



The Spire

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

Rev. Adam Isbitsky: Legacy Pastor
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April 2025

*Preparing our hearts for
Lent and Easter*



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

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship with Communion

Kings, Book 1, 11:1-13

Gospel According to Luke 9:46-62

Liturgist: Marty Brandt

April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday

Kings, Book 1, 12:1-17

Gospel According to Luke 10:1-24
& 19:28-38

Liturgist: Dale Earl

April 17: Maundy Thursday

6:00pm Potluck Meal with Communion

(please sign up to bring something)

7:00pm Service in Chapel

April 18: Good Friday

10:00am–3:00pm Chapel open for
personal reflection

April 20: Easter

5:45am Ecumenical Service at Sunrise in
Lynch Park

9:30am Worship with Communion

Gospel According to Luke 24:1-12

Liturgist: Jack Terrill

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter

Gospel According to Luke 12:13-33

Liturgist: Gail Goodell



TREE OF LIFE

Love and Best Wishes are extended to **Phyllis Furbush** in her new home: Mountain View, 83 Water Village Road, Ossipee, NH 03864.

Christian Love & Sympathy is extended to family and friends of **Don Lavender** who died March 4.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

During the month of April, the Church Spire is being illumined by Doug & Cheri Marquart, with gratitude for Second Congregational Church serving the community for over 300 years.

Save the Date for Wider Church Events:

Sunday, May 18, 2:00pm Northeast Association Spring Meeting, Tewksbury Congregational Church & on Zoom

Saturday, June 7, 9:00am—1:00pm , Southern New England Conference Annual Meeting, online only

Central Board News and Notes:

The Central Board met March 19th as announced in church and weekly E-news.



Rev. Adam reported that he had attended the installation of a minister in Manchester and the final closing ceremony for a church in South Acton. He participated in the conferences Super Saturday and has been active in immigrant support along with other ministers. He also requested weeklong training that will impact on the scheduling of the Annual Meeting. The board chose to recommend June 1 for the Annual Meeting.

The board received a request from the Mission and Social Action Team for additional disbursements from the Mission Endowment Fund. They have distributed \$15,000 as budgeted so far and would like to expend another \$9,000 which was approved. They have an additional request for another \$20,000 which will be the topic of a congregational meeting. The Mission Endowment Fund has approximately \$80,00 before these requests.

The Legacy Team briefed the board on the Historic Beverly MOU and requested that it be presented to the congregation. Along with the SCC documents, Historic Beverly is interested in some of the historical objects that SCC has. This will be discussed at an upcoming congregational meeting. The Legacy Team continues to work with our attorneys on documents transmitting the Purchase and Sale Agreement and supporting documents to the Attorney General's Office and the Massachusetts Supreme Court. The Legacy Team conducted a search for a new real estate attorney after its attorney took a new job and had to give up her practice. After interviews, Heney and Associates was selected. They are a local firm familiar with the workings of the City of Beverly boards.

The board heard options for worship changes going forward. This involved changes to the number of services a month ranging from no changes to eliminating 1, 2 or 3 Sunday services per month. There would be some staff changes with some of the options. After review, the board chose to recommend the option of reducing worship services by one each month. This will be presented at an upcoming congregational meeting. On the Sunday when services are not held, the congregation is encouraged to explore other churches. Rev. Adam will coordinate with a different church each month to host Second Church people who want to try another church as a group.

The board discussed 12 potential changes to the bylaws. These will be presented and discussed at an upcoming congregational meeting before a vote is taken at another congregational meeting.

Central Board News and Notes Continued

The board also reviewed the active member list. This list indicates those who are able to vote. Some active members have been moved to inactive due to their requests or lack of involvement.

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on April 27 to 1) vote on the Historic Beverly MOU; 2) vote on an additional \$20,000 disbursement to the Mission and Social Action Team from the Mission Endowment Fund; 3) hear about the bylaw changes; and 4) hear about the potential worship changes. The proposed Annual Meeting to be held on June 1 would include a vote to 1) receive the Annual Report; 2) approve bylaw changes; 3) approve worship changes; and 4) a report on Central Board balloting. Calls to the meetings with specific agendas, any additional topics, and supporting documents, will be sent out in advance of those meetings for your review.

The next Central Board meeting is April 16.



SPIRITED WOMEN GATHERING

Spirited Women will be meeting on April 13 in the parlor after worship. Program to be announced later. Grab a coffee then come down to the parlor. We look forward to seeing you and thinking about Springtime!

EASTER PLANTS

Memorial and celebrative plants will decorate the Chancel on Easter Sunday morning. Lily, daffodil and tulip plants are offered at \$10 each. Orders will be received on Sunday mornings or by contacting the church office by Monday, April 14th deadline. Plants may be picked up following Easter worship.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

"The Salvation Army Advisory Board of the North Shore Corps in Salem is seeking skilled and enthusiastic individuals to join our Board."
Connect with Mary Jane in the church office for details.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Church staff and leadership are asked to submit an annual report outlining your achievements and challenges during the past year to be presented at the **June 1st Annual Meeting**. Please Email your input to: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com; in Times New Roman edit mode by the May 5th deadline, to be ready for review on May 25th prior to the meeting.



SCC Scholarship

Applications for 2025 scholarships are coming into the church office. High school seniors and college students are invited to apply. Deadline is April 15th. Awards will be given to students without regard to religious affiliation, place of residence, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. Awards will be given to those whose experiences and values are in keeping with the UCC's social justice mandates centering on equality for all, have exhibited a willingness to educate or serve others in a chosen career and have a financial need. Applications are available on Narthex table (outside sanctuary) and church office. Contact office to have one emailed to a student.

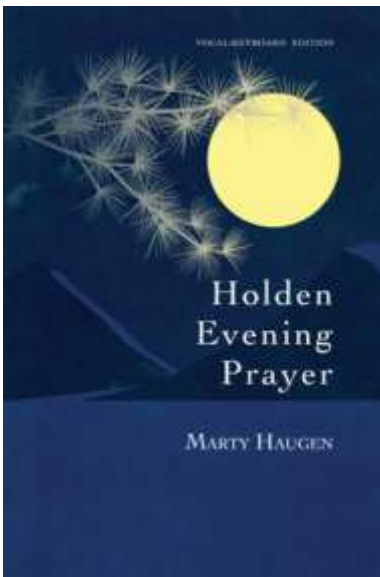
NAMI Cape Ann College Scholarship

NAMI CAPE ANN (National Alliance on Mental Illness – Cape Ann) announces their first scholarship to assist a graduating high school senior from the Cape Ann area. To be eligible, a student would intend to pursue a career in the Behavioral Health Sciences, or a related career providing support to NAMI clientele, or for basic research into mental health treatment and cures.

Students from Gloucester, Rockport, Essex, Manchester-By-The-Sea, and Ipswich can obtain our Scholarship Application Form from their high school guidance Departments . Mail to NAMI Cape Ann at 43 Gloucester Ave, Room B, Gloucester, MA 01930, or Email to namicapeann@verizon.net, Deadline is April 15, 2025.



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Weekly Holden Evening Prayer

Each Tuesday at 7:00pm Rev. Adam continues to offer the Holden Evening Prayer service. This 30-minute service includes a sung liturgy, time for contemplation, and communion. Continuing April 1, 8 & 15 at 7:00pm, in the chapel. These services will not be videorecorded or streamed.