As we begin a new season, I thought this piece from poet John O'Donohue might be good food for thought. I hope you find it thought provoking and meaningful.

As always, please reach out if I can be of support.

At The End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions by John O' Donohue

What dreams did I create last night?

Where did my eyes linger today?

Where was I blind?

What new thoughts visited me?

Whom did I neglect?

What did I begin today that might endure?

How were my conversations?

With whom did I feel most myself today?

Where did I allow myself to receive love?

What did I avoid today?

From this evidence-why was I given this day?

Warm Springtime blessings to all of you, Wendy

Wendylinares60@gmail.com 508 451 7585





Thank you to my church family for the prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery from my recent knee surgery. I have appreciated all the cards and calls. My recovery is going well! God bless you all. (Jeanie Murray)

Gratitude for your prayers and kind words upon the recent death of my husband Tom. (Mary Jane Clark)

I wrap the prayer shawl around me in the evening while watching TV. Knowing so many CARE really helps. (Donna Kendall)

2023 SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Don't forget to remind upcoming high school seniors and college students the deadline is **April 15th** for applying for a 2023 *Second Congregational Church Scholarship*. Applications available in church office and on Narthex table for pickup or you can phone office: 978.922.5722 or email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com.



Attention church
Leaders: Annual
reports due in church
office April 15



Second Congregational Central Board

The Central Board received a brief from the **Building Our Legacy Team**, focusing on Second Church's future. The commercial appraisal has been completed, and we have an initial agreement with a lawyer experienced in this area, and by the time you read this, hopefully we will have approved the full \$40,000 reserve to be set aside for Legacy Expenses. Please read the more detailed update from the Legacy Team, and know that the CB appreciates the efforts being put forth on Second Church's behalf.

We also received a status on the **Pastoral Search Team** from Rev. Lisa, and are pleased with the progress. We expect that the profile will be completed in the next several weeks and the team can begin screening candidates. The CB has preliminary plans for the summer should we not have the new Transitional Legacy Minister recruited and in place by July. Alex Shea Will from SNEUCC continues to support our efforts.

The **Choir and Music Director** have requested SCC consider hiring a bass and a tenor singer to supplement the current voices. At March's meeting, the CB affirmed a one month trial (effectively 3 Sundays due to Marshunda's schedule) with the current budget allocated, and then we will reevaluate the request after that.

Tech/microphone issues – the issues with microphones in church and on Zoom in March reinforced the need for a Checklist for Sunday morning setup. One mic was dead, and someone had turned off the switch that activates the mics by the piano/choir up front, which led to mic over-adjustments and feedback/popping in the sanctuary. The CB will help David & Claire with creating a Sunday morning setup checklist. We will also confirm with our NSCS tenants to insure they understand the need to avoid making unauthorized adjustments.

Building Our Legacy Team Update

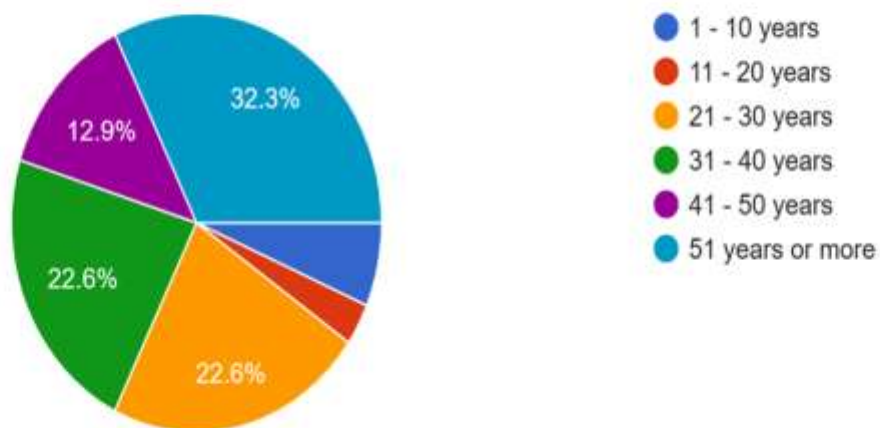
The Building Our Legacy Team continues to be very active. Its members are Mac Donaldson, Dale Earl, Doug Marquart, Dale Miller-Bouton, Peg Round, Kathy Taylor and Jack Terrill as Chair. We held our monthly meeting on March 7, 2023. We completed several tasks that we identified as necessary to assist our efforts. A commercial appraisal was conducted, and we have the results. Unfortunately, we are keeping the value confidential for the time being. We also interviewed 3 attorneys and have made a decision on which one would be best to assist us in going forward. We continue to talk to interested parties.

The Team sent out a survey in February and we were pleased that a cross section of the church responded both by clicking on the link and doing it online. Others chose to complete the paper version. In either case, the results were recorded. The focus of this month's report is on the survey results. Note that people responding could check as many boxes as they wanted for many of the questions.

The top responses to each question follow:

How many years have you been coming to Second Congregational Church?

31 responses



We asked if we were to sell or gift the building, what should it be used for:

Only 5 people thought it should be used for commercial purposes with office space the most popular.

23 people favored the church going to community use. The top 3 results:

Meeting space for charity

Worship space

Music/concert space

26 people favored giving the church to charity with the top 3 responses:

Center for nonprofit services

Temporary housing for homeless families

Temporary housing for the homeless

We asked how the other funds such as our endowments should be distributed? The top 3 results:

Family Promise

Recovery High School

Family Service agency

Thank you to all who completed the survey. Your responses and the comments provided will guide us moving forward.

By the time you read this, the congregational meeting on the use of funds for attorney services will have been held. Funds have already been moved from our investments to cover the expected costs. The congregational meeting was necessary to allow us to pay for the attorney services on a timely basis as well as other anticipated expenses.

Thank you for your continuing support. We are diligently working, and I fully expect that we will be able to come to the congregation with a recommendation by the end of June.

Jack Terrill, Chair

Building Our Legacy Team

Another Good Read from Pastor Lisa

10 ways to avoid inadvertent antisemitism during Holy Week

By Elena Procaro-Foley Brother John G. Driscoll Professor of Jewish-Catholic Studies, Iona University

Preaching the gospel without rancor toward Judaism and without words that do violence to Jews is a sacred obligation at any time of the liturgical year. But it's especially important during Holy Week, once the most dangerous time for Jews.

Congregational leaders have a duty to make congregants aware of the history and to take care not to reinforce anti-Jewish tropes and stereotypes. To do less during this time of resurgent antisemitism and insecurity for Jews is to risk perpetuating anti-Jewish hate...

To read the whole article, use this link:

[https://faithandleadership.com/10-ways-avoid-inadvertent-antisemitism-during-holy-week?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=10 ways to avoid inadvertent antisemitism during Holy Week&utm_campaign=fl_newsletter](https://faithandleadership.com/10-ways-avoid-inadvertent-antisemitism-during-holy-week?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=10%20ways%20to%20avoid%20inadvertent%20antisemitism%20during%20Holy%20Week&utm_campaign=fl_newsletter)

From the UCC

Open and Affirming/LGBTQ

Four hundred twenty-six anti-LGBT legislations have been introduced nationwide since the beginning of 2023.

Read Michael Streib's story, **'Jesus' Guest List is Under Attack'**, and take action.

<https://www.sneucc.org/blogdetail/jesus-guest-list-is-under-attack-statement-on-the-massive-rise-in-anti-lgbtq-legislation-17357293>





Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
35 Conant Street
Beverly MA 01915



The April Spirited Women meeting will be on April 2 in the parlor after worship. I have more Ukrainian Easter egg wraps left over from a previous meeting. Let's do it again!

In case you don't know, the process involves dipping plastic Easter eggs into boiling water. But before we plunge them into water we slip the egg into a plastic sleeve with Ukrainian designs on it. The hot water instantly adheres the artwork to the egg! It's really fun and will be an Easter memento you will have for years.

I hope you will join us for the project and for sharing what your Easter plans might be!