



# The Spire

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

Rev. Judy Arnold  
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November 2023

## Pick Up Turkey Dinner



Saturday, November 18th

10am—12 noon, handicap door

Menu: turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables

\$7.00 per meal cash/check

Order deadline: November 5th

Phone office: **978.922.5722** or

Email: [parishadmin@beverlysecond.com](mailto:parishadmin@beverlysecond.com)

## *November Services at Second Congregational Church*

### **November 5**

– 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Rev. Judy Arnold

Lay Reader: Suzanne Munroe

### **November 12**

– 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Rev. Judy Arnold

Lay Reader: Glenn Morris

### **November 19**

– 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Rev. Judy Arnold

Lay Reader: Leah Falkowski

### **November 26** -Reign of Christ

Sermon: Rev. Adam Isbitsky

Lay Reader: Donna Kendall



## *Light of the World*

During November the Church Spire is being illumined *“In loving memory of Richard & Carolyn Farley,”* by their daughter Debra.

## Thank You

Gratitude is extended for supporting the annual ***Neighbors in Need*** special offering. Your gifts provide environmental grants centering on being better stewards of our planet; also continue to support the *Council for American Indian Ministry*.

THANKS to all who participated and donated to Family Promise’s ***2023 Annual Walk to End Homelessness*** on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dear Members and Friends of  
2nd Congregational Church,

On behalf of the Legacy Pastoral Search  
Committee, I have the great joy to announce that



call has been extended and accepted by Adam Isbitsky to be our new pastor. The decision was unanimous.

Adam is a bright and cheerful young man, although, as he told us, he's older than Jesus was. He carries the blessings and love of God in his heart. He is eager to extend that care to all of us at Second Congregational Church.

Reverend Isbitsky will be with us to preach at our regular service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 26, 2023, after which we will hold a congregational meeting and vote whether or not to accept the recommendation of the committee.

Adam is a 2017 graduate of Andover Newton Theological Seminary, where he received a Master of Divinity degree. During his 3 years at Andover-Newton, he was the recipient of the Theological School Presidential Scholarship, as well as the Award for Campus Leadership, 2017, Jonathan Edwards Honor Society, 2017, UCC William B. Johnson Scholarship, 2016-2017, and the Brown Endowment Scholarship 2016-2017.

In 2018, he completed Clinical Pastoral Education in the Intensive and Critical Care Units at St. Vincent's Hospital at Worcester Medical Center. He has also completed training in the Interim Ministry Network, Foundations of Transitional Ministry (2019-2020). This is the ecumenically recognized gold standard training for pastors looking for specialty in change and transition.

Needless to say, the Search Committee is extremely excited about Adam. We hope you will want to be with us to meet him, to hear him preach and to vote on November 26, 2023. Remember that in order for the vote to pass, there will need to be a quorum of the membership at the meeting.

For the Committee,

Gail Goodell  
Co-Chair

COMMITTEE: David Brandt, David Boynton, Donna Kendall, Cheri Marquart, and Lauren Noonan.



***Bootstraps  
"Fixin's for the feast Thanksgiving  
Bag and Gift Card Drive"  
\$40 grocery store gift cards***

Fixin's:

Cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy, instant potatoes, canned vegetables

The goal is to provide 550 fixin's for the bags  
Gift cards to purchase a turkey, other protein  
or additional groceries.

Drop off contributions **by Sunday, November 12th** to church office.

Help ensure that our neighbors have a reason to be thankful.





The Central Board met October 18th (now scheduled the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month), after having canceled the September meeting due to lacking a quorum to proceed. We received an uplifting report from Lauren Noonan, who is also on the **Search Team**, asking us to keep prayers coming for a successful next step soon. [Update: prayers answered with Gail Goodell reading a letter to the congregation on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> announcing that a call has been extended and accepted by the Rev. Adam Isbitsky to be our new pastor. A copy of the letter will be sent to everyone this week. Rev. Isbitsky will be with us to preach at our regular service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 26, 2023, after which we will hold a congregational meeting and vote whether to accept the recommendation of the committee.]

**Bridge Pastor and Advent/Christmas Planning** – After receiving the Search Team report, the Central Board has asked Rev. Judy to stay with Second Church through the Advent Season and into early January. After much discussion, the CB hopes to offer our regular Sunday Service December 24 at 9:30am, and the Family/Children’s Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm as well. Our current plan is for no services on December 25 or December 31. Keep your eyes and hearts open as our plans further evolve and the opportunity to participate presents itself during this wonderful season.

**Legacy Team** - The Legacy Team continues its work to refine the details of the letter of intent from Lifebridge. With the help of our lawyers, we are also drafting documents for a preliminary review by the state. As a reminder, these draft intentions are just that, and the Legacy Team fully understands the need for congregational review and vote before any sale or other asset distribution would be authorized.

**Fall Stewardship and 2024 Budget Planning** – You should have received the letter from our Finance Team recently. Please prayerfully consider how you can help, as we will need to have an approved Budget to continue to pay for our staff, maintain our beautiful building, and pay operating costs, while we work through the process of finalizing Second Church’s Legacy in the Beverly community.

**Coffee and Fellowship After Church** – Hopefully, you’ve noticed that the Central Board purchased a single serving coffee maker, so we can serve coffee in the Narthex after church. If you’re inclined to help with the simple set up, clean up or bring a baked item to share, let one of the Central Board members know.

**Zoom/Recorded Services** – We hope to have a person to replace Claire soon. Our thanks to David Brandt for manning the controls whenever he is available while we search for her replacement.

The next Central Board meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00pm. Contact the church office or one of the CB members if you’d like to attend to observe.

## Words from you Area Conference Minister

Good People:

In January 2012, I traveled to the Middle East with two dozen others to meet Israelis and Palestinians dedicated to real and lasting peace. These weren't government officials or military leaders; they were ordinary people striving to make a difference.



In the living room of a Jewish Israeli woman's home in Sderot, we listened as she described the efforts of her and her peers to connect and build relationships with mothers across the barriers in Gaza. I've thought of her often this past week, and all that she and others risked as unimaginable violence swept through her city.

As the news unfolds before our eyes, I find myself oscillating between emotional extremes: grief and anger, hope and despair, surrender and rage. I struggle to settle on what I should be feeling or even what is permissible.

Today, a friend serendipitously sent me a photo of us from our trip, triggering another memory: our visit to a Palestinian Christian farm known as the Tent of Nations. Situated southwest of Bethlehem in the West Bank, they have endured more than their fair share of hardship and adversity over the previous decades. Despite the countless reasons to abandon their cause, the words painted on a rock on their property endure: "We refuse to be enemies."

As I witness war unfold in Israel and Palestine, and in fact, anywhere, I am grounded by their commitment to the vision of the Tent of Nations. We must refuse to be enemies. If they can do it, the imperative is all the more profound for me, for us.

Might the bravery of those who refuse to be enemies ground you, too.

With love and thanks,  
Alex

Rev. Alex Shea Will  
Area Conference Minister  
Northeast Region (Metropolitan Boston and Northeast Associations)

Rev. Shea Will can be reached at [sheawilla@sneucc.org](mailto:sheawilla@sneucc.org) or call/text: 508-244-4769.





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United Church of Christ  
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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!