



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
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February 2024

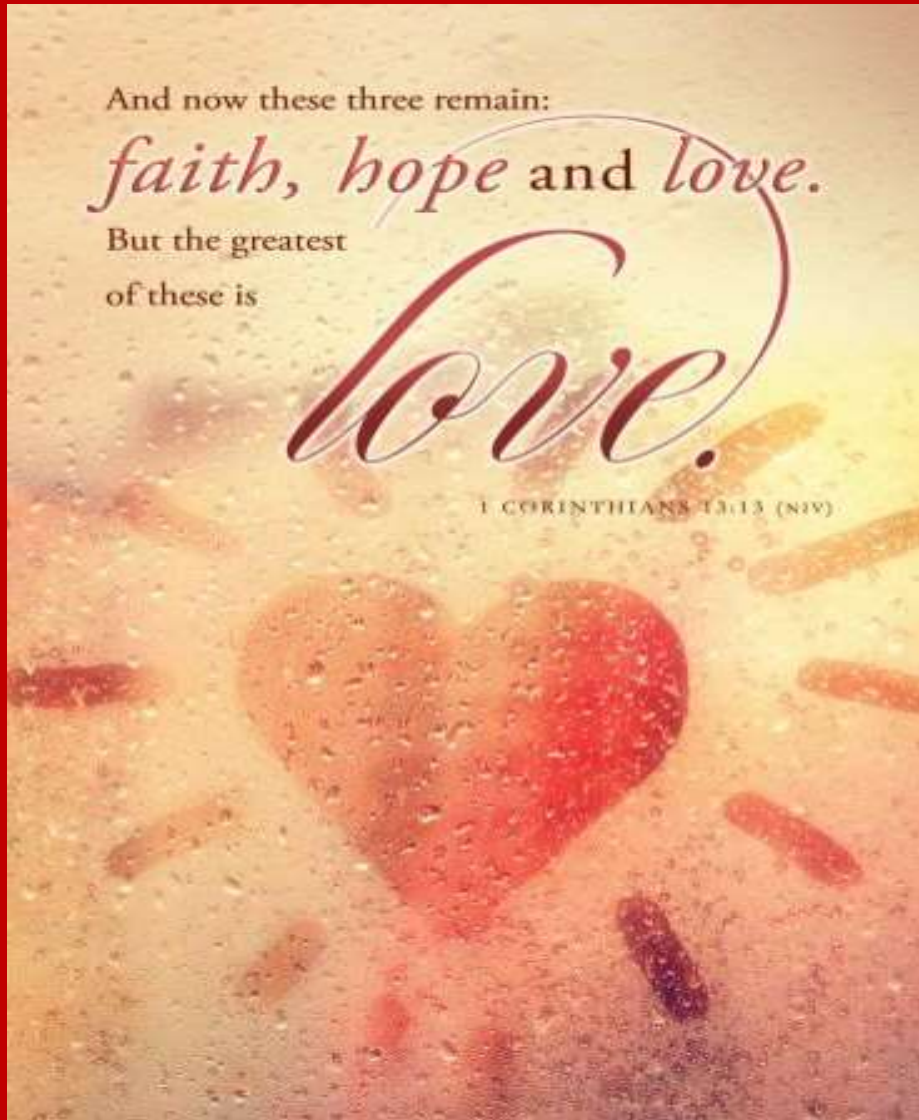
And now these three remain:

faith, hope and love.

But the greatest
of these is

love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (NIV)



*February Services at Second
Congregational Church*



- 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Communion
Rev. Adam Isbitsky
Marty Brandt – Lay Reader
- 11 Transfiguration Sunday
Rev. Adam Isbitsky
Dale Earl – Lay Reader
- 14 Ash Wednesday
Soup Supper 6pm - Hall
Worship 7pm – Chapel
- 18 1st Sunday in Lent
Rev. Adam Isbitsky
Jack Terrill – Lay Reader
- 25 2nd Sunday in Lent
Rev. Adam Isbitsky
Gail Goodell – Lay Reader

Light of the World

During the month of February, the Church Spire will be illuminated in loving memory of **Jack & Jean Card** by their daughter Marcia (Card) Reilly and son Jack Card, Jr.



Tree of Life

A Warm Welcome is extended to Rev. Adam Isbitsky, who joined the staff as Legacy Pastor on January 22nd, leading our faith community into the future.

Deep Gratitude is extended to Rev. Judith Arnold for shepherding our Second Congregational Church community during the past six months.



Soups Needed

Sign up on Sunday mornings or contact the church office to provide one of your soup specialties at the Soup Supper on February 14 at 6pm, as we welcome the 2024 Lenten season. Also, let us know if you plan to join us.

Message from Adam

Hello Church!

It seems like my candidating Sunday was so long ago, and yet also like it was just yesterday. In real time, two months have passed, and I have begun my work this week, getting to know our staff and getting to know you! I'm excited to begin our work together during this season as your Legacy Pastor. Together, we will rise to the occasion over this coming time to transition from the way we have always known our church to be into something that will create a lasting legacy for our community.

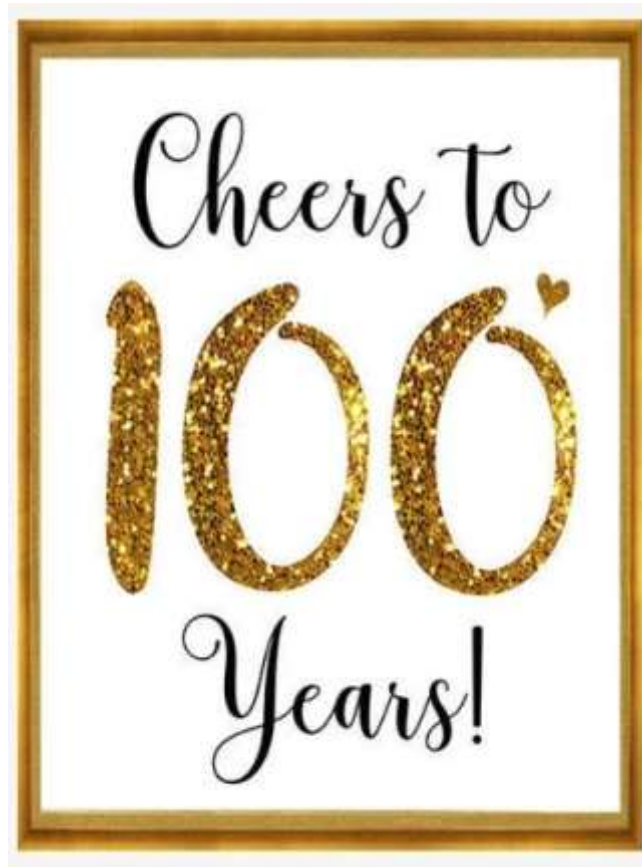
It seems fitting that as we begin our time together Lent is right around the corner. Lent is that time when we prepare ourselves spiritually for the story of Jesus's death and resurrection that form the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Sometimes, the truly awesome and astounding mystery that Jesus died and yet came back through death to resurrection becomes domesticated. Death and resurrection becomes almost boring. No! I want us to remember how wild that is. As we go through the process of building our legacy, we get to bring to life a death and resurrection of our church. We get to unfold this mystery for ourselves.

Wait—bring to *life* a *death*? What am I talking about??? That's right, we are Easter people all year round, and we believe in resurrections big and small. Take note of every time you see a new beginning come out of something that ends. What do you notice happens next? Track the possibilities!

As we go through the next several weeks, I want to meet each and every one of you! If you feel like you've been active or not so much, if you've been around a long time, or not so long, I want to meet you! I would love to have a one-on-one conversation with every active member by Easter. Can we work together to make that happen? I think so! So please do reach out to me to find a time: you can email me at revadam@beverlysecond.com

or call/text me at 978-473-7288. I plan to be in Beverly on Sunday mornings, of course, and also daytime on Mondays and Wednesdays during the week. My regular days off will be Friday and Saturday. As I am working about 32 hours a week, I will not be around Beverly all the time in the office but I am available anytime for emergencies. Please introduce yourself!

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Adam



Time to Honor Roger

Roger Wonson will be celebrating his 100th year on April 20, 2024. His family is compiling a notebook of wishes and memories for him. You are invited to send your good wishes and memories (8 ½ x 11 paper) by end of February to his daughter, Kathy Wonson Eddy, 3218 Braintree Hill Road, Braintree, VT 05060.



Read the New Testament in 40 Days for Lent 2024 Challenge

Begins Ash Wednesday and includes all 40 days of Lent (no Sundays)

Selections are chosen in approximately the chronological order in which they may have been written, with some exceptions to create thematic pairings.



Reading takes approximately 20-40 minutes per day.

Day	Date	Book(s)	Chapters
1	2/14	James & Galatians	all
2	2/15	1 Thessalonians & 2 Thessalonians	all
3	2/16	Ephesians & Philippians	all
4	2/17	Philemon & Colossians	all
5	2/19	1 Corinthians	1-9
6	2/20	1 Corinthians	10-16
7	2/21	2 Corinthians	1-13
8	2/22	Romans	1-6
9	2/23	Romans	7-11
10	2/24	Romans	12-16
11	2/26	Mark	1-6
12	2/27	Mark	7-11
13	2/28	Mark	12-16
14	2/29	Matthew	1-7
15	3/1	Matthew	8-12
16	3/2	Matthew	13-18
17	3/4	Matthew	19-24
18	3/5	Matthew	25-28
19	3/6	Luke	1-4
20	3/7	Luke	5-9

Day	Date	Book(s)	Chapters
21	3/8	Luke	10-13
22	3/9	Luke	14-19
23	3/11	Luke	20-24
24	3/12	Acts	1-6
25	3/13	Acts	7-11
26	3/14	Acts	12-17
27	3/15	Acts	18-22
28	3/16	Acts	23-28
29	3/18	1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus	all
30	3/19	1 Peter & 2 Peter	all
31	3/20	Hebrews	1-7
32	3/21	Hebrews	8-13
33	3/22	1 John, 2 John, 3 John & Jude	all
34	3/23	John	1-5
35	3/25	John	6-10
36	3/26	John	11-15
37	3/27	John	16-21
38	3/28	Revelation	1-7
39	3/29	Revelation	8-15
40	3/30	Revelation	16-22



The Central Board met January 17th. We spent the first part of the meeting reflecting on Rev. Judy Arnold's time with us, and making plans to show her Second Church's appreciation for helping us feel a level of spiritual continuity on most Sundays from last September till last month as we continue to walk this Legacy Church path. By the time you read this, **Reverend Adam Isbitsky will have joined us as Second Church's next pastor.**

Rev. Adam leads his first service as SCC pastor January 28, 2024! We hope you can attend in person or via Zoom, or get a chance to view on Facebook later in the week.

Forward Chats – there baaaaccckkkk! As Rev Adam is now in place, the Central Board started making plans for quarterly Forward Chat discussions, as the congregation desires. The Central Board has a couple of topics in mind, but if you have a topic that needs a bit of longer form discussion, let us know and it will be considered.

Legacy Team Update – The Legacy Team report out continues to be dominated by meetings with lawyers as we make our way forward. Right now, there are not a lot of details to share, but we expect that to change in the spring. January's Spire included a 2023 Year in Review, if you've not yet read that summary. Please keep the LT in your prayers.

Finance Team and 2023 Treasurer's Report – The Finance Team report included their acceptance of Annual Treasurer's report for 2023 (from David Varga) at their January meeting. Pledges (thank you!) and income came in very close to plan; expenses were lower after Rev. Lisa's retirement in June and only limited pastoral expenses were incurred for the 2nd half of 2023, due to the extended pastoral search time. This resulted in a \$21K deficit vs the \$60k projected when the 2023 budget was authorized by the congregation.

Mission/Social Action – The Central Board confirmed the Mission/Social Action Team gifted \$9000 out of the Mission Endowment Fund in 2023, as conveyed last fall. We are fortunate to still be able to make a large impact on the local community, thanks to the vision and generosity of our prior and current members, as well as the Finance Team's investing stewardship. The Mission Fund is one of the Forward Chat topics under consideration, for both 2023 reporting results and 2024 plan for continued giving.

Zoom Broadcast – the CB continues to search for a paid employee to stream and record the Zoom broadcast on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or know of someone, contact Dale or one of the Central Board members, or call Mary Jane in the Church office to pass along info. Continued many thanks to David Brandt for taking on that task as he is able while we make more permanent plans. The next Central Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 21st at 7:00 pm. Contact the church office or one of the CB members if you'd like to attend to observe.

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

The Finance Team recommended to the Central Board a proposed 2024 budget that was approved at the congregational meeting on December 17, 2023. Below is a brief summary of the 2023 budget and actual results that will be part of the church's Annual Report presented in May. The third column shows the 2024 budget for comparison. Due to lower expenses in 2023, we did not need to use a large portion of the anticipated budget balancer, taken from invested funds. Our thanks to members of the congregation for their pledges and other support throughout the past year.

	Budget	Actual	Budget
BUDGET INCOME			
INTEREST/INVESTMENT INCOME ¹⁾	\$ 140,724	\$ 85,077	\$ 147,145
TOTAL BUDGET DONATIONS	\$ 107,832	\$ 107,781	\$ 87,530
TOTAL BUILDING USE	\$ 81,134	\$ 82,383	\$ 79,375
REVENUE ENHANCEMENT	\$ -	\$ 486	\$ -
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$ 329,690	\$ 275,727	\$ 314,050
BUDGET EXPENSE			
PLEDGE MISSION (10% OF PLEDGES)	\$ 10,316	\$ 10,469	\$ 20,122
PASTORAL SERVICES	\$ 114,762	\$ 74,283	\$ 89,333
MUSIC COMM. EXPENSE	\$ 30,355	\$ 27,467	\$ 31,913
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 46,354	\$ 47,993	\$ 47,052
UCC "PROPORTIONAL GIVING" & ASSOCIATION	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,511	\$ 4,400
INSURANCE CHURCH	\$ 16,628	\$ 20,231	\$ 16,800
MAJOR MAINTENANCE	\$ 28,423	\$ 14,300	\$ 28,548
MAINT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,227	\$ 2,050
SEXTON & SECURITY	\$ 14,355	\$ 13,572	\$ 13,982
CHURCH UTILITIES	\$ 49,841	\$ 49,204	\$ 46,050
ADMIN OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 13,921	\$ 11,077	\$ 13,550
SEARCH TEAM EXPENSE	\$ 1,000	\$ 391	\$ 250
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 332,405	\$ 275,724	\$ 314,050
1) includes 2024 budget balancer of \$71,070			



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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!