



The Spire

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

Rev. Lisa Stedman, Pastor & Transitional Minister
Directors of Music: Mr. Charles Turner & Ms. Nancy Rexford
Chaplain: Ms. Wendy Linares

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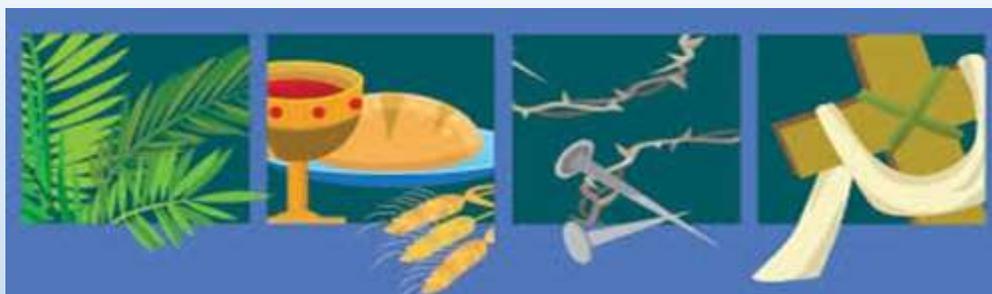
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April 2022

Holy Week



Palm Sunday

April 10 – A Service of Celebration and Preparation with Palms

Maundy Thursday

April 14 – Soup Supper with a Service of the Upper Room and Tenebrae

We will gather for a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:00 pm, followed by a moving service including communion and the stories of Jesus.

Good Friday

April 15 – Open Chapel Prayers and Reflection – 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Prayers and silence, music, scripture readings and reflections

Easter Sunday, April 17

5:25 – Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Lynch Park

9:30 – Easter Sunday Worship Celebration at SCC (and on Zoom)

(see page 2 for further details)

Worship at SCC in April -

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter

Fifth Sunday of Lent Sunday, April 3 – A Special Lenten Service of Healing and with Communion and Baptism in the Sanctuary (and on Zoom)

Preaching & Prayers: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Music: SCC Chancel Choir and Bells with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T.

This special service includes a time of sharing prayers for healing. There will be opportunities for lighting candles, writing cards of peace, and sharing personal one-to-one prayers with a pastor or a lay leader. The beginning of the service will also include the baptism of a baby.

Palm Sunday

April 10 – A Service of Celebration and Preparation with Palms

Preaching: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: SCC Chancel Choir and Bells with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T.

Transitional Chat following worship in the sanctuary and on zoom. Please join us as we share more about the many options and opportunities for SCC's future.

Maundy Thursday

April 14 – Soup Supper with a Service of the Upper Room and Tenebrae

We will gather for a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:00 pm, followed by a moving service including communion and the stories of Jesus, His Disciples and Followers during the final day of his life. This service is very special to many and includes the extinguishing of light, as we remember the betrayal, arrest and denial of Jesus.

Please *sign up with the office* to join the dinner (soups, bread, drinks and dessert will be provided), or come just for the service, which will begin at 7:00 pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall.

Good Friday

April 15 – Open Chapel Prayers and Reflection – 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Prayers and silence, music, scripture readings and reflections will all be available in the SCC Chapel. Please feel free to come for just a moment or as long as you'd like. SCC Pastors Lisa and/or Wendy will be available for personal prayer during this time.

Easter Sunday, April 17

5:25 – Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Lynch Park

9:30 – Easter Sunday Worship Celebration at SCC (and on Zoom)

Preaching: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Prayers: Rev. Wendy Linares

Music: SCC Chancel Choir and Bells with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T.

Fellowship in the Sanctuary Entry and Chapel following worship.

First Sunday of Eastertide

April 24 – Worship in the Sanctuary (and on Zoom)

Preaching: Rev. Wendy Linares

Prayers: Rev. Lisa W. Stedman

Music: SCC Chancel Choir with Music Directors Nancy R & Charles T.



Light of the World

During April the Church Spire will be illumined in loving memory of mother Ruth Andrews and son David Kuell by Judy Andrews Eramo.



Thank You...

Arthur & Susan Mellow for gifting us with a matted and framed photo of Second Congregational Church prior to its reconstruction in the 1950s; from the collection of items inherited from Uncle Bob Lovett. It will be hung in a suitable spot for all to view in the Narthex.



Easter Blossoms

Symbols of new life will decorate the Chancel on Easter Sunday, April 17th. You are invited to place an order – parishadmin@beverlysecond.com or phone: 978.922.5722 – by deadline Sunday, April 10. Featured this year will be lilies, tulips (red, pink, purple, orange), and daffodils; cost \$9 each – check: SCC, noted Easter plant. Please indicate if your plant is in memory or honor of a loved one. Plants can be picked up following Easter Worship.

Annual Reports

Church officers, Staff, Central Board, Working Teams and Reps are reminded to submit a report reflecting the past year's accomplishments and challenges (April 2021-present time) by April 31 to:

parishadmin@beverlysecond.com



2022 Scholarships

Don't forget this year's deadline to apply for a *Second Congregational Church Scholarship* is Sunday, May 15. Applications are available in the church office and can be mailed upon request. The requirements include ***exhibiting a willingness to educate or serve others in a chosen career and having a need for financial assistance.*** ***And to those whose experiences and values are in keeping with the UCC's social justice mandates centering on equality for all.*** Scholarships will be awarded in June. Requests and questions may be directed to the Scholarship Team, via phone 978.922.5722 or email to parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

This year, I am so eager for April to arrive! There are many things I love about this time/month. Certainly, the continuing breaking out of spring, even while winter tries to hold on a little longer... But more than that, I love the time of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. This is a deeply sacred arc of days for me and for all of us who find inspiration in the story of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection.



More than any other period, I believe this time invites us to enter into deeper relationship with God and with one another in the church. And this year - finally, we can enter into the season and spirit with our whole beings – hearts and souls and bodies and voices!

I believe that these days hold the potential to speak to us in new and more inspirational ways this year. Just by virtue of our being freed up to engage fully once again, I am confident that the meaning of Jesus' love will touch us and move us to more reflection, hope and joy than we have experienced in the past (especially the recent past!).

It is my prayer that you will take time to be in personal prayer and communion with God, and that you will join in the services of worship we have planned for SCC. I love the pageantry of Palm Sunday, the somber moments during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the joyful celebration of Easter and Christ's resurrection.

May you be blessed as we all draw closer to God's bringing of new life!

Blessings,

Lisa

revelsucc@gmail.com

Message from Chaplain: Wendy Linares

Springtime Greetings, Everyone! Well here it is! Finally, Springtime. With so much going on that is speaking of death, remember that new life is also everywhere.

I fell in love with the writer and Benedictine nun, Macrina Wiederkehr some twenty years ago. Check out this reflection and poem she wrote. I hope you find hope cozied up to despair, like she does. (Based on Matthew 28: 1-9) Check it out, then read on following page

On Easter morning should you be surprised to find Jesus coming to meet you? But what if you didn't know it was Easter? What if there had never been an Easter morning before? What if it was the day after the most sorrowing day you had ever experienced, the day after that painful Sabbath when he had lain in the tomb, dead? Dead as your hopes and dreams! Dead as your joy! Dead as the life you once felt!

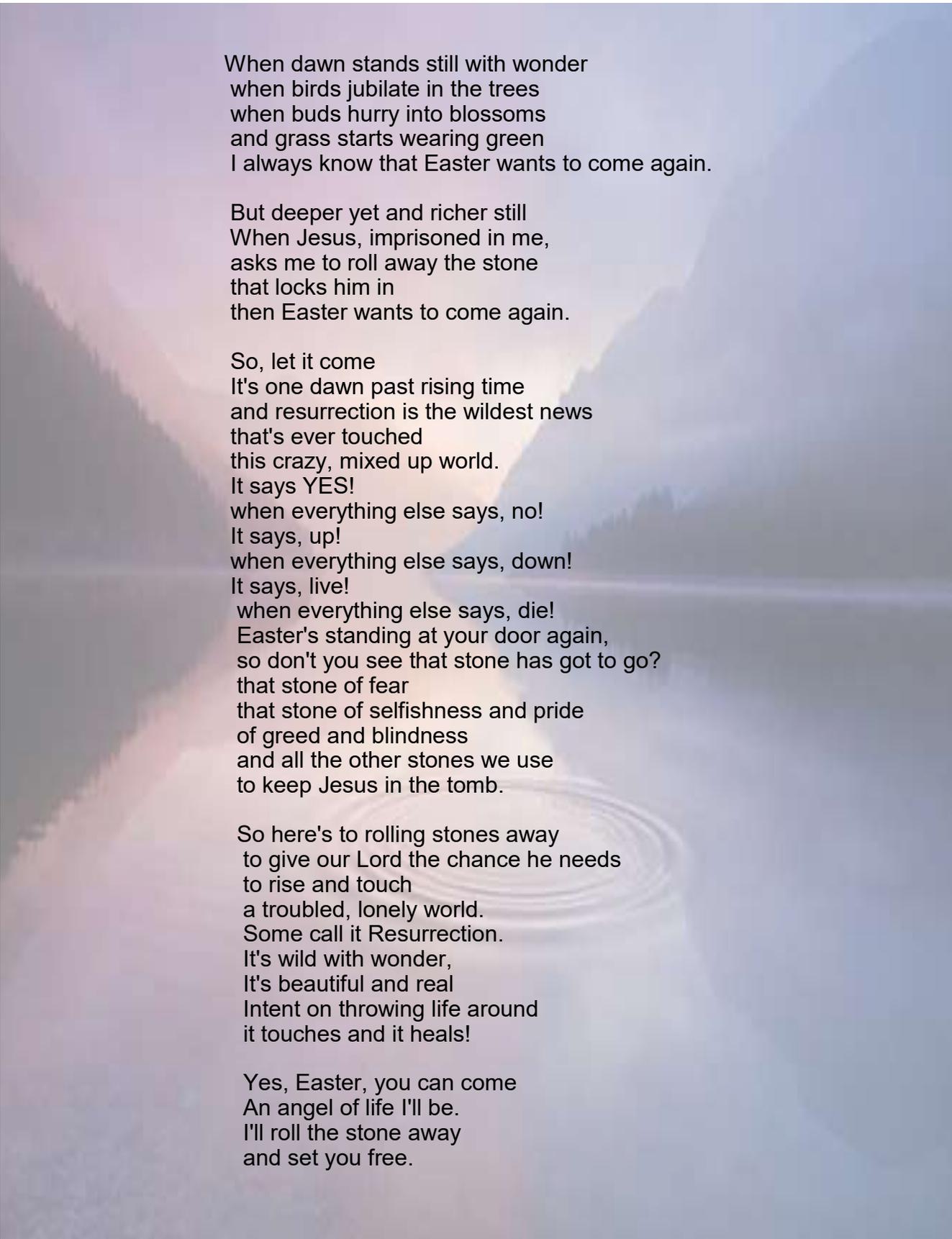
Is it so amazing then-this trembling awe we felt? We came to the tomb to find him dead as our hearts, but an angel was there with a story of life. If you're wondering what Easter really is- it's finding leaven in a dough that was dead. It is despair moving over to make room for hope. It is joy suddenly crowding out your sorrow. It is a tomb transformed into a womb – life pushing its way out of death. It is the stone being rolled away on the morning of a great sorrow. The angel of life at the tomb of death!

As always, I am here for support. Let me know if you would like a visit or a listening ear. Warmly and with love, Wendy wendylinares60@gmail.com 508 451 7585



Spirited Women

We will meet on April 24th right after
worship in the parlor of the church.
Program to be announced at a later time.

A serene landscape of a lake at dawn with mountains in the background. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, purples, and blues, reflecting on the calm water. The mountains are silhouetted against the light sky. In the foreground, there are some ripples on the water's surface.

When dawn stands still with wonder
when birds jubilate in the trees
when buds hurry into blossoms
and grass starts wearing green
I always know that Easter wants to come again.

But deeper yet and richer still
When Jesus, imprisoned in me,
asks me to roll away the stone
that locks him in
then Easter wants to come again.

So, let it come
It's one dawn past rising time
and resurrection is the wildest news
that's ever touched
this crazy, mixed up world.
It says YES!
when everything else says, no!
It says, up!
when everything else says, down!
It says, live!
when everything else says, die!
Easter's standing at your door again,
so don't you see that stone has got to go?
that stone of fear
that stone of selfishness and pride
of greed and blindness
and all the other stones we use
to keep Jesus in the tomb.

So here's to rolling stones away
to give our Lord the chance he needs
to rise and touch
a troubled, lonely world.
Some call it Resurrection.
It's wild with wonder,
It's beautiful and real
Intent on throwing life around
it touches and it heals!

Yes, Easter, you can come
An angel of life I'll be.
I'll roll the stone away
and set you free.

Update from the Finance Team

Two months into the new year, there isn't much to report financially but we will continue to do summary tables from time to time to keep you up to date. Here are a few notes of interest:

- Pledges are coming in ahead of budget and combined with dollars from those who pre-pay their pledges, our operating cash position is in good shape. What this means is that we are not yet bringing in any funds from our investment portfolio.
- Late winter is the time of year that we examine and rebalance our investments. With the knowledgeable help of Roger Moulton, we review our investment model. The model is basically a plan with investments of roughly 50% in fixed income and 50% in equities, spread among a variety of investment types to obtain a reasonable return while keeping our risk at a comfortable level. The rebalance is selling part of one investment and buying more of something else to again have the portfolio match the original model. Just some basic math to ensure we keep a portfolio that is true to our plan.
- How do we use these funds? Each year, we take a modest 3.5% from the unrestricted funds in our portfolio as a source of budget income while still allowing growth in the portfolio over the years. In addition, we budget to take 3.5 – 5.0% from the Building Endowment part of our investments to cover major maintenance and other improvements to the church building. Any excess cash not needed for major maintenance helps with operating expenses.
- Want to know more? The Finance Team continues to look for some new members. And you don't need to be an accountant! Being comfortable with a basic budget is a good thing, but we also just need common sense and people interested in knowing more about the costs of operating Second Church.
- If you've been wondering, there is a Church Fair to look forward to again! Due to uncertainties of COVID-19 and holding large events, plus the amount of time needed to organize a successful fair, we are now on track for a Holiday Fair in November instead of a Spring Fair in May. Stay tuned for more information and ways you can help.





**Enjoy an evening filled with music, art, and love
Help us end family homelessness!**

Local Performing Artist, Thom Smoker, is celebrating a monumental birthday, IN STYLE! No need to mention the number of years here, but it may have something to do with the ticket price. And what better way to celebrate than creating a live music benefit concert?! Proceeds of the event will be donated to Family Promise North Shore Boston. On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Thom Smoker is pulling together some of the most talented musicians in the Greater Boston area for an evening of popular songs reimagined for this event. From jazz to folk, classical to pop ballads, there is a little of everything for everyone. Come for an evening of great music, a dessert reception prepared by little local gem, Lattof Farmhouse Kitchen, and an interactive Silent Art Auction curated by local artists, all to support Family Promise.

To purchase tickets : <https://familypromisensb.networkforgood.com/events>

Also Save the Date for:

“SEE THE PROMISE” June 16, 2022 @ Danversport Waterfront 6- 8:30 PM

Eight Game Changers for the Post Pandemic Church
Please Join Pastor Lisa for A Group Webinar Event –
Tuesday April 5th at 2 pm with Webinar Facilitator - Kay Kotan

This event is free and open to all interested SCC members and friends. It's a great opportunity to get a whole different 'take' on the future of church I'd love for you to join me in person at SCC in the Conference Room across from the offices! Please email me to let me know you'd like to join me! The webinar is from 2 to 3 pm and our discussion will follow.

"We are living in a time of great opportunity for the church, but it will take great intentionality and some major shifts to take advantage of this opportunity. Grab your team of leaders and come experience this interactive workshop where you will encounter the following:

- * Identify the eight game changing shifts leaders will need to make for the church to be vital in the coming years
- * Assess your church's current levels of game changing leadership
- * Create a MAP (ministry action plan) to enact the needed game changing leadership strategies in your local church context."

Kay Kotan is a church coach & consultant and author of numerous books on church and contemporary issues.

https://www.prcli.org/event/eight-game-changers-for-the-post-pandemic-church/?instance_id=341

Mark Your Calendars for Our Next Transitional Chat
Sunday, April 10th, Following Worship – Live in the Sanctuary and via Zoom



As part of our ongoing work in discerning the future of SCC, we will be gathering after church on Sunday (4/10), in hybrid format. We hope and trust that you are taking some time to consider and pray about the document listing possible options for our future. (Copies available from the office.) We will also hear from the SCC members who attended UCC Super Saturday to learn more about what's happening with other churches and available resources. Your participation is essential! Please plan to join in!

Central Board News and Notes:



The Central Board met March 15, in hybrid fashion, with most members in person, one member via Zoom, and Jack Terrill and Andrea Trefry absent. It was great to have in person discussions and gave Rev Lisa an opportunity to meet in person with the CB for the first time. We spent time discussing services planned for the remainder of the Lenten season, and started discussing how we will approach services and music over the summer after Nancy Rexford and Charles Turner retire. We hope to have many in person for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday, now that we are fully reopened!

We also continued our discussion of the Transition Planning process, including the congregational feedback from the Forward Chat March 13th. We are considering a Transition Service later this year, to commemorate many of the ways Second Church has touched each of us and our wider community as we discern our path forward. We are planning the next Transition-related Forward Chat in early April – watch for the announcement in the Weekly E-news for the specific date. Central Board members will also bring ideas from other churches experiencing similar transitions back from the SNE UCC Super Saturday virtual meeting in March as well. As a reminder, if you'd like to serve on the Transition Team, reach out to Rev Lisa, Andrea Trefry or another CB member, as we'd welcome the help.

We also reviewed the past year's progress with Rev. Lisa, gave feedback and heard her perspectives on leading and serving Second Church during her time here. The Central Board agreed on these areas of focus for 2022 as we voted to extend her call:

- Continue Transition process – encourage membership to narrow potential paths for SCC and work on investigating specifics.
- Experiments in Worship & fellowship.
- Staff Turnover & Restructure – 1) Music Leadership, 2) Admin., Other
- Increase opportunities to strengthen relationships between & among members.
- Encourage Spiritual Exploration and Growth.

The Central Board engaged a Sound consultant in March to help us improve the sound transmission when we broadcast via Zoom, to pick up music/signing/bells and ministers/speakers not at the lecterns. After reviewing the recommendations and proposal, the CB approved proceeding with those improvements (yay!!!). We are also looking at options to improve the congregation viewing Zoom attendees and options that enable us to use other meeting rooms in a hybrid manner, which we expect to address later in the Spring.

This year as Lisa and her spouse will both be transitioning to Medicare during 2022. The overall transitional pastor budget allocation will not change.

The Central Board reviewed the feedback we received on potential by-law revisions February 27 and are looking for a few areas to formally propose for revision. The tentative plan is to finalize the proposals, circulate formal amendments proposed, hold a Forward Chat if needed, and add to agenda for vote at the Annual Meeting in late May.



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

Food Drive for Beverly Bootstraps

For the month of April we will be
Collecting some of the most requested items



- ◆ **Peanut Butter**
- ◆ **Cereal**
- ◆ **Pasta**

** Basket for collection will be in the Narthex*