



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
Music Director: Marshunda Smith

Phone: 978.922.5722

Fax: 978.922.3064

Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

www.facebook.com/BeverlySecond

March 2024

**Wandering
Heart**

Figuring out faith
with Peter

~ March Lenten Worship ~
Second Congregational
United Church of Christ
Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

Wandering Heart Series Daily Devotional Booklet

A Sanctified Art has provided a special e-reader version of a devotional for this series, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/1072485778/> In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it . Let the office know if you need a paper copy.

3 **3rd Sunday in Lent**

Rev. Adam Isbitsky
Praise the Mount

Matthew 16:13-20 & Psalm 19

Lay Reader, Nancy Koch

10 **4th Sunday in Lent**

Rev. Adam Isbitsky
“I’m Fixed Upon It”

Matthew 16:21-23 & Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

Lay Reader, Suzanne Munroe

17 **5th Sunday in Lent**

Rev. Adam Isbitsky
“Teach Me”

Matthew 18:15-22 & Psalm 119:9-16

Lay Reader, Glenn Morris

24 **Palm Sunday**

Rev. Adam Isbitsky
“Songs of Loudest Praise”
John 12:12-16

28 **Maundy Thursday Worship**

6:00pm Potluck Meal with
Communion

(please sign up to bring something)

Matthew 26:20-30

7:00pm Stations of Peter Liturgy

“Prone to Leave the God I Love”

John 13:1-38; 18:1-19:30

29 **Good Friday Open Chapel**

12:00-3:00 Sanctuary Open for
Personal Prayer Reflective material
will be available

31 **Sunrise Ecumenical Worship**

Lynch Park – 6:15 a.m.

**Easter Worship at Second
Church & on zoom–9:30 a.m.**

Includes a Time for Children

Rev. Adam Isbitsky

“And I Hope”

Luke 24:1-12

Lay Reader, Cheri Marquart



Tree of Life

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of:

Shirley M. Ernst, who died February 3rd. Cards can be sent to the family c/o Shirley's daughter Pamela Card, 165 Crow Lane, Newburyport MA 01950.

Joseph D. Brain, who died January 29th. Joe is husband to former minister Judy Brain, 59 Wood Drive, Essex, MA 01929.



A Note from Adam

It has been lovely this past first month getting to know our congregation. It is my hope to connect with each and every member outside of worship – through a cup of coffee or tea, a phone or Zoom call, a meal, or in-person conversation! So please do reach out to me to find a time to get together: you can email me at revadam@beverlysecond.com or call/text me at 978-473-7288. I am generally in the office on Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays.

Rev. Adam Isbitsky, Legacy Pastor
Second Congregational Church, Beverly, MA, UCC
cell: 978-473-7288 revadam@beverlysecond.com



One Great Hour of Sharing



2024 is the 75th anniversary year of One Great Hour of Sharing, which is collected by many denominations and Church World Service. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

Through this offering we support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. We empower partners worldwide in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction.

Our gifts help families find safety in shelters instead of on the streets. Our gifts allow women to sell locally sourced produce and other food items to support their families. Our gifts allow other women to create cooperatives so that they can do more together than they could do separately. Our gifts support those who are recovering from trauma. We cannot be in all of these places ourselves or even see them with our own eyes, but through our generous tithes, offerings, and special gifts, we can share abundant light.

We will have a special recognition of this offering during worship on March 10, but you may make your donation at any time during the month. Please make your offering (checks can be made out to the church) and note OGHS on your check or envelope. Our communities and world need these blessings so very much right now. Let us share our blessings!



The Central Board met February 21. We welcomed Rev. Adam to his first meeting and heard from him about his first month. He has been filling out forms as a new hire, meeting staff and members of congregation, attending meetings and meeting clergy in the community. He expressed interest in being more active on the church's Facebook page and will be introducing an online devotional. He is emailing each church member and will be calling those without email access.

Building Our Legacy Team Update – The Team has been working with their attorneys on a real estate Zoning Opinion and on a letter to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) laying out the church's intended plans for the building. Lifebridge's Letter of Interest will accompany the letter, and both are expected to be submitted this week. This is a preliminary inquiry to determine if the AGO will consider the church's proposal that our legacy would be to follow our long term mission rather than transfer the church to another house of worship.

Forward Chats – After reviewing several options there will be a Forward Chat on Sunday, March 17, after church. The topic will be a presentation by Rev. Adam called the "Death Café". More information will be available on this topic as the date approaches.

SNEUCC Super Saturday on March 9th - The Southern New England Conference is hosting an event where there will be all day worship and workshops. This is being held in Southbridge, MA and preregistration is required by February 26. More information can be found at [Super Saturday 2024: Foundations - Southern New England Conference of the UCC \(sneucc.org\)](https://sneucc.org/super-saturday-2024-foundations-southern-new-england-conference-of-the-ucc)

Property Team / Building Use – several projects were reported on including: 1) the Lower Parish Hall water bubbler was removed; 2) several vendors are coming in to look at the lift and give quotes. A determination will be made whether it can be repaired or will need to be replaced; 3) the North Shore Christian School have located a place to move to and hope to be out by the end of summer. We are in discussions on what they will need (dumpster, storage pods, places to put boxes, etc.)

Technology Team – It was reported that representatives interviewed a candidate for the part time position to coordinate the Sunday service/Zoom broadcast. They have made an offer and are waiting to hear if he is interested. The position would be paid at \$25/hour so working Sundays would be \$50.

Finance Team – The Finance Team reported on its February meeting. Since we are one month into the new year there was nothing significant to report. Both revenues and expenses are tracking close to the annual budget. The Team is exploring making the investments safer from market fluctuations. The past focus had been on long-term investments which could weather the market's ups and downs. Now that the focus is just a few years, it makes sense to look at safer financial instruments.

The next Central Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 20th** at 7:00 pm. Contact the church office or one of the Central Board members if you would like to participate.

Death Café:

March 17 after worship in the chapel

Jesus spoke openly to those close to him about death. Death is not a comfortable subject for many of us, yet we all know it affects each and every one of us. Lent is a perfect opportunity for us to break open this subject in community. Come and have coffee, tea, and snacks as we discuss topics such as end-of-life care, burial options (including new ones!), important documents everyone should have, funeral/memorial service ideas, and more. Bring your thoughts and questions!



Scholarships



Remind high school seniors and college students the deadline for applying for a 2024 Second Congregational Church Scholarship is Monday, April 15. Awards will be made to students whose experiences and values are in keeping with the UCC social justice mandates centering on equality for all *–having exhibited a willingness to educate or serve others in a chosen career and having a need for financial support.* Applications are available at church office or may be emailed



LOWELL
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

Marshunda Smith | Music Director



Scan Here For Tickets

VISIONS UNLEASHED

A Family Concert

March 16, 2024, 2:00pm

FUSION CHURCH,
125 MT HOPE STREET
LOWELL MA

Ample Free Parking - Handicap Accessible

Soloist, William Ge
2024 JEANNE SELANDER MEMORIAL'S
CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

PROGRAM

A Lowell Symphony (*World Premiere*): Turner

Serenade for Orchestra: Grant-Still

Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, op. 11: Chopin

Visions of the Sky: Adrian B. Sims

• Performed by Local Student String Players

Carnival of the Animals: (*World Premiere*): Saint-Saens arr. J. Mashak

 **Free Kid's Raffle** 

\$20 for Adults - \$10 for Seniors
Free Admission for 17 and Under
(Must be accompanied by adult)

Tickets sold online by visiting our
website: LowellPhilharmonic.org
or by scanning the QR Code above.

LIMITED tickets available at the door.



Pastor Adam Appears on Stage at North Shore Music Theatre



Pastor Adam will play Ambrose Kemper in a fully staged production of *Hello, Dolly!* presented by Voices of Hope (VOH) on April 13 & 14 as a benefit performance for the Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies at Mass General Cancer Center. VOH has just crossed over the \$1,000,000 donation threshold and are working toward donating their second million dollars! Tickets: vohboston.org — Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount if purchased together, contact Pastor Adam for details.



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



Spirited Women is back! Please join Wendy Linares in the parlor on Sunday March 10 following worship. We will be learning about the origin of suncatchers and we will be making our own with beads and prisms from Wendy's stash of chandelier parts!

All women in the church are welcome to attend. We will be ending the morning program by 12:15.

Wendy will be offering Spirited Women meetings in March, April, and May, then we will break for the Summer. Meetings will then resume in September.