



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor

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May 2025



**Second Congregational
United Church of Christ
Sunday – 9:30 a.m.**

May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

Worship with Communion

The Prophet Isaiah 55:1-13

Gospel According to Luke 14:15-24

Liturgist: Nancy Koch

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 1

Gospel According to Luke 14:25-35

Liturgist: Suzanne Munroe

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Genesis 48:1-20

Gospel According to Luke 15:11-32

Liturgist: Glenn Morris

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Wendy Linares leading worship and preaching

Liturgist: Donna Kendall

Rev. Adam will be at the Preaching Camp continuing education program sponsored by the Southern New England UCC Conference from after worship on May 18 through Saturday, May 24.

Rev. Wendy Linares will lead worship on Sunday, May 25.

The Office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.



TREE OF LIFE

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of **David Boynton** (husband to Patty, father to Patrick, Aaron & w. Anne), who died April 20. (Patricia Boynton, 38 Park Street, S. Hamilton MA, 01982)

Extending Get Well Wishes to **David Varga**, recovering at Port Healthcare Center, 6 Hale Street, Newburyport MA 01950.

Correction: New address for Phyllis Furbush, Mountain View, 93 Water Village Road, Ossipee, NH 03864.



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During May the Church Spire is being illumined by Doug & Cheri Marquart, with gratitude for our faith community serving the community for over 300 years.

Looking Ahead at June Worship

As announced at the Special Congregational meeting on April 27, beginning in June we will be worshipping 3 Sundays a month in our sanctuary and the other 1 or 2 Sundays with other congregations.

In June, we will be worshipping in our sanctuary & on Zoom on June 1, 15 & 22. We will be visiting other churches on June 8 & 29, see details below:



June 8

10:00 a.m. Pentecost worship with First Church in Ipswich, UCC

Worship will be followed by a special reception lunch to welcome us!

Sanctuary address: 1 Meetinghouse Green, Ipswich, MA 01938

There is no online worship option.

Those who want to sing in the choir that morning, please attend rehearsal on Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the meetinghouse across the street from the sanctuary.

June 29

9:00 a.m. worship with communion with St. Peter's Episcopal Church

4 Ocean Street, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915

Worship is streamed live on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPetersBeverly>

A Facebook account not required to view the live stream, but required if you want to comment.

Weather permitting, the service may be held outside in their labyrinth

Central Board News and Notes:



The Central Board met April 16th as announced in church and weekly E-News.

Rev. Adam briefly reviewed Holy Week services from Maundy Thursday through Easter, including times for personal prayer and reflection. This included what was a very memorable Maundy Thursday soup supper, where longtime member David Boynton graced the group with his presence and recent travel stories with Patty and friends, just days before his passing on Easter Sunday. Adam also reminded of his upcoming time away May 1-3 as well as May 19-25 for Preaching Camp; Wendy will lead May 25 service.

Rev. Adam has begun making plans to have 3 services per month at SCC starting in June, joining services at other area churches starting the 8th. He is asking each minister to gather a small group after services to meet and talk about key activities at the church, etc.

Tentative dates:

- * June 8 & 24
- * July 13
- * August 10 & 24
- * September 7
- * Oct 12
- * Nov 9 & 23
- * Dec 14

Once plans firm up, they will be announced in future Spire issues, as well as reminders in Weekly E-News email blasts.

The Central Board also dedicated time to discussing the presentations for the April 27th Congregational Meeting, as well as the June 1st Annual Meeting. For April 27, Jack Terrill agreed to present an overview of the MOU with Historic Beverly and a related gift to help offset costs related preservation of SCC records and artifacts; Jack will also present a motion to set aside another \$40K in funds for Legacy-related expenses; Dale Miller-Bouton will present the Mission/Social Action Team request for authorizing an additional \$20K of gifts from the Mission (Endowment) Fund in 2025; Rev Adam will explain the 3 Sunday worship plan in detail; and Doug Marquart will provide an early look at proposed by-laws changes coordinated with our lawyers that do some clean up but also make changes to help the Central Board and congregation manage through the latter of stages of the legacy process as we move toward dissolution.

Central Board News and Notes Continued

The June 1st meeting will vote on the proposed by-law changes as well as what will likely be our last election of Church Officers and Central Board members. Voting for the open CB spots will be held from April 27-May 16, so all active members are encouraged to vote.

The Finance Team update included summary of both February and March Treasurer reports, as Jan Allen, Peg Round and Rev Adam have stepped up in David Varga's absences as he convalesces after health issues have him sidelined (continued prayers for David). The Central Board also discussed contingency plans to ensure our continuity of operations as time passes.

Jack Terrill provided the CB a Legacy Team status, as we near completion of the P&S submittals along with a petition to the Attorney General's Office and proposed judgement to the Mass Supreme Judicial Court with our lawyers and Lifebridge's lawyer. We have executed an extension of the P&S for submittals to be completed by April 30. Heney & Associates, our new real estate attorneys, have been helpful in protecting SCC interests, as well as our lawyers at Elizabeth Reinhardt & Co on the base terms.

The Central Board also began discussion in earnest as far as when to consider holding a dissolution vote and ceasing worship services. Members are prayerfully considering options as a draft timeline of dependent actions is developed. Initial discussions will likely follow at the June 1st Annual Meeting or shortly thereafter.

The next Central Board meeting will be **Monday May 12, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**. The date change is to allow time to review all business info needed ahead of the May 18 initial call for our June 1 Annual Meeting. Contact Dale Earl or another CB member if you'd like to attend.



SPIRITED WOMEN GATHERING

Spirited Women will meet on May 25th after worship. This will be the last meeting before the summer. We will then start up again in the fall. Please join us as we share ideas about things to do in our area over the summer months? Maybe you have a favorite place to walk, or look for sea glass? Or a favorite restaurant? Bring ideas to share or just join us for fellowship before we break for the summer! See you then!



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Upcoming Meetings & Events

Sun 5/4: Annual reports due to church office

Mon 5/12, 7:00pm: Central Board meeting (Zoom)

Fri 5/16: Central Board ballots due

Wed 5/21, 6:00pm: Finance Team meeting (Zoom)

Mon 5/19–Sun 5/25: Rev. Adam away at Preaching Camp

Mon 5/26: Church office closed for Memorial Day

